



Newsletter

International Society of Radiology
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August 2007

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

This is a very exciting year for international radiology. I feel very privileged to be president of the International Society of Radiology at a time when so many talented people are making contributions to our objectives of education and improved professionalism and radiation protection.



Officers of national radiology societies from Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Mauritania and Morocco at the ISR Executive Committee meeting in June.

This issue of the **ISR Newsletter** contains more information about our activities than we have had to report to members in quite a few years. These activities, the next International Congress of Radiology, the beginning of a Virtual Congress, the June session of the Executive Committee with officers of national societies in North Africa, and the receipt of the largest contribution received by ISR in a decade, all reflect on the dedication and hard work of members of our leadership and several national societies. As your president, I express our gratitude to the many people who are devoting their energy to our old and new projects.

A new dimension of our contributions to international education is ISR's development of the first Virtual Congress of Radiology which will be available to all of us through the ISR website beginning this fall. Our program is modeled upon the highly successful virtual congress developed in Argentina and Spain and later embraced by the InterAmerican College of Radiology. In fact, the co-chairmen of our effort, Ricardo Garcia Monaco and Lluís Donoso Bach started the Spanish language project. This is a project of the International Commission on Radiological Education, which Francisco Arredondo took over last year. The presentations will be an enhancement of our website which will add significantly to its value to all of us. With the current availability of lecture series from the European Society of Radiology, the American College of Radiology, the Radiological Society of North America, the French Society of Radiology and other scientific organizations, the opportunity for learning at home is enhanced tremendously.

The virtual congress lectures will be placed on the ISR website for access by members of ISR national societies. Giorgio Rizzatto of Italy, ISR webmaster, also was named to the virtual congress working group.

I acknowledge with profound thanks the contribution of \$50,000 US to the ISR from the Kuwait Radiology and Nuclear Medicine Society. We are indebted to Najib AlMarzouk and his colleagues for their confidence in our ability to make constructive use of these contributions. Part of this fund is being used to support the beginnings of the virtual congress.

On another topic important to all of us, the ISR, together with the major continental societies, wrote to the World Health Organization to urge that it continue its program and staff section on radiology. With the retirement of Harald Ostensen as section chief in July, there was some doubt about what would happen to the cooperative efforts he has managed so effectively for the past decade.

I close with another comment to ISR and to some of our national societies. The ISR is a confederation of societies and your membership is important if the ISR is to be the world leader of our specialty. Unless you write us to tell us of changes of officers and addresses, our communications with you fail. Our bylaws specify that a society which fails to pay its dues for three years or more should be dropped from membership. That bylaw has not been enforced because of our concern that some societies do not get all of our mail. With the help of our continental societies, we are updating our mailing lists and adding fax and email addresses. This should mean that some societies are getting their first **Newsletter** in several years. Please keep us in touch with your correct names and addresses and pay your dues. Without your support, the ISR will cease to exist. With your support, we can do more than ever for world radiology.

I hope to see you in Marrakech June 2008!
Claude Manelfe, President, ISR

PLANS FOR ICR 2008 NEARING COMPLETION

Plans for the first International Congress of Radiology in North Africa 5 – 8 June of 2008 in Marrakech, Morocco, are nearing completion; leaders of the organizing committee told the ISR Executive Committee in June.

Heading the list of speakers who have agreed to participate in the scientific program is Elias Zerhouni, the first radiologist to be director of the United States National Institutes of Health. He will deliver the featured Bécclère lecture at the opening session on the afternoon of 5 June. The past president of the ISR and current chairman of the International Commission on Radiologic Education, Francisco Arredondo, will deliver the featured Fuchs lecture on the afternoon of 7 June. Both speakers will receive Bécclère medals.

More than 100 other radiologists and other scientists have agreed to participate in the busy four-day sessions which will include sessions on neuroradiology, musculo-skeletal, pediatric, genitourinary, cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, oncologic, chest and head and neck radiology. Other sessions will feature ultrasound, nuclear imaging, women's health, radiation protection, and informatics. With the help of the International Society of Radiographers and Radiologic Technologists, a separate track of courses for radiographers will be offered, with all of the lectures open to them, as well.

More than 20 continental and national societies have sponsored speakers for various sessions. The Mediterranean and African Society of Ultrasound will offer a series of workshops on ultrasound.

The registration fees for attendees have been set. Radiologists registering before 31 October 2007 will pay 400 euros. Between then and 31 January, the fee is 500 euros and after that, 600 euros. Residents, with the same time designations, will pay 100 euros, 125 euros and 150 euros. Radiographers will pay 150 euros, 175 euros and 200 euros. By arrangement with other national radiology societies in North Africa, special rates for their members are offered and will be listed in the ICR website. The fee for accompanying persons will be 100 or 125 or 150 euros, depending upon the time of registration.

The organizing committee has opened its arrangements for congress registration. Detailed information about meeting registration and hotel reservations can be obtained by writing to ICR 2008 Reservations 424 Rue Paradis, 13008 Marseille, France. The congress fax number is 00 33(0) 491 77 04 41 and the email is icr2008@free.fr. The website is www.icr2008.org.

ISR OFFICERS NOMINATED FOR TERMS IN 2008

The ISR Executive Committee approved a slate of officers for terms beginning in June 2008. The slate will be presented to the International Committee at its next meeting during ICR 2008 for ratification or amendment.

Claude Manelfe of Toulouse, France, will complete his term as president and become past president for an additional two years. Hans Ringertz of Stockholm, Sweden, chosen as president-elect in 2006, will become president.

The nominating committee selected as president-elect Nickolas C. Gourtsoyiannis of Heraklion Crete in Greece. Jan Labuscagne of Pretoria, Republic of South Africa, will move from treasurer to secretary-general, succeeding Dr. Gourtsoyiannis in that position. The treasurer designate is James Borgstede of Colorado Springs, Colorado, in the United States.



Executive Committee members and guests; left to right: Lluís Donoso, Noureddine Chakir, Jan Labuscagne, Farida Imani, Hassen Gharib, Guy Frija, Francisco Arredondo, Arl Van Moore, Claude Manelfe, Ricardo Garcia Monaco, Rolf Guenther, Lawrence Lau, Hans Ringertz, Najib Al Marzouk, Abdelhamid Sbihi, and Otha Linton.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS WITH MAGHREB SOCIETIES

The ISR Executive Committee at its June mid-year meeting in Marrakech met with leaders from the national societies in five North African nations, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Mauritania and Morocco. All of them are committed to participation in the forthcoming ICR 2008, also in Marrakech.

The session allowed an exchange of information between ISR and the regional societies, all of which are ISR members. It was the second regional meeting, following a pattern set in 2005 when past president Francisco Arredondo invited officers from the six Central American countries to join the Executive Committee during its meeting in Guatemala City, Guatemala.

In other business, the Executive Committee heard a report on its finances which reflected several changes.

One change was a decision taken in November to alter the investment of ISR reserves approximating \$1.2 million US. Previously, ISR reserves had been placed in a series of U.S. based mutual funds. With the help of the American College of Radiology, which provides accounting services to ISR, the reserves were moved into an investment pool managed by the ACR's investment counselors. The results for the first half of

2007 have shown an improved yield, said Jan Labuscagne of Pretoria, South Africa, the ISR treasurer. Dr. Labuscagne also reported that the financial results of ISR 2006, held last year in Cape Town, should yield a modest surplus over costs for the sponsoring Radiological Society of South Africa and a contribution of about \$30,000 US to the ISR.

The Executive Committee also received a report on the status of ICR 2008. In addition to progress on the scientific program, the ISR was assured that the government of Morocco has made a firm commitment to the safety of persons attending ICR 2008.

The Executive Committee also approved technical changes in the ISR bylaws and rules and regulations. Changes in the bylaws must be submitted to national society members for their review and then voted on by the International Committee, composed of delegates from national societies, at its next meeting.

WHO URGED TO CONTINUE RADIOLOGY PROGRAMS

The ISR, joined by 10 major radiology organizations, has written to the World Health Organization to urge that the United Nations agency continue its radiology education programs. A 22 June letter from ISR President Claude Manelfe was directed to Margaret Chan of Hong Kong, the recently appointed WHO director general.

At the June retirement of Harald Ostensen, who had directed the program for the past decade, there was no announcement from WHO about the nomination or search for a new director. The ISR has held a “non-governmental organization” status with the WHO for several decades and has participated in a variety of education projects. In 1999, the ISR and WHO joined in the Creation of the Global Steering Group on Radiologic Education which took on the task of creating new educational materials for radiology facilities in developing countries. “We are concerned that the WHO does not recruit a new director, its radiology programs may disappear, said ISR President Claude Manelfe.

“To the extent that WHO is considering changes, we write as the world organization of diagnostic radiologists to urge the continuation of a program on medical education and uses. Your program has been vital to many world-wide programs and any diminution or loss would be catastrophic for efforts to improve medical imaging in most parts of Africa and Southeast Asia, in particular.

Among the educational efforts dependent on WHO support are the four ‘centers of excellence’ in Kenya, Cameroon, Fiji and Tanzania which provide teaching programs for physicians and radiographers. The WHO monographs on basic imaging procedures and on radiation safety have been the key to teaching programs in hundreds of other teaching centers around the world. The work of the Global Steering Group, which WHO and ISR sponsor jointly, has provided a focus for coordinating the efforts of many professional societies and others in educational efforts,” Dr. Manelfe wrote.”

Signatories to the letter included the ranking officers of the European Society of Radiology, the Radiological Society of North America, the World Federation of Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology, the InterAmerican College of Radiology, the Mediterranean and African Society of Ultrasound, the African Society of Radiology, the American College of Radiology and the Asian and Oceanian Society of Radiology. In addition, the Radiology Outreach Foundation and the International Radiology Quality Network endorsed the letter.

AFRICAN SOCIETY PENDING ACCEPTANCE

The first African Society of Radiology, seeking to represent national radiology organizations in all of Africa, is now awaiting technical approval of its charter. The principal organizers of the new organization are Hassen A. Gharbi of Tunisia, an appointed member of the Executive Committee, and Jan Labuscagne of South Africa. The new group was created with the sponsorship of the French Society of Radiology and the ISR.

Incorporation papers for the establishment of an African Society of Radiology have been filed in France with expectation of their approval during the summer, advised Dr. Gharbi. Invitations to join were to be sent to officers of all known African national societies as soon as the incorporation was completed. The current effort is the first time a continent-wide society has been proposed for Africa, Dr. Gharbi said.

PAUL DE LUCA NAMED TO HEAD ICRUM

The chairman and vice chairman of the International Commission on Radiation Units and Measurements have changed places with Paul DeLuca, Jr., of Madison, Wisconsin, USA, becoming chairman and Andre Wambersie of Brussels, Belgium becoming vice-chairman. Stephen M. Seltzer of the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology continued as secretary. A new member of the commission is Hideo Tatsuzuki of the National Institute of Radiological Sciences in Chiba, Japan.

The ISR is the original sponsor of the ICRUM and of its parallel organization, the International Commission on Radiological Protection.

HONG KONG MEETING

The Hong Kong College of Radiologists and the Royal College of Radiologists of Great Britain will sponsor their 15th annual scientific meeting 27 and 28 October in Hong Kong with a faculty of 31 from the two societies.

The sessions will be held at the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Jockey Club Building. Advance registration is requested at a fee of \$1,200 Hong Kong or \$165 US for members of the two groups and \$1,500 Hong Kong or \$200 US for other physicians. Registrations can be made via email at enquiries@hkcr.org or via fax at 852 2554 0739.