



Newsletter

International Society of Radiology
James Borgstede, MD — Secretary-General

International Society of Radiology
7910 Woodmont Avenue, Suite 400
Bethesda, Maryland 20814 (USA)

Phone: 1 (301) 657-2652 x22
Fax: 1 (301) 907-8768
website: www.isradiology.org
E-mail: isr@isradiology.org

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PRESIDENTIAL COMMENTS

As president of the International Society of Radiology, my involvement in its activities and my awareness of its intentions and objectives have convinced me that the mission of the ISR is to encourage and stimulate the further development of practical educational efforts for radiologists and trainees.



The Executive Committee met near the Acropolis in Athens, Greece

It is true that the ISR has a role representing diagnostic radiology to other international agencies in the United Nations and other continental and world-wide political organizations. The ties between the political structures and the need for them to understand and support advancements in radiology places the ISR in a mutual role for a general objective. Radiology must continue to advance as part of modern medicine in all parts of the world. When the ISR Executive

Committee met recently, I asked our representatives of the major continental radiology societies to tell us what those regional societies are doing in this area.

In the previous issue of this Newsletter, we reported on the American College of Radiology's continuation of the radiologic-pathologic correlation programs presented until this year by the United States Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. In recent years, more than a fourth of the attending residents come from other countries for the month-long sessions.

In our summer session, the ISR Executive Committee heard of the continuing effort of the production of Spanish-language educational materials by the InterAmerican College of Radiology. The Radiological Society of North America continues to sponsor visiting professors from North America to other continents. We know that many organizations, including some national societies, now post educational material from their annual conferences on their websites, where anyone in the world can access those materials via computers. And I think with my own personal satisfaction about the development and support of educational programs by the European Society of Radiology's European School of Radiology, where I developed and still manage a growing series of seminars, refresher courses, fellowships and tutorial sessions now in several parts of the world.

I am sure you are aware that in recent years, the ISR has continued to sponsor biannual international congresses. But far wider in reaching radiologists all around the world is the expansion of electronic education packages such as those we are building and adding to the ISR website www.isradiology.org. Elsewhere in this Newsletter are reports on our virtual congresses and other website resources plus notice of our addition of digital versions of manuals worked out with the ISR and the World Health Organization.

This brings me to a dilemma earlier presidents and I have emphasized here. That is for the ISR to reach the individual members of our national societies and to tell them about the educational projects available for their inspection and usage. Since the ISR is a confederation of national societies, we do not expect nor request societies to provide us with current mailing addresses or email contacts with each of their members. However, we do request the officers of our national societies to tell their members about our virtual congresses, our website GoRad and other references and the access to added digital programs. In recent years, we have started asking our societies to provide the email addresses of members so that we can post them with our website team and send messages about our educational projects. So I close with that request.

One other plea, tell us about your society's educational projects which you can share with other national societies. We will communicate these to our members when you tell us.

Nicholas Gourtsoyiannis



President

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS 2012 PROGRAM NEARS COMPLETION

The International Congress of Radiology scheduled on 3 to 6 May of 2012 in Sao Paulo, Brazil is nearing completion of its schedule for joint scientific presentations in Portuguese and in English covering the broad aspects of current diagnostic radiology.

“This congress will be a remarkable event,” said ISR President Nick Gourtsoyiannis. “It is the first time that the ISR has agreed to schedule its congress with a radiology society’s annual meeting. The Journada Paulista de Radiologica in Sao Paulo is distinguished as sponsoring the third largest annual radiology convention anywhere in the world. So we are honored to be part of an expanded program which will feature two languages and simultaneous translations of selected presentations.”

The 2012 congress is the largest joint venture for the Sao Paulo society. “Our society has requested several other leading national and international radiology societies to nominate and sponsor some of our distinguished speakers,” said Renato Mendonca of Sao Paulo, the general chairman of the congress and a member of the ISR Executive Committee. “Our society’s invitation to attend this congress is extended to radiologists in every part of the world. So we encourage national societies to tell their members about coming to Sao Paulo.”

The scientific presentations will begin with refresher courses on the morning of Thursday, 3 May and conclude by the middle of the day on Sunday 6 May. The opening session will be on the morning of Thursday. It will be followed by the ISR sponsored Beclere lecture, to be delivered by James Thrall, chairman of radiology at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. The Fuchs lecture, the second one sponsored by the ISR, will be delivered on the morning of Saturday by Giovanni Cherri, a Sao Paulo resident and radiologist and ultrasound specialist who is the current secretary of health for the State of Sao Paulo.

During the opening session, the ISR will award its distinctive Beclere medals to Dr. Thrall and to Hans Ringertz of Stockholm, Sweden, the retiring past president of the ISR.

On Friday, 4 May, the ISR will conduct its International Committee meeting, at which representatives of national societies will hear reports on ISR activities. They will also be asked to vote on proposed changes in ISR bylaws, to vote for the next set of ISR officers and to choose representatives from five national societies to serve as members of the ISR Executive Committee from 2012 to 2014. The exact time and location of that meeting will be sent to national societies some weeks before the congress.

Topics included in both English and Portuguese will include general ultrasound, cardiovascular imaging, emergency radiology, musculoskeletal, pediatrics, women’s health, abdominal and genitourinary, nuclear medicine, mammography, chest, interventional procedures and special sessions on physics and radiologic technology. A feature on the Friday afternoon session will be a diagnostic imaging interpretation session.

ISR ACCEPTS NEW SOCIETIES AT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

At its meeting in late June in Athens, Greece, the ISR Executive Committee accepted membership applications from societies in Nepal and Serbia and renewals of membership from societies in Norway, Ecuador, Portugal, Peru and Costa Rica.

“We welcome those societies and hope to add still more next year,” commented ISR president, Nick Gourtsoyiannis. “Thanks to the expansion of our ISR website www.isradiology.org we are able to provide more educational materials to the members of all of our societies in every continent.”



Executive Committee mid-year session June 2011 in Athens, Greece.

In addition to selecting the featured lecturers and ISR medalists to be presented at ICR 2012, the committee had a report from the program committee and approved of its efforts. The committee also had a report from James Brink of New Haven, Connecticut, USA, chairman of the International Commission on Radiologic Education. That report included the cooperation of ISR with the World Health Organization for digitization of four manuals produced jointly with ISR and now inserted into the ISR website. It also included mention by Eric Stern of Seattle, Washington, USA, of the expansion of the ISR GoRad project for the incorporation of ISR website reference of practice related articles from 28 national and international radiology societies, all of which have access to electronic publication.

The ISR treasurer, Ricardo Garcia Monaco of Buenos Aires, Argentina, commented that some 90 percent of the annual dues for member national radiology societies had been paid. Dr. Garcia also acknowledged the donation of \$20,000 from the Fuji Film Company to help support ISR education program development.

EGYPT, ARGENTINA SELECTED FOR NEXT ICRS

The International Society of Radiology Executive Committee has selected the Egyptian Society of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine to be the host organization for the 2014 International Congress of Radiology. That session will be held in the Egyptian resort of Sharm El Sheikh located on the Red Sea in the Sinai Peninsula. The precise time and location of the congress have not been selected.

The ISR also selected the Argentine Radiological Society to be the host for ICR 2016, to be held in Buenos Aires, also at a date not yet determined. The Argentine society was the organizer and sponsor of the 2000 ICR.

ISR WEBSITE ADDS WHO MANUALS

Four manuals on elements of diagnostic imaging prepared by the World Health Organization and the ISR have been digitized and placed on the ISR website www.isradiology.org. The four manuals are part of a series prepared by the Global Steering Group for Education and Training in Diagnostic Imaging, of which the WHO and ISR were co-founders. All four of the first digitized manuals were prepared in the early years of the current century. A limited number of these four and several other manuals were published and most of their copies were distributed.

The titles are:

- WHO Manual of Diagnostic Imaging, Radiographic Technique and Projections
- WHO Manual of Diagnostic Imaging, Radiographic Anatomy and interpretations of the Musculoskeletal System
- WHO Manual of Diagnostic Imaging, Radiographic Anatomy and Interpretation of the Chest and Pulmonary System
- WHO Basic Physics of Ultrasonographic Imaging
- The editors for the series were Harald Ostensen, who was the WHO staff radiologist, and Holger Pettersson, who was then the chairman of the ISR International Commission on Radiologic Education.

ISR WEBSITE VOLUME INCREASES

With the addition of new educational elements, the volume of radiologists and other people consulting the ISR website www.isradiology.org has increased in the past year.

As of the summer of 2011, the website now features three virtual congresses, two digitized text references on the role of x-ray diagnosis of tropical diseases and the Gamuts text with thousands of diagnostic references, plus the increase in the reference to practice articles in the GoRad feature. And, in August 2011, the addition of four World Health Organization manuals.

“Our major problem is still getting the information about our website contents to all of the members of our national societies,” said Ricardo Garcia Monaco of Buenos Aires, Argentina, one of the co-webmasters of the growing ISR site. “We have reports that people from more than 100 countries have looked at some part of our website.”

The first year of the GoRad feature citing practice related articles from 28 radiology journals around the world has attracted some 25,000 viewers. The countries where the most viewers were located were the United States, India, Argentina, Brazil, Spain, Mexico, Turkey, Canada and Australia. The GoRad program requested editors of journals with electronic publications to identify one preferred article from each monthly or quarterly issue to be listed in the GoRad. The ISR website is linked with the participating journals so that anyone looking at GoRad can view articles of interest.

The third virtual congress, consisting of selected video presentations from invited academic radiologists plus electronic exhibits and posters, has been in operation since April 2011. The third one has special features for radiologists in Korea, France, Russia and Brazil. This virtual congress was supported for the ISR by the Bracco Company. It is showing attention from more viewers than the two previous virtual congresses that are still maintained in the website. The third congress includes presentations from 38 participants in 24 countries in five continents. It also includes presentations of 54 clinical cases and 35 electronic posters.

The ISR website has the capability of certifying participation in any of the virtual congresses to computer-based participants. The details about claiming continuing medical education certification are contained in the website.

EUROPEAN SOCIETY OFFERS RADIOLOGY EXAMINATIONS

The first European diploma in radiology examination under the European Society of Radiology was carried out on March 7th at the 2011 European Congress of Radiology. The decision was made by the ESR Executive Council in July 2010 to create a European diploma in radiology. The decision included consolidation of the specialty, creation of a uniform pan-European yardstick of knowledge achievement, a focus of achievement for radiologists in training, and an integrating programme for all educational initiatives within the European Society of Radiology. European specialty examinations are now available in 19 of the major clinical specialties, and radiology is now one of this group.

An important concept in the creation of a European diploma is that it would not in any way be competitive with national structures, and in this regard the diploma subcommittee sought cooperation with all the national society members of the European Society of Radiology. In addition, close cooperation has been sought and achieved with various subspecialty societies affiliated to the ESR and this cooperation is formally acknowledged through the participation of a subspecialty societies committee in the creation of examination material.

With close cooperation with national societies, strict eligibility criteria apply for candidates to partake in the examination which includes license to as well as active practice. It is required that five years of training be completed in the relevant national training programme, and the candidates have certification of membership of a national radiologic society in addition to membership of the European Society of Radiology.

The examination is a test of knowledge in general radiology to a standard to be expected following completion of training as outlined in the European Society of Radiology Training Curriculum (revised February 2011).

Each examination is comprised of three sections:

1. A written multiple choice section testing a broad base of knowledge in general radiology, incorporating questions from all subspecialty areas including anatomy, medical physics, patient safety etc.
2. A written component consisting of a series of short imaging studies, in which candidates are required to identify abnormalities, arrive at differential diagnosis, give final diagnoses and where necessary recommend further investigations. This section also includes a test of skill in the identification of normal/normal variant images.
3. An oral examination in which candidates are tested by two experienced examiners on their approach to a variety of clinical imaging situations.

The examining board of the European diploma in radiology is constituted by radiologists representing many nationalities, and nominated by national subspecialty societies on the basis of their credentials as senior educators in radiology. The written parts of the examination are carried out using an electronic assessment system designed by the European Society of Radiology specifically for radiological needs. Oral examinations are based on high resolution DICOM studies, viewed on dedicated EPACS stations mirroring modern radiologic practice. Results of each section of the examination are adjudicated and agreed by all participating examiners, and satisfactory performance in each section is required to pass the examination. A wide variety of clinical material is presented, and selected to reflect a wide variety of subspecialty areas which a general radiologist would be required to view.

A success rate of 79 percent was recorded in the first examination, and test results have been expertly evaluated with regard to question type, pattern of response etc.

A formal Diploma subcommittee has been instituted and steps are being taken to ensure separation of Diploma activity from education provision within the organisation. It is planned that at least two examination runs will be held per annum. One examination will take place coinciding with the European Congress of Radiology; others per annum will be conducted in association with major national society meetings at various locations.

Publication of representative examination case material will be regularly produced and all evaluation structures and processes including, where appropriate, an appeal structure will be created.

Dr. Éamann Breatnach, Chairman, ESR Education Committee

GHARBI TO LEAD ULTRASOUND

Hassen Gharbi of Tunis, Tunisia, current president of the African Society of Radiology and a member of the ISR Executive Committee, has been elected as president-elect of the World Federation of Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology. He has been a member of the WFUMB executive board and will become its officer in 2013.

FUTURE ACCESS TO MOLYBDENUM 99 AT RISK

The production and distribution of molybdenum 99 as the basis for technetium 99 for radioisotope procedures remains in a status of uncertainty for the next several years, according to a study of the problems by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development in France.

Technetium 99, used for about 80 percent of all isotope studies and amounting to more than 30 million procedures worldwide each year, has been increasingly difficult to obtain in recent years because of the shutdown of the major productive nuclear reactor in Canada in 2009. The Canadian reactor was one of five in Belgium, the Netherlands, France and South Africa, which also produced molybdenum 99. All of the five were more than 45 years old and have encountered flaws in nuclear isotope production. The Canadian reactor was restored to production after legislative support from the Canadian government. However, both the Canadian and French reactors have announced a probable final closure in the current decade.

The Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development's Nuclear Energy Agency survey reported a general response from organizations and medical users of isotopes that action to restore the reactors was not certain and that any achievements to do so would result in a substantial increase in the cost of molybdenum 99 for medical users. The study noted that before the disruption of their productivity, most of the reactors had benefited from subsidies by their governments, which helped to hold down the prices of molybdenum and other radioisotopes.

OSTENSEN'S DEATH

Harald Ostensen, a retired director of the radiology section of the World Health Organization, died in the spring of this year at age 65. He had retired from WHO in 2007, after a decade of strengthening WHO's radiology training programs in developing countries, mostly in Africa.

Dr. Ostensen was a native of Norway and was trained in radiology. Before he joined the WHO, he was managing director of the Nycomed Amersham Intercontinental Continuing Education in Radiology supported by Nycomed and produced educational programs in 22 countries. During his years with WHO, he helped found the Global Steering Group for Diagnostic Radiology Education in 1999 with the ISR as the co-sponsor of its activities. In 2004, the ISR presented him with a Beclere medal for his contributions to international radiation education.

ICRP ISSUES STATEMENT ON TISSUE REACTIONS

The International Commission on Radiological Protection issued a brief statement on tissue reactions in April of 2011. The statement is:

“(1) The commission issued new recommendations on radiation protection in 2007 (ICRP 2007), which formally replaced the commission’s 1990 recommendations (ICRP, 1991a). The revised recommendations included consideration of the detriment arising from non-cancer effects of radiation on health. These effects, previously called deterministic effects, are now referred to as tissue reactions because it is increasingly recognized that some of these effects are not determined solely at the time of irradiation but can be modified after radiation exposure. Previously, the commission had reviewed various aspects of non-cancer health effects of low linear-energy-transfer (LET) ionizing radiation in Publication 41 (ICRP 1984), high LET radiation in Publication 58 (ICRP,1990), the skin in Publication 59 (ICRP) 1991b), and the skin and the eye in Publication 85 (ICRP,2000).

“(2) the commission has now reviewed recent epidemiological evidence suggesting that there are some tissue reaction effects, particularly those with very late manifestation, where threshold doses are or might be lower than previously considered. For the lens of the eye, the threshold in absorbed dose is now considered to be 0.5 Gy.

“(3) For occupational exposure in planned exposure situations, the commission now recommends an equivalent dose limit for the lens of the eye of 20 mSv in a year, averaged over defined periods of 5 years, with no single year exceeding 50 mSv.

“(4) Although uncertainty remains, medical practitioners should be made aware that the absorbed dose threshold for circulatory disease may be as low as 0.5 Gy to the heart or brain. Doses to patients of this magnitude could be reached during some complex interventional procedures, and therefore particular emphasis should be placed on optimization in these circumstances.

“(5) The commission continues to recommend that optimization of protection be applied in all situations and for all categories of exposure. With the recent evidence, the commission further emphasizes that protection should be optimized not only for whole body exposures, but also for exposures to specific tissues, particularly the lens of the eye, and to the heart and the cerebrovascular system.”

ICRUM AWARDS GRAY MEDAL TO DUDLEY GOODHEAD

Dudley Goodhead, retired director of the Medical Research Council’s Radiation and genome Stability unit at Harwell, United Kingdom, has been awarded the 15th Gray medal for his distinctive service in radiation effects and research in the 14th International Congress of Radiation Research meeting in August 2011. The award was presented by the International Commission on Radiation Units and Measurements, wherein he had served on various committees for much of his career.

A native South African, Professor Goodhead completed his education at Oxford University of England in 1965. He served academic positions at the University of California, Los Angeles, in the USA, the University of Natal in South Africa and otherwise in the MRC in Britain. He was a member of radiation study groups in Europe and North America. In 2002, he received the British Order of the British Empire

In April of 2011, the International Commission on Radiation Units and Measurements published its report 85 “Fundamental Quantities and Units for Ionizing Radiation’ ICRU REPORT 85. The report can be ordered on line at <http://jicru.oxfordjournals.org>. The report is one of a subscription

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of ICRU publications and it costs \$198 US, 110 £ or 166€. A list of current ICRU publications can be found on www.rpd.oxfordjournals.org.

RADIOLOGY MEETINGS POSTED

29 – 30 October 2011 Joint Scientific Meeting of the Royal College of Radiologists and Hong Kong College of Radiologists, Hong Kong, China. Contact Hong Kong College of Radiologists, 99 Wong Chuk Hang Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong SAR email enquiries@hkcr.org

13 – 15 October 2011 Congreso Ecuatoriano de Radiologica E Imagenologia, Hotel Oro Verde, Guayaquil, Ecuador. Email seri-ecuador50@hotmail.com

24 – 27 September 2011 North American Society of Cardiovascular Imaging (NASCI) Hilton Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland, USA. Registration and information www.nasci.org

13 – 15 October 2011 2nd International Symposium on Pediatric Radiology, Panama, contact <http://www.slarp.net> or spri@spripanama.org

6 – 7 October 2011 XI Congress and annual meeting of the Spanish Society of Abdominal Imaging (SEDIA) Ibiza, Spain email congreso_sedia@geyseco.es website www.geyseco.es/sedia2011

21– 25 October Journées Françaises de Radiology: Palais de Congress, Paris, France <http://ljfr.radiologie.fr>

22 – 26 October 2011 34th annual course Masters in Body Imaging Society of Computed Body Tomography & Magnetic Resonance (SCBT-MR) Grand Hyatt Hotel, Washington DC, USA. Registration and information www.scbtmr.org



Executive Committee members: Xiaoyuan Feng, Nicholas Gourtsoyiannis, Renato Mendonca