



Clinical Magnetic Resonance Society

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As the transition of CMRS leadership takes place, I would like to thank Dr. Blake Johnson for his service as President. He focused on consolidating and enhancing the CMRS position as a clinical society aimed at representing and satisfying the needs of radiologists practicing clinical MRI. He has continued to expand our national presence, improved our educational focus, and continued CMRS representation on practice and economic issues. In this regard, he has continued the excellent work started by Dr. Larry Tanenbaum before him, and former CMRS presidents who preceded them.

The 2008 CMRS meeting marked our return to Orlando. We plan on keeping a similar time frame and venue for coming years, so that this meeting can become an annual tradition for CMRS members and other attendees. Excellent speakers, a familiar and desirable venue, and a comprehensive, state-of-the-art program provided an outstanding experience for all participants. With topics ranging from basic concepts to advanced techniques, the responses received from attendees have been extremely positive. One of the strengths of the CMRS annual meeting and the society is its focus on MRI topics of greatest clinical concern to radiology practitioners. I commend the speakers for their current, relevant and well-delivered lectures.

Our president-elect and next year's program chair, Dr. Mark Awh, is already organizing educational content and the format for next year's meeting. Mark your calendars for June 25-28, 2009 and join us at the Loews Royal Pacific resort at Universal Orlando for a fantastic program and venue. Planned modifications and highlights to the program include subspecialty focused subsections, continued and enhanced subspecialty clinical content SAMs, an expanded general session, continuation of the morning How I Do It sessions, and a technologist break-out program. The SAM (self assessment module) sessions take on increasing importance as more radiologists join the ranks of those with board certification on a ten year cycle. All radiologists who need to maintain their CAQ status benefit from these SAM sessions. Many radiologists are choosing to join the maintenance of certification program of the ACR (MOC) voluntarily as a means of keeping track of their CME, ensuring that they are following their states licensure requirements, and as a means of maintaining and enhancing their clinical skills. Multiple SAM credits are available to attendees.

The CMRS meeting focus on technologist education is also one of its strengths. Without knowledgeable and highly competent technologists we cannot obtain the quality of imaging that is possible using today's powerful technology. The interaction between radiologists and technologists is a very valuable component of the meeting.

The *CMRS Vision* is a quarterly newsletter dedicated to excellence in clinical MR imaging. We continue to invite members to submit articles for publication in the *Vision*. In our survey of members, the *Vision* was listed as one of the most valuable and useful aspects of CMRS membership. We are moving to a quarterly E-zine, and annual Journal, which we hope will continue or improve member access to *Vision*. In addition, an annual bound journal will provide a means of collating and collecting articles and other material in one source. The CMRS website (www.cmrs.org) is another resource for members, with access to scan protocols, interesting cases, and all back issues of the *CMRS Vision* available. We are also endeavoring to increase the protocol content to include a wider variety of vendors. Finally, an excellent DVD/Video series produced from the annual meeting is available at a discounted price for members. The content via the various media available to CMRS members provides comprehensive education and updates in MR imaging.

There are many challenges ahead for radiologists. CMS and other payors continue to put pressure on reimbursement. The Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) is a reality, primarily targeting outpatient imaging centers. This has had a significant impact on our ability to provide state of the art equipment and upgrades due to reimbursement decreases. Organized radiology and medicine have been successful in forestalling some recent reimbursement reductions, but there will continue to be further pressure on reimbursement for imaging, and MRI in particular, as recent reports implicate and target imaging services as a cause of increased health care spending. The CMRS is committed to working with other societies as an advocate for practicing radiologists combating these challenges. I recently attended the ACR Intersociety meeting in Squaw Valley, CA, and this interaction and the CMRS presence there gives us an active voice in shaping policies and positions of the ACR.

As the *Pay for Performance* movement gains further momentum, credentialing MR image interpretation through the CMRS can play a greater role in protecting members' practices. The MR practitioner who is able to demonstrate credentialed expertise certified by national organizations is better equipped to avert encroachment on his practice from clinicians and other less qualified competitors. They have an objective means of differentiating themselves and demonstrating this to payors.

In conclusion, I am honored to serve as your president. I pledge to work hard to preserve and expand the membership of the CMRS and continue to expand and enhance its role and voice in radiology and imaging in this country. I am also pleased to welcome back to our board the venerable Dr. Bill Bradley. Other important additions to our board include Dr. Bob Edelman and Dr. Russell Low. These new and returning board members, our executive director and staff will continue to focus on the mission of the Society to promote excellence in the practice of MR imaging, education and representation of the membership.

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