

Summer 2017



South Carolina Radiological Society News

Engaging Radiologists in South Carolina Message from the President Madelene Lewis, MD



SCRS Mission

Our mission is to encourage and facilitate the advancement of radiological science, the improvement of radiological services to patients and the medical community, the study of the economics of radiology, the availability of postgraduate and continuing education, and the maintenance of high medical and ethical standards in the practice of radiology.

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As the healthcare landscape continues to rapidly evolve, it is more important than ever for radiologists to be engaged in their groups, hospital systems, and professional societies. As the newly elected South Carolina Radiological Society (SCRS) President, here is my trident approach to facilitate this throughout our state.

The SCRS will be rolling out an online community called Engage for SCRS members later this month. Engage is a product of the ACR, which has been expanded to allow state chapters to create statewide communities. This resource will allow radiologists in South Carolina to communicate ideas and share advice. It will give you the opportunity to exchange knowledge, ask questions, share solutions, develop ideas, and network with your colleagues. It will be a powerful resource for our state. Be on the lookout for more information on how to join our SCRS online community in the coming weeks.

The SCRS executive committee would also like to meet with you in-person. Our executive com-

mittee will be traveling across the state this year to engage one-on-one with radiology groups of all types and sizes. If you or your group would like to set-up a meeting, please contact either myself or Nancy Walborn and we will set-up a time to visit with your group. We look forward to sharing information on activities at the state and national level. We hope to answer any questions you may have and solicit feedback on what we can do better. We want to hear about what you would like to see from SCRS in the coming years. Finally, please engage with us on a more profound level. We are always looking for members to join committees. Our committees represent a wide range of interests including membership, communication, annual meeting planning, advocacy, and many others. Through our personal meetings, dynamic online discussions, and improved communication, I pledge we can involve all radiologists across our great state. We hope you will chose to engage with us more this year!

SCRS 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

March 9-11, Wild Dunes, Isle of Palms

For program information, meeting registration, and hotel reservations, visit www.scradsociety.org



Legislative Update

Matthew Brady, MD SCRS Secretary

The South Carolina delegation traveled to Washington DC for the May 20-24, 2017 session of the ACR Council. The Council's sessions are embedded in the overall structure of the ACR Annual Meeting "The Crossroads of Radiology." While there were no heavily contentious or incendiary late Resolutions in the ACR Council this year, the meeting did coincide with an interesting time on Capitol Hill. The AHCA had just passed in the House on May 4, and the White House proposed budget was released on the night of Monday, May 22.

After buffing up on our ACR talking points, we traveled to the Hill on Wednesday May 23. Reassuringly, all of the staffers that we met that day noted that the NIH is a respected entity "on both sides of the aisle," and they basically eye-rolled at the WH "skinny budget" requests for a 20% cut to NIH funding.

Elements of the PPACA (Obamacare) have required private insurers to cover some preventative screening based on USPSTF grades. While these elements were left intact in the House passed AHCA, we were advocating their preservation in the Senate bill. As the events of mid-July have unfolded, this is no longer a concern. On a related

theme, we urged our representatives to support legislation mandating CMS to cover screening CT colonography. This is well trodden ground, as inherent conflicts continue to arise from PPACA law that sets threshold USPSTF grades requiring private insurers to cover preventive screening tests while not similarly forcing CMS to pay for the same tests. Improving imaging screening coverage related to this knotted policy and advocating for revisions to the USPSTF itself, continue to be goals of the ACR.

Prior to the ACR May meeting, I attended the SCMA meeting held in Charleston May 5-7 as the SCRS delegate. Given the breadth of specialties and practice types under the umbrella of the AMA and the SCMA, delivering a concise message on MACRA and MIPS is neigh impossible.

Thankfully, the ACR has extensive materials and research online to assist radiology practices in navigating these new structures.

Hopefully, SC practices are successfully working their way through this first year of implementation. Notably, Dr. Gerald Harmon, a family practitioner in Georgetown, spoke at the meeting. He was Chair-elect of the AMA at the time of the meeting and has since been elected as

Chair of the Board of the AMA, currently serving for the 2017-2018 term. Importantly, his two main talking points were on the burden of pre-authorization and the lack of interoperability of EMRs.

At the state level, the first year of the 122nd Session 2017-2018 of the South Carolina General Assembly has adjourned. To my current knowledge, there are no pending laws that directly address medical imaging. Bill 4116, submitted 4/6/17, was submitted as a result of a 2016 SCMA Resolution and seeks to limit the use of MOC by hospitals, insurers, and the SCBME. Bill 3115, submitted 1/10/17 and referred to Ways and Means, seeks to direct South Carolina to develop a public-private approach to Medicaid, based on the Arkansas model. This was supported by a late Resolution at the SCMA meeting in May. We will continue to monitor these two bills in 2018, the second year of the 122nd Session.

Finally, I must address Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) and Clinical Decision Support (CDS). Recall that The Protecting Access to Medicare Act (PAMA) was the bill that

Legislative Update (continued)

repealed the SGR in April 2014. Nestled in that bill was Section 218 which mandates that providers consult AUC when ordering advanced imaging on Medicare patients in the outpatient setting. The original start date January 2017 was postponed in the CMS 2016 MPFS final rule. This month, CMS released the MPFS proposed rule for 2018. This has now set the implementation date to January, 2019, wherein that first 2019 year will be an “educational and operations testing period” during which CMS will continue to pay claims whether or not the correct information is includ-

ed. Relatedly, a recent QPP proposed rule would give “high weight improvement activity” MIPS credit to ordering professionals that consult AUC in 2018. While there was effectively zero awareness of the AUC rule in Section 218 of PAMA among physicians attending the SCMA meeting in May, this type of future MIPS credit should incentivize our referring physicians to utilize AUC.

The National Decision Support Company ACR Select program is among the list of qualified clinical decision support mechanisms (CDSMs), and this is the only qualified mechanism that currently includes a free web-based portal option for providers. Given

that compliance with the CMS mandated CDS program may entail sweeping changes to and deep integration with existing EMR imaging ordering processes, IT specialists are recommending an 18 month timeline for such a project. While the “testing” 2019 year seems a long way off, the time to start planning is now.



Left: SCRS members Drs. Benton Johnson, Bret Anderson, Frank Vento, Bayne Selby and Matt Brady visit with Senator Tim Scott. Right: Drs. Bret Anderson and Bayne Selby, with SCRS Executive Director Nancy Walborn, visit with Congressman Joe Wilson.



“Southern Fellowship”

Dallas W Lovelace III MD FACR

SCRS Fellowship Chair

Two outstanding activities that take place during the American College of Radiology annual meeting each year in Washington, DC, are the Fellowship Convocation and the Southern Caucus.

ACR FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship is one of the highest honors that the American College of Radiology can bestow on a radiologist, radiation oncologist or medical physicist. ACR Fellows demonstrate a history of service to the College, to organized radiology, to teaching or to research. Many years there is only one new Fellow from SC (and more often than that, none) to attain the coveted FACR. Thus, 2017 was a very special year with five new Fellows. Congratulations to Dr. Naveen Parti, Dr. Susan Ackerman, Dr John Daly, Dr Jim Ravenel, and Dr. Joseph Schoepf.

There are 45 Fellows listed by the ACR from South Carolina. A few of them you may not know, since they received Fellow status while in another state and subsequently moved to SC.

All SC Fellows are listed below.

There are radiologists deserving of Fellowship from South Carolina. If you feel that you, or someone you know may qualify, go to ACR.ORG to review the requirements and initiate the application. The entire process is online.

If you have questions about the process, your qualifications or need additional information, please contact me at dwlovelace@regmed.com.

SOUTHERN CAUCUS

The Southern Caucus has become one of the best-attended events at the ACR annual meeting. The primary Caucus meeting is held on Sunday morning with a brief follow-up meeting on Tuesday morning. All reference committee reports and other important issues are presented for review and discussion. The Southern Caucus is comprised of the following state chapters: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. Four states host the Southern Caucus each year. Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas were the host states for 2017. Dr. Madelene Lewis was recognized for her excellence as lead host from South Carolina. Dr. Dallas W. Lovelace III, MD, FACR, is secretary of the Southern Caucus.

Susan Johnston **Ackerman**, MD, FACR, Johns Island
Clyde Russell **Allen**, MD, FACR, Mount Pleasant
Bobby C **Baker**, MD, FACR, Charleston
Donald S **Chamberlain**, MD, FACR, Salem
Layne R **Clemenz**, MD, FACR, Columbia
William Feil **Conway**, MD, PhD, FACR, Mount Pleasant
Philip Costello, MD, FACR, Charleston
Nancy S **Curry**, MD, FACR, Mount Pleasant
John Joseph **Daly** Jr, MD, FACR, Myrtle Beach
Clarence S **Davis** III, MD, FACR, Columbia
Brian **Donnelly**, MD, FACR, Bluffton
David Albert **Dowe**, MD, FACR, Travelers Rest
Karen S **Fountain**, MD, FACR, Greenville
G Donald **Frey**, PhD, FACR, Charleston
Bennett S **Greenspan**, MD, MS, FACR, North Augusta
Kathleen M **Harris**, MD, FACR, Hilton Head Island
Wesley Dubois **Henry**, MD, FACR, Mount Pleasant
William B **Hines** JR, MD, FACR, Greenville
George L **Irwin**, MD, FACR, Greenville
Robert O **Jones**, MD, FACR, Pawleys Island
John H **Kathe**, MD, FACR, Greenville
Paul Dominic **Kountz** Jr, MD, PHD, FACR, Greenville
Stefan D **Laxdal**, MD, FACR, Hilton Head Island

Dallas W **Lovelace** III, MD, FACR, Orangeburg
Richard D **Marks** JR, MD, FACR, Mount Pleasant
William A **Miller**, MD, FACR, Bluffton
Terence N **Moore**, MD, FACR, Charleston
Burton G **Must** JR, MD, FACR, Bluffton
Naveen **Parti**, MD, FACR, Greenville
Neil Thomas **Peterson**, MD, FACR, Daufuskie Island
Daniel **Ravenel**, MD, FACR, Charleston
James Gaillard **Ravenel**, MD, FACR, Johns Island
E Russell **Ritenour**, PhD, FACR, Charleston
Ted J **Roper**, MD, FACR, Greenville
Harold W **Sanford** JR, MD, FACR, Columbia
Stephen I **Schabel**, MD, FACR, Charleston
Joseph **Schoepf**, MD, FACR, Charleston
John Bayne **Selby** Jr, MD, FACR, Charleston
Michael B **Seshul** SR, MD, FACR, Lexington
Charles J **Smith**, MD, FACR, Fort Mill
Lewis N **Terry** Jr, MD, FACR, Laurens
Richard M **Thompson**, MD, FACR, Bluffton
Kenneth N **Vanek**, PhD, FACR, Charleston
David L **Vassy** JR, MS, FACR, Gaffney
William B **Ward** JR, MD, FACR, Rock Hill

Engage Community to Launch in SC

The ACR South Carolina Chapter will launch an online community, **Engage**, the week of August 21. Designed exclusively for ACR members, this new chapter benefit will enable you to network with your colleagues, exchange knowledge, and share solutions that affect you and your colleagues in South Carolina and the surrounding area. On **Wednesday, August 23**, your automatic enrollment in Engage will begin. You will have immediate access to an open forum for all chapter members and the ability to join communities based on your specialty preference(s).

Watch your email for subscription notifications and prepare to receive these exciting benefits:

- *Chat with your colleagues instantaneously through Engage
- *Communicate privately with members through the email feature
- *Participate in discussions with

subject matter experts
*Access a library of resources specifically for our community
*Post images, videos and documents to share with other members
If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Walborn at scradsoc@gmail.com.

SCRS received the 2017 Chapter Award from ACR for Excellence in Meetings. Posing at right are SCRS chapter members who attended the ACR meeting in DC.



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Upstate Carolina Radiology

Madelene Lewis, MD
Medical University of SC

Naveen Parti, MD
GHS UMG Radiology

Michael Brown, MD
Carolina Radiology Associates

Alternate Councilors: **Matthew Brady, MD, Russell Chapin, MD, Dallas Lovelace, III, MD, FACR, and W. Shawn Conwell, MD.**