

SUMMER 2021



South Carolina Radiological Society News

SCRS Mission

Our mission is the advancement of radiologic science, improving radiologic services to patients and the medical community, and studying the economics of radiology; the encouragement of improved and continuing education; and the establishment and maintenance of high medical and ethical standards in the practice of radiology.

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Message from the President

Matthew Brady, MD

The annual cycle of the South Carolina Radiological Society's work has wound down. Clarity around our organization's structure and purpose is imperative as this timing coincides with our emergence on the other side of the pandemic. Thankfully, we have been able to execute the critical work of the chapter as well as participate in the focused work of the ACR during the past year. Further, we have a set of committed officers ready to assume their responsibilities this July, including Dr. Russell Chapin, our incoming President (see his column for upcoming chapter plans). They will be assisted by our Executive Director, Margaret Mays, who navigated her first year with our chapter with great aplomb.

The SCMA held their virtual annual meeting in April, which I attended as our delegate. There was little controversy, and there were no resolutions passed by the SCMA in 2021 of structural concern to radiology practices. Notably, Dr. Gerald Harmon, a family practitioner in Georgetown, begins his term as the AMA President this month. The South Carolina legislative session, which started with the

usual flurry of introduced bills, ended in May with no bills enacted of immediate import to our practices. At the Federal level, our delegation presented multiple initiatives during a virtual Capitol Hill Day in May. In the multistate realm, the ACR is developing greater cohesion with chapters via a CAC Network, as regional MACs engage in a more transparent LCD process (see Dr. Hill's column).

Our chapter membership and finances remain strong. Further, we have actually grown, which will allow the chapter to sustain greater representation from radiology groups around the state (see Dr. Leddy's column). Bringing current perspectives of South Carolina practices to the SCRS and the ACR Council is critically important, as the styles and structures of practice are dynamically changing. We are not in a bubble. You name it, South Carolina has it.

The ACR Annual Meeting was held in May using a virtual format again. Multiple resolutions were discussed relating to trainees and early career radiologists. The RFS was active at the ACR Council this year in these



debates and is also active in SC (see Dr. Kocher's column). Once again, we are highlighting our trainees in this newsletter. Please see the listings of the residents and fellows, particularly if you are recruiting to your practices. The ACR was able to resume the annual convocation as well, and the honor of FACR was awarded to two of our own (see Dr. Lovelace's column).

In closing, I would like to acknowledge Dr. Madelene Lewis for over a decade of continuous service to the SCRS at all levels of the society, locally and nationally. While Dr. Lewis is formally cycling off of the SCRS Executive Council in July, she continues to serve nationally on the Council Steering Committee of the ACR.



Member Outreach

Russell Chapin, MD, Vice President

The dramatic changes of 2020 have increased my appreciation for in person meetings, a routine schedule, and the value of the ACR. The Chapter's plan continues to be for regional outreach dinners in the fall, followed by our state meeting in the early spring and then the annual national meeting, which is moving up on the calendar from May to April in 2022. Our last regional dinner was way back in the fall of 2019, and we look forward to bringing those back from September to early November of this year. That is about the time you will be receiving your annual membership renewal from the ACR. Remember that becoming a fellow of the College requires a minimum of 10 years of membership.

The 2021 Annual Business Meeting for SCRS was hosted via Zoom call on Tuesday, May 4 at 8 P.M. While we hope to see you all in Charleston next spring, a similar broadcast of the business session of the meeting to interested members is a tentative plan for 2022. As for prior years, you can find the archived meeting minutes in the SCRS Chapter "Community" portion of the ACR Engage forum.

Beginning July 1, I will take over Matt Brady's duties as President of the SCRS. On behalf of the chapter membership, I want to express gratitude for the leadership he has provided over the exceptionally challenging last 2 years. That leadership is manifest in the structure of our Chapter's calendar, this summer newsletter, and the archive of SCRS documents found on the Engage platform. Please take this opportunity to familiarize or reacquaint yourself with the Chapter's workings via the SCRS Community on ACR Engage.

Advocacy Update

Samuel C. Hill, IV, MD, Secretary



As the unprecedented challenges of 2020 seem to be receding, challenges old and new nonetheless remain. At the state level, bills introduced in the general assembly relating to repealing or modifying CON requirements, nullifying certain non-compete covenants, surprise billing, APRN scope of practice, temporary nurse licensure and increasing liability limits under tort reform. Most remain in committee, with none having passed more than one chamber. The ACR Policy Map (<https://www.acr.org/Advocacy-and-Economics/State-Issues/Tracking>) can be used to keep up to date with state legislation relevant to radiology.

The ACR Carrier Advisory Committee (CAC) Network continues efforts to represent radiology in advocating for appropriate policies when CMS local coverage determinations are made. CMS made changes in 2019 to allow for more transparency in the LCD process and to allow more voices on the CAC. From the ACR: "The CAC provides a formal mechanism for healthcare professionals to be informed of the evidence used in developing LCDs and promotes communications between the Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) and the healthcare community." The annual meeting was held virtually on June 8th, with topics including coverage for vertebral augmentation and pain management.

The 2021 ACR Annual Meeting in May was able to include a virtual Capitol Hill Day, allowing Councilors to speak with offices of Representatives Clyburn, Mace and Rice and Senators Graham and Scott, advocating for the following issues:

1. Mitigate the effect of recent E/M legislation by continuing changes made for 2021 through 2022, in order to prevent a 10% drop in reimbursement and provide time to seek a more permanent fix.
2. Change existing language in the Protecting Access to Medicare Act (PAMA) regarding Appropriate Use Criteria, to remove the requirement for real-time claims processing and to exempt certain providers from AUC consultation.
3. Support for the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act, in order to ensure clinicians can seek mental health treatment and services without fear of professional setback.



Economics Update

Rebbecca Leddy, MD, Treasurer

This year has economically seen drastic changes with maintaining healthcare practices during COVID19, expansion of teleradiology, changes in the 2021 Medicare Physician Fee schedule that affected radiologists, revaluation of E/M codes, and release of the conversion factor for 2021. Despite COVID 19 economics issues the state chapter has maintained steady membership support and dues collections emphasizing our constituents supporting the advocacy efforts of our state and the American College of Radiology (ACR). The State Chapter was able to expand its councilor number adding in a 5th councilor to vote in ACR parliamentary procedures and an alternate councilor.

The ACR website advocacy and economics section offers practice management resources regarding COVID19 recovery, teleradiology practices, as well as many other topics related to ongoing legislative issues. The 2021 physician fee schedule finalized a decreased conversion factor of \$32.21 which was a decrease from the 2020 value of \$36.09. This decrease would affect all medical specialties however coinciding with the increase in valuation of E/M codes for radiology (which radiology rarely uses) would have resulted in an estimated 10% decrease in reimbursement for diagnostic radiology services. Interventional radiology due to the ability to bill for some E/M codes would have seen an estimated 4% decrease in reimbursement. The ACR along with multiple medical specialties supported the Consolidated Appropriations Act to lessen the planned reimbursement cuts. This act mandated a one-time increase in reimbursement for 2021 resulting in a conversion factor that increased from the final rule amount of \$32.41 to \$34.89. The result of this is a lessened estimated decreased reimbursement of 4% to diagnostic radiologists. However, this Consolidated Appropriations Act only applies to calendar year 2021 therefore further action is needed as in future years radiology may again be facing extensive decreases in CMS reimbursement. Imaging programs must continue to control costs and secure revenue.

Also as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 the ACR assisted with the federal “surprise” medical bill legislation being signed into law which held patients harmless and created an equitable process for provider-insurer dispute resolution. The ACR urged Congress to remove the monetary threshold to access independent dispute resolution, removed the provisions using the median in-network rate as an initial payment benchmark, inserted language to exclude Medicare, Medicaid, and workers’ compensation payment rates from consideration in the dispute resolution, and removed the timely billing provisions, .

South Carolina Radiological Society is again currently updating our South Carolina roster of Radiologists in 2021 to understand the number of radiologists in our state to continue to provide adequate representation with the American College of Radiology. Feel free to contact the Society if your practice has not been contacted.

SC Resident Fellow Section Update

Madison Kocher, MD, President, SC Resident and Fellows Section



The SCRS Resident and Fellow Section is excited to have the new 2021-2022 academic year underway! This past year we focused on introducing more SCRS speakers during our residency noon conferences to help residents gain a well-rounded perspective on SCRS as well as private practice life in general. Last spring, Dr. Matthew Brady had an informative Q&A on private practice and his experience as president of the SCRS chapter, and in fall of 2020, Dr. Mike Brown had an interesting lecture on interviewing pearls and what to look for in a private practice.

I am looking forward to a productive year as president and hope to continue to generate much interest in SCRS. I have previously served as SCRS vice president last year, as well as served on the ACR committee for breast imaging, commission for economics, and committee for ultrasound imaging. I will be joined by R3 Dr. Vivek Singh who will serve as vice president, R4 Dr. Lauren Snider as secretary, and R2 Dr. Megan Mercer as treasurer. All of these leaders have been active both on the state and national level. Dr. Snider has previously served as SCRS treasurer, and is excited to continue participating on the executive committee. In addition, Dr. Mercer has been involved in the ACR economics advisory group as well as monthly journal clubs.

We will be working toward resuming our dynasty as Radtoberfest as well as March Madness dominators to bring back attention to our successful chapter. We are also looking forward to resuming normal fall activities including an initial fall meeting to introduce incoming first year radiology residents to the ACR and SCRS chapter in addition to the fall Radtoberfest competition.

If any SC radiologist would like to be involved in mentoring capacities, RFS activities/meetings, or conduct a noon lecture, please contact Maddi (kocherm@muscc.edu). We always enjoy outside private practice perspectives or updates on any ACR initiatives!



New SCRS Fellows of ACR

Dallas W. Lovelace, III, MD, FACR

The South Carolina Radiological Society is proud to have two new ACR Fellows. They are Dr. Mike Brown and Dr. Lee Madeline. They received this honor at the virtual convocation on May 16th. Congratulations to both.



Lee Madeline, MD

The South Carolina Chapter has recommended one FACR candidate. He will undergo national review by the ACR Committee on Fellowship Credentials in September. The Committee nominates candidates to the Board of Chancellors at the October board meeting with notification sent by November.

We currently have 165 members of our SC Chapter on the FACR eligibility list. Contact me or the ACR to see if you are on the list. The application process is completely online. Applications must be complete by May 15, 2022.

SCRS Fellowship Chair
dwlovelace@regmed.com
803-539-1335



Michael Brown, MD

SC Resident Fellow Update

Graduating Diagnostic Radiology Residents

Trent Dittmer - Abdominal Imaging Fellowship
Emory University

Kyle Freeman - Abdominal Imaging Fellowship
MUSC

Lara Hewett - Abdominal Imaging Fellowship Duke
University

Freddie Hughes - MRI Body Fellowship Baylor
Dallas

Jacob Kahn - MSK Fellowship MUSC

Joseph Kovacich - MSK Fellowship Johns Hopkins

Mario Nigro - Abdominal Imaging Fellowship
MUSC

Charlotte Wallace-MSK Fellowship MUSC

Jeffrey Waltz - Abdominal Imaging Fellowship
MUSC

Graduating IRDR Residents

Shawn Hobby

Stephen Bracewell

Incoming Diagnostic Radiology Residents

Charles Adcock-University of Mississippi SOM

Connor Crowley - MUSC SOM

Anna Fairfax - Eastern Virginia Medical School

Austin Fullenkamp - Keck SOM University of
Southern California

Daniel Holbrook - University of Louisville SOM

Nathaniel Manche - Virginia Commonwealth
University SOM

Matthew McLaughlin - California Northstate
University COM

Jay Patel - University of Louisville SOM

Alex Rios - Lake Erie College of Osteopathic
Medicine

Seth Russell-MUSC SOM

Incoming IRDR Residents

Mohamad Mardanbigi - New York Institute of
Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine

John McAlhany - University of South Carolina
SOM Greenville

SCRS Executive Committee 2021-2022



Russell Chapin, MD
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Matthew Brady, MD
Immediate Past President
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Madison Kocher, MD
RFS President
Medical University of SC
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Councilors to ACR (3 year term)

Michael Brown, MD, FACR, Greensboro Radiology

Russell Chapin, MD, Medical University of SC

Rebecca Leddy, MD, Medical University of SC

Matthew Brady, MD, Roper Radiologists

Samuel Hill, MD, Carolina Radiology

2021 Alternate Councilors to ACR (1 Year Term)

John Gilpin, MD, Greenville Health System

Joshua McCain, MD, Lexington Radiology Associates

Kevin Dickey, MD, Medical University of SC

Naveen Parti, MD, MBA, FACR, Greenville Health System

5th ACR Alternate Councilor TBD

Contact us:

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