

The Pennsylvania Radiological Society

A Chapter of the American College of Radiology

www.paradsoc.org



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Remember, the **Bulletin** is available to members online at
<http://www.paradsoc.org/>

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

I want to congratulate all of the members of the PA Radiological Society who contributed to RADPAC for the March Madness Campaign. We again had the greatest number of contributors in the large state category and earned a \$500 prize for our efforts. Thank you to Mary Scanlon and everyone who reached out to encourage others in your practices to contribute to this important campaign.

I want to congratulate the PA Radiological Society on receiving the award for Excellence in Quality and Safety at the ACR meeting. The members of our Society should be very proud. This has been a common theme at many of our Fall meetings where we have stressed the importance of quality in our radiological practices. Dr. Bob Pyatt, a past president of the PA Radiological Society, has been integral in these efforts at the state level in our society and at the national level with the ACR. Dr. Pyatt accepted the award which was presented to our society at the ACR meeting.

I also want to thank many of the members of our society who reached out to mentor another radiologist or a resident at the ACR meeting this year. Dr. Geraldine McGinty encouraged members to mentor others as the ACR meeting can be an overwhelming experience to those who are new to

this very important meeting of radiologists in the nation. This is the first year for the ACR's Meeting Mentor Program, aimed at making this meeting more meaningful to new members or residents. Much can be achieved to strengthen our society through the ACR.

There are several legislative issues that members of our society have been actively involved that will affect the radiological practice in the state of Pennsylvania. Act 112 was passed in December of 2018 requiring a notification to patients that significant findings were found on the interpretation of their imaging study. There continue to be many questions on the interpretation and implementation of the law. Members of the society remain actively involved in the process through The Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania. In addition, the state of PA has a bill requiring that patients be informed of their breast density, and that they may benefit from additional imaging. It was exciting to hear the members of the society, led by Dr. Marcel Bohm-Velez, and our executive director John Kline address these issues to the benefit of our patients and the practice of radiology. Dr. Keith Haidet, the chair of the legislative affairs has been instrumental in keeping our society actively involved in these issues.

Congratulations to those elected to the ACR Fellowship this year. This is one of the highest honors that the ACR will bestow on a member in good standing and is a recognition that only approximately 10 percent of the College members achieve. The induction ceremony is customarily held Sunday evening during the ACR meeting and is a remarkable event for those being inducted, their family members, as well as others attending the ACR meeting. I strongly encourage all to attend.

I want to thank John Kline for a tremendous year as our Executive Director. He had another successful Residents Day in Harrisburg where he showed radiology residents in training the process to remain actively involved with our legislators while the general assembly was in session in Harrisburg. John also has been tremendous in keeping the PA Radiological Society members informed through the Engage Platform. He has helped to coordinate the efforts of our members and guide the members in the many challenges that each of us face in our daily practices in radiology.

I want to thank Dr. Ryan Lee and Dr. Tessa Cook who were instrumental in developing another successful seminar on the Non-interpretive Skill for the radiology residents in the state of Pennsylvania. This was a statewide effort with speakers from across the state. The seminar was recorded this year and will be available to those interested in these important topics.

Thank you also to Dr. Joshua Tice for his efforts in the PRS Newsletter. This keeps our members of the PA Radiological Society informed as to the many things that are happening in our busy radiological practices. Thank you to all who have contributed to the Newsletter.

I also want to extend a very special thank you to all of the members of the PA Radiological Society for your efforts that go unrecognized but are done to enhance the practice of radiology. It is great to see how so many of the radiologists remain active to improve on and deliver the best care for our

patients in the state of Pennsylvania. It is these efforts that help strengthen the image of radiologists in the view of our patients and our colleagues.

Michael Spearman, MD, FACR
Pittsburgh

Legislative Updates

General

Pennsylvania's Senate and General Assembly continue work on the state's budget. The fiscal year ends June 30th. The halls of the capitol are ringing with requests from various groups to get a piece of the commonwealth's revenue. Governor Wolf continues to push for an extraction tax on natural gas but the future is not bright for that as long as the republicans control both chambers of the state house.

Resident's Days in Harrisburg

Five Radiology Residents visited Harrisburg on May 1st and 7th during the 6th annual "Residents Day in Harrisburg". Drs. Victor Babatunde (HUP), Matthew Capodarco (Penn State), Luke Brown (Geisinger), Greg Parker (HUP) and Greg Mower (Penn State) participated. Attendees accompanied John Kline and met with elected officials and senior staff. They also witnessed floor action in the House and took a tour of the capitol building. Reaction was very good. This program continues to mature and is a very good tool for showing residents another side of the Society while encouraging participation.

Act 112

As noted in the previous Bulletin the Pennsylvania Secretary of Health has suspended enforcement and sanctions by the department regarding Act 112, The Patient Test Results Act. All hospital systems continue to ensure compliance.

The Pennsylvania Radiological Society (PRS) fought to stop this bill from becoming law. There were several language changes that improved the bill but PRS has always opposed this type of legislation. The Hospital Association of Pennsylvania (HAP) continues its work through a working group that has PRS representation. As developments occur PRS members will be kept up to date via the ACR 'Engage' system.

Surprise Medical Bill

The Provider Coalition for Patient Access, which includes PRS representation, is currently working with the House Insurance Committee on draft legislation for this session. The Coalition recently submitted a letter to the Committee outlining our priorities, including key payment proposals. The Coalition continues to stress the importance of network adequacy, network transparency, and market-based benchmarking. We expect additional draft legislation in June.

Radiological Technician Licensing

The American Society of Radiological Technicians (ASRT) is spearheading an effort to license technologists. This is the same work that began last legislative session. The prime sponsor is Representative Ted Nesbitt from Butler County.

PRS Legislative Affairs is working with ASRT legislative personnel and PRS supports the legislation. It is not likely that Governor Wolf will approve another licensing board, so legislative alternatives are being considered including licensing under the PA Board of Medicine.

We expect draft language before the end of June.

Dense Breast Screening Insurance Payment

Senator Bob Mensch (R-Bucks/Montgomery) is preparing to introduce a bill that would mandate insurance coverage for dense breast screening when ordered by a physician. As noted in prior bulletins this is not the first try at getting coverage by legislation.

PRS Legislative Affairs is working very closely with Senator Mensch's staff. We are also coordinating legislative efforts with the PA Breast Cancer Coalition. The coalition has been working on this effort as well.

John P. Kline
Harrisburg

ACR 2019: Highlights

Overview

The ACR Annual Meeting featured the activities of the ACR Council along with programming designed to support the needs of Council members, Chapter leaders, the RFS and YPS. Saturday featured a Lung Cancer Screening session, Future Practice Management Session, and the YPS meeting. Sunday included council activities and the keynote address, "Physician Burnout: Prevalence, Drivers, and Mitigating Strategies" by Dr. Dyrbye. Other highlights from the meeting included the Moreton Lecture presented by Ben Harder, Managing Editor and Chief Health Analyst at US News and World Report, Emergency Radiology sessions, Military Radiology sessions, and the Economics Forum. The meeting culminated with Capitol Hill Day on Wednesday.

Joshua G. Tice, MD
West Reading

Moreton Lecture:

“Measuring Hospital Quality – and More.”

Ben Harder, Managing Editor and Chief Health Analyst,
US News and World Report

Mr. Harder began his lecture by sharing a very personal story. A story which ignited his passion for patient decision support and for accurate assessment of hospital systems. It was a story of his cousin, a contemporary of his, who was born with congenital heart disease. The baby received treatment in a hospital that was not accustomed to caring for such critically ill infants. Despite successful surgery, his cousin suffered a post-surgical complication which would leave him permanently and severely disabled.

Mr. Harder points out that there are very few accurate sources for patients and their families to make the critical decision of where to get care. Although there are numerous sources, many are not supported by accurate or robust data. As we know, much of the public information is obtained from sources such as Yelp and Healthgrades. Sources in which a single disgruntled patient or group of patients could malign a physician or institution based on personal complaints or beliefs, not supported by quality data and performance measures.

The possible applications of performance measurements could include: Quality improvement, accountability/pay for performance, and patient and family decision support. Mr. Harder’s passion for performance measures appears to be centered around patient and family decision support. He believes that public reporting is a service and that “bad public reporting should be feared and must be overcome.”

In his role at US News, Mr. Harder strives to provide useful and accurate data. The information gathered includes a large database of Medicare claims and survey of subspecialists. Hospital are ranked by various procedures and areas of specialty care including: 9 service lines (>4,000 hospitals and 60 million inpatient records); 16 areas of high acuity specialty care (2,000 hospitals and 35 million inpatient records); and pediatric specialty care (125 hospitals). Unfortunately for all of us in the room, hospitals are not ranked on their radiology services because US News believes patients center their decision around their individual therapeutic needs and each hospital’s outcomes for their particular diagnosis. He is of the belief that there is safety in numbers and that higher volumes and increased sub-specialization will predict better outcomes.

Mr. Harder concluded his lecture with the following questions: Is measurement harmful? How can we use public reporting and measurement to heal?

Julie A. Gubernick, MD, FACR
Philadelphia

Keynote Address:

“Physician Burnout: Prevalence, Drivers, and Mitigating Strategies.”

Lotte Dyrbye, MD, MHPE, FACP

Dr. Dyrbye as the Associate Chair for Faculty Development, Staff Satisfaction, and Diversity and the Co-Director of the Program on Physician Well-being at the Mayo Clinic has a passion for physician well-being, which she shared with the ACR council. She began with a refresher on the basics of physician burnout and finished with a few strategies to enhance our wellness.

Physician burnout can be thought of as a syndrome of depersonalization and emotional exhaustion which can lead to lower personal satisfaction and accomplishment. Studies have shown that the risk factors include longer work hours, younger physicians, female physicians, pay based entirely on billing, private practice, and specific specialties. Unfortunately, radiology is above the mean for the percentage of practicing physician, who demonstrate signs of burnout (45% in 2018), along with Emergency Medicine, OB, Family Practice, Neurology, Physical Medicine and General Internal Medicine. Dr. Dyrbye touched on “the physician personality and the compulsive triad”, which can be adaptive or maladaptive. As physicians begin training in medical school, they are less likely to exhibit signs of burnout compared to their peers; however, as training progresses the paradigm changes and physicians become much more likely than their peers to be burned out.

The burned-out physician has an increased perception of having committed suboptimal care and as burnout worsens, performance decreases. Further, they are more likely to have a broken relationship, decreased altruism, decreased empathy, and inappropriate personal and professional behavior. Burnout may have a profound effect on our workforce and the cost of care. A third of burned-out physicians are looking to reduce time. They are 2x more likely to leave practice with 2% intending to leave medicine altogether. They are more likely to commit medical errors and be involved in malpractice. Further, burnout is a leading contributor to the physician suicide rate, which is 2x the general population in men and 4x the rate of the general population for women.

Burnout is often driven by practice setting, specialty choice, work-home conflicts, and work-interest mismatch. For instance, when a work-home conflict arises, the conflict resolution may only favor home in 10% of cases. Likewise, spending less than 1 day/week on our most meaningful activity increases our risk of burnout by 2.7 times.

Combating burnout is a shared responsibility between, the individual, the local work unit, the organization, and national efforts. Individuals without burnout tend to be compliant with regular physical exercise, talk with their spouse/friends/family, protect time for their spouse/friends/family, have recreational hobbies, avoid mentally delayed gratification, and often work fewer hours/nights. Resilience, an ability to preserve and remain positive despite adversity, is an important skill to be developed by the individual and supported by the system. Engaged leaders who foster and focus on career fit are vital. Likewise, cultivating a work community within the system by using physician lounges, social events, discussion groups, etc improves the resilience of the individual and the system.

Dr. Drybye also highlighted the ACRs efforts with the new Radiologist Well-Being Program: Being Well Together, which includes the Well-Being Index Survey tool, a tool-kit for radiologists, and well-being curriculum. The Well-Being Program can be accessed at <https://www.acr.org/Member-Resources/benefits/Well-Being>.

Joshua G. Tice, MD
West Reading

Quality and Patient Safety Committee Report

The Quality & Safety Committee is delighted to report that the Pennsylvania Radiological Society received the Chapter Award for Quality and Safety, in our division, at the ACR Annual Meeting. This is the first time our Chapter received this award, after several years of applications.

We received this award for many reasons:

- Our PRS Board has signed on and supported the Image Wisely and Image Gently campaigns and encouraged all PRS members & their practices to do so. (Thank You, PRS Board & Leadership)
- We have had many years of Quality and Safety CME as part of our Annual Program in September (Thank You, Bev Hershey for developing these important CME Programs!)
- Our PRS Chapter has been actively engaged with the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority (PSA) in their HAP-HIIN (Hospital Integrated Improvement Network) CMS funded Patient Safety Program, evaluating “Errors between Emergency Departments and Radiology Departments”, with approximately 12 PA practices participating in the program. This project was initially started due to the published fine work at Penn State-Hershey Medical Center, by Dr. Michael Bruno, on his Failsafe program.
- Our PRS has actively promoted for years the ACR Annual Quality & Safety Program, and which will be held in October this year in Denver, CO.
- The PRS Quality & Safety Committee actively encourages use of the Contrast Media Guidelines of the ACR
- The Quality & Safety Committee has actively promoted use of the CDS implementation, as part of the PAMA regulations, effective 1/1/2020, and fully implemented 1/1/2021.

Dr. Robert S Pyatt, Jr., MD, FACR, who proposed and subsequently led the PRS Quality and Safety Committee, is retiring from the position at the September 2019 PRS Annual Meeting.

Ryan K. Lee, MD, MBA, MDMR, is assuming the Chair position of the Quality and Safety Committee for the PRS at the September 2019 Annual PRS Meeting.

Dr. Lee is also becoming Chair of the Quality & Safety Committee of the General, Small, Emergency, and/or Rural Practice Commission (GSER) as of June 1, 2019. Dr. Michael Bruno, Penn State – Hershey, will be serving as his Vice Chair in the GSER Commission.

Robert S. Pyatt, Jr., MD, FACR
Chambersburg, PA

Membership Committee Report

For those who may not be aware, we have a Twitter account [@paradsoc](#) and a Facebook account ([Pennsylvania Radiological Society](#)). All are encouraged to join the Facebook account and follow us on Twitter.

Also, for those who may not be aware PRS has a specific community on the ACR Engage website for the Pennsylvania Radiologic Society. Executive Director John Kline has been utilizing the Engage platform to provide legislative updates and issue political Action Alerts regarding upcoming legislation. The platform can also facilitate discussion of important topics for our members. The engage platform can be accessed at <http://engage.acr.org/home> or through the Member Centric App on your mobile device.

At the recent Spring board meeting, we presented some statistics from our Twitter account. Our number of followers continues to grow, although we have nowhere near the number of prominent individual members of the ACR (e.g. Geraldine McGinley, Rich Duzak, Amy Patel).

Most of our Twitter and Facebook posts have been announcements of Harrisburg visits to offices of the PA State Government for lobbying. This is by design. The goal is to publicize the Society's lobbying efforts on behalf of our members and provide a little recognition to the volunteers who participate.

I also selectively re-send Tweets from prominent ACR members and other radiologists that seem generally applicable to all our members. I have done my best to steer clear of any partisan political tweets. If you have noticed any, please bring them to my attention.

General inquiries were made to the attendees of the Spring meeting as to any other specific goals we might have for social media. We welcome your input.

If you have anything you think would be appropriate to post to Twitter or Facebook, please contact me at Jonmorgan5@aol.com or Josh Tice at joshua.tice@towerhealth.org.

Jonathan Morgan, MD
Philadelphia

General, Small, Emergency, and/or Rural Practice (GSER) Commission Report:

Commission Goals

- Identify, promote and address issues of concern and provide support to radiologists practicing general radiology (fellowship-trained subspecialty radiologists who spend a significant portion of their time interpreting studies in multiple areas outside of their subspecialty), general radiologists (those who did not complete a fellowship), and/or those who are members of small groups, and/or who serve facilities in small communities and/or rural areas, VA and military hospitals and including those radiologists in a teleradiology capacity serving these communities, facilities and/or practices
- Identify, promote and address issues of concern and provide support for radiologists practicing emergency radiology as subspecialists (emergency radiologists) and general radiologists, in any practice setting, from solo practice to tertiary/academic centers, teleradiology practices, and including military and VA facilities.
- Deal with topics outside the purview of single subspecialty areas of radiology and support committees that are not necessarily aligned with other ACR commissions

The General, Small, Emergency and/or Rural Practice (GSER) Commission represents well over 50% of the membership of the ACR.

For example,

If you perform any aspect of Emergency Radiology, then you are part of the constituency of the GSER Commission.

Likewise, if you perform over 50% of your total work outside of your subspecialty training, then you are part of the constituency of the GSER Community.

The former “General” radiologist, who used to be the non-fellowship trained radiologist, is now only 5% of graduating residents. The “General” radiologist is now antique terminology. Most of “general” radiology is now read by subspecialists, and many of these subspecialists spend more than 50% of their time outside of their subspecialty, generating revenue and professional reports. The new General radiologist is the Subspecialist radiologist!

The GSER Commission also includes anyone working in Military Radiology, VA Radiology, or performing Teleradiology, part-time or full-time. There are numerous radiologists in Pennsylvania working in these areas.

The GSER Commission also includes all radiologists working in rural practices, or Critical Access Hospitals (CAH), of which there are many in Pennsylvania.

If you have issues which the GSER Commission can assist, please let me know. If you wish to be active in the GSER Commission, please let me know as well.

My email is: bob_pyatt@hotmail.com. Phone: 717.729.7751

Robert S. Pyatt, Jr., MD, FACR
Chambersburg, PA

RESIDENT AND FELLOW SECTION:

Over 500 radiologists from across the country took to the halls of the United States Senate and Congress as part of the 2019 ACR Capitol Hill Day to advocate for issues important to radiology and the patients we serve. As a first-year resident, I had the privilege of joining the Pennsylvania delegation, which met with the offices of Senator Patrick Toomey, Senator Bob Casey, and 8 of the state's Congressional Representatives.

Throughout the day I learned how critical it is for our specialty to actively engage with the legislative process. Our elected representatives and their staff deal with an incredible volume and breadth of issues and cannot on their own be experts in every matter. As radiologists we can use our expertise and directly advocate for legislation that ensures patients receive and have access to high quality medical imaging services.

During our delegation's Capitol Hill meetings this year, we advocated for legislation that maintains access to life saving breast screening exams for women ages 40 to 49, and student loan interest relief for radiology residents and other medical trainees. In addition, we championed a balanced approach to solving the complex issue of "surprise medical bills," supported by the ACR and many other medical societies.

Beyond specific advocacy efforts, the camaraderie, dedication, and palpable enthusiasm of the radiologists and other ACR members who had gathered from across the country was inspiring. I left feeling energized and excited to participate in ongoing efforts to advocate for our specialty and the patients we serve.

For those interested in getting involved with radiology advocacy but wondering where to start, I am including several tips shared by Daniel Ortiz, outgoing Chair of the ACR Resident and Fellow Section, during a talk at this year's ACR Annual Meeting:

- Join the ACR Member discussion forum called Engage (engage.acr.org)
- Join the radiology advocacy discussion on Twitter (Follow [@ACRRAN](https://twitter.com/ACRRAN))
- Participate in Calls To Action from the Radiology Advocacy Network (cqrceengage.com/acradiology/home?5)
- Attend the ACR Annual Meeting and ACR Capitol Hill Day 2020

Additional information and "One-Pagers" on specific legislative issues advocated for by ACR Hill Day 2019 participants are available on the ACR website (<https://www.acr.org/Lifelong-Learning-and-CME/Meetings-and-Course-Calendar/ACR-Annual-Meeting#HillDayRADPACGala>).

Gregory Parker, MD
PGY-2, Hospital of The University of Pennsylvania

The Philadelphia Roentgen Ray Society Update

Thank you all for participating in the PRRS this past year and for your continued support. A special thank you to our outgoing president, Dr Valeria Potigailo, for her dedication and tremendous behind the scenes efforts ensuring every PRRS initiative was a success.

We welcome our incoming president, Dr Ryan Lee, and are looking forward to an engaging 2019-2020 educational series with meetings scheduled for September 24, November 12, March 17, and May 12 at the College of Physicians in Philadelphia. Speakers will include Dr Gul Moonis, Dr Harry Jha, Dr Stephen Pomeranz, and Dr Alexander Sevrakov amongst others.

Due to the immense success of our first Virtual Meeting and adaptation of the Non-Interpretive Skills resident education sessions to a Webinar, we are excited to continue these venues to extend our outreach to colleagues throughout the region. The Virtual Meeting will take place in February and the NIS Webinar will be in April. Please check out the PRRS website (<http://roentgenray.org>) for updates on the upcoming season, exclusive educational content, and to find ways to engage in the society.

Have a great summer and we look forward to seeing you at our next meeting this Fall!

Jason Shames, MD, MSc
Philadelphia

PRS ANNUAL MEETING

**Fairmont Pittsburgh,
Pittsburgh, PA,
September 28, 2019.**

Dr. Beverly Hershey, Chair Annual Meeting Education Committee, has again recruited an excellent program. The speakers include:

Michael Recht, M.D. – Artificial Intelligence, Analytics and Informatics

Frank Lexa, M.D. – Back to the Future: Impact of Federal Government on US Radiology in 2019
Measure for Measure

Beverly Coleman, M.D. – Board of Chancellors Update

Ryan Lee, M.D. – Clinical Decision Support

Sonia Gupta, M.D. – New Power Dynamics in Radiology

Michael Farwell, M.D. – Immunotherapy: Imaging Findings and Treatment Effect

Gregory Mittl, M.D. – Act 112: Patient Test Result Information Act

Ted Burnes – Legislative Update

Mary Scanlon, M.D. – Resident and Fellows Panel

Richard Duszak, Jr. – General Radiologist...or Staff Sergeant?

Robert S. Pyatt, Jr., MD, FACR is the honored Radiologist this year.

Signup link for the meeting and the link for hotel reservations will be available soon on the website, <https://www.paradsoc.org>

EDITOR'S NOTE

I am thrilled to have brought you the Summer 2019 issue of the Bulletin. I continue to strive to keep you informed of the activities and accomplishments of the Society and its many active committees and sections.

I welcome your ideas and suggestions for future topics. Further, if you would like to highlight a local issue or accomplishment, please feel free to contact me for possible inclusion. I hope you enjoyed this Summer issue of the PRS Bulletin.

**Joshua G. Tice, MD
West Reading**