



Newsletter

International Society of Radiology
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PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

This is an important year for international radiology and for the International Society of Radiology (ISR). We came away from our first international congress in Africa in September 2006 with a series of mandates and initiatives which now we must carry out for the benefit of radiologists around the world.

These include our agreement to cooperate with major continental societies and the Radiology Outreach Foundation in the collection and distribution of teaching materials to centers in several dozen countries. They include our continued cooperation with the World Health Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency in the development of standards for safe medical uses of ionizing radiation. They include our sponsorship for the first African Association of Radiology. And they include further development of our portal website and its key links with websites from two dozen leading societies and organizations. We are involved with the Moroccan Society of Radiology in plans for ICR 2008 in Marrakech. Early plans suggest that this will be an excellent teaching program and a wonderful opportunity to learn about world radiology.

Recently, all of our national member societies received a notice to pay their annual dues for 2007 and any unpaid prior years. The ISR is a confederation of some 86 national societies. We are dependent upon the participation of these societies in the activities we organize for the success of our efforts. We also are dependent upon the dues paid by our member societies for the modest amount of money needed to support our activities and our secretariat. So I ask each reader, as an officer of your society, to make certain that your society dues are paid early in the year. I also ask that you inform us of changes in officers, mailing addresses, and email and fax addresses for your society.

Finally, I invite and welcome your comments and suggestions about projects for ISR that would be of value to your members.

Claude Manelfe, President, ISR

PREPARATIONS ADVANCE FOR ICR 2008 IN MOROCCO

The theme of the 25th International Congress of Radiology 5–8 June 2008 in Marrakech, Morocco, will be “toward efficient radiology for all,” announced Farida Imani, president of the congress organizing committee for the host Moroccan Society of Radiology.

The daily scientific program will contain nine tracks covering basic areas of medical imaging. In addition, sessions will be offered on education, legislation, informatics, radiology management and radiation protection. A special track for radiographers will be part of the program, along with sessions arranged and sponsored by the four major regional radiology societies in Europe, Asia and North and South America. The two featured International Society of Radiology lectures honoring Antoine Béclère and Walther Fuchs also will be presented by speakers not yet chosen.

“We have planned what we believe will be an exceptional intellectual and cultural experience for everyone attending this congress,” Dr. Imani wrote in her presidential message. “It will be an opportunity for all of us to discuss and exchange ideas, learn about exciting new advances in imaging technology and strengthen research partnerships.” The congress also will look toward the future by offering young doctors challenging scientific programs including publications and electronic posters.

“The congress venue, Morocco, is in reality many countries in one, a safe and stable nation of beautiful and varied landscapes. The host city, Marrakech, is a historic imperial city and cultural center offering a wide range of accommodations for all tastes and needs. Marrakech promises congress participants everything from traditional eleventh-century monuments to the most recent architecture, amenities and, of course, Moroccan cuisine.”

The congress website containing information about registration is www.icr2008.org. The email address is icr2008Marrakech@menara.ma

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TAKES ACTIONS IN CHICAGO

The ISR has reached an agreement in principle with the Chinese Society of Radiology for its sponsorship of ICR 2010 in April of that year in Shanghai. Completion of a contract was expected early in 2007.

The newly-installed treasurer, Jan Labuscagne of South Africa, will be assisted by a finance committee consisting of Arl Van Moore, representing the American College of Radiology and Rolf Guenther, representing the German Radiological Society.

The Executive Committee voted to change the investment policy for approximately \$1 million in ISR reserves. Previously, the reserves had been invested in conservative mutual funds holding American stocks and bonds. The ISR has accepted an offer from the American College of Radiology to merge the reserves of ISR with ACR reserves and obtain more aggressive management.

Anticipating added revenues during 2007, the Executive Committee approved of a budget reflecting spending of \$143,000. This would include an expanded travel budget and new funding for the International Commission on Radiologic Education, the World Virtual Congress of Radiology, and for the ISR website.

The ISR president, Claude Manelfe, announced his appointment of his predecessor, Francisco Arredondo, to be chairman of the International Commission on Radiologic Education, succeeding Holger Pettersson of Sweden. He reappointed Giorgio Rizzatto of Italy as webmaster of the ISR website. Funding for both the ICRE and the website was increased.

The president announced that he would represent the ISR at a December meeting with the Executives of the Vietnamese Radiology Society in Hanoi. He has also invited the presidents of national societies in North Africa to meet with the Executive Committee at its planned session 1 June in Marrakech, Morocco, site of ICR 2008.



Members of the ISR Executive Committee at their September 2006 meeting in Cape Town, South Africa. First row, left to right: Nickolas C. Gourtsoyiannis, Miguel Stoopan, Francisco Arredondo, Claude Manelfe, Jan Labuscagne, and Otha Linton. Second row, left to right: Hassen A. Gharbi, Lawrence Lau, Lenny Tan, Hans Ringertz, and George Klempfner. Members absent from picture: Giorgio Rizzatto, Peter Dawson, James Borgstede, and Jean Chalaoui.

CAPE TOWN CONGRESS FIRST IN AFRICA

More than 2,100 registrants from 73 countries attended the first International Congress of Radiology held in Africa, September 2006, in Cape Town, Republic of South Africa. Besides some 700 radiologists, the program attracted radiographers, scientists and vendors to the Cape Town convention center.

The scientific program involved lectures, seminars, refresher courses and discussions from more than 150 invited faculty members. The program emphasized the role of radiology in diagnosing tropical diseases. Several parts of the scientific program were sponsored by the French Society of Radiology and the Radiological Society of North America.

The closing ceremony marked the transition of ISR officers. In addition to meetings of the ISR Executive Committee, the World Leadership Council, representing the major continental radiology societies, also met to discuss international education projects.

CLAUDE MANELFE BECAME ISR PRESIDENT

Claude Manelfe of Toulouse, France, began his term as the International Society of Radiology president in September 2006, following ratification by the ISR International Committee of a slate of officers proffered by the Executive Committee.

Francisco Arredondo of Guatemala City, Guatemala, moved to the past-presidency. Hans Ringertz of Stockholm, Sweden, became president-elect. Nickolas Gourtsoyiannis of Heraklion, Crete, Greece, became secretary-general, and Jan Labuscagne of Pretoria, South Africa was installed as treasurer. George Klempfner of Melbourne, Australia, completed his term as past-president

Five radiologists were elected as national society representatives on the Executive Committee. They were Lawrence Lau of Melbourne, Australia, Renato A. Mendonca of Sao Paulo, Brazil, Rolf W. Guenther of Aachen, Germany, Najib Al Marzouk of Kuwait, and Luis Donoso Bach of Barcelona, Spain.

Hassen A. Gharbi of Tunis, Tunisia, was appointed to a second term representing societies in Africa. The four representatives of continental societies are Lenny Tan of Singapore for the Asian and Oceanian Society of Radiology; Ricardo Garcia Monaco of Buenos Aires, Argentina, for the InterAmerican College of Radiology; Arl Van Moore of Charlotte, North Carolina, for the American College of Radiology. Dr. Gourtsoyiannis completed his term as representative of the European Society of Radiology and was succeeded in March by the new ESR president, Andy S. Adam of London, England.

ISR AWARDS BÉCLÈRE MEDALS

Five radiologists received the ISR's highest award to individuals, the Béclère medal, at ISR 2006 last September. Hedvig Hricak of New York City and Guy Frija of Paris, France, presented featured lectures as well

as receiving medals. The other three medalists were Cesar Pedrosa of Madrid, Spain, Lilian Leong of Hong Kong and George Klempfner of Melbourne, Australia, the retiring ISR past-president.

The Bécclère medal honors the memory of Antoine Bécclère, a pioneering French radiologist, whose family established a series of foundations in his honor. Those receiving the medal are chosen because of their contributions to international radiology.

AFRICAN RADIOLOGISTS ORGANIZE REGIONAL SOCIETY

With encouragement from the president Claude Manelfe, Hassen Gharbi of Tunisia and Jan Labuscagne of Pretoria, South Africa took the lead last fall in organizing an African Association of Radiology to provide a focus for educational activities for radiologists in all countries of the continent. An organizing meeting was held in October at the annual Journées Françaises de Radiologie, sponsored by the French Society of Radiologie. In addition, direct invitations were sent by the organizers to officers of every known national society in Africa. Because of the difficulties and costs of travel, much of the activity of the new group will be conducted electronically, Dr. Gharbi predicted. He invited leaders of any interested African national society to contact him by email at hassen.agharbi@planet.tn.



Francisco Arredondo, left, passed along the badge of office to Claude Manelfe as president of ISR 2006.



Claude Manelfe (center), ISR president, at a reception sponsored by the French Society of Radiology during the September 2006 congress in Cape Town with Abdelhafid Sbihi (left) and Noureddine Chakir (right) of the Moroccan organizing committee for ICR 2008 in Marrakech.

EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL ABOUT RADIOLOGY

A new website which explains about 100 of the most prevalent radiologic examinations in non-technical terms has gone on line under the joint sponsorship of the American College of Radiology and the Radiological Society of North America.

Physicians can access the site or refer patients to it for explanations of procedures which the patient may be scheduled to receive. The website is available at www.Radiology.Info.org.

The information on it was prepared by a panel of experts selected by the sponsoring organizations.

Highlights from the past three scientific programs of the European Congress of Radiology are available in a revised electronic format. The material includes more than 300 lectures and scientific presentations from the 2004, 2005 and 2006 meetings.

The highlights may be accessed by starting with the general title www.ecr.org, and designating E-Learning > eECR - Electronic Congress. The access code for the selected material is <http://cyberricci.myecr.org>. The program is now called eECR, replacing the original title "cyber ricci."

Besides material from the scientific program, the offering also includes several symposia sponsored by companies during the three meetings.