



# ALABAMA ACADEMY OF RADIOLOGY

# ALARAD NEWS



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## AAR 2005 COMMUNICATIONS INITIATIVE

Recognizing the importance of timely and robust communications with our membership, the AAR has committed its efforts in 2005 to a complete overhaul of its communication efforts. The AAR realizes the advantages of electronic forms of communications from the standpoint of timeliness, efficiency and cost savings to our members. The AAR will gradually convert as many of its communications as possible to electronic methods.

Currently, most of the communications of the AAR Executive Committee and the AAR Officers occur electronically. The AAR intends to increasingly utilize electronic communications with its members during the next year. Please help the AAR preserve valuable resources by providing us with your email address, phone number and fax number.

Toward the Communication Initiative, the AAR has undertaken several projects

designed to enhance this program. The AAR has designed an attractive logo, seal and letter head providing a unique professional appearance to all of the AAR communication materials. Next, the AAR has completely redesigned and updated its web site. The AAR Web site will be the focal point for AAR communications and information. The web site will be updated frequently to provide timely and effective communication with our members.

In addition, the AAR has developed a Comprehensive Membership Survey that has been distributed to all members by mail, fax, and the internet (the latter through the help of the ACR utilizing SurveyMonkey.com). Participation in the survey has been outstanding and will be invaluable guiding the future efforts of the AAR. If you have already participated in the survey, the AAR thanks you for your time, effort and comments. If you have not yet participated in the

survey and would like to do so, the survey is available on the AAR web site or by contacting the AAR. The survey results will be presented at the 2006 AAR Annual Meeting and will be published on the AAR web site.

To provide current written updates to our membership, the AAR has reintroduced its Newsletter. It is planned that the newsletter will be published semiannually and distributed by mail as well posted on the AAR web site. If you are interested in providing content or an article for the AAR Newsletter and Web Site, please contact the AAR.

The AAR is extremely pleased with the progress it has made in its Communication Initiative during 2005. We look forward to providing the best possible Communications with our membership now and in the years to come.

## AAR GOVERNANCE

ALEX W JOHNSON, MD  
PRESIDENT

ARTHUR D SANDY, MD  
PRESIDENT ELECT

STEVEN K TEPLICK, MD  
SECRETARY

MARK LEQUIRE, MD  
TREASURER

JOHN T RENZ, MD  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

NATALIE MUNROE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

### COUNCILORS

Thomas G Loflin, MD  
Steven K Teplick, MD  
Arthur Sandy, MD  
John T Renz, MD  
Alex W Johnson, MD

### ALTERNATE COUNCILORS

William Beckett, MD  
Bibb Allen, MD  
Michael F DeVenny, MD  
Demetrius Morros, MD  
Mark LeQuire, MD

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

John Renz, MD



DURING THE PAST YEAR, THE AAR HAS SPONSORED TWO EXCEPTIONAL MEETINGS WHICH INCLUDED TIMELY CME OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR MEMBERS

## AAR EDUCATION/CME PROGRAMS

The AAR is committed to providing outstanding educational meetings to meet our members' needs. As indicated by AAR Meeting Surveys, the AAR CME program remains an essential need of our members. During the past year, the AAR has sponsored two exceptional meetings which included timely CME opportunities for our members. A recap of the meetings is provided.

The AAR Annual Meeting held in the spring included presentations by Dr. David Roberts on CTA and MRA, Tom Phelps of ProAssurance on Medical Liability Issues facing Radiology, Dr. Fred Roberts of Alabama Medicare on IDTFs, Ariel Gonzalez of the ACR on state and federal Legislative Issues and an expanded AAR Business Session dealing with a variety of chapter programs and radiology

practice issues. The annual ProAssurance program held in conjunction with the AAR Annual Meeting is of particular interest to our members. This program qualifies participants for the ProAssurance loss prevention insurance premium discount. To continue this outstanding benefit for our members, please plan to attend the Annual Meeting of the AAR held each spring.

The Fall Meeting of the AAR required rescheduling secondary to the effects of hurricane Katrina upon the members from the southern part of our state. Despite this, the AAR conducted an outstanding meeting which included presentations by Dr. Leonard Berlin a nationally renowned expert in the field of Radiology Medical Legal Issues, Dr. Samuel McQuiston of the USA Department of Radiology on Mediastinal

Masses, Dr. Pat Ryce Medical Director of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama on Radiation Protection during Medical Imaging, followed by the AAR Business Session.

To further the AAR educational mission, the AAR has established a Meeting Sponsorship Program to help support its educational programs and an Honorarium Program for its speakers. Approval has been obtained to provide stipends for AAR Resident Speakers. With the help of our members, the AAR hopes to further expand our meeting Sponsorship Program in the years to come.

## AAR LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT



The AAR is undertaking a significant Legislative Initiative in 2006. This includes a proposal by the AAR to form a PAC. The PAC will be called ALRAD PAC. The proposal is posted on the AAR web site. If you would like a copy of the proposal please contact the AAR. The AAR and many other ACR state chapters believe that a

statewide Radiology PAC will be required in the future to help the radiology profession confront the legislative challenges on the horizon. Other states in our region with a statewide Radiology PAC include Radiological Society of Louisiana and the North Carolina Radiological Society. This proposal was developed at the request of our

membership during the last two AAR Chapter meetings. The AAR Executive Committee recommends the adoption of the proposal. Please give this proposal your consideration and support. The proposal will be presented for adoption during the Business Session of the 2006 AAR Annual Meeting.

## MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR 2006

### **AAR Annual Meeting**

April 29, 2006  
Wynfrey Hotel  
Birmingham, Alabama

### **ACR Annual Meeting**

May 20-25, 2006  
Washington, D.C.

### **MASA Annual Meeting**

May 4-7, 2006  
Sandestin Beach Resort, Florida

### **AAR Fall Meeting**

TBA (Tri-State Meeting being considered)

Please mark your calendars. Meeting brochure, agenda and registration materials for the 2006 AAR Annual Meeting will be mailed to all members shortly. Support the AAR by planning to attend the next meeting of the AAR. AAR meetings are complementary for AAR members. We look forward to seeing you there. For more information contact Ms. Natalie Munroe at 1-877-210-4829.

## 2005 AAR HIGHLIGHTS

- AAR Celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> year anniversary (founded 1975)
- AAR awarded the ACR 2004 Chapter Recognition Award for Excellence in Membership (second consecutive year), AAR nearly wins ACR Meetings Award
- Bibb Allen, MD awarded The Alabama Academy of Radiology Silver Medal Award
- John T. Renz, MD presented with the AAR Outstanding Service Award
- Jason Bearden, MD presented the AAR 2004 Outstanding Resident Award
- AAR focuses its efforts in 2005 on Communications Initiative designed to develop a new AAR Web Site, Comprehensive Membership Survey, Newsletter, Logo, Membership Seal and Membership Certificate
- AAR Sponsors successful Annual Spring Meeting and Fall Meetings
- AAR serves as Faculty for ACR Chapter Leaders' Workshop and Economics Forum
- AAR serves as Co-Moderator for Southern States Caucus at 2005 ACR Meeting
- AAR Chairs Teller Committee at 2005 ACR Meeting
- AAR Officers represent membership during meetings with members of Congress on Capital Hill, Washington D.C., spring 2005
- AAR represents membership at the Annual MASA Meeting
- Bibb Allen, MD named Vice Chair of ACR Commission on Economics
- John T. Renz, MD completes term as AAR President 2002-2005.
- Alex Johnson elected AAR President 2005-2007
- ACR 2004 Reapportionment provides the AAR with one additional ACR Councilor
- AAR works with Alabama Medicare on IDTF Issues
- AAR works with BCBS on Radiation Protection Education and Coronary CTA Procedures
- AAR represents membership at AQAF Meeting
- AAR representatives attend ACR Managed Care Meetings at ACR and RSNA Meetings
- AAR Membership Certificate mailed to all Members
- Development of AAR Meeting Sponsorship and Honorarium Programs
- Legislative Initiative Planned for 2006 including formation of ALRAD PAC
- Proposal to develop AAR Resident and Fellow Section
- Introduction of the AAR Robert Stanley MD Annual Award for Outstanding Resident and Fellow Research Award

## AAR MEMBERSHIP REPORT



The AAR continues to be one of the strongest ACR Chapters. The AAR currently has 338 active practicing members increased by 16 members from 322 members one year ago. The AAR continues to be a leader in the percentage of practicing physicians who are members of the AAR and the ACR. The AAR excels in membership recruitment and retention. Recognizing the efforts of the AAR, the ACR has awarded the AAR the 2003 and 2004 ACR Chap-

ter Recognition Awards for Excellence in Membership.

The AAR remains committed to the goal of having all Radiologists, Radiation Oncologists, Nuclear Radiologists, and Medical Physicists practicing in the state of Alabama as members of our organization.

The AAR greatly appreciates your continued membership and support of the AAR. As a small gift of our appreciation, the AAR de-

signed an attractive Membership Certificate that was mailed to all members early this past summer. If you did not receive your AAR Membership Certificate, please contact Ms. Natalie Munroe.

If you know of new members in your practice or other colleagues who are not members of the AAR encourage them to join the AAR, our future depends upon it.

## AAR RADIOLOGIST IN TRAINING COMMITTEE

The Radiologists in Training Committee is a new committee added in early 2005 to better coordinate the efforts of the AAR in promoting statewide involvement by Residents and Fellows in the AAR. Recognizing that the future of Radiology and the AAR depends on residents and fellows becoming active members and the future leaders of our profession, the AAR has made substantial investments of time, energy and resources to develop its Radiologist in Training Initiative. We believe that participation in organized radiology par-

ticularly in the AAR and ACR are good for residents and fellows.

To further this initiative, the AAR has appointed Dr. Ruth Snow to chair this important committee. The AAR and ACR have many programs designed to promote resident and fellow involvement in our organizations. Most recently, the AAR has introduced award programs to recognize the outstanding achievements of its resident and fellow members. These include the AAR Robert Stanley Annual Outstanding Resident/Fellow Research

Award and The AAR Outstanding Resident/Fellow Award.

The AAR is also working to develop a Resident and Fellow Section of the AAR. The AAR is seeking individuals interested in donating to the AAR resident and fellow award programs. If you have contact with residents and fellows in your practice, please consider encouraging their participation in the resident and fellow programs of the AAR.

THE AAR AND  
ACR HAVE  
MANY PROGRAMS  
DESIGNED TO  
PROMOTE  
RESIDENT AND  
FELLOW  
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OUR  
ORGANIZATIONS.

## AAR ECONOMIC COMMITTEE REPORT

The AAR is privileged to have Dr. Bibb Allen, a national expert in the field of Radiology Economics, chair this important committee. As always, Dr. Allen is prepared to update the members of the AAR on several important economic issues affecting practicing radiologists in the state of Alabama.

In the current installment, he addresses important coding changes for 2006 and local reimbursement policy for some high profile procedures. The topics

covered include several items: Cardiac CT and CTA – How do we code and what can we expect in payment? A discussion is provided about new codes for 2006 including 3D Rendering Codes and Interventional Codes. Highlights are presented from the 2006 Final Rule for Medicare Physician Fee Schedule and HOPPS. These include the following: multiple procedure discounts for CT, MRI and US; NM considered a designated health service under Stark II; potential con-

version factor decrease; and intracranial stents/angioplasty as not covered items.

I encourage you to visit the Economic Section of the AAR web site for additional information. If you have a question, concern or problem about an economic issue please contact the AAR. The AAR is currently working to develop a web based forum to allow members to present problems or questions that they may have to other members of the Academy.



## AAR FINANCIAL REPORT

The AAR remains financially sound. A summary of the most recent AAR Financial Statement is presented. The Beginning balance for 11/1/2004 was \$72,500.50 and the Ending balance as of 8/31/2005 was \$75,678.32. Total receipts were \$36,714.26 and total disbursements were \$33,536.44. The AAR remains fiscally conservative committed to protecting the resources of the Academy. The AAR does not anticipate the need for a dues increase at this time.

### ALABAMA ACADEMY OF RADIOLOGY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

6/2005 - 6/2006

The AAR is supported by strong leadership at the local, state and national levels. Please refer to the AAR web site at [www.alarad.org](http://www.alarad.org) for a complete listing of the current AAR Officers, Committees and contact information.

With Best Regards for a Happy and Healthy 2006!

John T. Renz, MD  
Editor



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.ALARAD.ORG](http://WWW.ALARAD.ORG)

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## NOTES AND NEWS

- As a result of 2004 ACR Reapportionment Report, effective 6/1/2005 the AAR is entitled to 5 Councilors and 5 Alternate Councilors.
- In early 2005, a significant reorganization of the AAR Committees and Committee Structure was undertaken to further strengthen the efforts of the AAR. We appreciate the volunteer efforts of all who serve the AAR. It is through their efforts that the AAR has become the outstanding organization that it is today.
- The AAR is always looking for talented members to take a more active role in the activities of the Academy and to serve in its many leadership positions. The AAR needs your help! If you are interested in getting more involved and would like to serve on an AAR Committee or other position, please contact the AAR for further information.
- As you will notice, your Academy has been extremely busy during the past year working to represent the interests of our members in professional organizations, with governmental officials and agencies, health insurers and other health agencies and organizations at the local, state and national levels. We look forward to the opportunity to serve the AAR and to further the mission of the Academy in 2006.