

Nominations and election of RSSA council and EXCO office bearers

Further to the request to members for nominations for the 2011 - 2013 period, the RSSA advises that nominations were received for all the applicable office bearer positions. All nominations were for the existing office bearers, and no opposing nominations were received, therefore nullifying the need for an election. The existing office bearers consequently remain in office for a further 2-year term following the 2011 AGM to be held later in the year.

The office bearers for 2011 - 2013 are:

President - Clive Sperry

Vice-president - Sheldon Godino

Secretary - Mark Velleman

Treasurer - Thami Mngoma

Congress Chair - Leon Janse Van Rensburg

Member without portfolio - Ashesh Ranchod

We thank all members who participated in the nomination process.

Mark Velleman

Secretary

SORSA-RSSA 2011 Imaging Congress: Durban 4 - 6 March 2011

Clinical course in mammography MRI

Richard Tuft

The International Society of Magnetic Resonance in Medicine (ISMRM) Global Outreach Programme-sponsored faculty comprised Gillian Newstead, Rola Shaheen, Sughra Raza, Robyn Birdwell and Shih-Chang Wang. The strength of a faculty depends on the quality of its speakers, their experience and preparation, and the co-ordination of the subject matter to avoid repetition and give an overview of the subject. They excelled in all these aspects. Progressing through mammography and ultrasound to MRI, we were treated to a course that was equally appropriate for a radiologist in training, an occasional breast imager or a breast-imaging superspecialist. The speakers came from the USA, Canada and Australia, and all spoke a language only used by a minority of South African radiologists: BI-RADS (breast imaging reporting and



(L to r) Drs Gillian Newstead and Robyn Birdwell (USA), Professor Shih-Chang Wang (Australia), Drs Sughra Raza and Rola Shaheen (USA), and Professor Leon J van Rensburg (RSSA).

data system). Owing to its standard lexicon and uniform reporting, all radiologists in South Africa should adopt it. The key message was that MRI is now an essential and integral part of breast imaging for screening, problem solving and the staging of breast cancer.

Functional MRI of Physiological Processes

Leon J van Rensburg (RSSA Congress Chair)

Dr Bruce Spottiswoode, head of the Cape Universities Brain Imaging Centre (CUBIC), must be congratulated on the Functional MRI of Physiological Processes workshop held on 5 March 2011 in Durban. It was the first of its kind in South Africa, not only because the majority of the material presented was new to the audience, but also because the synergy between radiologists and MR physicists has not been well established in South Africa. It was run as a parallel session at the 2011 Annual Imaging Congress of the Radiological Society of South Africa (RSSA) and Society of Radiographers of South Africa (SORSA), held in Durban from 4 - 6 March 2011. Over 600 delegates attended the congress.

The workshop was sponsored by the ISMRM Global Outreach Programme and a SA/Germany grant from a collaboration between the South African National Research Foundation (NRF), the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the University of Freiburg, Germany.

Six international and 2 local faculty members conducted the workshop. The faculty members were: Professor David Saloner (University of California, San Francisco); Professor Oliver Wieben (University of Wisconsin, Madison); Professor Ernesta Meintjes (University of Cape Town); Drs Michael Markl, Bernd Jung, Matthias Weigel and Daniela Foell (University of Freiburg, Germany); and Dr Bruce Spottiswoode (CUBIC).

The workshop covered the basic principles, clinical applications and new frontiers of a variety of MRI techniques aimed at assessing function and physiological processes in the human body. Topics included functional cardiac imaging, flow and motion imaging, functional neuro (BOLD) imaging and diffusion imaging. The workshop was structured to accommodate interactive question-and-answer sessions, and time was allocated for attendees to meet the speakers. The afternoon session consisted of free papers in the categories Clinical MRI of Physiological Processes, and New MRI Techniques. Feedback following the workshop was overwhelmingly positive, and there is certainly interest to hold further similar workshops.



(L to r) Daniela Foell, Bruce Spottiswoode, Ernesta Meintjes, Bernd Jung, Matthias Weigel, Michael Markl, Leon Janse van Rensburg, Oliver Wieben* and David Saloner.*

*ISMRM-sponsored faculty

RSSA/SGR (American Society of Gastrointestinal Radiologists) 2011 award

Andrew Lawson (UCT; RSSA Travel Award Winner 2010)

The first RSSA/SGR Gastrointestinal Imaging Course took place at Spier Estate together with the first combined RSSA/SGR Abdominal Imaging Congress in August 2010. The RSSA funded the R40 000 travel award to attend the annual SGR meeting, hosted at the Park Aviana Hyatt Hotel in Carlsbad, San Diego, southern California in March 2011. I was privileged to be the SGR beneficiary for the 2011 congress and to present a paper (Effectiveness of percutaneously placed self-expanding metal stents for palliation of malignant biliary obstruction) at the scientific forum. I wish to thank the President of the RSSA, Dr Clive Sperry, and the President of the SGR, Professor Jay P Heiken, for the opportunity to take part. Over 600 specialists attended the meeting.

The 6-day congress kicked off on Sunday, 20 March 2011 at 7 a.m. with 5 hours of scientific oral presentations. Each presentation was exactly 7 minutes, followed by a 2-minute question-and-answer session from the floor.

The congress programme then continued in earnest on the Monday morning with lectures starting again at 7 a.m. Each topic was given a 20-minute slot for the speaker to succinctly summarise the traditional imaging approaches to specific disease and discuss the latest and greatest advances in that particular field. The majority of speakers not only held abdominal imaging fellowships, but had also further specialised in certain branches of abdominal imaging, so facilitating exposure to leaders in the respective fields of modern imaging. Several sessions were interactive plenary sessions on a case-by-case shout-the-diagnosis forum – particularly appealing to a final-year resident!

The congress presented an opportunity to meet experts working at the coal-face of modern imaging. It facilitated an opportunity to share ideas, open doors to potential collaborative research work and establish both social and professional relationships that I look forward to nurturing.

European Society of Radiology (ESR) Congress, Vienna 2011 – Report back

Andrew Lawson

The annual European Society of Radiology (ESR) Congress took place in Vienna from 3 - 7 March 2011, drawing over 20 000 delegates from around the globe. It is the largest radiological society in the world, with over 50 000 members.

I presented two papers ('Imaging the Rex recessus vein pre-operatively using wedged hepatic venous portography and the role of post-operative doppler ultrasound in Rex shunt surveillance'; and 'Imaging displacement and strain in the medial gastrocnemius muscle during ankle-joint motion using 2D ciné DENSE MRI') and a poster ('Effectiveness of percutaneously placed self-expanding metal stents for palliation of malignant biliary obstruction') as part of the scientific sessions, and was generously supported by the Radiological Society of South Africa (RSSA) towards the journey to Europe. I am extremely grateful for the support that our society offers young researchers, and wish to encourage junior researchers to reach out for this support! I also thank the University of Cape Town for their financial support.

The congress is on a scale so different to our South African experience

that it is almost overwhelming. There are 10 - 15 daily parallel sessions ranging from refresher courses to new horizon lectures, covering the spectrum of radiology. Interactive on-line programme planners allow you to select the courses that specifically interest you! A major attraction for me was the emphasis on encouraging residents to attend congresses and produce research. Residents are referred to as the 'Rising Stars'. There is in fact an entire lounge on the 2nd floor of the centre for residents only, to facilitate social networking, and a night club in fact is booked out for the Friday night exclusively for the Rising Stars Party!

I had the opportunity again to meet, debate and make wonderful contacts with a worldwide spectrum of radiologists and residents.

The Third RSSA short course on Current Ethical Issues in Radiology: 6 March 2011

Leon J van Rensburg (RSSA Congress Chair)

Following the success of the first two short courses in Cape Town and Johannesburg during 2010, a third was held at the SORSA-RSSA Imaging Congress in Durban on 6 March. It was very well received, with a packed auditorium. The previously discussed topics were updated and thoroughly re-visited:



Dr Derrick Wagenfeld stresses a point.

- Ethical Considerations in Cochlear Implant Patients, presented by Dr Derrick Wagenfeld. He drew attention to a new emerging ethical dilemma, viz. funder-driven pressure upon implant surgeons to use untested generically manufactured implant devices.
- Self-referral – A moral hazard, by Dr Clive Sperry.
- Paediatric Imaging: The Ethics of Radiation Exposure, by Professor Savvas Andronikou.

- Patient Confidentiality in Clinical Practice: Is HIV Status still Relevant? by Professor Keymanthri Moodley. The important message was that patient confidentiality is sacrosanct in patient-doctor and inter-discipline referrals.
- Dr Susan Otto, a consultant radiologist with a LLB degree, gave important lectures on the basics and essence of professionalism and negligence.
- Dr Richard Tuft presented a very lucid, comprehensive and practical overview of mistakes that can lead to litigation.
- Ms Esme Prins, a practicing attorney, highlighted and simplified the important aspects and implications of the new Consumer Protection Act for health providers.

Many attendees participated in lively debate at the end of each lecture.

Congratulations to the Faculty, and thanks to the ConsultUS team for the organising and to Covidien for sponsorship.

RSSA-CME book donation

Clive Sperryn (RSSA President)

To quote Leon Janse van Rensburg (RSSA Congress Chair), 'The RSSA CME association will support and provide a sustainable, affordable, appropriate, visionary and constantly expanding programme of education, teaching and training with support for academic research.' This year, each department was invited to submit their wish-list of books to the value of approximately R25 000.

I recently had the privilege of visiting five of our radiology institutions to officially present the books on behalf of the RSSA CME association. I was warmly received in all the departments and had an opportunity to experience first-hand the feel of each and gain some sense of the conditions prevailing and some of the very real constraints on the efficient running of these departments. Unfilled consultant posts at Medunsa and in Mthatha contrast with frozen consultant posts elsewhere. In general, I was impressed with the equipment installed; at Medunsa, the active installation of new equipment was in progress. I was particularly pleased to see the close co-operative working relationship between radiology departments at Pretoria and Medunsa. At Wits, I joined a meeting and witnessed some focussed questioning of senior registrars preparing for their exams. Unfortunately, in Gauteng, failure of the payment system to compensate the equipment vendors for repairs and maintenance seems a significant limitation on the optimisation of the use of existing equipment. At the Nelson Mandela Academic Hospital in Mthatha, an impressive towering statue of Madiba stands outside the entrance. The absence of an MRI will soon be addressed and will save patients the long trip to Albert Luthuli in Durban. The MRI together with the recently installed mammography machine with stereotactic facility will complete the suite of equipment to complement the spotlessly clean hospital building, helpful staff and excellent resource centre. The most remarkable feature of the department in Durban is the rapid turnaround from the bleak prospects a few years ago to a vibrant department that produced the recent gold medallists.

The new curriculum will bring new challenges for registrars, and I hope that the various benefits of RSSA membership, including the SAJR, the opportunities available through associated membership of the ESR and the ISR, and the reduced congress fees for members and various RSSA awards will prove to be of value to all registrars. The RSSA looks forward to further strengthening of all the academic departments.

Neuroradiology subgroup

A small group of RSSA members are wanting to form a neuroradiology subgroup. Would any members with neuroradiological fellowships, special interests or expertise contact the RSSA Secretariat (jako@xray.co.za) as soon as possible, if they are interested in participating.

RSSA academic prizes for 2011

The following 2011 RSSA Travel Award and Poster Prizes will be awarded at the RSSA Essentials in MDCT/CTA Course, to be held from 26 - 28 August 2011 in Sandton, Johannesburg.

1. The RSSA Travel Award

This R 40 000 prize is for the best paper presented by a registrar or junior radiologist not qualified for more than 5 years. The winner must use the



Professor Irena Targonska and her department at Nelson Mandela Academic Hospital in Mthatha.



Dr Sperryn with Professor Zarina Lockhat and Professor James Ker (Deputy Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Pretoria) at Pretoria Academic.



Professor Margaret Kisansa and her department at the book handover at Medunsa.

prize money to attend an overseas course or congress of own choice within a year, and submit a report that will be published in the SAJR.

2. Poster Awards

- RSSA First Prize of R15 000
- Discovery Second Prize of R10 000
- RSSA Third Prize of R5 000

The topics for submission are unrestricted. Go to <http://www.rssa2011ctcourse.co.za> for further details. The deadline for submission is 30 June 2011.

Leon J van Rensburg
RSSA Congress Chair

International advisory board for SAJR

Jan Lotz

To attain – and then maintain – the highest international standards in our reporting, I have sought to establish an international panel of foremost imaging authorities who will provide critical commentary of the SAJR. The members are Joshua Farber, Jonathan Kruskal, Walter Kucharczyk and Pia Sundgren, and I am delighted and honoured to introduce them to you.



Walter Kucharczyk (MD, FRCPC) is a professor in the Departments of Medical Imaging and Surgery at the University of Toronto, and Director of Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Spectroscopy at the University Health Network and Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto. He was the Chair of the Department of Medical Imaging at the University of Toronto

from 1991 - 2007, and a Past President of the International Society of Magnetic Resonance in Medicine (ISMRM) in 2004/2005. On completing his term as Department Chair in 2007, he was awarded a Hans Fischer Senior Fellowship in the Institute of Advanced Studies at the Technical University of Munich, where he did a 9-month sabbatical in 2007/2008.



Pia C Maly Sundgren (MD, PhD) is Professor of Radiology and Head of the Department of Diagnostic Radiology, Clinical Sciences Lund, Lund University in Lund, Sweden, and also affiliated to the Center for Medical Imaging and Physiology, Skåne University Hospital. Her scientific activities focus on neuro-imaging with an emphasis on advanced MR imaging. She has co-authored almost 90

original papers in peer-reviewed journals, another 20 papers (mainly reviews), and co-author of 2 books and several book chapters. Professor Sundgren serves as a reviewer for a number of journals such as *JMRI*, *AJNR*, *AJR*, *European Radiology* and *Neuroradiology*. She is presently the Publication Editor for the European Society of Neuroradiology, and is a member of the ECR Program Planning Committee, and the Board of Trustees of the ISMRM.



Jonathan Kruskal (MD, PhD) received his MB ChB from the University of Cape Town in 1982 and, after an internship at Groote Schuur Hospital, joined the South African Liver Research Center at UCT Medical School, where he received a PhD in 1987 under the mentorship of Ralph Kirsch. In 1994, he completed his radiology residency training at New England Deaconess Hospital/Harvard Medical

School in Boston. Currently, he is Professor of Radiology at Harvard Medical School, Chairman of the Department of Radiology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, and Chairman of the Radiology Executive Committee at Harvard University. A former RSNA Scholar, he is the recipient of numerous research and teaching awards, is an internationally-recognised lecturer and teacher, and serves on numerous society committees, including chairing the Instructional and Categorical Course Committee, and participates on the International Relations Standing Committee, the Corporate Relations Committee, and the Executive Council of the American Roentgen Ray Society, is Chairman of the Quality Improvement Committee of the RSNA, and is deputy editor of the journal, *RadioGraphics*. Dr. Kruskal has authored more than 150 scholarly publications and has been in the forefront of both molecular imaging and quality improvement initiatives in radiology. He and his wife, Pamela, have two children, and live in Newton, MA.



Dr Joshua M Farber (MD) received his MD from the University of Pennsylvania in 1988. He completed a residency in radiology from NYU in 1994. Subsequently, he completed two formal fellowships, one in musculoskeletal imaging from NYU and one in MRI from Duke. Dr Farber has served on the Scientific and Educational Program Committees for the

ISMRM and RSNA, and he reviews for 6 journals. Past research interests and publications have dealt with optimising the protocols for musculoskeletal imaging for MRI and MDCT, especially in the post-operative setting. Currently, Dr Farber is collaborating on research in quantitative analysis with Qmetrics, a quantitative firm based in Rochester, NY. He also practices musculoskeletal radiology with a group in Cincinnati, Ohio.