

Bulletin
Spring 2024
The Pennsylvania Radiological
Society



**This edition and past editions are available to all members at*
<http://www.paradsoc.org/>

Website: www.paradsoc.org

Executive Director:

John P. Kline
2001 North Front Street Suite 233
Harrisburg, PA 17102
Phone: (717) 695-4751
Email: jkline@paradsoc.org

Editor:

Kelly W. Biggs, MD
James E. Van Zandt VA Medical Center
2907 Pleasant Valley Blvd
Altoona, PA 16602
Phone: (814) 943-8164
Email: kbiggs9105@gmail.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

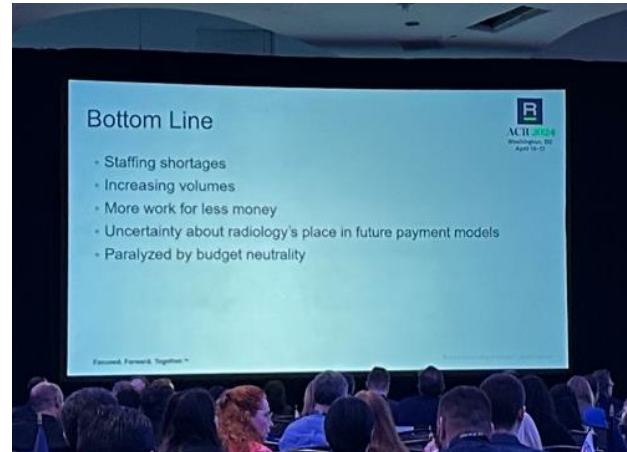
- 1) Editor's Note
- 2) President's Address
- 3) Crack This Case!
- 4) Member News
- 5) Resident's Perspective
- 6) ACR 2024 Highlights
- 7) Legacy Fund
- 8) Legislative Affairs
- 9) Upcoming Events

EDITOR'S NOTE

Well, I tried to get ChatGPT to generate this newsletter again this year. While the application is undoubtedly a better writer than I am, the text was unfortunately too lacking in specifics to pass muster. So, I am stuck writing this the old-fashioned way, complete with the ever-reliably user-unfriendly current iteration of Microsoft Word. I take no responsibility for errors in formatting, grammar, and content.

To be honest, it wasn't the most optimistic environment for a national meeting. These are changing times. Private equity run radiology mega groups are absorbing or displacing traditional private practice groups. Manpower shortages precipitate greater stress for radiologists coping with ever increasing imaging volume. Radiology remains a competitive avenue for prospective candidates in medical schools, and yet the specter of AI looms large when considering a future in radiology. Some countries without the same regulatory restrictions of the United States are already employing AI applications to read chest x-rays, so I am told. While not free-falling, ACR membership is down, and not unexpected in a post pandemic disengagement that is similarly plaguing the rest of America. ACR Board of Chancellor member Lauren Nicola's summary slide during the economics forum offered a succinct and sober take-away:

That's not to say that we should dwell on the negatives. While the future is uncertain, the ever-increasing demand for medical imaging keeps radiology in the forefront of relevance. And the ACR continues to effectively advocate for radiologists even in troubling times, as was evident in annual presentations by other ACR leaders. In the context of many challenges, I was particularly heartened by this year's awards ceremony. Florida-based radiologist Dr. Boyd N. Hatton was honored for his work in support of the Kilimanjaro Mission Hospital as its director of radiology. Dr. Hatton selected, sourced, and negotiated for new ultrasound and digital x-rays for the hospital, as well as installing a picture archiving and communication system for imaging there. Mission hospital clinics offer services free of charge, caring for an average of 100 patients per day during each month-long venture. We have some amazing physicians in our ranks!



And now...the news.

Kelly W. Biggs, MD

President 2023-2024

Dr. Joshua G. Tice, MD



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would first like to thank the executive committee, board, committee chairs, and our executive director John Kline for all that you have done since our fall meeting in September and for taking the time to meet last Month in D.C. prior to the ACR 2024 meeting.

A great deal of work has been completed by our new Legacy Fund Board under the leadership of Dr. Terry York. The inaugural grants, fulfilling the Society's education mission, have been approved to support participation in the ACR's Moorefield and Rutherford-Levanty Fellowships. The Legacy Fund board has also forwarded recommendations to support the Annual Scientific Awards for our fall meeting and the regional residents meeting. Looking to the future, the Legacy Fund Board approved \$20K for possible distribution during fiscal year 2025 and further outlined the process for grant submission. I am proud of the work they have done to define and initiate the grant process and I look forward to exploring how the Legacy Fund will continue to support the mission of PRS.

John Kline and Dr. Jeremy Sykes have continued to represent us well in Harrisburg and have been working on several specific issues this legislative session, including improving Act 112, radiology technologist licensing and improving breast imaging insurance coverage. Further, they are looking forward to hosting this year's resident Legislative Day, planned for June 11, 2024.

This year has been an exciting year for our trainees. Through the amazing drive and leadership of Dr. Fatima Elahi, PRS has launched a Medical Student Section Leadership Initiative with representatives from each of the 9 medical schools in Pennsylvania. In addition, the section has begun developing a mentorship program for medical students interested in radiology.

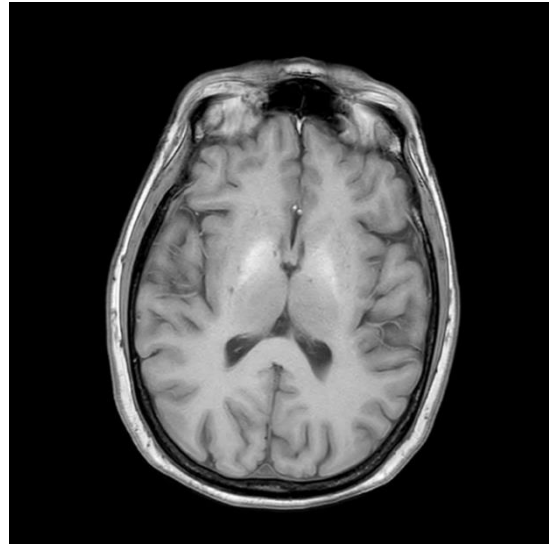
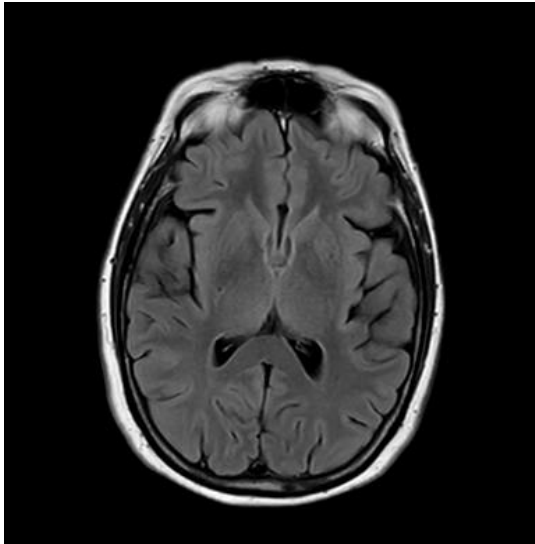
I would like to thank Dr. Devang Gor for agreeing to lead our delegation to ACR 2024 as Senior Councilor. Dr. Gor aptly led the delegation through a new process for reviewing Practice Parameter and Technical Standards prior to the meeting. In addition, I would like to thank all our councilors and alternate councilors for taking the time to expertly review the many PP & TS prior to the meeting and thoughtfully review the numerous additional resolutions at ACR 2024. With Dr. Gor's leadership, our delegation and caucus professionally discussed several challenging topics. Further, I would like to thank all of those who gave up their time to attend and volunteer at ACR 2024.

On a sadder note, many of you may be aware that our long serving Executive Director and Lobbyist, John Kline has announced his intention to retire in the next 18-24 months. As such, we are initiating a search committee that will be led by myself and your Vice President, Dr. Ken Kurtz. With representation from the executive committee and several board members, we will embark on defining what the Society needs moving forward both in an Executive Director and a Lobbyist. My hope is that we will be able to have a short list of candidates to present to the PRS Board in the early Fall with subsequent planning for a transition to begin sometime in 2025. Although John is going to be much missed by the Society and more specifically by the Board, I am not ready to say goodbye and I fully intend to put him to work over the next year. Sorry John!

Finally, our Education Committee, newly led by Drs. Morgan and Cook, has been hard at work planning for the September meeting in Lancaster. The program is coming together nicely, and we are excited to welcome Dr. Tim Crummy (current ACR Speaker), Dr. Amy Patel, Dr. Melissa Davis and Dr. Gaurang Shaw as several of our confirmed speakers. I hope that I will see many of you in Lancaster this Fall as we meet for the first time in many years in a more central PA location.

Joshua Tice, MD

CRACK THIS CASE!



Forty-four-year-old man with dizziness. Answer at the end of the newsletter.

MEMBER NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to Pennsylvania's newest ACR fellows: Angela Choe, MD; Eric Gingold, PhD; Linda Kloss, DO; Friedrich Knollman, MD; and Philip Lim, MD. ACR Fellows

are awarded based on a history of service to the college, organized radiology, teaching, and/or research. Only 15 percent of current ACR members have been awarded this honor. Eligibility criteria are available at www.acr.org. Additional guidance is available by contacting the PA Rad Fellowship Committee at prs@paradsoc.org.

New fellows pictured below, most during the annual fellow's dinner in Washington, DC:



From Left to right: Dr. Gingold and wife Zoe, Dr. Knollman with John Kline, and Dr. Kloss with Dr. Devang Gor



Left: Dr. Lim with Dr Gor. Right: Dr. Choe, appearing quite small because she was in Taiwan during the ceremony.

Resident's Day in the State Capitol is June 11, 2024.

Dear Residents and Resident Leaders,

The Pennsylvania Radiological Society (PARAD) will host a "Residents Day" in Harrisburg. The date is Tuesday **June 11, 2024**. We began this program several years ago to give residents a first-hand look at the Society's legislative affairs efforts. We can accommodate a maximum of four people for the day. A summary of our plans for the day is below. This specific day was chosen because it is a very busy time for the legislature. Legislative advocacy is a very important function of the Society, and we are honored to fill that role. This visit to the state capitol helps expose residents to an important side of our business that they might otherwise not see first-hand. The Society will reimburse for travel (train/mileage/tolls) and cover the cost of lunch. We have free parking available at our office in Harrisburg. Please review the information below.

Interested residents should contact our office (Sharon) no later than June 4, 2024. prs@paradsoc.org

This provides time for us to set meetings with legislators and staff in the capitol.

What the day will look like

- Residents should report to our office in Harrisburg around 8:00 a.m. Park on the Front Street side (river side). Enter the glass doors in Building #3 (large red numbers)

2001 North Front Street

Bldg 3, Suite 233

Harrisburg, PA 17102

717-695-4751

- We will spend about 30 minutes discussing legislative operations.
- We will then proceed to the capitol where we will attend a meeting with a Committee Chair (related to Medicine, Health, Insurance, etc.), attend a committee hearing, attend

the actual floor session (Senate or House) and a general capitol tour. We can usually arrange a deeper capitol tour than the general public gets. We will stay in the capitol throughout the day including lunch. The capitol cafeteria is a busy place and often a great place to do business

- We expect to conclude the day around 2:00-2:30

This is a great opportunity. Looking forward to hearing from you.

The Hunt for the Next PARAD Executive Director Begins!

He is not gone yet, so we will save tears and commemoration for a future installment, but the writing is on the wall. Long time PARAD Executive Director, John Kline, will be stepping down in 2025. Ever the professional, John is paving the way for a smooth transition by anticipating the society's needs and laying the groundwork for the selection process. The executive director provides leadership and direction for the operation and financial health of the society. He/she works collaboratively with the society's officers, executive committee, and board of directors to develop and implement strategic goals to advance the society's mission.

John has served a dual role in support of PARAD by serving as the society's principal lobbyist in Harrisburg on all matters related to radiology. Tough shoes to fill!

ACR ANNUAL MEETING: A RESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

This was not my first time attending the ACR annual meeting, but it was my first time attending as a radiology resident and as a resident liaison for the PRS. When I attended for the first time as a transitional year resident last year, I was new to it all and enthralled as I watched advocacy in action from the sidelines at the council sessions. This year, I had a seat at the table so to speak, and I was headed to Capitol Hill.

As a resident liaison, I was invited to sit-in on the PRS board meeting to hear about issues facing us on a state-level. Most of these issues mirrored what was to be discussed on the national level. Along with the rest of the RFS members in attendance, I joined the Fellows dinner Saturday night where we honored those radiologists who were being inducted as Fellows of the ACR the following evening. Being inducted as a Fellow is an exciting and distinguished achievement to have on the horizon of our budding careers as radiologists. It is a milestone to work towards and a framework with which to approach our practice.



PRS Fellows Dinner. From left to right: Dr. Jonathon Minkin, Dr. Rajshree Singh, Dr. Mary Scanlon, Dr. Haley Majot, Dr. Jonathon Neshiwat, Dr. Ahmed Moawad, Dr. Fatima Elahi, Dr. Chantal Chahine, Dr. Pamela Spicer

The theme of the main meeting this year was Workforce. Bright and early in the morning with my bagel and very strong Hilton coffee, I got to move from the stands to the floor and sat with the PRS councilors as we listened to lively debate about the resolutions on the docket this year. The Capitol Hill Day prep session offered important background information about the issues we would be presenting to our representatives. This included inflation adjustment of the Medicare physician fee schedule, amendments to PAMA and the appropriate use criteria, and legislation to address the physician workforce shortage by increasing residency spots, expansion of state-level Conrad-30 programs, and a one-time recapture of 40,000 unused employment-based visas to expedite the process for physicians and nurses with citizenship approval.

The last day of the ACR Annual Meeting is the best day - Capitol Hill Day! This was my first time ever going to the House and Senate, and as someone who loves to indulge in political dramas on Netflix, I was ecstatic. I was tickled to join Dr. Mary Scanlon while she met with Representative Mary Scanlon (what a coincidence!). Congresswoman Scanlon made a quick appearance in between meetings for a photo-op and a hello. From there, we had to make our way to the Senate building for our next meeting. We got lost along the way and ran into a kind staff member who escorted us to the underground tram! I hurried past offices with names on the doors I thought I would only ever read in the news. This was much better than standing in the line of visitors waiting for the official tour I passed earlier in the day - I was sitting in the cafeteria in the bowels of the Senate discussing our issues with the senior policy advisor of a senator!



Left to right: Dr. Scanlon, Congresswoman Mary Scanlon, Dr. Elahi, Dr. Singh, and Dr. Spicer

After a whirlwind five days, the meeting had concluded, and it was time to head back home. Knowing that I played a small part, I look forward to following the outcomes of the legislation we discussed. I'm excited to continue attending the ACR annual meeting as I progress through my career, and I look forward to finding ways I can make an impact, both big and small.

P.S. Did you know there's a barber shop under the Senate?

Pamela Spicer, MD

2024 NATIONAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

There was potential for controversy at this year's American College of Radiology Council session. The radiology community continues to face challenges in manpower shortages, the adaptation of artificial intelligence applications, the rise of private equity in market control, and the never-ending battle to combat reimbursement reduction. In this backdrop, resolutions to raise dues by ten percent and to recognize abortion as an essential component of reproductive healthcare were top headlines.

Council Speaker Tim Crummy stopped by the Pennsylvania council caucus on the morning of April 14 to explain the rationale behind two proposed resolutions: one to increase national ACR dues by 10%, and another to allow the Board of Chancellors and Council Steering Committee to implement a dues increase of up to 3% when warranted by the assessment of the Budget and Finance Committee. The latter is a revival of a policy sunset by the Council in 2021. These topics were again addressed by outgoing ACR Chief Executive Officer Bill Thorwarth and incoming CEO Dana Smetherman in their annual reports. Dr. Thorwarth summarized the things that made the last year, in his words, the most challenging of any during his tenure. Decreasing revenues and membership necessitated an 11% reduction in force of ACR staff, completed in early April 2024. Other cost-cutting measures, such as eliminating the paper printing of the Journal of the ACR, were also implemented. Despite this, the ACR must choose between raising dues or cutting services/advocacy efforts moving forward. Thorwarth and Smetherman effectively summarized the need for the increase. Dues have remained unchanged since 2016 despite a cumulative inflation of 30%. Through it all, ACR advocacy has saved radiologists 1.7 billion dollars from government and insurance proposed reductions in reimbursement—437 million dollars alone in 2023. In the end, both resolutions passed, so dues will increase in the next billing cycle.

This year's Moreton Lecture was delivered by radiologist and entrepreneur Woojin Kim on Generative Artificial Intelligence. Dr. Kim explored the history of AI outside of radiology and demonstrated some impressive current applications. Using the paid version of ChatGPT, for example, Dr. Kim showed how the application could create an illustrated children's book with only a few seconds of human input. While AI as a diagnostic tool is certainly under development, regulations in the United States have slowed its implementation. Many applications feature triage of cases, facilitating the radiologist's timely reporting of important findings by moving cases that may have significant or critical findings



Dr Kim, second from the left, joined past and present Pennsylvania chapter members Steve Thuahnai, Ryan Lee, and Kelly Biggs.

to the top of the case list. Dr. Kim highlighted some of AI's strengths in improving efficiency and standardization of radiology reports, such as applications that automatically turn free text into structured reports or generate an impression from a free text report body. He noted that progress in personalization can further promote implementation: automated reports not only can accurately convey information, but also can convey that information in a manner that adopts the style of the interpreting radiologist.

Dr. Elizabeth Arleo visited the Pennsylvania council caucus to advocate for passage of Resolution 60 on abortion. The resolution states that the ACR recognizes abortion as an essential component of reproductive healthcare. Arleo presented on behalf of the American Association of Women in Radiology, noting extensive collaboration in drafting of the resolution as well as broad support by other major medical groups. There were some expected arguments and some attempts to dilute the wording of the resolution given the polarizing subject, but in the end the resolution passed intact with no bloodshed.

The annual assembly was conducted with greater efficiency and less time in part due to restructuring. Practice parameters were addressed by the Council in separate virtual sessions that preceded that national meeting.



Reference Committee IV, tasked with processing the controversial resolution on abortion, included Pennsylvania members Fatima Elahi, Ryan Lee, and Josh Tice.

PARAD LEGACY FUND

The PARAD Legacy Fund was established in 2021 under the leadership of then PARAD President Terry York. Its mission is to promote education and outreach programs related to radiology in Pennsylvania.

For 2024 the board has approved funding for the James M. Moorefield and Rutherford-Levanty Fellowship participants. The Moorefield Fellowship provides radiology residents with direct exposure to the American College of Radiology's economic activities, such as advocacy for reimbursement and health policy issues. The Rutherford-Levant Fellowship provides similar exposure to residents specifically for the College's government relations activities. Pending

board approval, the fund may also provide for annual exhibit awards at the 2024 PARAD chapter meeting and the 2024 Regional Residents' Meeting.

For 2025, an online grant application has been created with help from the PA Medical Society. \$20,000 has been identified as available for grants.

Please consider donating to the legacy fund at <https://foundationpamedsoc.org/donatetoradiology>



Terry York, DO, FACR

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

General

Power in the state legislature continues to be split between Republicans and Democrats. The Democrats continue to hold a very slim margin in the House. As of the writing of this report, the state budget is foremost on the minds of those in Harrisburg. Governor Shapiro has put forth a \$43.8 billion dollar budget, nearly \$3.5 billion higher than last year. As expected, the large increase in state spending has Republicans stirred.

As reported in prior meetings, PARAD continues to have a strong presence in both chambers and the governor's office by being present at applicable committee meetings, meetings with staff and legislators, previously mentioned resident's day, and our state PAC.

Residents Day in Harrisburg will be held Tuesday June 11th, 2024. This program continues to be a great success and shows residents how PARAD works in the legislative and regulatory arena. This date is a little later than we have done in the past. The legislature is extremely active in June as the budget dealing (June 30th) approaches. The sense of tension and action in the building is worthwhile for residents to experience.

Some specific pieces of legislation we are watching/participating in are detailed below.

House Bill 1956

Introduced by Bridget Kosierowski (D-Lackawanna), this bill is like the two listed below that will change the requirements of Act 112. HB1956, however, has moved through the House Health Committee and the floor unanimously. It will now go to the Senate for consideration. PARAD continues to work with Kosierowski and other physician groups, mainly the cardiologists, to keep this bill on the advance. The concerns of language regarding significant abnormalities are addressed as well as advising the patient at the time of the procedure, that their results will be available. There continues to be language that would require a full working days' delay in releasing results that demonstrate a reasonable likelihood of malignancy. We will attempt to correct this in the Senate once referred.

House Bill 909 and Senate Bill 545

Introduced by Representative Barry Jozwiak (R-Berks) and Senator Judy Ward (R-Blair), these 'companion' bills are in committees in both chambers. The language is the same. Whichever bill begins to advance, we will advocate. The language, if approved, would make major improvements in the Act 112 notification process. Some language from Senator Ward's co-sponsor memo is below:

Because the imaging interpreter often does not know the patient or patient's health history, and the criteria for "significant abnormality" are vague, some doctors have understandably chosen a safe route and have embraced a low threshold to initiate the "significant findings" process. This involves sending an ominous letter to the patient. Letters have been sent indicating that the patient's test results showed "significant abnormalities," when that patient's test really did not indicate a clinical change for the patient. Of course, this leads to unintended consequences of undue patient anxiety and stress – and often further testing. The legislation will streamline and clarify the law to:

- Remove the definition of "significant abnormality."

AND

- Require diagnostic imaging entities to provide patients with written notice at the time of any imaging service. The notice shall state that the results of the test(s) will be sent to the ordering health care practitioner. If the ordering practitioner doesn't reach out within 21 days or the electronic health records haven't been updated, it is recommended that the patient follow up with the practitioner to discuss the results.

The goal is to prevent patients from experiencing undue anxiety and undergoing additional testing. The bill will also improve the patients' understanding of potential health issues after their doctor can appropriately interpret and explain the test results.

Although supported by a coalition of stakeholder organizations, including the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American College of Cardiology, Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association, Pennsylvania Medical Society, Pennsylvania Radiological Society, and the Hospital and Health System Association of Pennsylvania (HAP), HB 1956, noted above is the one that is moving.

Rad Tech Licensing memo introduced

State senator Linda Schlegel Culver is circulating a co-sponsor memo that will lead to the reintroduction of legislation. Here is some language from the memo:

I plan to introduce legislation to provide licensing for all medical imaging specialists, radiation therapists and radiologist assistants in the Commonwealth.

Unlike doctors and nurses, there is no state requirement for medical imaging professionals and radiation therapists to be licensed to use the sophisticated and highly advanced equipment that enables accurate medical imaging and therapy. These new technologies allow advances in medical treatment that once was considered impossible. Those advances, however, carry additional risks from increased exposure to ionizing and non-ionizing radiation. This legislation will ensure that the medical professionals operating medical imaging and radiation therapy equipment are properly trained, certified, and licensed for the equipment they use.

This licensing program would fall under the purview of the State Board of Medicine. Specialty areas (modalities) within the medical field that would be licensed under this legislation include radiography (x-ray operation), nuclear medicine, diagnostic sonography (ultrasound), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT), and radiation therapy. The bill also addresses the field of radiologist assistants, which are advanced radiography specialists.

The bill establishes the scope of practice for each modality, sets requirements for the licensure and renewal of licenses, determines proper training, and develops standards to improve medical imaging and radiation therapy procedures. Medical imaging professionals work under the supervision of licensed practitioners similarly to medical doctors and osteopathic physicians in the imaging of patients. Those licensed practitioners would not be affected by this legislation, nor would dentists, chiropractors, podiatrists, or veterinarians.

House Bill 1944

Introduced by Rep. Gina Curry (D-Delaware), this bill would mandate that all costs associated with diagnostic imaging for breast cancer would be covered by insurers, with no cost-sharing for patients. The PARAD legislative affairs committee has been in contact with the Susan G. Komen

Foundation, which helped with passage of similar legislation in Maryland last year. The bill is currently in the House insurance committee, and we will advocate for its advancement.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Sykes, MD

John Kline



Capitol Hill Day on Wednesday, April 17. At every national ACR meeting, members spend the final day of the conference lobbying at the capitol. From left to right, Jeremy Sykes, Audrey Rich, Josh Tice, Jenn Ramos, Matt Wiggins, Michael Corbin, Fatima Elahi, Rashi Singh, Pamela Spicer, and Bryant Chang

DONATE TO RADPAC:

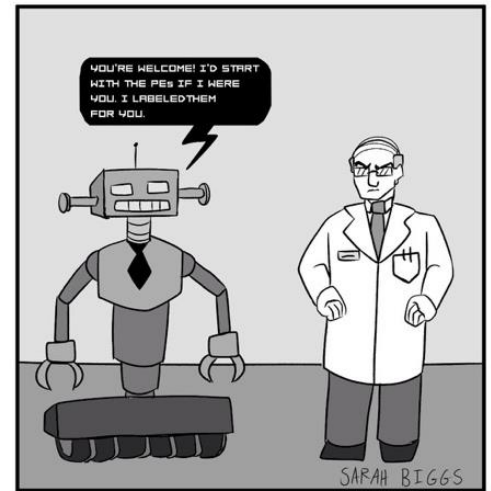
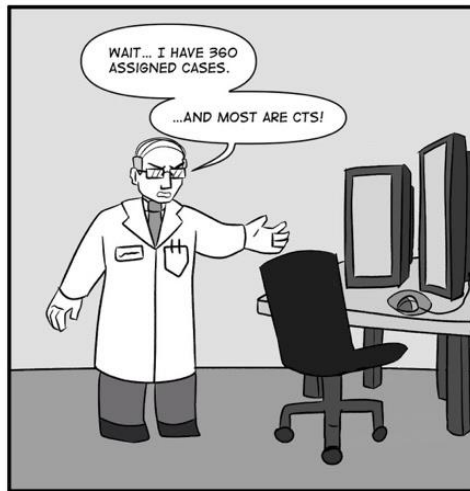
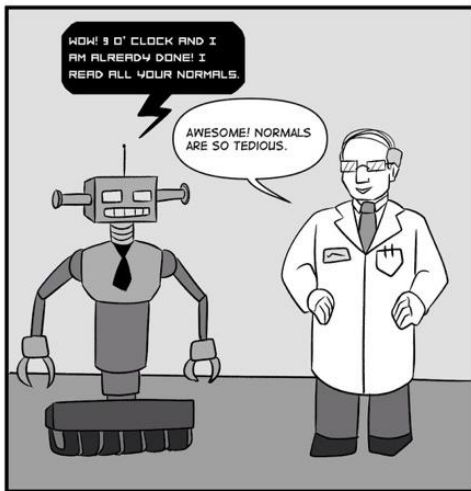
<https://www.radiologyadvocacy.org/SitePages/HomePage.aspx>

DONATE TO PA RADPAC:

<https://paradsoc.wildapricot.org/page-1623583>

CRACK THIS CASE ANSWER:

Beware veil of symmetry. Increased T1 signal intensity in the globi pallidi can be associated with a history of prior toxic/ischemic insult, TPN hyperalimentation, mineral deposition (including gadolinium), and liver dysfunction among others. Case courtesy of David Rose, MD, Altoona, PA



PARAD 2024-25 Important Dates

- PARAD Resident's Day on the hill, Harrisburg, June 11, 2024.
- PARAD Annual meeting September 13-14, 2024. Lancaster Marriott and Convention Center
- PARAD Executive committee meeting September 13, 2024 (AM)
- PARAD Fall board meeting September 13, 2024 (PM)
- PARAD CME lectures and President's Dinner, September 14, 2024