

President's Page

The Society for Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance is having an extraordinary year in every respect! Among the landmark events of the year are a major expansion of the Annual Scientific Session for 2001, to include an initial day-long introductory program for physician newcomers to CMR, a program for CMR technologists on the weekend, and a major evening social event for all attendees. In addition, the abstract submissions for the upcoming meeting have grown remarkably in number and in quality, challenging the abstract reviewers in every respect. The SCMR Annual Scientific Session has already become a major venue for the field, and the upcoming meeting promises to further extend and underscore SCMR's critical role as the only international group devoted exclusively to Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance. After 2001, the meetings in 2002 and 2003 will be held in Orlando, Florida, and in 2004, at long last, we expect to hold the meeting in Europe.

The 2001 SCMR meeting will also be preceded by a smaller closed meeting bringing together leaders in Echocardiography, Nuclear Cardiology, and CMR to consider the relative roles of these technologies in the future. Other meetings of note include the introductory CMR program held the Saturday prior to the American Heart Association meeting in New Orleans in November, a substantial expansion of the role of CMR in the structured sessions at the American College of Cardiology meeting in 2001, and an expansion of meeting co-sponsorships worldwide, including meetings in Europe, North America, and South America. The presentations at the pre-AHA meeting will also provide the first educational

programming for the SCMR website, a feature we hope to expand rapidly in the coming year. In addition, this year will see publication of CMR credentialing guidelines, expanded training recommendations for CMR as part of the ACC CoCats document for U.S. Cardiology fellowship programs, and further work with SCMR input by ICAMRL on guidelines for laboratory credentialing in CMR. We also note with pride, and with deep gratitude to our editor, Gerry Pohost, the remarkable speed with which the JCMR has been accepted for indexing.

All of these developments reflect the coming-of-age of SCMR and of CMR itself. Credit for these advances is due to the many SCMR members who are making important contributions to the field, to those in industry advancing the technical capabilities in the field, and to the members of the SCMR Board and the JCMR Editorial Board.

With this extraordinary success come further challenges. Most pressing is the need for expanded educational opportunities and resources for physicians new to CMR and the need for rapid growth in the number of CMR-capable technologists. Limitations in both of these areas continue to create obstacles to optimal growth of our field. SCMR will need to play an important role in addressing both of these issues and in turn must count on the strong support of its members and sponsors to meet these needs. I look forward to seeing you in Atlanta in January.

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