



Summer 2016

TheViewBox

Bi-Annual Newsletter of the Texas Radiological Society

TRS Mission

To serve, promote, and advance the profession of radiology in Texas.

Board of Directors 2016-2017



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Third Generation TRS President Takes Reins

I am humbled and proud to be the third member of the Brown clan elected to serve as President of Texas Radiological Society. My family's Texas roots began in the East Texas town of Center where my ancestors raised cattle. My radiology heritage, however, starts with my beloved paternal grandfather, James M. "Mitch" Brown, MD. Mitch practiced radiology in Marlin, and was the TRS President in 1983-84. Just a few years later, in 1986-87, my father George R. Brown, MD – who is boarded in both radiology and radiation oncology – served as President while practicing in Austin. We learned during our centennial celebration that there have been five different father-son presidents, which is truly remarkable, over a 100-year timeframe. With that legacy, I now have the honor of serving as your president for 2016-17.

Some say the definition of insanity is to repeat the same mistakes and expect different results. Far from repeating any mistakes, my intention is to continue the legacy of sound leadership and reinforce the value of the Texas Radiological Society for all members.

On the federal level, the winds of change have resulted in the repeal of the SGR formula for CMS beneficiaries and the introduction of the newly proposed MACRA initiative. A great summary article is included on page 10. We will continue to provide you with the best information available going forward.

At the conclusion of the ACR meeting in May, an impressive delegation of TRS members went to Capitol Hill to represent you and your interests as practicing radiologists. TRS members met with our representatives to thank them for supporting efforts to substantially roll back the 25% professional component (PC) multiple procedure payment reduction (MPPR). We also discussed HR 4632 & SB 2262 to allow CMS payment for screening virtual colonography. I cannot express my gratitude for the strength of the TRS representation in supporting the ACR's efforts on our behalf. RAPAC hard dollar contributions totaled \$1.3M in 2015, making RADPAC the number two physician PAC on the Hill. And this year, the TRS received the ACR Overall Excellence Award (Division D) for the seventh time. What an accomplishment!

On the state front, the upcoming 2017 legislative year is looming ahead for the TRS. Your TRS leadership is diligently working with our lobbyist, Michael Grimes, to assess what may be in store for us. Dr. Tilden Childs, our TRS liaison to the TMA, is keeping the TRS leadership apprised of the potential synergies and relationships that may be fostered to address the issue of "inadequate coverage" associated with the deficient products sold by the insurance industry to uninformed constituents. It appears that the "balanced billing" or "narrow network" issue has multiple medical specialists

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Camaraderie

- Old friends reconnect and new friends are made.
- Attendees also enjoyed meeting former classmates and faculty and discussing opportunities with potential future employers.
- For more photos, visit the [TRS Facebook page!](#)

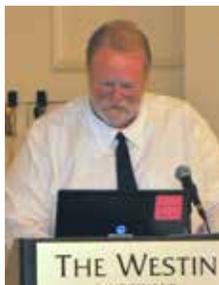


103RD ANNUAL

April 22-24, 2016

Quality Speakers

- Out of state speakers Kimberly Applegate, James Brink, Keith Chew, Clyde A. Helms, Anne Osborn, and Akila N. Viswanathan get their Honorary Texan certificates signed by the Governor, along with their spurs plaque.
- Great presentations from Texas faculty.



Valuable CME

- Attendees had access to up to 20 hours of CME, much of which was interactive with case presentations and the use of an audience response system.
- Residents participated in a fun and competitive game of Medical Jeopardy!
- Radiation Oncologists and Medical Physicists enjoyed their specialty program.
- Congratulations to Alaina Moore, MD (The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston) who won the Audience Favorite Poster Award. All posters were well done and well received by attendees.



MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Westin Riverwalk Hotel | San Antonio, TX

Informative Exhibits



Attendees greatly enjoyed and benefited from the “one-stop shopping experience” provided by the wide array of products and services in the exhibit hall from hardware to software, and medical books to business services.



Productive Leadership Meetings

TRS Board members discussed issues and formulated TRS policies during a ½ day leadership meeting. More resources will be dedicated to implementing technology to streamline the operations of the TRS.

Awards



The Awards Dinner was truly a night to remember. Members gathered to honor and recognize their peers for their outstanding service to radiology.

- Gregory C. Karnaze, MD, FACR received the 40th TRS Gold Medal.
- Joe Moody, MD received a special honor for his 59 years of membership in the TRS.
- Susan John, MD, FACR received the Outgoing President Award.



In addition, we were honored to have a total of thirteen Past TRS Presidents in attendance, along with eight Gold Medalists, including our most recent honoree. It's a true testament to the strength of the organization when so many past leaders and honorees continue to participate actively in the TRS.



Congrats to the “Break the Case” Winners

Practicing Radiologist: Michael Orsi, MD – South Texas Radiology Group .

Resident: Jason Low, MD – The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

By solving the majority of the unknown cases, they get bragging rights for one year as the “Brainiest Radiologist at the TRS Annual Meeting 2016.”



Special Thanks!

A special thanks to the following platinum level (\$7,500) exhibitors:

Siemens Healthcare Zotec Partners

Thanks also to the following gold level (\$5,000) exhibitors:

Fujifilm Medical Systems Guerbet Hologic

We look forward to continued partnerships in the future!



Texas Radiology Movers and Shakers

Congratulations to our members who represent the TRS at the American College of Radiology (ACR).



Debra Monticciolo, MD, FACR (Temple) continues her service on the Board of Chancellors as an appointed member and as Chair of the Commission on Breast Imaging.

Ezequiel Silva III, MD, FACR (San Antonio) will serve a second three-year term on the ACR's Board of Chancellors as an appointed member.

I. Ray Kirk III, MD, FACR (Houston) continues to serve a two-year term on the ACR's Council Steering Committee (CSC).

Darlene Metter, MD, FACR (San Antonio) continues to serve a two-year term on the CSC.

Richard Strax, MD, FACR (Houston) was elected to serve another two-year term on CSC.



ACR 2016 Meeting Highlights

Mary Ann Mullican, MD, FACR



Congratulations to our 2016 New Fellows (L to R): Schwartz, Abbara, Montgomery, Weatherall, Timmerman, Klucznik, Antes, Barr, Whittemore, Lutz, Ahrar

ACR 2016: The Crossroads of Radiology marked the second year of the ACR Annual Meeting in a new venue with an expanded CME program. Participants who attended last year were familiar with the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel and the adjacent Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC.

Many radiologists arrived on Saturday and the Resident and Fellow section got underway as did the Chapter Leaders session. Once again leaders from state chapters were able to meet, get to know one another and share ideas and experiences.

Saturday night, TRS members and guests met at the Oval Room Restaurant in a beautiful, contemporary setting to socialize, honor and get to know the new ACR Fellows from Texas. A group of ten adventurous souls arrived and departed in a black stretch limousine hired on the spur of the moment at the hotel in lieu of several cabs. Excellent wine and hors d'oeuvres were passed and savored as everyone mingled. An extraordinary meal was then served, ending with a dessert medley.



New fellows enjoy dinner at the Oval Room.

The Annual Meeting officially started on Sunday with a welcome message and a presidential address, entitled *Things Change*, by David Kushner, MD, FACR.

Following Dr. Kushner, keynote speaker Ezekiel Emanuel, MD, PhD, MSc spoke on *The Future of American Healthcare: What is the Role of Radiology?*



An ABR update was given by Dr. Guiberteau. Chapter recognition awards were announced, and the TRS won the Chapter Recognition Award for Overall Excellence in Division D.

The Council convened, CME courses began and caucus meetings were held. A Meet the Candidates session took place in preparation for the ACR elections on Monday.

On Sunday evening, an impressive Fellowship Convocation took place followed by the President's Reception. Robing started earlier than usual and a photograph of the entire group of new Fellows from Texas could not be obtained prior to the ceremony. These resourceful Texas ACR Fellows assembled themselves for a group picture prior to doffing their robes.

Monday's activities included ACR council reports, Reference Committee open hearings, an Economics Forum. Elections were held, and our

ACR Meeting Highlights (continued from page 4)

own Richard Strax, MD, FACR was re-elected for a second 2-year term on the Council Steering Committee (CSC). Additionally, Ezequiel Silva III, MD, FACR was appointed to the ACR's Board of Chancellors (BOC) as the Chair of the Commission on Economics. Drs. Darlene Metter and I. Ray Kirk continue their service on the CSC, while Dr. Monticciolo continues her service on the BOC.

Tuesday was an eventful day featuring the Moreton Lecture, *Step Out of the Dark into the Light* by Andy DeLao. Reference Committee reports, CME, legislative updates and Capitol Hill preparations were other activities of the day.

Wednesday was Capitol Hill Day. Busloads of radiologists arrived on the Hill, talking points ready,

to visit their senators and representatives. There was an excellent showing of TRS delegates at the Capitol.

Despite a whirlwind of activities, there was time for fun. One group of Texas radiologists enjoyed visiting the National Geographic Museum and having Sunday brunch at a nearby Indian Restaurant. Others traveled over the city on the Metro to shop, explore other museums, take in new restaurants, peruse bookstores, and even visit the zoo. A rain shower at noon one day resulted in a large group gathering for lunch in the hotel restaurant.

The 2016 meeting concluded on Thursday, with inspired and invigorated radiologists headed back to Texas!



Texas was well represented at the Council meeting



Weatherall & Abbarra with Rep. Sessions

President's Message (continued from front page)

polarized by the potential economic consequences to medicine. This may be one of the few economic legislative issues that the house of medicine will have support on from many subspecialties. The TRS continues to hear support on this issue from the anesthesia, pathology, and ER communities who have similar agendas.

Stormy weather is approaching, and you will be asked by your TRS leaders to consider supporting the TRS legislative agenda by communicating with your local legislator. Please donate to the TRS PAC to help in these efforts; see pages 6 and 7 for information on how to give.

Everything we do is driven by the desire to support you, the 2,500-plus members of the TRS. The biannual newsletter is just one way we reach out to ensure that your membership dues are being utilized on the issues that impact you the most in our great state of Texas. The TRS Annual Meeting, to be held April 7-9, 2017 at the Moody Gardens Hotel in Galveston, is the epitome of our mission to serve, promote, and advance radiologists, radiation oncologists, physicists, and residents of Texas. I encourage any member of our society to reach out and communicate about any specific issues and concerns. By networking and problem-solving together, this society will only become stronger and even more effective.

With admiration and striving for a better future for Texas Radiology,
Stephen L. Brown, MD FACR
2016-2017 President, Texas Radiological Society

Free Download!



The premiere resource for using contrast media in imaging has been updated. The ACR Manual on Contrast Media, v10.2 is now available for a free download, providing these updates among other things:

- * New ACR-ASNR statement on gadolinium deposition
- * Updated Metformin information based on the FDA investigation
- * Intra-Osseous (IO) Injection
- * A new Version History, so it's easy to tell what's changed

The ACR offers two ways to view material in order to accommodate your reading preference - an Adobe PDF version or a zipped file version. They can be downloaded by visiting: <http://goo.gl/cGfOYZ>.

Kudos from Former Member

"The TRS is THE number one chapter of the ACR - by far. I joined the XX chapter and it's simply not the same; the TRS is a tough act to follow."

Star Radiology Groups

The TRS would like to recognize and thank the following radiology groups, who demonstrate their strong support of the ACR and TRS by paying dues on behalf of all their members:

Austin Radiological Association

Bryan Radiology Associates

Diagnostic Imaging Associates AMC

Houston Radiology Associated

Radiology and Imaging of South Texas

Radiology Associates of Beaumont

Radiology Associates of North Texas, PA

Radiology Associates of San Antonio, PA

Radiology Associates of Wichita Falls

Radiology Consultants LLP

Radiology Partners/CIRPA

San Angelo Radiologists PA

South Texas Radiology Group

Synergy Radiology Associates, PA

Texarkana Radiology Associates

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Why Your Contribution to the TRS PAC is Important

Jody Lee, MD, Chair, TRS PAC Committee

Don't you just hate it when people say, "If you are not at the table, you are on the menu." Though some would like to attribute the phrase to some villain (like Idi Amin or Hannibal Lecter), the true "villain" was probably some politician many years ago. That phrase – just like the analogy of making laws and sausages – has become trite, but there still remains a kernel of truth.

When I think about my personal engagement in the current political process, from the race for President to the election of my state representative, the polarization in this election cycle keeps me coming back to that kernel of truth in that phrase: If you are not engaged in the political process, then you are going to be devoured by it. And it is our responsibility – and my call to action for every member of TRS and TRS PAC – to become a participant and actively engage in the political and policymaking process so that we have a stake in the outcomes for the future of radiology.

Physicians (and radiologists in particular) are facing a myriad of policy and political issues today in Austin and in Washington. These issues are playing out in boardrooms, in the media, in political campaigns, and most urgently in the halls of the capitols where policy-makers are deciding our fate. Matters of fair payment, tele-radiology, and the structure of the state agencies which oversee our practices are just some examples of topics being discussed by legislators at the state and federal level every day. Did you notice that Hillary Clinton recently announced a provision to all but prohibit you from collecting payment for out-of-network services beyond what the health plans deem fair, commonly referred to as balance billing? Did you know that Florida's legislature recently enacted a balance billing prohibition, effectively outlawing your ability to let the market determine the value of your expertise? These political and policy efforts are pushed by health plans and others with an agenda – an agenda designed to take away your ability to practice medicine in a way that is best for your patients.

I fully expect we will be dealing with these same thorny issues when the Texas legislature convenes in 2017. But between now and then, there is a highly contentious election season that will continue to play out over the next few months. We cannot wait until January to educate legislators about the issues important to us. For example, between now and the start of the next legislative session, policy makers in Texas will be conducting a "sunset" review of the Texas Medical Board (TMB), the agency responsible for licensing and regulating our practices.

Although the intent of this process is only to review the operations of the TMB, many provisions which could lead to bad public policy can be slipped into the commendations to the legislature. And it will be far more difficult to remove bad policy ideas than it will be to avoid letting them be included in the first place.

One example: companies like Teledoc want to offer services of physicians across the globe to Texans, even if these physicians do not have any relationship with or connection to the patient. The TMB passed rules restricting telemedicine to ensure the safety of patients, but Teledoc and other "telehealth" companies are gearing up to lobby the legislature to assault these common sense rules. The TRS needs to be prepared to join in the effort to keep reasonable regulations in place to protect patients in Texas.

The outcome of these political and policy efforts will have implications for our practices for years to come. The only way we can guarantee that TRS has a "seat at the table" to participate actively in the development of good public policy is to support the efforts of TRS with your time, energy and TRS PAC contributions. Your dollars and your involvement will help us keep expert representation at the capitol, support candidates who value radiology and most importantly keep you and your colleagues from becoming dinner for those who have an appetite for us.

Please support the efforts of TRS and TRS PAC by contributing today.



Join the TRS PAC Today!

Please return this contribution form along with payment to:
TRS PAC • 6705 Hwy. 290 W. • Suite 502-243 • Austin, TX 78735 • or fax to (512) 276-6691

Name (please print): _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I would like to make a contribution to the TRS PAC in the following amount for the Fiscal Year 2016:

\$100 \$250 \$500 \$750 \$1,000 Other: _____

Check (made payable to "TRS PAC")

Credit Card: Visa MasterCard American Express

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____



Billing Address: _____

Billing Zip Code: _____ CVS Code: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

Contributions to TRS PAC are strictly voluntary and can be made from a PA, PC or LLP, but cannot come from any corporate source. Contributions are voluntary and are not tax deductible. All contributions will be reported to the Texas Ethics Commission in accordance with state law.

Star Radiology Groups

(continued from page 6)

Texas Radiology Associates, LLP

University of Texas Medical Branch

Valley Radiologists & Associates

Victoria Radiology Associates

To set up group billing for your group's members, please contact the ACR's membership department at (800) 347-7748 or email Barney Lau at BLau@acr.org

DID YOU KNOW?

"Did You Know?" is a new addition to The ViewBox. In this featured section, we'll give you the opportunity to learn more about your fellow TRS members – outside of the office. This month, we learned:

Cupid Was at the Annual Meeting!

Who would have thought that when Drs. Dornbluth (San Antonio) and Kern (San Antonio) attended a TRS meeting it would turn to marriage? Dr. Carol Dornbluth attended a TRS meeting and happened to sit next to Dr. Jonathan Kern of Austin during a session. They started talking and realized that they had a lot in common. They quickly became friends and stayed in touch after the meeting. Soon they were meeting up in San Marcos on weekends. They married in 2015 and Dr. Kern moved to San Antonio and now works at UTHSCSA alongside Dr. Dornbluth, and it's all because of the TRS!



Ornithology and Radiology. Dr. Peter Riesz (Victoria) became interested in bird watching in 1974 when he saw a beautiful bird that turned out to be a Painted Bunting. Dr. Riesz chuckled, "It is just like Radiology; you look through a book until you find a picture that matches what you are looking at!" Dr. Riesz's passion for bird-watching has taken him to China (2 times), Peru (3 times), Ecuador, Bolivia, Mexico, Brazil, Alaska, Kenya, the Philippines, India, Greece, New Zealand, Tasmania, and Australia.

The Saintly Stitcher. As many of you know, Dr. Stewart Bushong (Houston) is always full of surprises. At this year's Annual Meeting, he surprised us again with his kneeler (not to mention his Einstein wig). Little did we know, Dr. Bushong hand-stitched the kneeler – also known as a hassock – as a member of the Saintly Stitchers at St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Houston. Former first lady Barbara Bush is also a member! For more on the Saintly Stitchers, visit goo.gl/9SG9au.



Do you have an interesting story, passion or hobby that you'd like to share? Feel free to email Courtney Velek at Courtney@txrad.org or post on the TRS Facebook page.

Thank You

Thanks to the following radiology groups for their generous 2016 contributions to the TRS Foundation!



\$10,000



\$10,000



\$10,000

In Memoriam

The Texas Radiological Society regrets the loss of the following members, and extends condolences to their family, friends and colleagues.

Bill H. Lipe, MD
Kerrville | 2/9/15

Guido Currarino, MD
Dallas | 12/20/15



TRS Foundation Update

I. Ray Kirk, MD, FACR, President

The TRS Foundation Board of Directors extends its deepest gratitude to our donors for continued support of the TRS Foundation and its programs. Because of your financial support, the TRS Foundation is able to fund many programs of importance to Texas radiologists this year.

Demand for our programs has increased as member radiologists and our members-in-training realize the value of economic, policy, and leadership training to the future of radiology in Texas. The acquired skills and expertise place these radiologists in a better position to lead on multiple levels in the new era of reform. Value and quality-driven reform create more opportunities for us to help educate our membership. This can't happen without ever greater financial support.

In addition, healthcare reform has resulted in less corporate and vendor support of the annual TRS meeting. TRS Foundation support of the annual meeting is vital. Named lectures, scholarships, and fellowships would not be possible without the TRS Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to support the educational interests of the TRS. Ultimately the ongoing success of the TRS as the premier state chapter of the ACR is directly linked to the generosity of our engaged and dedicated membership.

Our goal over the next three years is to double the TRS Foundation's size to be able to meet our growing mission needs. There are many avenues we will consider as the foundation board develops a fundraising campaign strategy.

As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, your gifts are tax deductible. Our Legacy Society provides for planned giving as part of your estate planning. A radiology practice can honor an individual by contributing a lasting legacy through a named gift

focused on either a current or new program consistent with our mission. There are many flexible giving options and we hope that you will give the TRS Foundation serious consideration for your charitable and estate giving.

We look forward to continuing to serve the TRS by providing programs that encourage and develop leaders in the TRS and benefit Texas radiologists. Thank you for your support!



2016 Guiberteau

Award Winner:

Laura Barnes, MD

UT Southwestern Dallas

2016 Guiberteau Award Runner-Ups:

Justin E. Costello, DO

Brooke Army Medical Center

Agnes Solberg, MD

Texas Tech El Paso



2016 Guiberteau Award Honorees:

(L to R): Laura Barnes, MD, Justin E. Costello, DO, Andrew Chow, MD, Milton Guiberteau, MD, Agnes Solberg, MD, Gregory Ramsey, MD, and Ashkahn E. Golshani, MD

Not pictured: Amin F. Saad, MD and Casey Schmitz, MD

2016 TRS Foundation Contribution Form

Please return this contribution form along with payment to:

TRS Foundation • 17503 LaCantera Parkway • #104-438 • San Antonio, TX 78257 • or fax to (512) 276-6691

Name (please print): _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I would like to make a contribution to the TRS Foundation in the following amount:

\$100 \$250 \$500 \$750 \$1,000 Other: _____

Check (made payable to "TRS Foundation")

Credit Card: Visa MasterCard American Express

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Billing Address: _____ Billing Zip Code: _____

CVS Code: _____ Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

*The TRS Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt organization with a public charity status under 509(a)(3).
Donations are tax-deductible to the extent provided by the law. Federal EIN 76-035382.*

JT Rutherford Fellowship in Government



The winner of the Rutherford Fellowship is Stephen Herrmann, MD, from UTMB.

James M. Moorefield Fellowship in Economics & Health Policy



The winner of the Moorefield Fellowship is Jeffrey Stevens, MD from Scott & White.

RLI Scholarship Recipients

Nicholas Beckmann, MD
UT Health Science Center at
Houston

Claudia Cotes, MD
The Rose Galleria

Varaha Tammisetti, MD
UT Health Science Center
at Houston

Resident & Fellow Section Update

Luke Gilman, MD, Secretary, RFS Section

Members of the Residents and Fellows (RFS) section were treated to a diverse program at the TRS Annual Meeting in April. Residents from across the state enjoyed up-to-date lectures, engaged in networking opportunities, and had time to meet with friends and colleagues.

Throughout the meeting, we had the opportunity to attend lectures from leading diagnostic radiologists, radiation oncologists, and medical physicists. Most notably, renowned speakers from across the country hosted standing room only resident-oriented lectures as part of a specific half-day section on Saturday afternoon. Dr. Anne Osborn gave an entertaining presentation on Stroke Update: Looking Beyond the 'Usual Suspects', and Dr. Clyde Helms held an interactive discussion on Shoulder Impingement Syndromes. In addition, Dr. James Brink, ACR Vice Chair, followed up his joint-session ACR Update talk with a great lecture on Pathways for the Spread of Disease of the Abdomen. To close out the Saturday program, we held our annual Medical Jeopardy game, hosted by Dr. Glen Garcia. What an entertaining competition!

In addition, the ACR RFS hosted its sixth annual poster session with 16 posters presented. Congratulations to our winner Alaina Moore, MD (The University of Texas Health Science Center at

Houston) who presented a poster on Ultrasound of Renal Transplants: A Review of Normal Findings and Complications.

Residents and fellows lead at the state and national level. Texas residents continue to play an active role both at the ACR Annual meeting and via ACR events throughout the year. Congratulations to our past Rutherford-Lavanty and James M. Moorefield Fellowship awardees, Sean Raj, MD (Baylor College of Medicine) and Melissa Chen, MD (Baylor College of Medicine). We look forward to hearing from the 2016 awardees, who will be announced shortly!

We would like to thank our outgoing RFS Chair, Wayne Lindstrom, MD (The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio) for his hard work and service over the past two years. We welcome our incoming RFS Chair, Tessa Hudspeth, MD (Baylor College of Medicine) and congratulate our new Vice Chair, Kevin Kadakia, MD (The University of Texas Southwestern) as they take up their new positions.

We look forward to next year's meeting, April 7-9, 2017 in Galveston, Texas at the beautiful Moody Gardens Resort. See y'all there!

Thank you for 50+ Years in the TRS!

This year marked the 50th year of membership in the TRS for many! It's quite remarkable that so many of our members have remained dedicated and passionate about the TRS for so long. Congratulations and thank you for your many years of membership and support!

John Alexander, MD
Jerome Arndt, MD
Harrell Arnold, MD
Robert Atcheson, MD
E. Biles, MD
Gordon Black, MD
John Bolen, MD
Frederick Bonte, MD
James Buice, MD
Joe Caldwell, MD
Claude Caylor, MD
Lilly Chen, MD
Granville Coggs, MD
Richard Collier, MD
John Crossen, MD
John Crowell, MD
Clyde Danks, MD
William DeGinder, MD
M. Dennett, MD
Karl Dockray, MD
Clifton Douglass, MD
Robert Ellzey, MD
William Fant, MD
Nicholas Gemell, MD
James Gish, MD
Elliot Greenberg, MD
Albert Hale, MD
Thomas Harle, MD
William Harwell, MD
Joe Hawkins, MD
Earl Herbert, MD
William Hinds, MD
Harold Ibach, MD
Samuel Jagoda, MD

(continued on pg. 11)

MACRA: What Is It & Why You Should Care

Melissa Chen, MD

The flawed Sustainable Growth Rate is gone, thanks to the Medicare Access & CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) of 2015. MACRA will change the way physicians are paid, so it is imperative that Texas radiologists learn and prepare to adapt and succeed. The general structure of MACRA is understood, but the exact rules and regulations will be defined over the next few years. To this end, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently released a proposed rule for implementing MACRA.

Physicians will be paid under two different pathways, either the Merit Incentive Payment System (MIPS) or through Alternative Payment Models (APMs), collectively referred to as the Quality Payment Program (QPP). The MIPS program combines the existing quality programs, including Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS), Value Based Payment Modifier (VBPM), and Meaningful Use, and adds a new category called Clinical Practice Improvement Activities (CPIA). There are nuances to the old PQRS program that place emphasis on the overall group's performance on metrics and encourages improvement on these metrics. In a recent article on AuntMinnie.com, TRS's own Dr. Ezequiel Silva, Chair of the ACR's Commission on Economics, discussed payment pathways as well as tools to prepare for and succeed in this new payment system. Visit goo.gl/5QPAbJ to see the full article.

SUMMARY POINTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

The MACRA legislation and CMS's proposed rules lay out specific requirements to qualify for APMs. Although the financial incentives and reduced reporting burden make APMs an enticing pathway for most physicians, the bar has been set very high to qualify for this pathway. Therefore, it is believed that most radiologists will be paid under MIPS for the foreseeable future.

MIPS is a 100-point system that consists of four performance categories:

1. Quality (50 points): Replaces the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) and the quality component of the Value Based Payment Modifier (VBPM).

2. Cost (10 points): Replaces the cost component of VBPM.
3. Clinical practice improvement activities (15 points): Emphasizes care coordination and patient safety.
4. Advancing care information (25 points): Replaces the Meaningful Use program.

The policy is budget neutral, so that the losers of the program will pay the winners. Nine percent of future payments are at risk under MIPS; therefore, it is imperative that radiologists prepare for this new payment paradigm.

TOOLS TO PREPARE INCLUDE:

- The ACR Registry Selection Tool to explore which registries are available to radiologists.
- R-SCAN to help implement clinical decision support (CDS), a mandate for payment as early as 2018. Since R-SCAN is recognized as a Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative, CPIA points can be earned under MIPS.
- The Neiman Health Policy Institute Inpatient Cost Evaluation Tool (ICE-T) to study costs across multiple clinical condition groups and compare to a practice's own charges and costs.

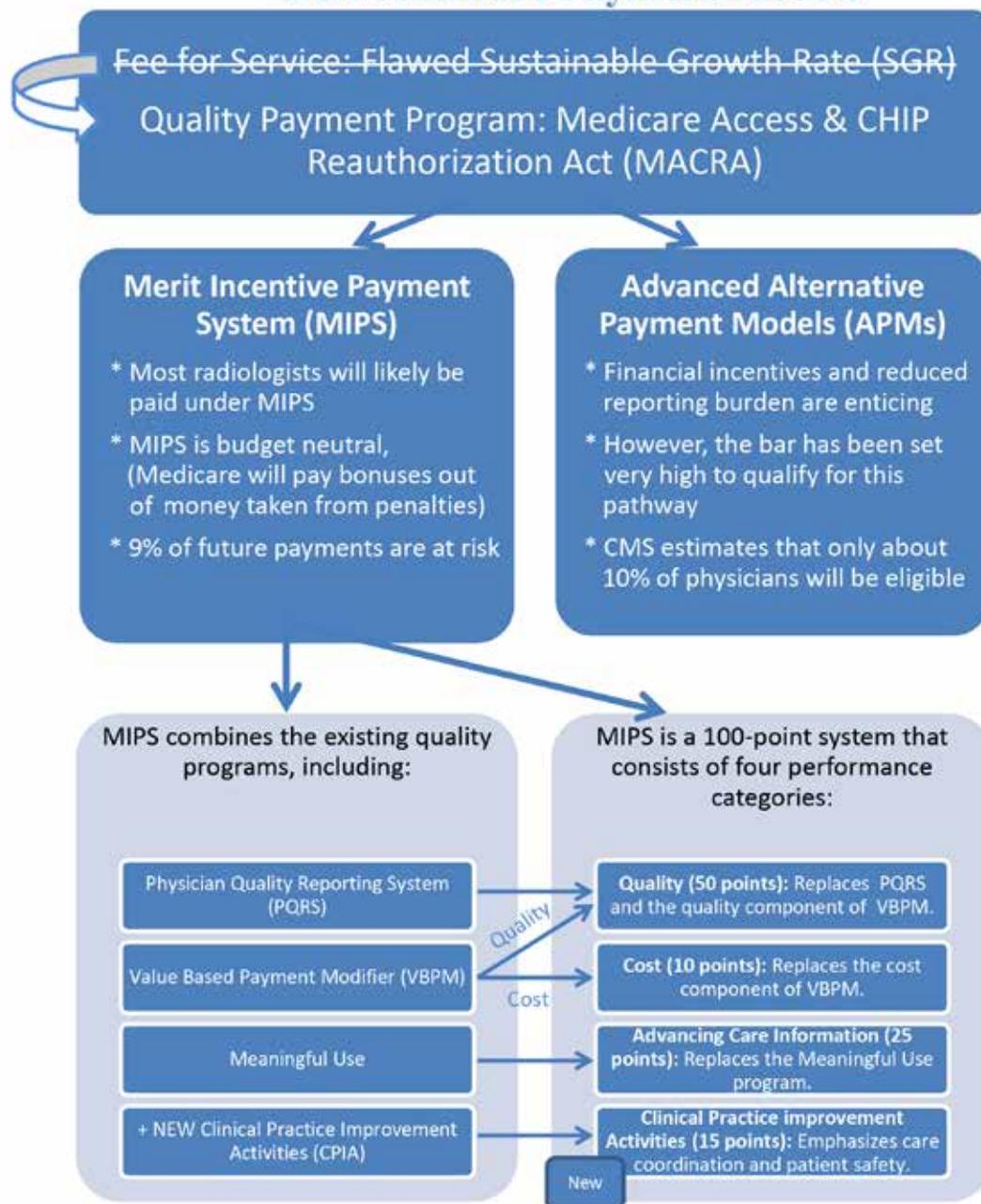
Under the proposed rule, physicians are on a tight timeline to begin reporting under the new payment system, which could start as early as January 1, 2017, less than 6 months away. Radiologists need to stay informed of the changes that will continue to evolve and be refined through CMS's rule-making process.



"Yes, we have 'All You Need To Know About The Health Care Legislation' but it is part of a twelve volume set."

(continued from pg. 10)

New Medicare Payment Models



These performance category scores will be combined into a total score, which will then be compared to a MIPS performance threshold to determine whether clinicians will receive an upward or downward payment adjustment.

3 Actions for Radiologist to Prepare for MIPS

The current rule proposes that physicians begin reporting under the new payment system as early as January 1, 2017, so radiologists need to be proactive)

1. Participate in

ACR's National Radiology Data Registry (NRDR) to help your facility compare its data with information from your region and around the nation.

<http://goo.gl/nBsVu6>

2. Participate in

R-SCAN to help build collaborative relationships with referring clinicians, introduce imaging appropriateness, clinical decision support, and radiologist led education to your fellow caregivers.

<https://rscan.org>

3. Utilize

The Neiman Health Policy Institute Inpatient Cost Evaluation Tool (ICE-T) Study costs across multiple clinical condition groups and compare your practice's own charges and costs.

<http://www.neimanhpi.org>

- Thomas Jenkins, MD
- Bassett Kilgore, MD
- Paul Kroening, MD
- Leslie Lemak, MD
- Robert Lindberg, MD
- Thomas Lipscomb, MD
- Robert Lockwood, MD
- Robert McCandless, MD
- James McClelland, MD
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The TRS has earned the American College of Radiology's Overall Excellence Award (Div. D) seven times in the last nine years!

We have also won awards for Excellence (Div. D) in:

- Membership (2014, 2012, 2008, 2003)
- Communications (2009, 2007)
- Meetings/Education (2005)
- State with Most Contributors to RADPAC (2012)

Upcoming Radiology Meetings of Interest

2016 Radiology Leadership Institute (RLI) Summit
• September 8 - 11, 2016, Babson College, Wellesley, MA

Society of Breast Imaging, Case-Based Review & Advanced Breast Imaging: Digital Breast Tomosynthesis
• September 17-18, 2016, San Diego, CA

Society of Computed Body Tomography & Magnetic Resonance
• September 17-21, 2016, Salt Lake City, UT

ASTRO 2016 Annual Meeting
• September 25-28, 2016, Boston, MA

North American Society for Cardiovascular Imaging
• October 15-18, 2016, Baltimore, MD

Society of Radiologists in Ultrasound: Annual Meeting
• October 21-23, 2016, Baltimore, MD

ACR/RBMA Practice Leaders Forum
• January 13-15, 2017, Orlando, FL

Texas Radiological Society 104th Annual Meeting
• April 7-9, 2017, Moody Gardens, Galveston, TX

ACR2017 Crossroads of Radiology
• May 21-25, 2017, Washington, DC

Winner of



2015, 2013, 2011, 2010,
2009, 2008, 2007