The Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research: FY19 Annual Report

Academy President Dr. Hedvig Hricak and I are honored to share highlights from four specific efforts that were possible as a result of your substantial engagement and support: The Diagnostic Cockpit of the Future Initiative, expanding our Council for Early Career Investigators, building upon our federal advocacy efforts and expanding engagement by strengthening our connections with federal agencies and patient advocates.

The Academy’s “Diagnostic Cockpit of the Future” initiative (DxCP) has maintained momentum and gained notable traction from both within and beyond the imaging community. This initiative is led by Mitch Schnall, MD, PhD, Chair of Radiology at the University of Pennsylvania and a task force of representatives from multiple government agencies, industry and academia. The task force is working to identify meaningful inroads into strategies, projects and initiatives that will culminate in valuable tools to be utilized by more than just the imaging community. Here is a snapshot of the progress made this year:

A roundtable discussion held in April with more than 60 representatives from 7 federal agencies, the White House, 25 academic departments, 9 companies and 34 early career investigators lead to the following goals/initiatives to be lead by the task force:

- **Creating a Publicly Accessible Resource**
  - 29 societies, 52 academic departments and 10 companies have been contacted to provide information about current initiatives and events.
  - The Academy will create a publicly available resource, making it possible to locate opportunities to collaborate and avoid duplication.

- **Essential Collaboration**
  - The task force is working with NIBIB to develop an RFP for a test pilot.
  - Finding ways to collaborate with the NIH is essential to ensuring this project benefits more than just our community.

- **3 Congressional Offices Express Interest**
  - Three new Senate and House offices are interested in actively supporting the DxCP. Meetings with these offices have taken place with both Academy leadership and NIBIB leadership, separately.
  - The profile of this initiative is increasing with each day that we are on Capitol Hill advocating for our research community.

- **Engagement & Interest is Growing**
  - Multiple federal agencies remain actively engaged in this initiative.
  - The Academy DxCP initiative was presented at a national pathology meeting, leading to additional collaboration opportunities.

More information on the DxCP can be found at acadrad.org/dxcp
Increased NIH funding continues to be a key priority for the Academy. Much of the Academy’s advocacy efforts focus on ensuring that policy makers learn as much as they can about radiology research to ensure they understand how essential funding is to imaging innovation. This year, Academy staff met with members of Congress and their staff to discuss imaging research and hosted unique events that create lasting impressions about the impact of radiology. During our 10th Annual Medical Imaging Showcase, two patients shared their personal stories about imaging. These stories stick and they highlight imaging in a memorable way.

Through our direct meetings on Capitol Hill, training the next generation of radiology research advocates and creating unique ways to ensure members of congress understand why funding radiology research at the NIH is a budget priority, the Academy is working daily to represent radiology research in Washington. Here is a snapshot of some of our 2019 advocacy work:

Over the course of the year, staff advocated in-person for imaging research to over 150 congressional offices through meetings and events. This year, 30 early career investigators met with more than 70 congressional offices to highlight their research and the need for imaging research funding.

We hosted our 10th annual Medical Imaging Showcase in April. Keynote speakers, Senator Richard Burr, Representative Anna Eshoo and Representative Kim Schrier, all mentioned the value and impact that imaging has on patient care and the importance of federal investment. You can watch their remarks here.

The Academy is a partner with the Coalition for Health Funding and the AAMC Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, of which Renee Cruea serves on the steering committee. These groups are influential and tuned into Congress, ensuring we know when and where to increase our advocacy efforts. The strong presence of imaging societies is visible in this letter sent to Congress from the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research. Of the more than 200 organizations noted on this letter, 30 are imaging societies and 34 are Academy members!

The last two years of increases are not enough! We need consistent investment. The Academy continues to strongly advocate for a $2.5 billion increase in funding for NIH FY20. This is a key annual Academy priority.

The Academy submitted written testimony to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees in support of NIH budget increases.

The Total amount of NIH dollars going to Contact PIs having primary appointments in Diagnostic Radiology Departments increased 19.5% in FY18 as compared to FY17 ($598,407,039.96 vs $500,850,376.00).
The growth and expansion of opportunities for members of our Council of Early Career Investigators in Imaging (CECI²) is part of our strategic plan. The value of advocacy is important to learn and engage in, early in your career. The Academy is perfectly positioned to provide this advocacy training and lead a program of CECI²'s as they engage in advocacy for the first, but not the last, time. Participants met with program staff at NIH, their member(s) of Congress and networked with patient advocacy groups and academic leaders at institutions beyond the ones they currently serve.

This year, we inducted 30 new members into our council, representing 21 academic radiology departments and 6 societies. For the first time, member imaging societies were provided the opportunity to sponsor an early career investigator. Thank you to AAPM, ISMRM, RSNA, SCBT-MR, SNMMI and SPR for your sponsorship!

Advocacy is only as effective as those who are telling the stories. Our Council of Early Career Investigators in Imaging is the future of radiology research advocacy!

"The Academy has great value in advocating for more research funding and representing the community to decision makers. We were only one of many organizations advocating on Capital Hill that day, without an organization such as the Academy, we would not be represented."

Steven H. Baete, PhD
NYU/Langone Health

"My experience with the Academy has been a groundbreaking opportunity to exchange ideas with a national network of researchers and leaders, collectively advocating for increased research funding and the future of radiology."

Mai-Lan Ho, MD
Nationwide Children’s/Ohio State University
Sponsored by The Society for Pediatric Radiology

"The Academy offers an event with breadth that I’ve not seen matched elsewhere. The event focuses on professional development and global service to the greater scientific community. From the extensive time spent at the NIH learning how to individually hone and optimize our grant writing skills, to the afternoon on Capitol Hill pitching for budgetary increases to the NIH and NIBIB, each investigator had an opportunity to positively contribute to the future of our medical imaging practice."

Emily L. Marshall, PhD
University of Chicago
Sponsored by the American Association of Physicists in Medicine

"The Academy provides a unique opportunity for the development of partnerships with legislators, academic leaders in radiology and members of imaging technology industry which can pave the way for promoting bioimaging research, effective implementation of our research results and opens new doors for future technological and scientific collaborations."

Sam Payabvash, MD
Yale University

View all of this year’s CECI² and their research posters and read about their experiences here.
The work of the Academy goes well beyond congressional advocacy and includes many stakeholders. It’s essential for the Academy to continue to strengthen our relationship with Federal Agencies, including institutes and centers at the NIH, to continue to understand their research and ensure they are able to deploy necessary resources to important radiology initiatives.

This past year, Academy staff has continued to nurture relationships with NCI, NIBIB, NIAMS, NINDS, NIA, NIDDK, NIMH and NHLBI, all at the NIH. Through these relationships, Academy staff facilitated one-on-one and group meetings for early career investigators with 8 institutes at NIH. Staff also hosted a Congressional welcome reception to introduce the newest director of the NIBIB to Congress and other federal employees. Our work with the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research created opportunities for NIH leadership to meet with members of this group, creating synergy between imaging research and other specialties.

Patient advocacy engagement is also a truly essential component to the Academy’s work. As I mentioned above, patient stories stick. They drive home the importance of federally funded imaging research to legislators, researchers, doctors, and other federal employees. We are excited to announce that the Academy welcomed Christine Buckley, Executive Director of the Brain Aneurysm Foundation, to our Board of Directors. Healthy Women and The Obesity Action Coalition also joined the Academy’s Coalition for Imaging and Bioengineering Research (CIBR) this year. To further advocate for our patient advocates, the Academy worked with patient advocacy group members this year to create a video highlighting the need for continued support for imaging research.

We hope you consider expanding your involvement with the Academy!

Engage your investigators by supporting their participation in our initiatives, events and awards programs. We continue to provide the opportunity for Societies and Academic Chairs to nominate from within their departments for coveted honors and events, that include:

- The Academy Council of Early Career Investigators in Imaging (CECF) travel stipend award which provides for the awardees to come to DC, meet with NIH program staff and congressional representatives, and participate and present their research at our Showcase on Capitol Hill. This is a fast-growing and increasingly successful advocacy arm of the Academy having hosted 84 CECFs since inception in 2014.
- The Council of Distinguished Investigators Awards, which inducted 37 new members this year and currently numbers 334 members total. Find the full member list here.

- The opportunity to present at our Imaging Shark Tank session at RSNA in November, where the audience learns from experts who routinely invest or work with researchers searching for venture capital. This provides an exciting and interactive forum to pitch ideas and offers CME credit for those attending. Nominations are due soon! Please find more information and the nomination form here.

View all upcoming events at acadrad.org/events
A note from Academy Executive Director, Renee Cruea, MPA

The Academy is the only advocacy organization representing the broad spectrum of the imaging research community by collectively advocating for strong and consistent federal research funding.

This year marked the 10th anniversary of the Academy’s Annual Medical Imaging Technology Showcase held in the Senate. There is no other event where you will find academic investigators, Chairs, patients, NIH leaders and Congressional Members and staff together in one room to highlight the impact of imaging technology. Important conversations about radiology research are sparked at this event and relationships between congressional leaders and the imaging research community grow.

I continue to be energized by our champions in Congress, Representative Eshoo and Senator Burr, and encourage you to listen to their remarks recorded our annual showcase. Please keep letting the Academy know how we can help you increase your engagement with your members of congress and do encourage your investigators to continue being engaged in new ways with the Academy.

Thank you again for your support. I look forward to all we will accomplish for the radiology research community in 2020 and beyond!

Warmest regards,

Renee L. Cruea, MPA
Executive Director
Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research

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"I can’t tell you how impressed Representative Eshoo and I are 20 years later, to see the progress that’s been made with the NIBIB, the Academy and with the researchers that are in this room."
- Senator Richard Burr