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SCAR and SDIMC

THERE is something about an idea whose time has come. The Society for Computer Applications in Radiology (SCAR) has been in the planning stages for almost 2 years. We have a growing body of enthusiastic members, a basic organizational structure, and this, the second issue of the *Journal of Digital Imaging*. At about the same time that SCAR was conceived, another group of individuals who are actively involved in the development and use of computers in radiology was also planning an organization that became known as The Society for Digital Imaging, Management, and Communication (SDIMC). A number of individuals joined SDIMC and some have joined both SCAR and SDIMC. The almost simultaneous appearance of these two societies is evidence that this is a discipline whose time has come. There is a steadily growing number of individuals who recognize that computers are bringing about some very fundamental changes in radiology.

The leadership of SCAR and SDIMC is convinced that we have much to gain by pooling our talents, resources, and enthusiasm, and a great deal to lose by allowing ourselves to be splintered into small groups. We have held a number of meetings over the past year to find a way to unite our two societies.

I am pleased to announce that representatives of SCAR and SDIMC have recently reached an agreement to form a single organization and to jointly support *Journal of Digital Imaging* as the official journal of the new society. The members of both organizations approved this merger at a

joint meeting of the societies held during the 1988 meeting of the Radiologic Society of North America. A nominating committee, formed with equal representation of the two societies, presented the following slate of officers to the membership: Chairman, Tim Hunter, MD; Vice Chairman, Samuel Dwyer, PhD; Secretary, H.K. Huang, DSc; Treasurer, Mel Greberman, MD, MPH; and Member-at-Large, Heinz Lemke, PhD. A set of bylaws was adopted.

The society will be an individual membership organization that will operate under the aegis of Radiology Information System Consortium (RISC) so long as support is required and the membership desires such an affiliation. During this time, RISC has agreed to provide administrative, financial, and journalistic support to the Society.

All of us in SCAR, SDIMC, and RISC are very excited about the future of this important new field and our new organization. If you are a member of either organization, I welcome you and look forward to seeing you at future society functions or hearing from you directly. If you have not yet joined us, please consider doing so soon.

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