The Society for Computer Applications in Radiology

THIS IS MY FIRST LETTER as the new Chairman of the Society for Computer Applications in Radiology (SCAR). I am looking forward to working with all of you in the coming year. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions. It's the input of the members that allows this organization to continue to serve the medical-imaging community.

The annual meeting of the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) was as big as ever this year, and a large number of SCAR members participated in InfoRad. Many new and interesting image display systems were shown at the RSNA meeting and the Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine (DICOM) 3.0 "connect-a-thon" was bigger than ever. At this moment, picture archiving and communication systems (PACS) are commercially viable for a large number of modalities and applications, and more applications will become cost effective as hardware costs continue to drop and as we improve the design of these tools.

Thurman Gillespy's group demonstrated the new SCAR World-Wide-Web server in the SCAR booth at the RSNA meeting. You can access the SCAR Web server over the Internet at www.scar.washington.edu. A number of SCAR publications are also available. Your group's library or a colleague might be interested in the proceedings from a past SCAR conference or in one of our handbooks on understanding PACS or on teleradiology. These items can be obtained by calling (717) 561-5255.

As SCAR members, one of our jobs is to be a conduit for information to our colleagues. One way each of us can help is by participating in the various medical-imaging and medical informatics NEWS groups on the Internet. You will

need some sort of NEWS server on your Internet-connected computer. If you are not sure whether you have a NEWS server, contact your system administrator. I have been participating in the `alt.image.medical` group on Internet NEWS for the past year, and other groups are also available, including `sci.engr.biomed`, `sci.med.telemedicine`, and `sci.med.radiology`. From these groups on the Internet, it is clear that there is a great deal of interest in PACS, workstations, on-line access to the various modalities, DICOM 3.0, and the integration of medical imaging into RIS and HIS environments. I urge you to participate in these groups both to gain an understanding of the types of questions the various interested parties have and to provide a service to the community. Thanks to those members who have been participating this past year. Keep up the good work.

There are a number of important SCAR dates to keep in mind in 1995. The SPIE medical imaging conference will be held February 26-March 2, 1995 at the San Diego Marriott Hotel. Contact the International Society for Optical Engineers (SPIE) at (206) 676-3290 or spie@mom.spie.org. The Computer Assisted Radiology conference (CAR 95) will be held in Berlin, Germany on June 21-24, 1995. For more information contact Professor Heinz Lemke of the Technical University of Berlin at 011-49-30-31-42-11-03 (fax).

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