The Society for Computer Applications in Radiology

THIS IS MY SECOND letter as Chairman of the Society for Computer Applications in Radiology (SCAR). As I mentioned in my letter in the last issue of *Journal of Digital Imaging*, if you have any questions or comments about SCAR, please feel free to contact me at (919) 966-5467 or beard@cs.unc.edu.

The 1995 meeting of The International Society of Optical Engineers (SPIE Medical Imaging '95) was held in San Diego, CA and was, in my opinion, a great success. Real-time three-dimensional (3D) display seems to have come of age this year with the combination of good contrast-injection protocols, thin-slice spiral computed tomography, new algorithms, and reasonably priced high-performance graphics engines that provide for a gradient of more than 20 frames per second and opacity-based volume rendering. Surgery planning seems the natural application, but I have even heard a few radiologists admit that their spatial comprehension of some 3D data sets is improved with a good real-time 3D display, particularly for cases involving nonstandard anatomy. Digital imaging and communications in medicine (DICOM) is moving forward, and I am seeing more and more institutions committed to only accepting equipment from vendors that have a DICOM compliance statement. And although no one as yet makes a 4,000- × 5,000-pixel monitor with more than 300 foot lamberts and 70 Hz and a 12-bit or log-based DAC, the 2,000- × 2,000-pixel monitors are becoming reasonably priced, much faster, and far more integrated with standard hardware, operating systems, and windowing systems. Monitor applications development is becoming possible without systems-level programming.

Every time I surf through the SCAR World-Wide-Web (WWW) server, built by Dr Thurman Gillespy's group, there always seems to be new and useful information that has been added. You can access the SCAR WWW server over the Internet as 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 one of our handbooks on

understanding picture archiving and communications systems (PACS) or teleradiology. These items can be obtained by calling (717) 561-5235.

The program for the 1995 Computer Assisted Radiology conference (CAR '95), which will meet in Berlin, Germany June 21-24, 1995, has recently been released. For information contact Professor Heinz Lemke of the Technical University of Berlin at 011-49-30-31-42-11-03 (fax). CAR '95 will be held in conjunction with the International Society of Computer-Aided Surgery, the International Society for the Planning of Radiological Departments, EuroPACS, and the International Association of Dento-Maxillo-Facial Radiology. Separate tracks will consist of radiology office automation, image-guided therapy, computer-aided surgery, computed maxillofacial imaging, and teleradiology.

Plans for the 13th conference on Computer Applications in Radiology (SCAR '96) are moving along under the guidance of SCAR's past Chairman, Dr. Ray Kilcoyne. SCAR '96 will meet in Denver, CO immediately after the annual meeting of the Society of Nuclear Medicine. The call for papers should be out shortly, with 200- to 300-word abstracts due October 15, 1995. SCAR '94 in Winston Salem was a great success, and we expect SCAR '96 to be even better.

There are a number of other important SCAR dates to keep in mind. The 1995 meeting of the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA), will be held again with InfoRad next November in Chicago, and SCAR's annual meeting will be held at the same time. The SPIE medical imaging conference will be held in February 1996, again at the Newport Beach Marriott Hotel. Contact SPIE at (206) 676-3290 or spie@mon.spie.org.

David Volk Beard, PhD
Chairman, SCAR
Department of Radiology
School of Medicine
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7510