The Society for Computer Applications in Radiology

SCAR96, also billed as the 13th Conference on Computer Applications in Radiology, was held in Denver, Colorado, June 6-9. By almost every measure it was a great success. More than 80 reports and posters were presented, dealing with the gamut of issues from information management software to picture archiving and communication systems (PACS) implementations. In keeping with the temper of the times, there were a number of reports on productivity and costs. Several speakers, noting that teleradiology is an established component of telemedicine dealt with the prospects for this developing mode of healthcare delivery.

Supplementing the scientific sessions were seven timely and well-attended tutorial sessions on subjects of current interest, including how to write an RFP for PACS, strategic thinking for radiologists, a vision for the future of PACS, use of the Internet for medical imaging, FDA regulation of PACS, quality assurance for digital imaging, and the computer-based patient record. The Proceedings were printed before the conference and are available from the SCAR office in Reston, Virginia (Tel: (703) 716-7548).

Carl Kohrt, PhD, Executive Vice President of Eastman Kodak, who was the keynote speaker, talked about extended image utilization in a digital future. His view matches that of most observers, who expect medical imaging to become more and more digital, but he spoke with special authority on the outlook for new technologies that have not yet emerged from the laboratory. Medical imaging, as important as it is, is but a small part of imaging technology, which has much bigger arenas in business and

consumer applications. Nevertheless, the developments for these larger arenas will be applicable to medical imaging, which surely will be transformed over the next decade.

We were fortunate to be supported by commercial exhibitors, who filled the entire space allocated for them. The medical community is dependent on the technical resources of industry, nowhere more vividly than in computer applications in radiology. The exhibits nicely complemented the papers in the scientific sessions.

The burden of planning this meeting fell on the meeting chairman, Ray Kilcoyne, MD, of the University of Colorado. He was ably assisted by James Lear, MD, also from Colorado, Alan Rowberg, MD, of the University of Washington, and Joseph Gitlin, DPH, of Johns Hopkins. Much of the detailed work was accomplished in the SCAR/RISC office at the ACR in Reston, Virginia. John Vanden Brink coordinated the exhibitors. These and many others can take pride in a successful meeting.

The next meeting, SCAR97, will be held at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, in June 1997. The call for papers is out and available from SCAR Headquarters, 1891 Preston White Dr, Reston, Virginia 22091. We look forward to another equally stimulating conference.

Philip G. Drew, PhD
Chairman, SCAR
Concord Consulting Group, Inc
30 Monument Square
Concord, MA 01742