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# Journal of Digital Imaging

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## Letter From the Editor

**W**ELCOME to the premiere issue of the *Journal of Digital Imaging*! Radiology has been subject to more change than any other medical specialty. The early use of computers in nuclear medicine and then the advent of x-ray computerized tomographic scanning in the early 1970s marked the beginning of the use of computers in radiological practice. Amazingly, many radiologists with no computer background and no residency training in computerized tomography have done very well in using this imaging modality. Then came digital subtraction angiography and magnetic resonance imaging. In the future, the picture archiving and communications systems (PACS) are expected to permit us to move images between offices, between departments, and throughout the hospital and beyond. With PACS, we may view images from multiple modalities on a single computer work station, archive our images in a digital format, and eventually manage our work flow. Today, many radiologists interpret images with an incomplete knowledge of digital imaging. Radiologists must know how to ensure top digital image quality and what they need in terms of equipment to best serve their patients. Even radiologists with considerable computer experience have not had the benefit of a focused forum to present and to learn about all aspects of digital imaging and the uses of computers in radiology offices and hospital practices.

My Editorial Board and WB Saunders Company believe that a journal with refereed original contributions addressing those issues would be useful to practicing radiologists. This journal will be neither an engineering nor a physics journal, although an occasional equation might appear. Articles will be written in plain English. Additionally, special effort will be made to insist on rigorous separation of future tense from present tense.

Our mission is to assist the practicing radiologist to use computer-based images and to under-

stand them, independent of his/her prior knowledge of computers. Each issue will contain a feature entitled "Digital Image Basics" which will look at some aspect of digital imaging in some detail. The Editorial Board has identified the scope for original contributions to include articles that: (1) explain digital images and their manipulation, including archiving and transmission; (2) provide information on the functionality and cost of radiology information systems and other computer-based systems used to address departmental or office problems; and (3) provide information on computer basics and computer-based systems such as teleradiology, decision support systems, office and practice support systems, and expert systems. In addition, we will inform you of upcoming courses and events and make you aware of other pertinent articles and materials available elsewhere.

Please note that we will not be publishing articles on how to diagnose avascular necrosis with magnetic resonance imaging, as those clinical subjects are well handled by many other journals. Our focus will be on informing you so that you can make the best decisions on how to use computers in your office or department and how you can get the most out of digital imaging.

We request that you let us know of topics you would like to see discussed, and we also invite you to submit original contributions. Please see the Information for Contributors. All submitted articles will be refereed by at least two reviewers.

In closing, I want to thank WB Saunders for their vision and support of a journal that will address the important and growing use of computers in our practices today. I am also very pleased that the Editorial Board has agreed to help me focus and assemble information so that each issue will present several topics that are useful to you. The Board includes many of the most knowledgeable academic radiologists and scientists who have worked with computers in radiology. Furthermore, Board members include

radiologists from large departments, medium-sized radiology groups, and even a solo radiologist; some of whom have had little or no experience with computers. The diverse members of this Board have defined the scope of *JDI*. With

your input and their continued advice, we hope to provide you with an exciting and useful journal.

*Roger A. Bauman, MD*  
*Editor-in-Chief*