

## INTRODUCTION

### **The Society for Computer Applications in Radiology**

**C**ONGRATULATIONS to Roger Bauman and WB Saunders on the debut of the *Journal of Digital Imaging*. This Journal promises to fill an important void in radiology today. It will provide a forum for the presentation of solid, refereed scientific papers devoted to computers in radiology. This journal has been created because it is clear that computers are dramatically changing the way that we practice radiology. The term, "digital imaging," encompasses a great deal. It certainly describes the way that a steadily increasing percentage of our images are produced in radiology, but also includes digital image display, manipulation, processing, and transmission including picture archiving and communication systems (PACS) and teleradiology. There are many other digital issues which confront us today including radiology and hospital information systems, computer networks, three-dimensional image reconstruction, dynamic digital image display, advanced applications for personal computers, computer based teaching and artificial intelligence—all these and more will be treated in an objective and informative way in the *Journal of Digital Imaging*.

The Society for Computer Applications in Radiology (SCAR) is proud that *JDI* will be the official journal of the society. SCAR was formed to bring the many radiologists, physicists, computer scientists, and engineers who are at the forefront of the radiologic computer sciences together with the growing number of individuals who want to share the excitement of these fast paced developments. We hope that SCAR will provide a rallying focus for all of these individuals and that it will contribute to the growth of this field through the exchange of ideas and knowledge. This vital process of information exchange will occur in a variety of ways. One of the most important of these will be through the pages of this journal—a subscription to *JDI* is part of SCAR membership. We will also exchange ideas at SCAR sponsored scientific meetings. Special interest groups will be formed so that those who are interested in a specialized

subsegment of this field will be able to find and talk with others with similar interests. Electronic communication systems (electronic mail) have proven to be an effective and instantaneous mode of communication. We hope to link all SCAR members with such a network. We are convinced that the many computer applications in radiology are important and the developments are so rapid that this society and journal are ideas whose time has come. I hope you'll join us during these exciting times in radiology.

What is RISC and what does RISC have to do with SCAR? RISC stands for the Radiology Information System Consortium. The consortium is composed of nearly forty hospitals who have joined to pursue some specific projects related to computers in radiology—projects that can best be accomplished by institutions pooling their collective resources to accomplish tasks such as designing a state of the art radiology information management system, developing computer-based teaching modules for practicing radiologists and residents, and producing a digital encyclopedia of interesting radiologic cases which will be available on CD-ROM media. Many of the founders of SCAR have been affiliated with RISC in the past and believe in the importance of computers in radiology and in the value of a new, independent society for individuals. RISC has agreed to provide administrative and organizational support to SCAR and to make it possible for SCAR members to participate in appropriate cooperative projects. As we lay the groundwork for this important new organization, we welcome your suggestions and ideas. This is a great opportunity to help build a strong society that can make a difference in radiology. I hope you'll join us. For more information about SCAR, drop me a line.

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