

## **Report of the RSNA Professionalism Committee 2012**

**Marilyn J. Goske, MD  
Chair**

In 2012 the RSNA Professionalism Committee developed its Professionalism webpages on RSNA.org, launched an interactive educational series of vignettes on professionalism as part of its web offerings, and planned and presented three courses at the RSNA 2012 annual meeting.

### **RSNA Professionalism Resources**

In conjunction with the redesign of the RSNA.org website, the Professionalism Committee developed webpages featuring educational materials and resources in professionalism, located in the Education Offerings section of RSNA.org (<http://rsna.org/Professionalism/>). The webpages include the Professionalism Committee members, the RSNA Statement on Professionalism, the RSNA Vignettes on Professionalism in Radiology (see below), a link to “Medical Professionalism in the New Millennium: A Physician’s Charter,” a link to the ABR-developed Online Modules on Ethics and Professionalism, and a PowerPoint-with- Audio presentation of a refresher course from RSNA 2010, “Difficult Conversations in Medicine: Practical Tips to Enhance Your Practice.”

### **RSNA Vignettes on Professionalism in Radiology**

Led by Dr. Stephen Chan, members of the Professionalism Committee developed a series of brief vignettes on a range of issues in professionalism. The vignettes are intended to raise awareness about the need for radiologists to incorporate professionalism into daily practice and to spark discussion of this core competency. Each vignette describes a scenario with dilemmas familiar to radiologists, asks questions about handling the issues, and provides answers based on scientific literature, discussions, and references for further reading. Prior to creating the vignettes, the committee consulted with an RSNA attorney, who wrote a disclaimer that was incorporated into the website.

As of November 1, 2012, two vignettes have been posted: “Disclosure of Radiological Error,” by Stephen D. Brown, MD, and “Partner Relationships,” by Joseph H. Tashjian, MD. Upcoming topics include sexual harassment, conducting research with industry, optimal utilization of imaging studies, medical trainees and training, and hiring practices. The vignettes are promoted to the RSNA membership through *RSNA News* and the *RSNA Insider*.

### **Refresher Courses at RSNA 2012**

For RSNA 2012, the committee sponsored three refresher courses, two being updated versions of 2011 courses the third a new course.

## **RC 216** Vignette-based "Disclosure of Medical Error in Radiology"

This interactive course was presented Monday, November 26, 2012, 8:30-10:00 am. The faculty were Stephen D. Brown, MD, course director, Constance Lehman, MD, PhD, Thomas H. Gallagher, MD, David M. Browning, MSW, BCD, and Joseph H. Tashjian, MD. Intended to enhance radiologists' understanding of and comfort with disclosing radiological errors to referring physicians and patients, the course combined didactic presentations by clinician scholars in the field of medical error disclosure and live enactments between trained actors and course faculty.

## **RC 616** "Creating a Professional Culture in Your Department: What to Do, What to Avoid"

This interactive course was presented on Thursday, November 29, 2012, 8:30-10:00 am. The faculty were Kenneth A. Buckwalter, MD, course moderator, Marilyn J. Goske, MD, Stephen Chan, MD, Ingrid M. Burger, MD, PhD, and Ariel Hirsch, MD. They described sample departmental policies that enhance professionalism and quality in radiology, discussed department hiring strategies and policies that avoid bias (gender, ethnic, racial, age), and explained how to manage potential conflicts of interest with industry through the use of transparent policies and procedures.

## **RC 716** "The Aging Radiologist: How to Cope, When to Quit"

Presented Thursday, November 29, 2012, 4:30-6:00 pm, this new course was a response to the changing demographics of radiologists, specifically, the increasing number who are more than 60 years of age. Conceived and moderated by Donald Bachman, MD, the course's faculty included Stephen Chan, MD, Bruce J. Barron, MD, William J. Casarella, MD, and Robert A. Schmidt, MD. Topics included the physiology and psychobiology of aging as it affects radiologists, appropriate and changing roles for radiologists, department and practice policies to assure patient safety and professional fitness without discrimination, and guidance for the older radiologist about how to contribute, when to stop, and how to preserve a sense of self-worth.

## Letter to RSNA Ad Hoc Centennial Committee about Centennial Planning

The RSNA Professionalism Committee provided a number of ideas for the RSNA Centennial Committee to consider for the Centennial planning that would spotlight professionalism as a core value of the Society. This committee looks forward to collaborating with the planners on implementing any of the ideas as appropriate.

## **In Appreciation**

I wish to thank all the members of the Professionalism Committee for giving so generously of their time and expertise, particularly this year as we prepared three courses and created and reviewed a number of vignettes: Donald M. Bachman, MD; Stephen D. Brown, MD; Kenneth A. Buckwalter, MD; Stephen Chan, MD; Bruce J. Barron, MD; Ariel E. Hirsch, MD; Ingrid M.

Burger, MD, PhD; and Joseph H. Tashjian, MD. At the end of 2012 we say Thank You and Farewell to Dr Don Bachman, an enthusiastic member of this committee for 6 years, whose term has come to an end, and welcome Jonathan C. Baker, MD, and Ronald L. Eisenberg, MD, JD, as our new members. On behalf of the committee I also wish to thank the RSNA Board of Directors and in particular our Board Liaison, William T. Thorwarth, MD, for his support and enthusiasm for our endeavors. The committee could not function without the strong support and insight from Roberta Arnold and Marian Strassner.

This is my last year as chair of the Professionalism Committee. It has been my delight and privilege to serve as a member for 5 years and the chair for 3, and I will miss my dedicated colleagues. I leave them under the excellent leadership of Dr Steve Brown and with every expectation that the work of providing superb educational resources in professionalism will continue.