

## **Report of the Refresher Course Committee**

The 2012 Refresher Course Committee (RCC) worked to fulfill its charge to design, develop, and implement a full curriculum of courses, special sessions, and symposia that meet the criteria for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit*<sup>™</sup>. The Committee consists of a full complement of subcommittee chairs responsible for tracks, special courses, and sessions. The Refresher Course program remains extremely popular with attendees, and it is anticipated that over 63,000 registrants attended various components of the program during the 2012 meeting. The 2012 RCC is at full membership with 38 subcommittee chairs, 3 ex-officio members, Chair and Vice-Chair. The Refresher Course Committee members are listed on [www.rsna.org](http://www.rsna.org) and in the RSNA Meeting Program.

The refresher course program is developed with several themes in mind, including faculty mentorship, international representation, connection with the audience through both handouts, as well as use of an Audience Response System (ARS), and the integrating of Education and Science. Faculty mentorship involves gradual development of course faculty to include established individuals paired with new talent for individual courses. All faculty have been encouraged to respond to and accept the mentorship role in course preparation and delivery, and society participation. As in past years, select RSNA faculty members were invited to participate in a one-day educational program to help them prepare for their courses. This workshop focused on how to incorporate proven question-writing strategies, how to best prepare and deliver a self-assessment module (SAM), use of the ARS, the RSNA DxLive system, adult learning principles, and the role of interactivity in effective teaching.

International representation has been identified as an important parameter for consideration by the subcommittee chairs when choosing their faculty and developing the curriculum.

Subcommittee chairs have been encouraged to balance such considerations with a prerequisite of fluid, understandable language and good presentation skills in order to maximize the breadth of perspective without compromising communication.

The 2012 Refresher Course Program consisted of 235 traditional refresher courses presented by over 900 faculty members. All areas of interest were represented. Most courses were updated or modified, and 93 courses were new. Series Courses again provided combined education and research on related topics. Offered were half-day sessions in Breast, Breast/Nuclear Medicine/Molecular Imaging Series, Cardiac, Chest, Gastrointestinal, Emergency, Genitourinary, Informatics, Musculoskeletal, MR Imaging, Interventional, Vascular and Neuroradiology; there were five half-day courses in Interventional Oncology, and two and a half days in Pediatric Radiology. Repeated this year were the Essentials of Radiology Track consisting of ten courses for radiologist and trainees interested in reviewing basic radiology, the Associated Sciences Consortium refresher course track, Case-based Review courses in Cardiac, Neuroradiology, Pediatric Radiology, Radiation Oncology and Magnetic Resonance, Nuclear Medicine (PET/CT), Breast and Ultrasound. The case-based courses were designed for self-assessment using the Audience Response System. In addition to the Case-based courses, there were 61 additional courses utilizing interactive audience response technology. New this year were courses utilizing the new RSNA DxLive software. At the 2012 meeting a total of 40 Self Assessment Modules (SAMs) to comply with the ABR's Maintenance of Certification requirements were offered in a variety of subspecialties and general content areas.

Once again in 2012 controversy sessions took place on Wednesday afternoon and Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. This type of programming addressed radiology-related topics that were particularly controversial.

The RCC supports the Chicago Radiological Society by sponsoring a speaker at their meeting. Appreciation, of course, always goes to the professional volunteers who spend tireless hours as track heads, course directors, and faculty members who make the Refresher Course Program a success as well as the excellent RSNA staff who continue to be the keystone in the success of the Refresher Course program

Valerie P. Jackson, MD, FACR

Chairman, Refresher Course Committee