

Report of the RSNA Professionalism Committee 2013

Stephen D. Brown, M.D.
Chair

In 2013 the RSNA Professionalism Committee enhanced its Professionalism webpages on *RSNA.org*, increased its interactive educational series of vignettes on professionalism as part of its Web offerings, planned and presented three courses at the RSNA 2013 annual meeting, and began planning for Centennial-related courses in 2014 and 2015.

RSNA Professionalism Resources

The Professionalism Committee developed webpages featuring educational materials and resources in professionalism, located in the Education Offerings section of *RSNA.org* (*RSNA.org/Professionalism*). The webpages include 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 ABRF-developed Online Modules on Ethics and Professionalism, recommended reading materials, and the roster of current Professionalism Committee members.

RSNA Vignettes on Professionalism in Radiology

Led by Dr. Stephen Chan, current and former members of the Professionalism Committee have 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 attorney, who wrote a disclaimer that was incorporated into the website.

As of December 2013, five vignettes have been posted: “Disclosure of Radiological Error,” by Stephen D. Brown, M.D., “Partner Relationships,” by Joseph H. Tashjian, M.D., “Sexual Harassment,” by Marilyn J. Goske, M.D., “Medical Trainees and Medical Training,” by Craig M. Johnson, D.O., and “Suboptimal Utilization of Imaging Studies,” by Stephan Chan, M.D.

Upcoming topics include conducting research with industry, hiring practices and social media. The vignettes are promoted to the membership through *RSNA News*, *RSNA Insider* and other RSNA channels.

Refresher Courses at RSNA 2013

For RSNA 2013, the committee sponsored three refresher courses:

RC216 Vignette-based "Disclosure of Medical Error in Radiology"

This interactive course was presented for a third time on Monday, December 2, 2013, 8:30 – 10 a.m. I acted as course director, with faculty members Constance Lehman, M.D., Ph.D., Thomas H. Gallagher, M.D., and Elaine Meyer, Ph.D., R.N. Intended to enhance radiologists' understanding of and comfort with disclosing radiologic errors to referring physicians and patients, the course combined didactic presentations by clinician scholars in the field of medical error disclosure and a live enactment between trained actors and course faculty.

RC316 "The Aging Radiologist: How to Cope, When to Quit"

Presented Tuesday, December 3, 2013, 8:30 -10 a.m., this repeat course was a response to the changing demographics of radiologists, specifically, the increasing number who are over 60 years old. Conceived and moderated by Donald Bachman, M.D., the course's faculty included Bruce J. Barron, M.D., William J. Casarella, M.D., Stephen Chan, M.D., and Robert A. Schmidt, M.D. 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.

RC616 "Service Excellence in Radiology"

This new course was presented on Thursday, December 5, 2013, 8:30 -10 a.m. The faculty members were Kenneth A. Buckwalter, M.D., course moderator, Bruce J. Barron, M.D., Ingrid M. Burger, M.D., Ph.D., Ella Kazerooni, M.D., and Brent Wagner, M.D. The course addressed why customer satisfaction scores are important, how radiology can document the value it adds to healthcare enterprises, and how to manage workplace interruptions.

Proposed Refresher Courses to Highlight RSNA's Centennial Celebration

The Professionalism Committee is proposing refresher courses for RSNA 2014 and RSNA 2015 that complement RSNA's Centennial Celebration by looking back at the impact of radiological technologies on major societal ethical dilemmas, and looking forward to anticipate the ethical dimensions of future radiologic technologies.

Review of ABRF Ethics and Professionalism Modules

The Professionalism Committee assumed co-responsibility for reviewing and maintaining the online ABRF Ethics and Professionalism Modules. Several RSNA Professionalism Committee members will work with their counterparts on the ACR Committee on Professionalism to develop a sustainable ongoing review process to ensure that the modules are relevant, accurate and current. The committee is currently researching usage of the existing modules.

In Appreciation

I wish to thank all the members of the Professionalism Committee for giving so generously of their time and expertise, particularly as we prepared three courses and created and reviewed a number of vignettes: Jonathan C. Baker, M.D.; Bruce J. Barron, M.D.; Kenneth A. Buckwalter, M.D.; Stephen Chan, M.D.; Ronald L. Eisenberg, M.D., J.D.; Ariel E. Hirsch, M.D.; Ingrid M. Burger, M.D., Ph.D.; and Brent Wagner, M.D. At the end of 2013 we say Thank You and Farewell to Dr. Hirsch and Dr. Burger, as their terms come to an end, and welcome Anastasia Hryhorczuk, M.D., and Kate Hanneman, M.D., 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 Jr., M.D., for his strong support and enthusiasm for our endeavors. The committee also appreciates the support of the RSNA staff, in particular Marijo Millette, Mary Ann McClain, Don Ferreira and Roberta Arnold. Their exemplary dedication, professionalism and talent have been indispensable to our success.

As I complete my first year as Chair, I am proud of the work the committee accomplished this year. I look forward to continuing to build upon the work of my predecessors, Dr. Leonard Berlin and Dr. Marilyn Goske, who led both by example and by generous mentorship.