Report of the 2013 Education Exhibits Committee

The Education Exhibits Committee continues to meet the mission of the RSNA. Each member of the committee is committed to the excellence in education of our profession as demonstrated in the report which follows.

The number of submissions to the education exhibit program in 2013 (5459) represented an increase by 3% from the number of submissions in 2012 (5305). After careful review using a 10-point grading scale, the committee invited 2223 exhibits for presentation, which represents an acceptance rate of 41% for 2013. International submissions comprised 49% of exhibit submissions and 43% of accepted exhibits. Abstract submitters were able to provide an optional figure to contain a chart, graph or image to support the submitted abstract. The optional figure was used for review purposes only. Of 5459 abstracts submitted, 43% included an optional figure compared to 36% in 2012.

The Lakeside Learning Center area was relocated to Hall D, Level 3 of McCormick Place. Exhibits were organized in a linear design, and continued with the learning center community concept, linking standing poster board exhibits and electronic exhibits within each subspecialty of radiology. For 2013, continued improvements were made, including providing additional seating and discussion areas and expanded availability of food within the hall to build upon the concept of centers of congregation for radiologists with similar interests to allow for more informal and productive educational interactions. The informal luncheon discussion program—Bistro Table Discussions—hosted by authorities in specific fields was discontinued. Although deemed worthwhile by the faculty and attendees who participated, the continued low attendance numbers combined with increasing difficulty in getting commitments from faculty due to the many competing demands on their time during the week has led to this program being discontinued.

Presenters had the option of choosing an online presentation, backboard panel exhibit, or stand-alone computer exhibit within each subspecialty of radiology. Of 2223 exhibits, 1891 exhibits (85%) were prepared via the RSNA’s online presentation system; 292 (13%) using backboard panel exhibits and 40 (2%) were invited to be presented as custom application exhibits.

Introduced in 2012, the Enhanced Education Exhibits program featured 16 traditional hard copy Posters, with the added functionality to present content electronically using QR code technology. This Program was continued this year also. In addition to preparing a traditional hard copy poster, authors were requested to send their exhibit content electronically as a PowerPoint (.pptx) or .pdf file and include at least one additional supplemental media file, such as a video file, or stacks of images, or audio. These exhibits were presented in two locations, at the front of the hall in a featured area and in the exhibit’s subspecialty community, within the Lakeside Learning Center. The attendees accessed these posters by scanning a QR code with their mobile devices or by calling up via the Virtual Meeting site during the RSNA annual meeting. Similar to the DPS electronic education exhibits, authors had the option to allow RSNA to keep their content online for up to one year.

For 2013, working with Dr. Weadock, we also had a new special exhibit that explored meeting
participants’ attitudes about various exhibit types incorporating new techniques. The user saw the same educational content on a series of different platforms, each with differences reflecting the technologies used such as posters augmented with videos and multiple static images, audience response components which can give the user a real time response of how he or she compares to colleagues on questions and/or surveys, large screen TV exhibits. A survey of the users’ preferences was recorded and the results will be published.

The ever-popular Case of the Day exhibits were displayed at the front of the hall in electronic format. Unknown cases were presented each day, Sunday through Thursday, in each of the fifteen topic areas: breast, cardiac, chest, emergency radiology, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, interventional radiology, musculoskeletal, neuroradiology, nuclear medicine, obstetrical imaging, pediatrics, physics, and ultrasound. A new topic area “Molecular Imaging” was introduced this year. Participants were able to submit what they believed were the correct diagnosis for any of the cases on the electronic presentation system, at nearby Internet Zone computers or via any web browser. These popular Case of the Day exhibits offered 0.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ for each correct diagnosis submitted. Lists of attendees who correctly identify cases were prominently displayed near the exhibit area and those individuals will be able to claim a ribbon to attach to their name badge.

Attendees were also provided the opportunity to earn additional AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ by visiting certain exhibits chosen for their interactive teaching potential. The authors of these select exhibits were assigned a date and time to be present at their exhibits, so that a dialogue with the attendees can be established. Exhibits were available for self-study credit at all other times.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the presentation of Education Exhibit Awards. A panel was appointed by the RSNA Board of Directors to judge the exhibits for educational content and made the appropriate awards in that category. The awards were announced during the Wednesday plenary session and a complete list of award winners was printed in the Thursday-Friday edition of the Daily Bulletin and posted in the Lakeside Learning Center announcement area. Each award-winning exhibit was identified by a sign above the exhibit and also identified in the online program.

The Education Exhibits Committee is divided into organ-centered subcommittees, each with a chair. This structure achieves the following: increases the number of reviewers judging a single abstract; allows for more in-depth review and discussion within the subcommittees; and provides more oversight of the entire review process by the committee chair. The members of the Education Exhibits Committee are to be commended for their willingness to serve, especially in this time of reform and economic challenge as well as their timely review of the large number of submitted abstracts. Each member of the committee was responsible for performing over 200 reviews on average. The committee held its annual meeting on Monday of the RSNA meeting where the entire process of the educational exhibits are reviewed, from abstract form and submission process, evaluation of abstracts, to the presentation in the hall to ensure optimization of the educational content and the experiences of the submitters, presenters, and reviewers. The members of the 2013 Education Exhibits Committee are listed on www.rsna.org and in the
RSNA Meeting Program.

I would like to personally thank all committee chairs and members for the diligence, hard work and loyalty to this committee and the RSNA.

Respectfully submitted,

Isaac R. Francis, MD
Chairman, Education Exhibits Committee