



## Letter from the Incoming Network Chair

**Mitchell Schnall, MD, PhD**

In my role of deputy network chair of ACRIN during the past two funding cycles, I saw that the key to ACRIN's success is the commitment of a diverse professional community to the idea of quality clinical cancer imaging research. This includes the clinical imagers in academic and private practice who accrue patients to studies, the administrators in departments that support ACRIN's studies, and the research coordinators who collect data

and schedule patients. These individuals—along with the headquarters staff, statistical team at Brown University and the scientists who propose and envision studies—all create key collaborative links that make ACRIN's work possible.

Now, as we embark on the next phase of ACRIN's research, I will assume the role of network chair, and Barry A. Siegel, MD, FACR from Washington University in St. Louis, and Denise R. Aberle, MD from UCLA, will become deputy co-chairs. Both of them bring to this organization an incredible passion for imaging science, for radiology, and for ACRIN. The three of us will collaborate to implement ACRIN's research objectives and continue the important work Bruce Hillman began 9 years ago at ACRIN's inception.

During this next funding cycle, ACRIN's research will develop several important strands as we work to realize our research objectives. In the past, ACRIN has conducted important large screening trials for populations that have a relatively low incidence of cancer, but as we go forward we're going to see imaging used in conjunction with blood tests and gene analysis as we work to develop sophisticated, multimodality screening approaches. These trials won't involve imaging in isolation; instead, we'll use imaging in connection with other risk-assessment modalities as we refine the populations we screen and treat.

As ACRIN strives to maintain a program of cutting-edge research, there is increasing interest in early phase trials that bridge the gap between early Phase I human studies and multicenter clinical trials. This interest has led to the creation of the ACRIN Experimental Imaging Science Committee chaired by David Mankoff, MD, PhD from the University of Washington (see the May 2007 ACRIN Newsletter), which will help develop early phase trials to fill this need.

In addition, ACRIN is working to help the clinical cancer research community develop and execute the imaging components of other protocols through expanding the core laboratories and working in collaboration with other cancer research groups. In addition, I'm pleased to announce the creation of a new oncology committee, chaired by Anthony Shields, MD, PhD from the Karmanos Cancer Institute, to help ensure ACRIN is addressing imaging issues important to the oncology community.

ACRIN is embracing its role as a service organization with specialized expertise that we can share with others. ACRIN will play a key role in the newly created ACR Image Metrix, for example, and we are working with two other groups to create a Virtual Imaging Evaluation Workspace (see page 2).

In the coming years, I look forward to working with the many people whose expertise is integral to making ACRIN's projects successful. As we embark on this next phase of our research, ACRIN will continue to leverage its specialized knowledge and infrastructure to contribute to the research efforts of industry and the broader cancer research community.

## ACRIN to Launch New Web Site

ACRIN announces the launching of a new Web site aimed at providing users with streamlined access to more comprehensive information about the Network and its imaging-related clinical trials.

The design of the newly launched ACRIN Web site, based on state-of-the-art technology, was developed with the specific needs of its users—imaging professionals and patients—in mind. Its improved navigational system includes additional functions that enable users to locate specific categories of information with much less searching.

Major new features of the site include:

- A newly designed protocol summary table that allows users to create a protocol table view according to study type, modality, and/or study status
- Expanded information about the functions and responsibilities of ACRIN committees along with member listings
- A publications table that provides the opportunity to search for ACRIN publications by protocol, disease site, publication type and author
- Improved organization of resources that support the conduct of ACRIN trials
- New and expanded information about ACRIN's imaging core laboratory

The new Web site design also provides the capability and flexibility of quickly adding new functions and features as needs arise.

## Collaboration Offers New VIEW on Imaging Research

*In May 2007, the National Cancer Institute (NCI) announced a request for application (RFA) for the development of a Virtual Imaging Evaluation Workspace (VIEW) consortium consisting of at least three organizations. ACRIN incoming network chair Mitch Schnall, MD, PhD brought together representatives from two other major players in the imaging research space to collaborate on the application submitted in July. In September, NCI announced that the ACRIN-facilitated application is the recipient of the VIEW grant.*

Imaging endpoints are crucial to an increasing number of cancer clinical trials of all phases. The National Cancer

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**Mitchell Schnall, MD, PhD  
ACRIN Incoming Network Chair**

Institute has recognized the need to develop resources for standardized support of imaging endpoints, especially with Phase III trials that will be used for FDA drug registration purposes. To this end, ACRIN will work with two other groups to create a Virtual Imaging Evaluation Workspace (VIEW), which will ensure rigorous imaging support for NCI-sponsored clinical trials. According to Mitchell Schnall, MD, PhD incoming network chair of ACRIN, "The VIEW collaboration brings together impressive imaging research experience and expertise for the development of standard processes to support primary imaging endpoints. This will allow for more efficient and cost effective study set up as well as the timely and reliable verification of imaging responses."

ACRIN will collaborate with two groups: the Quality Assurance Review Center (QARC) at the University of

Massachusetts Medical School and the Cancer and Leukemia Group B (CALGB), an NCI clinical trials cooperative group headquartered at the University of Chicago. ACRIN will serve as the administrative headquarters

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**Thomas J. FitzGerald, MD  
Director, QARC**

and provide consortium communication, administrative, and project management support.

Through the development of a central imaging core laboratory, the consortium will create an interoperable IT infrastructure that complies with the NCI's cancer Biomedical Informatics Grid (caBIG) standards. In addition, a single portal will be implemented to allow queries across multiple image archives to be viewed as if it were a single archive. The creation of user interfaces that can operate between research groups will be a critical component of simplifying image collection and dissemination. According to T. J. FitzGerald, MD, director of QARC, "Procedures and policies established through this initiative will greatly improve the quality of future clinical trials for both children and adults. The consortium will have the opportunity to create a transparent informatics infrastructure for digital image/object transfer which will greatly enhance the clinical cooperative group trials program."

The consortium will also develop common standards to ensure the high quality of imaging endpoints across all of NCI's research entities. These standards will include site qualification, image transfer methods, image quality assurance, image analysis and associated

documentation, and monitoring of all of these steps. VIEW will also advance the science of imaging biomarker development by exploring alternative imaging approaches and analysis, and establishing databases that can be mined to discover potential new approaches for imaging procedures. Richard L. Schilsky, MD, group chair of CALGB, says, "VIEW brings together the imaging and clinical oncology expertise of the component organizations to create a unique consortium that will be of great value to the cancer research community. Independent verification of clinical trial endpoints such as progression-free survival adds credibility to the study outcomes and provides confidence in the results."

As requests for imaging core laboratories arise from NCI clinical trial groups, a VIEW executive committee will dis-

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**Richard L. Schilsky, MD  
CALGB Group Chair**

tribute new trials and cases equitably across the three groups.

### VIEW Consortium Members

More information about the work of consortium members is available on their Web sites:

**American College of Radiology Imaging Network**  
[www.acrin.org](http://www.acrin.org)

**Quality Assurance Review Center**  
[www.qarc.org](http://www.qarc.org)

**The Cancer and Leukemia Group B**  
[www.calgb.org](http://www.calgb.org)

## Investigators Announce Trial Findings

Findings from five medical imaging clinical trials coordinated by the American College of Radiology Imaging Network (ACRIN) were presented during the plenary session at the ACRIN Fall Meeting held at the Ritz Carlton in Arlington, Virginia. Key results presented include:

- The primary results of the National CT Colonography Trial, led by C. Daniel Johnson, MD from the Mayo Clinic, demonstrated that CTC is highly accurate for the detection of intermediate and large polyps and that the accuracy of CTC is similar to colonoscopy. The clinical trial evaluating CTC as a primary colorectal cancer screening option is the largest to date.
- Wendie Berg, MD, PhD from American Radiology Services, Johns Hopkins and the lead investigator of the Screening Breast Ultrasound in High-Risk Women trial, reported that ultrasound combined with mammography found a statistically significant increase in cancers compared to mammography alone. These results pertain to the trial's first-year screening results. However, investigators also found that the risk of false-positive results associated with screening ultrasound remains a barrier to its increased use.
- An innovative study led by Jeffrey Weinreb, MD from the Yale University School of Medicine on the use of MRI combined with MR spectroscopy (MRS) for the staging of prostate cancer, found that overall, no improvement in accuracy was noted for combined MRI/MRS over MRI alone.
- A study on the success of radiofrequency ablation (RFA) in treating painful bone metastasis demonstrated that RFA can be safely performed and offers a novel treatment option for select patients whose cancer has metastasized to the bone. Damian Dupuy, MD from Rhode Island Hospital is the trial principal investigator.
- The results of the cost effectiveness of digital mammography analysis were presented by the study's lead author Anna Tosteson, ScD from Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. She reported that age-targeted digital mammography breast cancer screening appears cost-effective. In contrast, universal digital mammography screening is not, at the present time, cost-effective based on current reimbursement rates. The analysis data are from the Digital Versus Film-Screen Mammography trial first reported in 2004.

## Bruce Hillman, MD Tributes

The Saturday luncheon plenary session took on a special meaning this year as everyone in attendance gave Network Chair Bruce Hillman, MD a standing ovation after his presentation reflecting on the individuals and events that are an important part of ACRIN's past and his prediction for the Network's exciting future. This event marked the culmination of his nine-year tenure as network chair as he turned over the leadership of ACRIN to incoming chair, Mitch Schnall, MD, PhD. Dr. Hillman was honored with a number of special recognitions including an oil portrait that will hang in ACRIN headquarters.

The Radiological Society of North America also paid tribute to Dr. Hillman by presenting him with the 2007 RSNA Outstanding Researcher Award. The RSNA annually honors one senior individual who has made a significant contribution to the field of radiology or radiologic sciences throughout a career of research. The award was presented at the 2007 RSNA Scientific Assembly and Annual Meeting.

Mitchell Schnall, MD, PhD, ACRIN's incoming network chair, congratulates Dr. Hillman on his receipt of this prestigious award: "It is fitting recognition of the tremendous work Bruce devoted to building ACRIN's research program these past nine years. On behalf of the ACRIN network, I congratulate Bruce on this most deserved honor."



## TRIAD Introduced

ACRIN-affiliated researchers attending the Fall Meeting were introduced to TRIAD (Transfer of Images and Data), the new ACR image and data management system, through onsite demonstrations. TRIAD was developed to provide a web-based interface for researchers and support staff that improves the ease of software installation and ongoing maintenance. In addition, TRIAD will provide advanced image processing, analysis and measurement tools, a means to track all changes to the imaging studies and automatic notifications.

## Activation Plans

Since the Fall Meeting, many ACRIN sites have received installation support in preparation for TRIAD's pending activation. Efforts are ongoing to contact personnel at ACRIN-affiliated sites about the transition to the new application based upon the volume of images currently being transmitted. All sites can look forward to participating in a site training session that will cover activation procedures, the basics of image transfer, and TRIAD support resources.



Bruce J. Hillman, MD presenting at the ACRIN Fall Meeting

## Important Contributions Recognized

At the ACRIN Fall Meeting, awards were presented to recognize outstanding work on the organization's behalf. The 2007 ACRIN Outstanding Contribution Awards were presented by ACRIN Network Chair Bruce Hillman, MD to acknowledge the exceptional efforts of affiliated researchers and staff at ACRIN Headquarters and the Biostatistics and Data Management Center (BDMC). The second annual Jo-Ann D'Amato Award of Excellence was presented at the research associate luncheon. Chris Comstock, MD, new chair of the Institutional Participants Committee, presented the Institution Achievement Awards. He also announced the Special Populations Achievement Award, introduced this year, which recognizes exemplary enrollment of diverse minority and racial participants into ACRIN clinical trials.

### Outstanding Contribution Awards

#### Affiliated Researchers

**Wendie Berg, MD, PhD**, as principal investigator of ACRIN 6666, has driven the trial to completion on schedule. She worked through reimbursement issues to enhance accrual to the MRI component and wrote the primary aim manuscript very quickly.

**C. Daniel Johnson, MD**, principal investigator of ACRIN 6664, has supported and recognized the staff and the sites, managed the trial to ensure it ended on time, and proceeded rapidly through analysis and publication.

**Gregory Sorensen, MD** interacted successfully with RTOG and integrated ACRIN 6677 effectively into RTOG 0625. His compelling vision for the Head/Neck Committee presented in the site visit was a significant factor in the success of the application.

**Mark Rosen, MD, PhD** worked with ECOG to resolve key issues causing the delay of ACRIN 6676, and he has guided the initial work of the CT/MR Imaging Core Laboratory. He has also been active with the work of ACR Image Metrix.

#### The NLST Research Associates

**Angela Williams, RN** - Emory  
**Shannon Williams, RT(R)** - Ochsner Clinical  
**Lynn Werner, RN, CCRC** - University of Pennsylvania  
**Liz Morrell, RT(R)** - Brown  
**Polly Kay, RN** - UCLA  
**Lisa Holloway, BS, CCRC** - Michigan  
**Suzanne Lenz, MA** - Dartmouth  
**Lisa Hinshaw, MPH** - Wake Forrest

This stellar group was integrated into the active operations of the NLST protocol team a year ago, and they have helped bring this important trial to a speedy conclusion. Their added responsibility of regular team conference calls contributed enormously to every aspect of the trial.

**Barbara LeStage, MPH** is the founder and chair of ACRIN's Patient Advocate Committee. Under her leadership, that committee has assumed a fully integrated role in all committee and trial team activities.

**Mark Kuo, MD** is the principal investigator for ACRIN 6664 at Scottsdale Medical Imaging, which has consistently been a top recruiting site for ACRIN trials. Through Mark's efforts, Scottsdale Medical Imaging became the top accruing site for ACRIN 6664.

#### Biostatistics Personnel

**Mei-Hsiu Chen, PhD** has worked tirelessly on a number of trials, most notably ACRIN 6664 and ACRIN 6654. Her efforts on ACRIN 6664 have ensured rapid data analysis and manuscript preparation.

**Quentin McMullen, AB** has improved processes within the BDMC and ensured effective communications across ACRIN. He helped advance several IT initiatives and took the lead in developing ACRIN's new publication tracking system.

**Jean Cormack, PhD** made important contributions to the analysis of two major studies this year: ACRIN 6659 and ACRIN 6666. She was cited for her attention to detail and her ability to build and sustain relationships among researchers and with Headquarters.

**Benjamin M. Herman, MS** is involved in five ACRIN trials. His outstanding work on ACRIN 6664 was particularly noted, as were his passion, his work ethic, and his professional disposition.

#### ACRIN Headquarters Personnel

**Jim Gimpel, RT(R) (MR)** has managed the ACRIN 6664 images and archive, which enabled study investigators to complete image analysis in a timely manner. He has also helped the imaging core laboratory devise methodology to support complex imaging requirements.

**Irene Mahon, RN, MPA** project manager for NLST, has provided key support for the NLST principal investigator, including coordination with research sites, administration of case reimbursement, and coordination of committee functions. She has helped develop study management tools and participated in the ACRIN site visit.

**Glenna Gabrielli, BS, MT** exemplifies dedication and high-quality work. Her ability to deal with multiple competing demands enabled her to assume critical responsibilities on several trials and has been critical to ACRIN successfully addressing study timelines.

#### Career Contribution Awards

**Charles Apgar, MBA** was honored for his exemplary leadership in guiding a nascent organization through an extensive period of growth to become a well-respected and integral part of the cancer research community.

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*Important Contributions...*  
*Continued from page 4*

**Barbara A. Galen, MSN, CRNP, CNMT** was recognized for her unwavering commitment to garner NCI resources to support ACRIN. Since ACRIN's inception, her extensive knowledge of NIH guidelines and funding policies have been essential to the organization's success.

## Institution Achievement Awards

This year's award recipients excelled in the following categories:

- Clinical trial participation: participate in three or more trials
- Data quality scores: 80% or better
- On site audit scores: have acceptable audits
- Accrual: are in the top two quartiles of accruing sites

ACRIN is pleased to recognize the following institutions and their affiliated site principal investigators:

### Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Site Principal Investigator:  
Phillip Boiselle, MD

### Mayo Clinic, Rochester

Site Principal Investigator:  
Clifford Jack, Jr., MD

### Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Site Principal Investigator:  
Hedvig Hricak, MD

### Scottsdale Medical Imaging, LTD

Site Principal Investigator:  
Ronald Korn, MD, PhD

### The University of Chicago

Site Principal Investigator:  
Abraham Dachman, MD

### UCLA Medical Center

Site Principal Investigator:  
Denise Aberle, MD

### University of Texas, Southwestern

Site Principal Investigator:  
Phil Evans, III, MD

### Washington University Medical Center

Site Principal Investigator:  
Daniel Brown, MD

## Special Populations Achievement Award

Yale-New Haven Hospital was recognized for exemplary enrollment of diverse minority and racial participants into ACRIN clinical trials.

## D'Amato Award of Excellence



Wendy Smith, chair of the Research Associates Committee, presented the second annual JoAnn D'Amato Award of Excellence to Ferdinand Osuagwu. Ferdinand led the UCLA team to recruit the highest number of participants on the West Coast into the National CT Colonography trial. The person who nominated Ferdinand for the award describes him as intelligent, diligent, honest, ethical and kind - all of the qualities looked for in the award recipient. Congratulations!

## Honoring Daniel Sullivan, MD



Mitch Schnall, MD, PhD presents Daniel Sullivan, MD, previous associate director of NCI's Cancer Imaging Program, with an antique x-ray tube as a remembrance for his excellent stewardship of ACRIN from inception until his departure from NCI this past year.

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The ACRIN Newsletter is published by ACRIN Headquarters and distributed to participants and others interested in the Network.

ACRIN is supported by the National Cancer Institute Grant CA80098

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