

Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research President awarded medal by the National Academy of Medicine

On October 15, 2018, the National Academy of Medicine awarded the David Rall Medal to Hedvig Hricak, MD, PhD, Dr(hc), President of the Academy for Radiology and Biomedical Imaging Research (ARBIR) and Chair of the Department of Radiology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York. The medal is awarded each year to a member of the NAM who has demonstrated outstanding leadership as a chair of a study committee or in similar activities. In receiving it, Dr. Hricak joined a list of highly distinguished health care professionals and policy makers, including Donna Shalala, former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Since her election to the NAM in 2002, Hricak has served as chair or member of various committees and symposia of the National Academies, including the NAM Membership Committee (2007-2011), the Nuclear and Radiation Studies Board (2008-2013), and a symposium on radiation exposure from imaging and image-guided interventions. She has contributed to reports of the National Academies examining topics such as nuclear medicine, cancer clinical trials, radiation from medical diagnostic procedures, and diagnostic error in medicine. Chaired by Dr. Hricak, the Committee on the State of the Science in Nuclear Medicine, produced the frequently cited report, “Advancing Nuclear Medicine Through Innovation;” the report, published in 2007, contained five strong recommendations, most of which have since been carried out. When tackling difficult issues through NAM initiatives, Hricak has consistently shown commitment, courage and visionary leadership, such as in calling for an end to US exports of enriched uranium, working towards an increase of regulations on medical radiation exposure and addressing problems with diagnostic errors. Her ability to unite committee members on such issues has been exceptional.

“I am deeply grateful for this tremendous honour,” said Dr. Hricak. “Receiving this award has truly been a wonderful surprise, as for me, serving on NAM committees has been a privilege and, always, an unforgettable experience. With each assignment, I have treasured the opportunity to learn, to make new friends, and to work with the most efficient, brilliant, and pleasant staff imaginable.”

The NAM is one of three institutes that make up the National Academies, which also include the National Academies of Sciences and Engineering. It provides expert advice on science and medicine to national and international organizations. To learn more about the David Rall Medal, please visit the National Academy of Medicine.

We congratulate Dr. Hricak on this remarkable achievement.