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ARPA-H Appoints Academy Vice President Etta Pisano to Lead “Advancing Clinical Trials Readiness” Initiative

The Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) has appointed Academy for Radiology and Biomedical Imaging Research (Academy) Vice President and American College of Radiology (ACR) Chief Research Officer Etta D. Pisano, MD, FACR, Senior Portfolio Lead, to build the agency’s clinical trial portfolio and lead the ARPA-H Advancing Clinical Trials Readiness Initiative under ARPA-H Resilient Systems Mission Office Director Jennifer Roberts.

The first radiologist to be appointed to such a role, Dr. Pisano is an internationally recognized expert in women’s health, breast cancer research and artificial intelligence in medical imaging applications.

“I am honored to be working for ARPA-H to identify and promote research that can improve healthcare quality, efficacy and delivery, and to improve patient care and access to clinical trials for all Americans, including women, rural residents and the underserved,” said Dr. Pisano.

Dr. Pisano has resigned from her role as Academy Vice President, a position in which she has served since November 2022.

“Dr. Pisano served on the Academy board representing the American Association for Women in Radiology (AAWR) for nine years before becoming an officer of the Academy. Dr. Pisano was a tireless leader and advocate for the Academy as she worked to secure federal investment to support medical imaging research at the NIH. The Academy is so proud to have had the benefit of Dr. Pisano’s leadership, expertise, and passion for advocacy for the past decade,” said Renee Cruea, Executive Director.

Dr. Pisano will continue to serve as ACR CRO and as study chair of the large-scale Tomosynthesis Mammographic Imaging Screening Trial (TMIST). She also remains an adjunct professor of radiology at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine. Dr. Pisano previously served as principal investigator of the landmark Digital Mammographic Imaging Screening Trial (DMIST).

With ARPA-H, Dr. Pisano will work to build underserved and minority participation in clinical trials — including identifying and onboarding rural facilities and those outside of large academic medical centers — such as emerging retail healthcare sites.

