Picture on Cover: Congressman Michael Turner (R-OH) and his aide speak with CIBR members including Jim Beckett, Vice President of Clinical Research for Philips Healthcare, patient advocate Jackie Archer, and CIBR President Renee Cruea at the Medical Technology event on Capitol Hill, April 19, 2012.
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The Academy appreciates your membership and support as we work to increase awareness of imaging research. In addition to this brief update on our activities, the Academy website (acadrad.org) and the Coalition website (imagingcoalition.org) are updated regularly with new information. The Academy also continually updates a PowerPoint presentation outlining all of our initiatives. All Academy Board Representatives are encouraged to utilize these presentations at their annual meetings.

The mission of the Academy is to create and maintain a supportive political environment for imaging research. Through our educational and advocacy initiatives, we raise awareness of the value of imaging and its impact on patient care. This awareness assists in our efforts to garner support for consistent federal investments in imaging research.

While the NIH has endured flat budgets since 2003, funding for radiology research has nearly doubled during that same time period. However, even the powerful momentum of imaging research cannot withstand a -7.8% cut to the NIH. In just a few months, the NIH faces an unprecedented -$2.5b cut from the deficit reduction (“sequestration”) deal made by Congress last summer. Although the precise impact of this loss of funding is hard to predict, Dr. Collins testified before Congress that the cut would result in 2,300 fewer NIH grants. The Academy will continue its unique initiatives in collaboration with our more than 140 members to deliver the message to Congress that deficit reduction should not be done on the backs of science and innovation.

The Academy continues to be successful because of the strong and consistent support that we receive from our members. We will need your continued support as we move forward.

Richard L. Ehman, MD
President

Renee L. Cruea, MPA
Executive Director
Organization

The Academy of Radiology Research consists of a diverse membership of imaging societies, academic departments, industry partners, and patient advocates. In 2011-2012, the Academy welcomed four new radiology departments to the Academic Council. In addition, the Coalition for Imaging and Bioengineering Research (CIBR), the subsidiary of the Academy that brings together dozens of patient advocacy organizations that rely on imaging, also saw its membership grow strongly once again. Together, all three divisions of the Academy work together to provide the strongest voice possible in support of imaging research.

The Academy is supported by four full-time staff members at its national office in Washington, DC. Because of its proximity to the Executive Branch, Congress, and the NIH, the Academy is able to meet regularly with congressional appropriators, administration officials, and NIH leaders about the ways in which imaging research can be accelerated.
CIBR continues to experience the strongest growth in Academy membership. The diverse mix of patient advocacy groups (PAGs) that are part of the coalition are proud to collaborate with other CIBR members in support of the NIH and imaging research.

CIBR patient groups provide some of the most compelling advocacy voices for a sustainable NIH budget, and they regularly circulate CIBR grassroots alerts among their membership. CIBR was also proud to help identify lung cancer survivor and CIBR Steering Committee Member, Sheila Ross, as a speaker for RSNA 2012. In addition, CIBR recommended brain aneurysm survivor and CIBR patient advocate Arthur Cassano as a speaker for the NIBIB 10th anniversary celebration. Other CIBR patient groups showed their support for the first decade of NIBIB research by sending congratulatory letters to the Institute for display during the event. These letters demonstrated the broad impact of imaging research.
The State of Imaging Research

Research dollars to radiology departments from the NIH continue to grow at a faster pace than the overall growth rate of the NIH. The data below show the steady growth throughout the past decade, before jumping in 2009-2010 due to stimulus funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

*Courtesy: Stan Baum, MD*

Most of the Institutes at the NIH saw an increase in imaging projects as a percentage of their total Challenge Grant portfolio compared to directly before and immediately following the infusion of ARRA funding. This demonstrates a potential latent demand at the NIH for additional imaging projects, while demonstrating the diversity of disciplines eager to utilize imaging components.
The imaging toolkit continues to see strong growth across the NIH, both in real dollars and as a percentage of the total NIH budget.

Search terms used: "Positron-Emission Tomography" ultrasound tomography radiology MRI "magnetic resonance" "molecular imaging" "optical imaging" "imaging biomarkers" "MR elastography" "quantitative imaging" "image analysis" "image informatics" "image-guided"
Top Institutes
Utilizing the Imaging Toolkit, 2005-2011

Includes ARRA funding in 2009 and 2010
Growth in Imaging
As a Percent of the Top Institutes’ Budgets, 2005 vs. 2011

NIBIB Omitted to preserve scale; 49% in 2005 vs. 56% in 2011
Academy Events and Activities

Medical Technology Event on Capitol Hill
The Academy continued to host the widely attended Medical Technology Showcase on Capitol Hill. The 2012 event, which drew over 300 congressional guests, provided information on ways in which imaging research is improving patient outcomes. The event showcased nine technology display areas, each one consisting of an Academic Council Department, an industry partner, and a patient advocacy organization. The displays were tailored to each patient group and highlighted new research or technologies affecting that group. The keynote speaker for the event was Christopher Austin, MD, the Director of the NIH’s National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS). Dr. Austin spoke about the ways in which imaging research will play a key role in driving translational research at the NIH.
**Promoting Imaging at the NIH**

The Academy of Radiology Research Academic Council (ARRAC) hosted its fourth annual Legislative Forum in April of 2012. During this Forum, ARRAC leaders met with four Institutes and Centers (ICs) at the NIH campus in Bethesda, MD. In a joint meeting with NINDS/NIA/NIMH, the Academy offered its assistance in helping to identify ways in which the Academy can assist in expanding potential imaging initiatives at the Institutes. The Academy staff and Board members are currently continuing the dialogue with the Institutes on a number of exciting opportunities that were identified during the meetings. Because of the difficult congressional environment, direct advocacy with individual Institutes and Centers will be critical for imaging research in the short-term.

**Appropriations Advocacy**

The Academy continues to play a lead role in advocating for federal research dollars. The Academy maintains its standing on the Steering Committee for the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, a coalition of over 300 organizations led by the Association of American Medical Colleges and the Association of American Universities. The Steering Committee crafts a community consensus annual appropriations request and meets with various NIH Directors to learn about key research efforts that might be useful in our advocacy. The Academy also meets regularly with the staff leadership of the House and Senate Labor-Health and Human Services (HHS) Appropriations Subcommittees to advocate directly for the NIH and to highlight the multidisciplinary work of the NIBIB. The pending -7.8% sequestration cut looms large for the NIH, and will likely put pressure on imaging proposals across the NIH. It is imperative for the entire imaging community that the sequestration cuts for the NIH are mitigated, and the Academy is committed to working in support of this goal.

**Distinguished Investigator Award**

The Recognition of Researchers Task Force has developed a new and prestigious honor for distinguished investigators in radiology and imaging under the leadership of Chairman Stanley Baum, MD. Researchers who have been designated as a *Distinguished Investigator* by the Academy have made significant contributions to the field. These researchers will become charter members of the Council of *Distinguished Investigators*. This council will elect two of its members, one a basic scientist and one a clinical researcher, to serve two-year terms on the Board of Directors of the Academy.
Patient Engagement and Advocacy for Imaging

CIBR continues to organize briefings on Capitol Hill that highlight advances in imaging research. The latest event was a briefing on musculoskeletal imaging, arthritis, and sports injuries. Participants included ARRAC member NYU (Louis Marx Professor and Chair, Michael Recht), the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (Director Stephen Katz), and 4-time Super Bowl Champion and osteoarthritis patient L.C. Greenwood. In addition, CIBR also organized two “coffee chats” with our patient advocacy membership to discuss initiatives for legislative collaboration. The goals for these informal meetings are to stay current on recent developments and to share legislative aims.

Celebrating 10 years of NIBIB Research

To help celebrate such a milestone achievement, the Academy worked with the NIBIB to honor the members of the Academy that were integral in helping to establish the NIBIB. The Academy also was successful in garnering recognition from Congress for the first decade of NIBIB research. Senator Richard Burr sponsored a resolution commending the NIBIB for its first ten years of imaging research, which passed the Senate by Unanimous Consent on June 19, 2012 – just in time for the NIBIB celebration. The Academy also worked with Congresswoman Anna Eshoo’s office to circulate a congratulatory letter to HHS Secretary Sebelius on the 10 year anniversary of the NIBIB. The letter garnered over 50 signatories. Congressman Robert Andrews also delivered Academy-sponsored remarks on the House Floor on June 18 in honor of the NIBIB and imaging research.
Looking Forward - Academy Initiatives 2013

**Academy Scientific Symposium**
The Academy is in the process of organizing the first ever Academy of Radiology Research Scientific Symposium. The annual event will seek to address contemporary and stimulating topics with a significant public policy component, and will be held in the Washington, DC metro area in conjunction with the ARRAC annual Legislative Forum. Topics will be driven by the Immediate-Past President, with the tentative 2013 symposium entitled: Imaging and the Brain, the Big Three: Alzheimer’s, Autism, and Traumatic Brain Injury. NINDS, NIMH, and the NIA have encouraged the Academy to submit a grant application to support the symposium.

**Report on the Impact of the Sequestration Cuts on Imaging**
The looming sequestration cuts threaten to reduce the NIH budget by $2.5 billion on January 2, 2013. The Academy has been visiting with program officers and Institute directors at the NIH to determine the impact that the looming sequestration cuts will have on imaging proposals and programs. Early anecdotes suggest that it is likely that projects with imaging aims or components may feel a greater degree of pressure purely due to the marginal cost of imaging components. The Academy will aim to educate program staff at multiple Institutes about the importance of imaging aims in promising proposals (as opposed to negotiating these out of applications to reduce the cost of the grant). At the same time, the Academy is rallying the imaging grassroots community in congressional letter writing and email advocacy campaigns aimed at averting the cut.

**Fellowship for Minority Research Investigators (fMRI)**
The Academy is also working with the NIBIB to craft a fellowship aimed at both diversifying the pipeline for imaging researchers, as well as providing training to a cadre of scientists that are familiar with the congressional process and advocacy activities. The fellowship will look to capitalize on the CIBR patient membership by providing ways for fellows to work with patient organizations in crafting and executing their legislative agendas as they relate to imaging research – with a particular focus on ways in which imaging can be used to help address the uneven burden of health disparities. Fellows will also be encouraged to spend time in Washington, DC working on Capitol Hill or at a federal agency.
Please visit action.imagingcoalition.org to contact Congress regarding the pending $2.5b sequestration cut to the NIH. We need everyone’s help, including individual faculty and society members, to avert the cut.

Imaging research has saved millions of lives. Congress: deficit reduction on the backs of science and innovation is not the answer.

http://action.imagingcoalition.org
Academy staff members, from left to right:
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