Our Year in Review: The Academy’s FY21 Annual Summary

The Academy’s continued efforts during this challenging year are made possible by the sustained personal engagement of its members and by your financial support. As an organization underwritten by Imaging Societies, Academic Radiology Departments, and Industry Partners, the Academy leadership appreciates your continued support during this unprecedented time.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

“As our community faces ongoing challenges posed by the pandemic, the Academy’s work continues as we collectively advocate for funding to advance research, as well as how we respond to and prepare for future public health emergencies. A heavy load, but all important. The key to advocacy is making your case that supports your needs, while also identifying opportunities—and there are plenty on the horizon. As we wait for details on ARPA-H, we continue facilitating conversations to ensure that our community is prepared to take advantage of this new opportunity. Preparation is key for all of us, departments, societies, and industry alike. Meanwhile, with ARPA-H moving forward, we remain a voice for protection of the NIH baseline representing investigator-led research, so that we maintain the progress made over the previous 5 years of consistent NIH increases.

Please consider joining us in person, or virtually, for our upcoming Academy Research Roundtable discussion where we will discuss as a community how to leverage our voice and resources in preparation for the upcoming challenges and opportunities presented. We look forward to advocating on your behalf for consistent federal funding for COVID-19 response, and all other imaging-related research, as well as to facilitating meaningful discussions and collaborations to benefit our community and membership directly.” Mitchell D. Schnall, MD, PhD, Academy President

“I am absolutely delighted to report that our Council of Early Career Investigators in Imaging Program (CECI²) continues to flourish in this new virtual landscape! Founded in 2014, this program educates ambitious, early career faculty on the importance of advocacy and its impact on their research. This Council’s opportunities with staff at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Capitol Hill ensure these investigators have the tools they will need to advocate effectively for their own research. Over the years, alumni of CECI² have gone on to receive significant grant funding, including their first R01s, K awards, and industry grants, and to accept multiple academic promotions. The 2021 Council is the largest we’ve seen so far, with more than 30 members. I look forward to welcoming them to Washington DC in person for our events beginning September 28, 2021. To date, CECI² brings together 119 researchers for opportunities in both networking and education and is truly strengthening the future of imaging research and its potential advocates.” Hedvig Hricak, MD, PhD Dr(hc), Academy CIBR Chair
We hope this summary will:
• Illustrate to you and your leadership how we have sustained the Academy and remain effective and impactful during this challenging time.
• Highlight our most recent growth and initiatives.
• Secure your engaged participation and financial support for another year.

The Academy has shifted its Congressional advocacy and Member engagement efforts to a virtual platform, which has by all accounts accelerated our impact and increased participation and engagement.

Virtual Advocacy Priorities:
• Continue raising awareness of the benefits of imaging research, especially in light of COVID-19 emergency funding opportunities to develop diagnostic tools and procedures.
• Engage in planning and dialogue around the proposed ARPA-H structure and opportunities.
• Advocate for consistent federal investment in the NIH, ensuring that research is supported and sustained.
• Advocate for additional emergency funding related to COVID-19, not only to support a continuation of the current research but to prepare for future priorities, such as MIDRC and RADx.
• Advocate for additional funding to rebuild the biomedical research enterprise following pandemic-related shutdowns, via the RISE Act.
• Communicate these efforts to our Membership, ensuring awareness across the imaging community.

Opportunities for Members of the Council of Early Career Investigators in Imaging (CECI²):
• We have expanded what was once a three-day program for our CECI² members into a year-long effort with virtual engagements led by experts in our field, including Chairs, Vice Chairs for Research, NIH program officers, NIH Institute Directors, and other imaging stakeholders.
• The Academy CECI² Mock Study Section Program was successfully implemented, leading to re-submissions and ultimately funding awards.
• The Academy facilitated connections with NIH Program staff to discuss their individual grant application progress.
• Virtual advocacy training was conducted for investigators.
• We are now disseminating relevant funding opportunities on a weekly basis.
• We have increased engagement of our members in opportunities for grassroots advocacy on behalf of NIH.
• Multiple CECI² members received funding and/or high scores for their grants and have attributed that success to their participation in our program.

NEW RESOURCES FOR MEMBERS:
• **Funding Friday**, a single source communication listing relevant funding opportunities across the government and foundations sent out to our membership weekly. If you have not been receiving these announcements and wish to, please contact Casey Cappelletti, ccappelletti@acadrad.org.
• **Live Advocacy Town Hall Sessions** led by Academy staff and held quarterly as an update on legislative impacts to federal funding and an interactive Q&A discussion. We welcome you to join us next on September 14, 2021 (registration link forthcoming).

• **Personal legislative updates for your society or department** at your request.

• **Interactive NIH funding map for Diagnostic Radiology**: [https://action.acadrad.org/data/nih-funding/](https://action.acadrad.org/data/nih-funding/) Password: Acadrad1001

• **Comprehensive breakdown of NIH funding for Diagnostic Radiology for each U.S. Radiology Department**: [https://www.acadrad.org/nih-datacollection-project/](https://www.acadrad.org/nih-datacollection-project/)

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**Academy’s Council of Early Career Investigators in Imaging (CECI²):**

“Having been awarded my first K award during my time with CECI², I found the webinar that the Academy arranged with NIBIB to be extremely informative and helpful for learning about the other grant mechanisms that I’ll apply for in the future. I’m excited to see how the Mock Study Section idea progresses, since I’d be interested in participating when I write my next big grant! I’m also eager to learn about, and participate, in advocating for radiology research funding with my CECI² peers, as I continue to build my independent research program.” - Kristin O’Grady, PhD, Class of 2020, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

“As an Academy Council Early Career Investigator, I am benefiting in a multitude of ways from the mentorship of senior scientists as well as the support of my peers. As a radiology resident/nuclear medicine fellow, I was fortunate to receive the SNMMI Blahd Award which supported a research project focused on perfusion MRI in Parkinson disease. My experience as a CECI has been invaluable in adapting the insights from this and other pilot projects into a larger framework serving as the foundation for my first NIH proposal submission.” - Jana Ivanidze, MD, PhD, Class of 2020, Weill Cornell University

“Successful NIH grant funding as a junior investigator requires the combination of persistence, a team of supportive mentors, vested Department leadership, an idea that grant reviewers are convinced will move the field forward and knowledge of how NIH grants are written. Many of these important factors were afforded to me by my opportunity to join the Academy’s Council of Early Career Investigators in Imaging. My recent K08 funding is truly a culmination of these experiences, and my lab is currently working on defining and leveraging innovative biomarkers of the hypoxic glioblastoma immune microenvironment to determine effective therapy and unique features of pseudoprogression development.” – Ramon Francisco Barajas, Jr., MD, Class of 2019, Oregon Health & Science University

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More CECI² can be found on our Academy website.
Members of CECI² successfully implemented the **Academy CECI² Mock Study Section Program**, modeled after the NIH Study Section and Scientific Review process, led by CECI² Co-Chairs Drs. Alex Goehler (Beth Israel Deaconess), Samuel Galgano (University of Alabama, at Birmingham), Jadranka Stojanovska (New York University, Langone Medical Center) and Rebecca Rakow-Penner (University of California, San Diego); 2019 CECI² Dr. Anna Sorace (University of Alabama Birmingham); and 2020 CECI² Dr. Mariam Aboian (Yale University). This new program leverages the collective knowledge of the Council and the extensive experience of the Academy’s Membership, as they confidentially revise, review, and score actual grant proposals, giving new applicants much-needed support, peer review and feedback, knowledge, and confidence in their submissions.

“Through my experience as a member of the CECI² Council of 2018, I was able to acquire a broader view of the field of academic radiology that I had not really encountered before. I met a broad spectrum of incredible, accomplished colleagues in my class and quickly embraced the mentorship opportunities offered through the Academy. I came back in 2019 as Co-Chair elect, met more fantastic people, made new friends, and learned even more about the opportunities at NIH and the importance of our voice at the Hill. As a Co-Chair in 2020, I hope to excite more aspiring scientists by making their experience even better than mine. The ever-so-quickly changing field of radiology needs highly motivated young scientists and I want to help pave their way.”  

- Alexander Goehler, MD, PhD, Co-Chair, Academy Council of Early Career Investigators in Imaging

The Academy continues to create ways for our investigators to engage, network and collaborate with one another regionally, by research specialty, or by topic of interest. We’ve created the **CECI² Resource page**, which houses continuously updated information and opportunities, and the new **CECI² Directory**, highlighting the focus of CECI² members’ research and professional milestones, while providing an accessible way to connect with one another.

Nominations for our 2022 CECI² will open following our advocacy events this coming fall. Academy members should expect to nominate/sponsor their candidates in October of 2021. More information on this nomination process is forthcoming.

**LINKS TO NEW CECI² RESOURCES:**

ACADEMY’S ANNUAL NIH DATA COLLECTION PROJECT:

UPDATED: “NIH in Your State – A look at Funding to Diagnostic Imaging” Interactive Map:
This resource displays all the data collected and vetted during the Academy's annual NIH Diagnostic Radiology Data Collection project and gives users total NIH dollars by state, in addition to total funding to Radiology Departments, subcategorized by awarding Institute & Center at the National Institutes of Health.
https://action.acadrad.org/client/password/login
Password: ACADRAD1001

Please note, that due to the impact of the pandemic, the NIH is currently behind in their ability to respond to our pending FOIA request, that will enable us to report funding levels to diagnostic radiology in FY20. We have included the FY19 data here and will update you as soon as we receive and process the data from FY20. Please know that we are continually following up on this and will be in touch with membership as the situation develops.

Academy’s NIH Data Collection Process & FY19 Data:
For more information and documents pertaining to this project’s 2019 changes, and the FY19 Data Collection effort, please visit: http://www.acadrad.org/nih-datacollection-project/.

FY 2019 saw an increase of 15.4% in NIH funding to Diagnostic Radiology Research across the United States (FY19 $691,222,041.79 vs. FY18 $598,810,010.49).

This table reflects the overall increases in funds to Diagnostic Radiology since 1994.
The Academy disseminates the NIH data by department, appearing in alphabetical (not ranking) order. This provides a breakdown that includes four categorical totals instead of an overall total. With this approach, the Academy is aggregating and presenting data, but not be making a value judgement related to credit and ranking.

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This table reflects the overall totals of the four represented categories of data. Each department included in our data collection have their own unique totals.

**Academy’s 2021 Gold Medal Announcement:**

“Receiving the Academy’s highest honor is deeply humbling and will mark a joyful milestone in my professional journey. I am overwhelmed by the growth and success of the Academy over the past 2 decades and feel grateful to have been a part of a team of such generous and dedicated colleagues who have made a substantial impact on our field.” Carolyn C. Meltzer, MD, 2021 Gold Medal Awardee

Dr. Meltzer is past President of the Academy Board of Directors, serving from 2015-2017 and has also served as the chair of the Coalition for Imaging & Bioengineering Research (CIBR) as well as a member of the Academy’s Executive Committee, concluding her committee tenure representing the Society for Chairs of Academy Radiology Departments (SCARD). She is currently the Executive Associate Dean of Faculty Academic Advancement, Leadership & Inclusion, Chief Diversity Officer, Chair of the Department of Radiology and Imaging Sciences, and the William Patterson Timmie Endowed Professor of Radiology at the Emory University School of Medicine. Her tireless efforts in the fight for diversity and inclusion in the imaging community and beyond are truly noble and can be seen across all her roles.

As a neuroradiologist and a nuclear medicine physician, she has enjoyed more than 20 years of NIH funding for her work in applying novel advanced imaging strategies to better understand brain structure-function relationships in normal aging, late-life depression, and Alzheimer’s disease. She has authored over 200 publications and lectured nationally and internationally.

The Academy will honor Dr. Meltzer during our 2021 Academy Gold Medal & Distinguished Investigator Ceremony, held in-person, during this year’s annual meeting of the RSNA. Further details on this ceremony’s date and time are forthcoming.

Read the full announcement here.
ACADEMY’S 2021 DISTINGUISHED INVESTIGATORS COUNCIL Awardees:
The Academy is pleased to announce that thirty-nine researchers have been selected to receive the Academy’s 2021 Distinguished Investigator Award. This prestigious honor recognizes individuals for their outstanding contributions to the field of medical imaging.

“The Distinguished Investigators represent the future of research in radiology, advancing the field and developing ways to significantly improve patient care through imaging.”
- Elizabeth A. Krupinski, PhD, Co-Chair of the Council of Distinguished Investigators.

This year, the Academy worked to identify and implement strategies to engage more deeply with our DI Council, taking better advantage of their experience and expertise to address issues of importance to the radiology community.

Not only will the Academy honor the 2021 class of DIs, in-person, at this year’s annual meeting of the RSNA, but we will also be inviting the class of 2020 to join us and be celebrated in-person as well. Details on the date and time of this ceremony are forthcoming.

2021 DI Announcement

Stay informed!
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Newsletter: Subscribe today!