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**Academy's 2022 Council for Early Career Investigators in Imaging (CECI²):
Announcement of Redesigned Two-Level Program
CECI² Advisory Committee, & New CECI² Leadership Roles**

WASHINGTON, DC: The Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research is pleased to announce an expansion of the Council of Early Career Investigators in Imaging (CECI²) program. New programming includes a Two-Level structure as well as the formation of an Advisory Committee, and newly created leadership positions.

Since its establishment in 2014, the CECI² program has continued to develop and become increasingly impactful, having now reached over 130 young investigators. With a mix of both MD and PhD's alike, early career investigators have been nominated or sponsored by Academy member departments and societies. As the program matures, our goal with this expansion is to increase opportunities to engage even more investigators from within our robust membership.

EXPANSION OF THE CECI² PROGRAM TO INCLUDE TWO LEVELS

The CECI² Program will now have two separate levels. Level 1 will be a virtual program; all Academy members will be invited to nominate one investigator to participate as part of the Council. Level 2 will be an extension of the program and include all in-person advocacy and NIH events in Washington, DC. Participants for Level 2 will be chosen from those within Level 1, and will be limited to 30 individuals, appropriate benchmarks will be applied. The newly appointed Advisory Committee will identify qualified investigators from the Level 1 programming to be considered for advancement onto Level 2.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE TWO-LEVEL PROGRAMMING

There will be an open call for Level 1 nominations beginning January 31, 2022 with a deadline for March 1, 2022. Academy members are invited to nominate ONE early career investigator to represent your department/society/company to this Council's Class of 2022-23.

Level 1 will engage participants in a digital setting through a variety of webinars, discussions, and workshops focused on topics such as advocacy, NIH funding, mock study section participation, grant applications, resubmissions, career development, and other issues important to early career researchers. Leaders and innovators from across the Academy's unique membership will facilitate and lead these virtual discussions in a small group environment. The Academy estimates that Level 1 programming will last six to eight months.

Virtual sessions from the 2020-21 program included;

- “The Importance of Advocacy: An Academy Introduction” with Academy staff including Executive Director Renee Cruea and Senior Director of Government Affairs and Strategic Initiatives Michael Heintz
- “Grant Funding Myth Busters” with Dr. Elizabeth Krupinski, Academy Distinguished Investigators Co-Chair
- A discussion focused on “Career Trajectory” with Dr. Hedvig Hricak, Academy CIBR Chair
- “Working with Constituents to Advance Biomedical Research” with Aisling McDonough, Legislative Assistant on Health Issues for Congresswoman Anna Eshoo (D-CA)
- “A Chat with NIBIB’s Founding Father” with Dr. Roderic Pettigrew, founding Director of NIBIB

Level 2 will include invited participants from Level 1, and offer the opportunity to be sponsored by their society or academic department for the Annual Medical Imaging Technology Showcase, Congressional Events, and NIH Meetings, including but not limited to:

- Visit to the NIH Campus, to include meetings with NIH Program Officers and Program Staff
- Academy's Annual Capitol Hill Fly-in Day, to include meetings with the investigator's Members of Congress
- Annual Medical Imaging Technology Showcase on Capitol Hill, to include a unique research display from each investigator

In order to be considered for Level 2, investigators will need to meet a number of benchmarks associated with their Level 1 participation. These criteria will ensure that investigators sponsored to attend the in-person opportunities were highly engaged and motivated throughout the virtual programming. For 2022, more information on Level 2 will be forthcoming, as all in-person programming is dependent upon COVID-19.

WELCOME TO THE ACADEMY'S FIRST CECI² ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This Committee will offer important perspectives and advice throughout the planning and execution of future CECI² class's programming, as well as helping the Academy capitalize on our growing alumni network.



Rebecca Rakow-Penner, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Radiology, University of California, San Diego, CECI² Class of 2014



Jadranka Stojanovska, MD, Associate Professor, Radiology, New York University, CECI² Class of 2014



Samuel Galgano, MD, Assistant Professor, Abdominal Imaging Section and Division of Molecular Imaging and Therapeutics, CECI² Class of 2018



Alexander Goehler, MD, Executive Director, Precision Medicine Imaging and AI, Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research, Cambridge MA, CECI² Class of 2018

WELCOME NEW CECI² CO-CHAIRS & LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

To advance the daily efforts of this program, the Academy is pleased to announce 2022 CECI² Co-Chairs, as well as the important addition of two new leadership positions within the Council.

CECI² Co-Chairs

The new Co-Chairs will work closely with Academy staff and each other to lead and promote the incoming class of 2022-23, as well as CECI² alumni. In these positions they will develop, promote, and participate in all CECI² activities. They will also serve as resources for other members of CECI², promote and facilitate 2022-23 programming, extensively network and coordinate with Academy membership for appropriate CECI² programming, and select CECI² members for future leadership roles. The new Co-Chairs will also join the Advisory Committee.

Academy offers its hearty congratulations to the new Co-Chairs:



Anton Becker, MD, PhD, Director of Analytics, Body Imaging Service, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, CECP² Class of 2020-21



Aisling Chaney, PhD, Instructor, Molecular Imaging Program, Stanford University, CECP² Class of 2020-21

CECP² Advocacy Lead



Dr. Benjamin Larimer

This newly created position will work closely with the Academy’s Senior Director of Government Affairs and Strategic Initiatives, Michael Heintz, on continued CECP² advocacy programming for the incoming class of 2022-23 and the growing network of alumni to create a strong base of advocates for imaging research. This position will help identify suitable advocacy programming or training, work with the Academy to ensure advocacy materials are appropriate for their audiences, help to enhance the visibility of the Academy’s advocacy efforts to others in the CECP² program, and provide an important perspective as a hands-on resource to those looking to engage further or in different ways in imaging research advocacy.

The Academy offers its hearty congratulations to the first CECP² Advocacy Lead, **Benjamin Larimer, PhD**, Assistant Professor, Division of Advanced Medical Imaging Research, CECP² Class of 2020-21.

CECP² Mock Study Section Lead



Dr. Mariam Aboian

This new position will work closely with Academy staff to organize and promote the 2022-23 Mock Study Section Program for the 2022-23 class and the alumni of CECP². This person will directly contribute to the growing success of our Mock Study Section Program. which was established in 2020. The responsibilities of this role include planning and facilitating quarterly Mock Study Section sessions, outreach to leadership within the Academy membership to attend and participate in review sessions, promotion of quarterly sessions within CECP², and development of efficient processes for effective outcomes.

The Academy offers its hearty congratulations to the first CECP² Mock Study Section Lead, **Mariam Aboian, MD, PhD**, Assistant Professor, Radiology & Biomedical Imaging, Yale University, CECP² Class of 2020-21.

The Academy would like to extend its sincerest thanks to our membership for their continued interest in and promotion of this council. Without your support the Academy would not be able to continue its work cultivating imaging’s advocates of tomorrow. Thank you again for your continued participation in this Council’s development. We look forward to the success of this new two-Level pilot program.

Please direct questions on any of the above to the Academy’s Director of Communications & Special Events, Casey Cappelletti, ccappelletti@acadrad.org.