Our Year in Review: The Academy’s FY22 Annual Summary

The Academy’s continued efforts during another challenging year are made possible by the sustained personal engagement of our members and by your financial support. As an organization underwritten by Imaging Societies, Academic Radiology Departments, and Partners in Industry, 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 a case that supports your needs, while also identifying opportunities—and there are plenty on the horizon. As ARPA-H gets set up and vital leadership positions within NIH, NCI, and OSTP are soon filled, we continue facilitating conversations to ensure that our community is prepared to take advantage of new opportunities. Preparation is key for all of us, departments, societies, and industry alike. Meanwhile, we remain a voice representing our entire community for the protection of the NIH baseline, representing investigator-led research, so that we may maintain the progress we have all worked for over the past 6 years which saw consistent NIH increases. We look forward to advocating for consistent federal funding for all 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 the virtual landscape! Founded in 2014, this program educates, early career faculty on the importance of advocacy and its impact on their research. The opportunities they are afforded to engage with staff at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and on 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. Many of them have also received multiple academic promotions. The 2022 class is the largest we’ve seen so far, with more than 40 members. We have developed an entire year of virtual programming with the goal of providing valuable information, guidance, networking, and leadership skills to investigators who are destined to be our future leaders.”

Hedvig Hricak, MD, PhD Dr(hc), Academy CIBR Chair
This Summary Will:

- Illustrate to you and your leadership how we have sustained the Academy and remain effective and impactful.
- Highlight our most recent growth and initiatives.

We hope the achievements outlined below secure your engaged participation and financial support for another year. Among many of our efforts, was a nimble approach to shift our Congressional advocacy and member engagement efforts to incorporate a virtual platform while we begin the slow process of returning to in-person events. As you will see below, this has accelerated our impact and increased participation and engagement.

Legislative and Advocacy Updates:
We continue to advocate for support for the National Institutes of Health and specifically for MIDRC and RADx. Academy-developed language highlighting the value and impact of the MIDRC program and NIBIB appears in both the House-passed and Senate Democrats’ appropriations explanatory reports. This effort is a result of advocating and educating about the collaborative efforts within our community.

In addition, we are still actively advocating for the protection of baseline support to NIH as new initiatives are created, such as ARPA-H. We are carefully supporting this new agency while ensuring investigator-lead research at the NIH continues to be funded at steadily increasing levels.

Other on-going advocacy priorities include:
- Continue raising awareness of the benefits of imaging research, especially in light of COVID-19 emergency funding opportunities to develop diagnostic tools and procedures, within NIBIB.
- Engage in planning and dialogue around the ARPA-H structure and opportunities.
- Communicate these efforts to our Membership, ensuring awareness across the imaging community.

New Academy 101 Virtual Presentations to Radiology Departments and Societies:
Please reach out to us for a personal presentation to your department or society. We have completed several throughout the year, ranging anywhere from 30-90 minutes long, covering issues such as NIH & ARPA-H, NIH funding, How to Engage in Advocacy, and Tools for Early Career Investigators.

Opportunities for Early Career Researchers:

- **New Transitions: Finding your footing. Finding your voice. Female perspectives within Radiology.** We are designing a new program for women radiologists, initiated by our women council of early career investigators, and created in collaboration Academy leaders Dr. Elizabeth Krupinski, Dr. Pamela Woodard, Dr. Ruth Carlos, and Dr. Aisling Chaney. Our first event will be held on October 7th in Washington DC. Our goal is to fill the gaps of programming and provide organic, impactful programming for women with intentional and meaningful connections. This programming will impact and support women, as the entire program will be designed by those attending.
• **NIH Program Officer Introductions.** The Academy facilitated nearly 60 individual connections between NIH Program staff and the 2021 CECI² class to discuss their individual grant application progress and ideas.

• **CECI² Grant Success.** More than 30% of CECI² participants report receiving grant funding since this council’s beginning. Many of our alumni attribute their successful applications or highly rated applications to their experiences with the Council programming. We are delighted to see these investigators empowered by the CECI² program and will incorporate their experiences into programming to benefit future participants.
  o See testimonials below.

Upon receiving an NIH R01 grant titled “Large-scale harmonization and integration of multi-modal ADNI data for the early detection of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias” Dr. Sheikh noted: “I would like to thank Academy for supporting research, particularly imaging related, as well as the support, resources, and encouragement they provide for radiologists to become more involved.” -- Nasim Sheikh-Bahaei, MD, CECI² Class of 2020-21, University of Southern California

When it came to collaborating on future grant efforts, Dr. Prosper stated: “While I suspected that interacting with senior members of the Academy would be of high-value, I could not have anticipated the level of impact that my classmates would have on my thought processes and career path. Though we've never met in person, [co-CECI²] Jana Ivanidze and I have collaborated by twitter, email, text, phone and even RSNA podcast over the past year and a half. We've encouraged each other to keep submitting grant applications, apply for positions, and write papers. I'm incredibly grateful for this level of peer mentorship that I've received.” -- Ashley Elizabeth Prosper, MD, CECI² Class of 2020-21, University of California, Los Angeles

When he received his K award in 2020, Dr. Barajas noted that: "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 Ramon Francisco Barajas, Jr., MD, Class of 2019, Oregon Health & Science University
NEW RESOURCES FOR MEMBERS:

- **Funding Friday**, launched earlier this year, is a single source communication listing relevant funding opportunities across the government and foundations sent 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, these sessions also include an interactive Q&A discussion and are recorded for later, members-only viewing. We welcome you to join us next on September 14, 2021 (registration link forthcoming). Past recordings from these sessions can be found on the Academy website.
  - **Password: TownHall2022**

- **Personal legislative updates for your society or department**, upon request.

- **NIH Resource Page**, a dedicated webpage featuring informational resources collected and organized by Academy staff on a wide range of NIH funding materials. Webinars, one-pagers, blogposts, and an extensive Frequently Asked Questions document is regularly updated as we continue finding useful information for our membership.
  - [https://www.acadrad.org/nih-resources/](https://www.acadrad.org/nih-resources/)
  - **Password: NIH2022**

- **Comprehensive breakdown of NIH funding for Diagnostic Radiology for each U.S. Radiology Department**, more updates on this project are featured on pages 5 and 6.
  - [https://www.acadrad.org/nih-datacollection-project/](https://www.acadrad.org/nih-datacollection-project/)

ACADEMY’S COUNCIL OF EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATORS IN IMAGING (CECI²):

The CECI² continues to offer some of the Academy’s most unique, dynamic, and engaging content for early career investigators across our community. Boasting the largest class to date at over 40 members, the Academy successfully implemented new, 2-Level programming where investigator’s engagement lasts a full calendar year. Beginning in April, with Level-1 virtual programming, 2022 class members have been engaged in online sessions featuring discussions led by Academy leaders, CECI² program alumni, and NIBIB Director, Dr. Bruce Tromberg. Looking towards Level-2 in-person opportunities, the Academy is hopeful to engage these investigators in our Spring 2023 advocacy events in Washington, D.C.

In addition to the class of 2022’s 2-Level programming, the Academy has also begun planning and facilitating impactful CECI² alumni programming. With nearly 200 individuals in the CECI² alumni network, this group of investigators has helped us to understand their needs beyond their time with us in D.C. With topics like changing institutions, seeking your next promotion, setting up a lab, as well as balancing work and family life, these sessions have guided intimate discussions that truly help these investigators navigate their next phase of career development.

To help facilitate these new opportunities for investigators, the Academy also introduced two new leadership positions and appointed two new CECI² Co-Chairs. Our two Co-Chairs, whose feedback on the program is featured below, are Dr. Aisling Chaney, CECI² Class of 2020-21, from Washington
University, St. Louis, and Dr. Anton Becker, Class of 2020-21, from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. In the newly created position of CECI² Advocacy Lead is Dr. Benjamin Larimer, Class of 2020-21, from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and in the position of Mock Study Section Lead, is Dr. Mariam Aboian, Class of 2020-21, from Yale University.

“I was honored to join the Academy’s 2019 CECI² Class as the Society for Pediatric Radiology’s inaugural nominee. As a principal investigator and research leader in my department and hospital, I continue to emphasize interdisciplinary and integrative approaches to translational advanced neuroimaging, radio genomics, and artificial intelligence. These initiatives help build bridges between pediatric and adult care, physicians and scientists, and the general public. Despite corrective efforts, the “leaky pipeline” remains for women and minorities in medical research and leadership. I am excited to have been invited by the Academy to help design and implement a Pilot Workshop dedicated to advancing women in radiology alongside my peers. It is my greatest hope that our collective expertise will yield new ideas, strategies, and programs to ensure the future of our specialty.”
- Mai-Lan Ho, MD, CECI² Class of 2019, Nationwide Children’s Hospital

“The Academy and the CECI² program has provided me with a unique opportunity to communicate the importance of Radiology and Biomedical research and advocate for its federal funding. Importantly, the CECI² program has immense value for enhancing training of early career investigators. Through virtual seminars and socials, I have been able to connect with and learn from researchers and leaders in the field of Radiology. With discussions ranging from career and leadership skills to grant application processes, my experience as a part of CECI² has been invaluable for my future career in biomedical imaging.”
- Aisling Chaney, PhD, CECI² Co-Chair, Washington University, St. Louis

“I am so grateful for the opportunity the Academy has provided through CECI². It has been an incredible experience and I have met amazing people from our community, some of which have become dear friends. I am excited to continue my involvement as co-chair this year and help shape and grow the program for the next generation of CECI²s. I believe that engagement in political advocacy is essential to advance radiological and biomedical imaging research. By working together, we can ensure that vital research is valued, funded, and that patients have access to the best possible care.”
- Anton Becker, MD, CECI² Co-Chair, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
The Academy is also pleased to report that both alumni and current CECI² Class members continue taking advantage of the Academy CECI² Mock Study Section Program, now led by CECF Mock Study Section Lead, Dr. Mariam Aboian. This programming, modeled after the NIH Study Section and Scientific Review process, continues to leverage the collective knowledge of the Council and the extensive experience of the Academy’s Membership, as they confidentially review, score, and revise actual grant proposals, giving new applicants much-needed support, peer review and feedback, knowledge, and confidence in their submissions.

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, and CECI² Alumni Page, which houses continuously updated information and opportunities, and continue to maintain the CECI² Directory, highlighting the focus of CECI² members’ research, while providing an accessible way to connect with one another.

**Links to CECI² Resources:**
- CECI² Alumni Resources: https://www.acadrad.org/ceci2-alumni/ - password: Alumni2022

**UPDATE: Academy’s Annual NIH Data Collection Project - FY20 & FY21’s Data**

Since the early 1990’s the Academy has collected and disseminated data on annual NIH funding to diagnostic radiology departments across the imaging community. Over the past three years the Academy staff has continued to undertake this Herculean task despite the limitations arising from the COVID pandemic. As many Academy members already know, in recent years, backlogs within the NIH’s Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Office have led to significant delays in the aggregation and publication of these data. We are pleased to announce that, through a new internal data collection process, outlined in our FY20-21 Data Collection Guidelines, we recently released two years of NIH data (FY20 & FY21) to our community.

These data are of immense value. The Academy leverages the annual findings as a strong advocacy tool on behalf of imaging research, which is why we continue to collect and collate the data. In addition, we know that many academic radiology leaders use these data for benchmarking their programs and advocating for their departments. In keeping with the Academy’s overall goal to identify a transparent way to disseminate the data, the data for FY20 and FY21 will continue to be published in the dynamic format we established in FY19. Below, you will find graphs and charts outlining the four categories of grant information and their corresponding totals.

**FY 2020 saw an increase of 6.5%** in NIH funding to Diagnostic Radiology Research across the United States (FY20 $736,081,482.00 vs. FY19 $691,222,041.79).

**FY21 saw an increase of 13.5%** in NIH funding to Diagnostic Radiology Research across the United States (FY21 $835,299,142.00 vs. FY20 $736,081,482.00).
It is the Academy’s hope that moving forward we will continue to collect and maintain this data without the need for a FOIA request. We are incredibly grateful to the members of our community, both Academy members and non-members, who contributed to this two-year data collection project.

**Links to NIH Data Collection Project Resources:**

NIH in Your State – A look at Funding to Diagnostic Imaging” Interactive Map:  
https://action.acadrad.org/client/password/login - password: ACADRAD1001

NIH Data Collection Project Webpage:  
http://www.acadrad.org/nih-datacollection-project/.

For any questions or concerns affiliated with this project or our current guidelines for inclusion, please contact Academy Project Lead Casey Cappelletti, ccappelletti@acadrad.org.
Academy’s 2022 Distinguished Investigators Council Awardees:
The Academy has received nearly 50 nominations of researchers to receive the Academy’s 2022 Distinguished Investigator Award. This prestigious honor recognizes individuals for their outstanding contributions to the field of medical imaging.

For the first time, this cohort of Distinguished Investigators will include researchers from imaging societies and industry partners. Including these significant contributors to medical imaging research alongside their colleagues from the academic space highlights and recognizes the broad influence and reach of imaging and radiology research.

“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. A detailed survey was sent to the nearly 500 members of this council, asking them what types of programming and engagement they find beneficial moving forward. Using this important feedback, the Academy is excited to launch dedicated DI programming, both virtual and in-person, similar to what is being done with the very active network of CECI².

A formal announcement of this year’s class we will be released in early September, 2022, the details on the date and time of this ceremony are also forthcoming.

Stay informed!
Academy Social Media Connections:
Twitter: follow us @Acadrad
Facebook: Like our page!
LinkedIn: Connect with us!
Newsletter: Subscribe today!