The Academy’s 11th annual Spring events and meetings were held May 14th - 16th, 2023 in Washington, DC. Participants were comprised of the Academy’s diverse membership and included a wide range of imaging stakeholders from our community including academia, industry, society leaders and staff, patient advocates, and government agency representatives. The Academy was excited to return to these well-attended in-person meetings after three years of scaled down events. This three-day event included our annual Medical Imaging Technology Showcase (#MedTech23) in addition to a Capitol Hill Advocacy Day and our Research Roundtable Discussion.

"The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is the premier funder of research that improves the lives of all Americans. The Academy recognizes the importance of continued advocacy efforts to support and grow the NIH through our spring events and meetings, including our annual Showcase. These events and meetings work to provide concrete evidence of the impact that the NIH has on early-stage investigators and highlights the innovative technologies developed through its robust and sustained funding."

- Dr. Ruth Carlos Academy President
ACADEMY’S 2023 MEDICAL IMAGING TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE (MEDTECH23)

On Monday of this event, the Academy hosted its signature advocacy event, a Medical Imaging Technology Showcase (#MedTech23) on Capitol Hill. This year’s event was held in the Rayburn House Office Building’s Gold Room and featured 27 members of the Academy Council of Early Career Investigators in Imaging (CECI²), Class of 2022. Each of these investigators displayed hands-on, interactive, and informative examples of their research efforts to policymakers, representatives from NIH, Academy leadership, and attendees from the Research Roundtable. This year, CECI² were organized into six categories based on their research interests, including:

- Artificial Intelligence
- Interventional Radiology
- Cancer Imaging
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging
- Computed Tomography
- Positron Emission Tomography

In addition to these early-career researchers, this event also featured information from both the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging & Bioengineering (NIBIB), and the Medical Imaging Data Resource Center (MIDRC), a multi-institutional collaborative initiative driven by three of the Academy’s member societies, the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM), the American College of Radiology (ACR), and the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA), and is funded by the NIBIB. Dr. Maryellen Geiger, the MIDRC’s principle investigator from the University of Chicago, was also on hand to answer questions about this impactful effort.

In order to connect this research with the people it serves, the evening also highlighted the voice of a patient that is directly impacted by imaging innovation. This year’s featured patient keynote speaker was Mr. Tom Tinlin, Chairman of the Brain Aneurysm Foundation and a brain aneurysm survivor. Tom’s powerful story highlights the critical role of imaging in diagnosing and treating life-threatening conditions.

“I cannot underscore the importance of patient advocates participation in events such as the Academy’s annual spring events and meetings, including MedTech23, enough. We are fortunate to bring a face, a story, and a true appreciation for what the radiology and biomedical imaging community has done. We humanize the message and the “ask” for the legislators and their staff. We complete the circle of research from bench to bedside. What this industry does is save lives, including mine. These events provide an opportunity for all of us, whose lives have been saved, to say thank you and attempt to advocate for the industry who, sadly, has many more lives to save.” - Tom Tinlin
Showcase attendees also heard remarks from Academy President Dr. Ruth Carlos, from the University of Michigan, who spoke on imaging and healthcare access equity, and Dr. J. David Prologo, from Emory University School of Medicine, who illustrated his innovative work using interventional radiology to reduce cancer patients’ exposure to opioid painkillers.

**2023 ACADEMY LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

On day two of this event, key representatives from academia, industry, the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and 32 early career investigators met at the Hall of the States for a half-day session led by prominent imaging stakeholders on three key topics identified by the Academy’s Coalition for Imaging & Bioengineering (CIBR) Steering Committee.

These discussions were moderated by Academy officers Dr. Ruth Carlos, Dr. Etta Pisano, and Dr. Pamela Woodard. The group was also honored to have had the opportunity to hear from an afternoon keynote speaker, one of three ARPA-H program managers, Dr. Ileana Hancu, and inquire about the plethora of funding opportunities soon to be released from this new and well-funded federal agency.

“"It was a pleasure to meet all of you at the Academy Roundtable Discussion and to listen to the unmet needs and possible projects that many of you have in mind. Please remember that ARPA-H is open for business, and we want you to send us all your aspirational, and crazy, ideas, of course, grounded in a shred of reality. We want you to dream big and remember that we cannot fund the projects for which we do not receive proposals!”" - Ileana Hancu, PhD

In addition to Dr. Hancu’s presentation, the agenda also included:

- **Mobile imaging for cancer to reach underserved or immobile patients.** Led by: Q.Y. Ma, PhD, CEO, Time Medical System Corp., and Christian Eusemann, PhD, Vice President, Research and Innovation, Collaboration Officer, Siemens Healthineers

- **Regulation in artificial intelligence (A.I.) and imaging.** Led by: Judy Wawira Gichoya, MD, MS, Assistant Professor, Department of Radiology, Emory University School of Medicine, and Qi Duan, PhD, Program Director, Division of Health Informatics Technologies, National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering

- **Using real-world evidence to support device approval.** Led by: Robert Ochs, PhD, Director, Office of Health Technology, Food & Drug Administration, and Brad Bower, PhD, Data and Technology Advancement National Service Scholar, National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering

The goal of these discussions aimed to create a better understanding of how academia, industry, and government agencies can collaborate more effectively to address some of the challenges of the day, to the betterment of the imaging community. In the days and weeks to come, the Academy will leverage the action items from this robust dialogue to facilitate these connections and enable the next steps needed to advance these unique subjects.
The Academy’s CECI² was established to recognize the achievements of researchers who are in the early phases of their careers, create program content that is valuable to them as a unique group, and engage them in advocacy initiatives as the true advocates of tomorrow. Members of this council are nominated by both member academic departments and societies annually and are engaged in a two-level year-long program which features both virtual and in-person programming. As a part of their Level-2, in-person, council programming, members of the CECI² Class of 2022 were invited to Washington, D.C. to attend and participate in the Academy’s 11th Annual Spring Events & Meetings.

A key part of these events includes our Academy Capitol Hill Day. Throughout this day on the hill, members of CECI² teamed up with additional Academy stakeholders to meet with nearly 70 Congressional offices. During their visits, our advocates sought to promote support for medical imaging research and inform policymakers about the ongoing and vital research efforts enabled by robust and sustained funds for the NIH. Funds which have led to new treatments and improved patient outcomes, nationwide.
On the last day of their Level-2 programming, CECI² spent half a day on the NIH’s Campus which included a visit to the NIH’s intramural research program at the world-renowned Clinical Center. Led by Dr. Brad Wood, Director of the NIH Center for Interventional Oncology, and Academy NIH liaison to the Board of Directors, and Dr. Peter Choyke, Chief of the Molecular Imaging Branch, the visit included short presentations on the NIH interventional radiology program, current molecular imaging research, clinical investigations at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), and the use of imaging biomarkers in the computer-aided diagnosis laboratory.

The remarks ended with a demonstration of an augmented reality program accessed on a personal cell phone and a guided tour of the NIH interventional radiology laboratory. Additional speakers from the Clinical Center included Dr. Baris Turkbey, National Cancer Institute (NCI), Dr. Ahmed Gharib (NIDDK), Dr. Tejas Mathai (computer-aided diagnosis laboratory), Dr. John Karanian (NCI), Dr. Ming Li (NCI) and Dr. Nicole Varble (NCI).

THE ACADEMY IS SO GRATEFUL TO OUR MEMBER DEPARTMENTS & SOCIETIES WHO WERE ABLE TO NOMINATE A MEMBER OF THIS YEAR’S CLASS OF COUNCIL OF EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATORS IN IMAGING (CECI²)
THE ACADEMY LEADERSHIP ARE THANKFUL FOR OUR MEMBERS, THROUGH WHOM A SUCCESSFUL RETURN TO THESE IN-PERSON EVENTS WAS MADE POSSIBLE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO ENGAGING EVEN MORE OF OUR COMMUNITY IN 2024!

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