



ASSOCIATION OF PROGRAM COORDINATORS IN RADIOLOGY

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President's Letter

April 2020

Dear Fellow APCR Members,

We are living in unprecedented times, living in a season of change and uncertainty, in conditions none of us have ever before experienced. But the sun still rises every morning, the grass still grows, spring has arrived (in Texas) unaware of COVID-19. But no matter where you are in the country, nature goes on as it always has. I find that encouraging.

As you all know, the theme for this year's AUR 68th Annual Meeting was "*Systems Thinking and Population Health in Radiology*". We should all thank President-elect Amanda Easton for her hard work in putting together a great program for us *that none of us will get to participate in!* Amanda turns over the role of program planning to Basia Nowakowski as she moves on to the role of President and Basia becomes the President-elect.

We want the membership to know that the Board conferred many times throughout the past year, discussing innovations to respond to the changing needs of the APCR and its members.

As required in our Rules of Operation, we will conduct an annual business meeting. This virtual meeting of the APCR will occur via WebEx at the originally planned APCR business meeting time on **Thursday, April 23rd from 11:00AM-12:00PM Eastern Time**. Please make arrangements to join with your fellow APCR members for this virtual meeting. The agenda and meeting documents are included here. Please review them and have them available to view during the meeting. Every effort will be made to conduct this meeting as efficiently as possible.

This is your organization. Plan to participate!

2020 is the year that the APCR celebrates 20 years of existence. Founding member Lois Shuman chaired the *20th Anniversary Celebration Ad Hoc Committee*. The committee members worked together planning a grand celebration reception to hold at the AUR annual meeting in Philadelphia. But COVID-19 has interfered with our plans and we must postpone this 20th anniversary celebration until we can gather in Boston for the 69th annual meeting of the AUR in 2021. (The year 2021 will be our 20th in person gathering.) Amanda Hicks has agreed to take over as committee chair since Lois plans to retire before the next AUR annual meeting in 2021. Lois, thank you for all your efforts on behalf of the APCR chairing this ad-hoc committee. And as you approach retiring from the Radiology Education, thank you for all the years of service to the APCR since you participated in the founding of our dynamic organization. Amanda, thank you for all your efforts this past year as a committee member and for agreeing to take on the role of committee chair to bring the committee's vision to life at the 2021 AUR annual meeting.

I want to thank all of our Committee Chairs for their leadership service over the past year. I know that you all worked with your committee members to prepare to make this year's APCR events an enjoyable and profitable experience for all our members. And I want to thank the committee members as well who willingly give their time in service to our membership.

Our committees are a vital part of our organization. They personify the purpose of the APCR: "to provide a forum for professional growth, encourage excellence and to provide educational opportunities in the field of GME and program administration."

I wonder what it was like for our founders. According to the history documented on the APCR website, it took two years of preparation and then in the year 2000 a group of thirty-five coordinators attended the inaugural meeting of the Association of Program Coordinators in Radiology at the annual AUR meeting

in Orlando. I am thankful for the vision, determination and wisdom of our founders and early members that created and established the APCR, *our* APCR.

Look at us now. Forty-nine new members joined us in the past year. That is more than the organization started with. We are now 206 members strong.

The APCR will continue to flourish/thrive as a forum for professional growth. Be an active participant. Consider how you can better contribute to the APCR committee on which you agreed to serve. If you are not yet a member of a committee, consider which committee's function most closely matches an area of interest for you. Contact the committee chair and offer to serve. If you are unsure, shadow or observe for a year to assess the fit. If you find that committee isn't a great fit, consider a different committee. But don't give up! Serving on a committee is an excellent way to cultivate relationships with other APCR members and to continue your professional development. (Committee descriptions are included in the meeting packet.)

If you are a new member, I challenge you to connect with a mentor. It is unfortunate that none of us will be able to meet you in person at AUR this year. But know that we are all here to support each other.

Veteran members, I want to encourage you to look over the list of new members. Can you reach out to one of them to welcome them?

I am grateful to all of the members of the APCR Board of Directors for their guidance and support this past year. It has been an honor to serve with the APCR Board of Directors. It is a strong team! I am especially thankful for the unwavering mentorship, guidance and support of Past President Joey Stuckelman.

I am proud to be a member of the APCR. It has been an honor to serve the APCR membership as President for the past year.

I leave you with these thoughts:

While it is disappointing that we won't be getting to see each other in Philadelphia at AUR this year, let's continue to support each other using today's technology. We will get through this unforeseen "war".

And let's focus on things to be thankful for-----

- the technologies that surround us and help us – for the computer on which I write this, for the programs that allow us to share life with each other while practicing social distancing, for the devices that save lives
- that we have electricity for powering the devices we need to work from home (and I normally only think about electricity when the power is out)
- that we *can* work from home and decrease the risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19
- thankful that we can get more sleep because the "commute" takes seconds rather than an hour
- that we have plenty of food to eat in spite of the bare grocery stores
- for the good attitude of the residents during this constant change and uncertainty we are living with
- especially for those who are on the frontlines, fighting this virus that has dramatically changed our world.

In the midst of this uncertainty, let's choose thankfulness. *Let's continue to serve faithfully with courage and confidence in a better tomorrow.*

Janet Palmer

Janet Palmer
APCR President