Title
The ACR intersociety committee: History, activities, and membership

Permalink
https://escholarship.org/uc/item/9t18c30n

Journal
Journal of the American College of Radiology, 10(5)

ISSN
1546-1440

Authors
Naeger, DM
Fletcher, TB
Dodd, GD

Publication Date
2013

DOI
10.1016/j.jacr.2012.07.010

Peer reviewed
The Intersociety Committee is a freestanding committee of the ACR established to promote collegiality and improve communication among national radiology organizations. The Intersociety Committee began in 1980 with 22 member organizations and has grown to approximately 50 member organizations. Each year, the Intersociety Committee sponsors a summer conference, at which representatives from the member organizations discuss issues facing radiology. Herein, the authors review the history of the committee, its activities to date, and the results of an extensive member survey conducted in 2010.

Key Words: Intersociety Committee, Intersociety Committee summer conference, ACR, survey


HISTORY
The first Intersociety Committee (ISC) of the ACR’s Board of Chancellors (BOC) was established in 1936. This committee was not continually maintained, but various formal and informal meetings of radiology society leaders were arranged by the ACR over the ensuing years. One of the most notable was a meeting in 1969, under the leadership of Robert McConnell, MD. That meeting was considered a great success, with particular emphasis placed on coordinating radiology’s socioeconomic efforts. This meeting led to representation of 17 specialty societies on the ACR Council, the 312-member body tasked with debating and approving ACR policies annually.

The genesis of the current iteration of the ISC began with a "summit" meeting held in the summer of 1979. The following year, the Intersociety Commission was officially established, and invitations were sent to all identifiable national radiology societies. Twenty-two societies joined that first year. The membership has steadily grown since then and now includes approximately 50 radiology organizations and 2 certifying boards.

Since 1979, the Intersociety Commission, renamed the Intersociety Committee in 2001, has sponsored annual summer conferences to address topics of global concern to the radiologic community. Each organization comes together on equal footing to learn, discuss, and formulate solutions. Organizations choose two representatives, generally the president and an administrator, to send to the meeting. Societies are responsible for the costs of attendance, although the ACR provides administrative and organizational support for the meeting itself.

MEMBERSHIP
Radiology organizations are invited to join the ISC if:
- National in scope;
- Have by-laws and are led by elected officers;
- Hold at least one annual meeting (only 4 current ISC-affiliated organizations report not holding annual meetings: the 2 certifying boards, a research academy, and 1 association);
- Have at least 50 members; and
- 50% of their members are board certified by the ABR, the American Board of Nuclear Medicine, the American Osteopathic Board of Radiology, or another similar approved board.

New membership requires a majority vote of the current members or, in the case of organizations not meeting all of the above criteria, a two-thirds vote of the members. The current ISC member organizations are listed in Table 1.

INTERSOCIETY COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP
The chair of the ACR BOC appoints the chair of the ISC to a 3-year renewable term. The chair of the ISC has a seat on the ACR BOC. The chair of the ISC in turn recommends members of the ISC Executive Committee to the chair of the ACR BOC. Since 1996, the ISC Executive Committee has been composed of 6 members, each of whom serves a 3-year term. The terms are staggered such that 2 members rotate off and 2 join each year. Executive Committee member appointees must have at-
Table 1. Current member organizations in the Intersociety Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academy of Radiology Research (ARR)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Association for Women Radiologists (AAWR)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Alliance of Academic Chief Residents in Radiology (A³CR)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Association of Physicians in Medicine (AAPM)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Board of Nuclear Medicine (ABNM) (observer)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Board of Radiology (ABR) (observer)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Brachytherapy Society (ABS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American College of Medical Physics (ACMP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American College of Nuclear Medicine (ACNM)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American College of Radiology (ACR) (private practice/ACR Council/residents)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Medical Association Section Council on Radiology (AMA-SR)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Osteopathic College of Radiology (AOOCR)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Radium Society (ARS)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Roentgen Ray Society (ARRS)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Society of Clinic Radiologists (ASCR)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Society of Emergency Radiology (ASER)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Society of Head and Neck Radiology (ASHNR)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Society of Neuroradiology (ASN)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Society of Spine Radiology (ASSR)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association of Program Directors in Radiology (APDR)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association of Residents in Radiation Oncology (ARRO)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association of University Radiologists (AUR)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association of VA Radiologists (AVAR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian Association of Radiologists (CAR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Magnetic Resonance Society (CMRS)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council on Cardiovascular Radiology and Intervention of the American Heart Association (CVRI-AHA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fleischner Society (FS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Skeletal Society (ISS)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine (ISMRM)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Medical Association Section on Radiology (NMA-SR)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North American Society for Cardiovascular Imaging (NASCI)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiological Society of North America (RSNA)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiological Society of North America Research and Education Foundation (RSNA-RE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society for Imaging Informatics in Medicine (SIIM)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society for Pediatric Radiology (SPR)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society for the Advancement of Women’s Imaging (SAWI)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society of Abdominal Radiology (SAR) formed by the merger of the Society of Gastrointestinal Radiologists [SGR] and the Society of Uroradiology [SUR]*)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society of Breast Imaging (SBI)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society of Chairs of Academic Radiology Departments (SCARD)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society of Computed Body Tomography and Magnetic Resonance (SCBTRM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society of Neurointerventional Surgery (SNIS)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society of Radiologists in Ultrasound (SRU)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society of Skeletal Radiology (SSR)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society of Thoracic Radiology (STR)*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The organization completed the 2010 Intersociety Committee membership survey.

The ISC chairs from 1980 to the present are as follows:
- 1980 to 1986: Lee F. Rogers, MD
- 1986 to 1989: Glen W. Hartman, MD
- 1989 to 1995: Bruce McClennan, MD
- 1995 to 1996: E. Stephen Amis Jr, MD
- 1996 to 2002: Kay H. Vydareny, MD
- 2002 to 2008: N. Reed Dunnick, MD
- 2008 to 2014: Gerald D. Dodd III, MD

**INTERSOCIETY COMMITTEE SUMMER CONFERENCES**

The first ISC summer conference in 1979 focused on representing radiology, radiology's interaction with government, quality of care, and the future of collaboration among societies. In 1980, the conversation continued, focusing on the structure and function of organized radiology as a whole. The conference in 1981 focused on the structure of the ISC itself. The ensuing 3 decades saw myriad interesting topics, with highlights listed below:
- 1982: Residency Training
- 1984: Self-Referral
- 1985: Malpractice
- 1986: The Radiologist’s Role as a Primary Physician
- 1988: Recertification
- 1992 and 1993: Health Care Reform
- 1996: The Effect of the Digital Age on Radiology
- 2001: Maintenance of Certification

The topics of the 5 most recent ISC summer conferences were as follows:

**The Results of the ISC Summer Conference**

The principal product of the ISC’s annual summer conference is a white paper published in the JACR each year [1-5]. The white paper reflects the dialogue made possible by bringing together the diverse membership of the ISC. Because of its very structure and charge, the ISC does not have direct control over the member organizations. It strives to be relevant and influential through an open exchange of ideas and free discussion.

James Thrall, MD, past chairman and president of the ACR BOC, recently catalogued 3 examples of the for-

Ad hoc members are also possible but are limited to 1-year terms.

The ISC has been a true leader in the field of radiology, and its annual conferences have been a valuable resource for the radiology community.
ward-thinking discussions over the years and the resul-
tant effects [6]. First was a critical discussion in the early
1990s about an impending shortage of radiologists re-
sulting from the proliferation of CT and MRI; this re-
sulted in some departments expanding residencies to
meet the impending needs. Second was a discussion dur-
ing the 2003 ISC summer conference of the role of radi-
ologist assistants, a discussion that influenced the
College’s position on radiologist assistants and the Col-
lege’s work with certifying organizations. Third, the ISC
discussed training for the future of radiology in 2005;
many concerns raised at that meeting have been reflected
in the evolving ABR examination of the future (the first
core examination will be administered in October 2013).
The ISC summer conferences have resulted in other
actions over the years as well. These include the creation
of task forces, including task forces to identify ways to
complement our organizations’ efforts in education, re-
search, and socioeconomic endeavors [5] and a task force
to address the number of radiology resident positions
(suggested at the 2000 conference). The ISC has drafted
numerous ACR resolutions, and in 1997, the ISC helped
in the adoption of an updated ACR code of ethics. The
ISC has drafted multiple letters over the years, including
to the ABR, the Diagnostic Radiology Residency Review
Committee, the Association of Program Directors in Ra-
diology, the RSNA, and so on. Intersociety Committee
meetings have also resulted in surveys (including the one
reported herein) and have spurred new research [7,8].

WHO ARE WE? THE 2010 ISC MEMBERSHIP
SURVEY
The title of the 2010 ISC summer conference was “The
Radiology Conglomerate: Optimizing the Structure and
Function of the 50-Plus Radiology Organizations.” The
membership of the ISC has grown in conjunction with
the proliferation of new radiology societies; the agenda
for the 2010 conference was selected to help assess the
structure, function, and emphases of the more than 50
radiologic organizations and to specifically look for
areas of overlap and synergies. In preparation for this
meeting, it was felt essential to survey all member
societies about key organizational details. This survey
served as the substrate for the meeting while providing
many interesting insights.
The survey was developed and administered by an ad
hoc task force given the title ACR Task Force on Inter-
society Collaboration and Consolidation. The survey
was distributed and collected via PDF files. Forty sur-
veyed organizations (82%) responded; these organiza-
tions are indicated by asterisks in Table 1. The complete
list of survey questions appears in the Appendix online at
http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jacr.2012.07.010.
The 40 responding organizations reported a total of
832 staff members, 36 annual meetings, 22 journals, 39
Web sites, and 15 foundations. The size and membership
composition of the societies are varied, although most
report education and an annual meeting as central prior-
ities (85% and 88%, respectively).
Most societies host annual meetings with relatively
small budgets (<$750,000), although multiple multi-
million dollar meetings are hosted by the larger societies.
Clinical education is a priority at 92% of the societal
meetings; 75% also report having scientific sessions and
business meetings. Corporate support for meetings is
variable, although most societies report declining sup-
port over the past 3 to 5 years.
Sixteen societies have foundations. Thirteen of the
foundations have separate boards of directors, and 7 have
professional development staffs. One foundation has
more than $50 million in holdings, and 6 foundations
have between $2 million and $9 million each; together,
these 7 foundations hold approximately $85 million,
whereas the remaining 9 foundations hold a combined
total of approximately $2 million.
Three-fourths of the societies report collaborations
with other societies, with more than 300 unique collab-
orations indicated (graphically depicted in Fig. 1). De-
tailed survey results are available in an Appendix online at
http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jacr.2012.07.010.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE
The 2012 ISC summer conference’s title is “Radiology
Online: Information, Education, and Networking.” In
the year of Facebook’s initial public offering, the largest
for a technology company in history, this topic seems
well timed. Social networking, already a major force in
education, business, and society, will likely to continue to
grow in its influence. The ISC aims to address how these
trends may affect (and be used by) radiology as a whole
and the ISC member organizations.
As envisioned by its founders, the ISC has proven to be
a unifying influence and strengthening force within the
specialty. The ISC summer conferences have been well
attended, well received, and increasingly popular and
productive.

TAKE-HOME POINTS
• The ISC is a freestanding committee of the ACR,
  which hosts an annual summer conference bringing
  together leaders from more than 50 radiology societies.
• The topics discussed at the annual summer conference
  vary by year and are chosen to reflect current chal-
  lenges facing the field.
• Each annual summer conference allows the open ex-
  change of ideas and has been credited with helping
  move the field forward on a number of issues. The ISC
  has also resulted in the creation of task forces, the
  administration of surveys, and occasionally the draft-
  ing of ACR resolutions.
The ISC commissioned an extensive member survey in 2010 that offers a rare glimpse at the structure and function of our diverse radiology organizations, the results of which are reported herein.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank the members of the ACR Task Force on Intersociety Collaboration and Consolidation: Thomas B. Fletcher, MD (chair), Beverly G. Coleman, MD, Renee L. Cruea, Burton P. Drayer, MD, Jason Itri, MD, Jonathan S. Lewin, MD, Martha B. Mainiero, MD, Arthur E. Stillman, MD, PhD, Richard Henry Wiggins III, MD, and Pamela F. Mechler, CAE, CMP (staff).

REFERENCES


APPENDIX

The Appendix contains the full survey results and may be accessed online at http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jacr.2012.07.010.