

## **Eager to Face the Challenges that Lie Ahead**



James Thrall, MD, FACR  
Chair of RADPAC

RADPAC enjoyed a record-breaking year in 2006 by raising more hard money and hard and soft money combined than in any other previous year despite only 6% of members contributing to RADPAC – 1,700 contributors out of 27,000 ACRA members.

The RADPAC Board has set ambitious goals for the upcoming 2007-2008 election cycle to include raising \$2,000,000 and to increase support for RADPAC through practice participation. To date, more than 30 practices have 100% of their radiologists contributing to RADPAC.

It is my belief that radiologists need to take a more pro-active and vested interest in protecting our profession. We have spent countless hours studying and working hard to perfect our craft. In order for us to maintain our status as the experts in imaging services, radiologists need to have our collective political voice heard on Capitol Hill.

The result of the elections this past November is a drastic shift in political power with the Democrats now in control of both the House and the Senate. What everyone now wants to know is how this political shift in Congress will affect radiologists.

With these new political dynamics, health care priorities in Congress will certainly change. Congress next year will likely focus on prescription drug safety issues, federal funding for stem cell research, efforts to cover the uninsured and a variety of Medicare reforms.

One of the ways that we can keep the issue of imaging reimbursement on the legislative forefront is through the continued, aggressive efforts of RADPAC. In the most recent 2005-2006 election cycle, RADPAC was represented at more than 290 fundraising events and contributed more than \$1,100,000 to federal candidates, political parties and leadership committees. At these events, RADPAC educated Members of Congress and their staff about the flawed policy of the imaging cuts included in the 2005 Deficit Reduction Act (DRA).

RADPAC has already started working with the new Congressional leadership and will continue to fight for legislative fixes for appropriate reimbursement for imaging services. I look forward to working with you as we face the challenges that lie ahead for our profession.

Thank you for your support and I look forward to working with you in the future. If you have any questions, please contact Ted Burnes, director of RADPAC, at 888-295-8843 or via e-mail at [tburnes@acr.org](mailto:tburnes@acr.org), or you may contact Heather Kaiser via e-mail at [heatherk@acr.org](mailto:heatherk@acr.org).