

Eager to Face the Challenges that Lie Ahead



James Thrall, MD, FACR
Chair of RADPAC

RADPAC enjoyed a record-breaking first quarter so far in 2007 by raising more hard money and hard and soft money combined than in any other previous year at this time. In fact RADPAC raised over \$290,000 in hard money alone with a total hard and soft money over \$340,000.

Much of RADPAC's growth can be attributed to entire group practices signing on to contribute to RADPAC. This is often done by electronic wire transfer of funds and has shown to be a very easy and effortless way to get whole practices to contribute to RADPAC. In addition, the RADPAC Board has started a pilot program to target practices within certain states. The states involved in this pilot program are Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee, Washington and West Virginia. To date, more than 30 practices have 100% of their radiologists contributing to RADPAC.

In addition to the money RADPAC has raised are the fundraisers for members of Congress that RADPAC has sponsored and attended. RADPAC is more visible on Capitol Hill than ever as shown by the fact that so far for 2007 RADPAC has attended over 100 fundraisers and has hosted fundraisers for Rep. Ron Lewis (R-Ky.), Rep. George Radanovich (R-Calif.), Rep. Charles Boustany (R-La.), Rep. Adam Putnam (R-Fla.) and Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-Calif.). One of the ways that we can keep key radiology issues such as the issue of imaging reimbursement on the legislative forefront is through the continued, aggressive efforts of RADPAC.

RADPAC continues to work with the new Congressional leadership and will continue to fight for legislative fixes for appropriate reimbursement for imaging services. On March 1, Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy (D-N.Y.) introduced H.R. 1293, Access to Medicare Imaging Act of 2007. This bill is a continuation of the fight ACR has taken on against the imaging cuts that were included as part of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005.

During the first quarter another important project was to make RADPAC more attuned to contributor's needs and interests. Several new programs were instituted to do just that. Each month there will be a survey question on the RADPAC website,

<http://radpac.acr.org/>, that will be used to gather information from contributors about their needs and interests and what is considered RADPAC's strengths as well as areas that could be improved. Additionally on the website, RADPAC created an "Ask RADPAC" feature that will allow you to ask specific questions or request RADPAC information for presentations at chapter and practice meetings. Also new on the website are RADPAC's top three Performing states in 2007, presentation materials about RADPAC for chapters to use during their state chapter meetings and finally Congressional testimonial videos supporting RADPAC.

Currently, RADPAC is preparing for the 2007 Annual Meeting and Chapter Leadership Conference where it will host the RADPAC Gala with keynote speaker Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy (D-N.Y.) and comedian Jim Morris.

I continue to look forward to working with you as we face the challenges that lie ahead for our profession. If you have any questions, please contact Ted Burnes, director of RADPAC, at 888-295-8843 or via e-mail at tburnes@acr.org, or you may contact Heather Kaiser via e-mail at hkaiser@acr.org.