New Opportunities with ACR International Service
The American College of Radiology Foundation hopes to increase international service efforts.

It's a new era for the ACR and its international volunteer activities. In December 2008 the Board of the Radiology Outreach Foundation (ROF) made the decision to dissolve the organization and move its assets to the ACR Foundation. In turn, the ACR moved its international service program to the ACR Foundation and formed a new committee, the ACR Foundation International Outreach Committee. The newly devised committee is chaired by James Borgstede, M.D., former Chair of the ACR Board of Chancellors and the ACR Committee on International Service. The committee includes a who's who of outstanding radiologists who have been committed to improving radiological care abroad. The teaming of the ROF assets and ACR Foundation resources will provide greater opportunity to making a world of difference in the delivery of radiological services in the developing world.

Looking Back

The ROF brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the ACR Foundation. The Radiology Outreach Foundation was created in 1988 by Dr. Charles A. Gooding in San Francisco, CA. The organization strived to improve healthcare in developing countries by providing radiology imaging equipment, educational materials, consultations, education and training to physicians. The ROF contributed over $15 million in books, videotapes, and supplies to health care centers in over 70 countries. The ACR has retained Dr. Gooding along with Barry Goldberg, M.D. and Stuart Royal, M.D., all former ROF Board members, on the new committee.

The development of the ACR International Volunteer System (ACRIVS at https://internationalservice.acr.org) is only one contribution that ACR has made to help improve healthcare in the developing world. This year the ACR assisted in creating and distributing digital copies of Dr. Philip Palmer’s and Dr. Maurice Reeder’s book, “Imaging of Tropical Diseases,” at the International Congress of Radiology meeting. The ACR has also been active in distributing educational materials to developing countries. In addition, the ACR has established ongoing efforts with Iraq to help radiologists there continue to keep pace with the evolution of radiology technology and technique. For more detailed information on past programs of the ACR and the Radiology Outreach Foundation, please read the article in the ACR Bulletin titled, “All Together Now.”

Featured Service Organization

The East Africa Medical Assistance Foundation was established in 1987 to provide medical care, education, equipment and training in Tanzania. The East Africa Medical Assistance Foundation has focused primarily on advancing radiology skills and equipping medical facilities with radiology equipment, since radiology is such an integral part of diagnosing and treating disease. Helmut Diefenthal, MD heads the efforts in Tanzania. He has been working in Tanzania for the past 22 years, most of that time he has worked at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center. Dr. Diefenthal helped established the Kilimanjaro School of Radiology in 1993 that has trained 60 Assistant Medical Officers and 21 radiologists. He also created the radiology curriculums for the 2-year Assistant Medical Officer program and the 4-year MD program.

The East Africa Medical Assistance Foundation has several options for people to contribute to their efforts. They look for volunteers to come and assist the residents at KCMC. They accept monetary and equipment donations, currently they are seeking a 16-slice CT machine. For information on donating and/or volunteering contact Marianne Cooper at office@eastafricafoundation.org or by phone at (651) 917-6252.
Looking to the Future

One of the greatest assets given by the Radiology Outreach Foundation was their extensive list of contacts with medical centers throughout the developing world. In the coming months the International Outreach Program will be contacting these medical centers to assess and determine needs. These assessments will help identify additional volunteer and donation opportunities. The ACR is also considering some revisions to the existing ACRIVS to further encourage volunteer opportunities and drive more traffic to the site. You may send comments or suggestions about the site to Virginia Dawson at vdawson@acrarrs.org.

Featured Opportunity

Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders) is seeking a radiologist with experience in diagnosing tropical diseases via ultrasound and x-ray and with emergency obstetrics ultrasound. Key objectives of this position are:

- Aid in putting the recommendations of the “Diagnostic Strategy 2008-2010” into action.
- Increase diagnostic imaging capacity, quality and availability in MSF field programs.
- Act as diagnostic imaging advisor for medical/public health departments and field staff for all MSF sections.
- Collaborate with biomedical engineers for selection and follow-up of the use and performance of the equipment.

This position is based in Amsterdam and is a 6 month contract position with possible extension.

For a more detailed job description and contact information click here.

ACR Foundation Grant Program Enters Its Second Year

The 2009 Goldberg/Reeder Grant recipients look forward to an exciting service opportunity.

One of the first achievements of the new ACR Foundation International Outreach Program was the establishment of the Goldberg-Reeder travel grant program. The Goldberg/Reeder travel grants are awarded to two radiology residents each year. Entries for consideration must be received by June 30th. By accepting the grants the recipients agree to provide a month of service in a developing country improving healthcare. The grant is named after Barry Goldberg, MD, who is the director of the Jefferson Ultrasound Research and Education Institute, and Maurice Reeder, MD, whose book on the imaging of tropical diseases is available for free to clinics in developing nations. As the American College of Radiology Foundation announces this year’s recipients of the Goldberg/Reeder Resident Travel Grants, it seems appropriate to take a moment to applaud the work of last year’s recipients, Dr. Matthew Kogut and Dr. Daniel Cooke.

Dr. Kogut and Dr. Cooke arrived in Tanzania on December 14, 2008. They visited the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center (KCMC) to assist Dr. Helmut Diefenthal in training radiologists there. Dr. Diefenthal has been at the KCMC since the 1970s and has trained most of the radiologists in Tanzania. During their stay in Tanzania Dr. Kogut and Dr. Cooke kept busy. They assisted as residents, gave lectures on basic interventions and set up an interventional stockroom. They also created a model for training in ultrasound guided procedures.

The 2009 Goldberg/Reeder Travel Grants have been awarded to Dr. Sonia Bobra and Dr. Aarti Sekhar. Both the recipients will be travelling to the same facility in Tanzania. Dr. Sekhar is a fifth year resident at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. Dr. Sekhar has had experience volunteering at an HIV orphanage in Guatemala, speaking out against female circumcision in Kenya, and working with public health workers in Costa Rica. She hopes to incorporate her interest in abdominal imaging into her experience at KCMC.

Dr. Sonia Bobra is a fourth year resident at the University of Illinois Medical Center in Chicago. She was inspired to participate in international service at a young age after visiting the slums of India. She has had extensive domestic and international volunteer experience including volunteering in orphanages in Mumbai, assisting Somalian refugees in reuniting with their families, volunteering in a free clinic and providing medical care to villages in the Himalayas.

Dr. Bobra and Dr. Sekhar will be embarking on their travels in October and have agreed to update the ACR community on their experiences there. Keep an eye out on the ACRIVS website for their stories.

How Will You Help?

International service doesn't necessarily have to mean going abroad for a long period of time. You can start helping by spreading the word! Here's some ways to get you started:

- Forward this newsletter for 5 friends or colleagues.
- Contact us if you know of any organizations looking for volunteers or donations.
- Ask your medical facility if they have any materials they’d like to donate.
- Share any experience you have of volunteering abroad.