## ACR History Archive – Institution Chronology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1916</td>
<td>American Radium Society is founded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td>Dr. Albert Soiland writes letters to 100 prominent members of radiology to propose a conference to establish the American College of Radiology.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>During the annual meeting of the American Medical Association, 21 radiologists meet and organize the American College of Radiology. Dr. George Pfahler is elected the College’s first president.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>With Dr. Alpert Soiland as Executive Secretary, the first assembly and convocation of the College is held in Chicago. The original Constitution and Bylaws are adopted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>Dr. Benjamin Orndoff begins service as the new Executive Secretary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>The Constitution and Bylaws are rewritten to emphasize the importance of education and economics. ACR membership totals just over 200.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>The Commission on Education holds its first Conference of Teachers of Clinical Radiology.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937</td>
<td>InterSociety Committee for Radiology is created to protect the interests of radiology from insurance and the New Deal. The committee includes the ACR, RSNA, ARRS, and the ARS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1938</td>
<td>Mac Cahill becomes Executive Secretary and is the first paid staff of the ACR.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1939</td>
<td>The Constitution and Bylaws are once again edited to reflect changes in the needs of the profession. The objectives of the College are stated: &quot;To establish an organization of radiologists for the purpose of advancing the science of radiology and improving radiological service to the sick by means of the study of the economic aspects of the practice of radiology, and the encouragement of improved educational facilities for radiologists.&quot; The new Constitution allows for two classes of eligible members: Membership and Fellowship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>ACR chancellors adopt a motion supporting the American war effort. ACR membership totals over 1,000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>The Constitution and Bylaws are revised again to allow the appointment of state councilors. The College offers liability insurance to its members. The US enters World War II and the Board votes to waive the dues for any radiologist on active duty.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1942  At the annual meeting of the Board, the College creates the Committee on Radiologic Units Standards and Protection. The monthly ACR Bulletin is also started this year.

1944  ACR recognizes and addresses the need for widespread screening for tuberculosis and the limited number of qualified radiologists.

1946  Changes in the Constitution allow for associate fellowships in physics. The College holds a special convocation at the second InterAmerican Congress of Radiology in Havana, Cuba. William Stronach is hired as Executive Director.

1950  The College has nine commissions. The College leads the fight for standardized nomenclature to determine which radiology procedures are standard for treatment covered by Blue Cross insurance. Membership grows to 2,542.

1954  The headquarters move to the Chicago Civic Opera House.

1955  The College continues to push for insurance coverage, and by 1956 more than 20 Blue Cross plans offer coverage for radiation therapy.

1957  The College develops its first relative value scale for radiology services.

1958  The ACR Foundation is created.

1963  The Board of Chancellors formerly approves charters for state chapters and approves the Council as the College’s delegate assembly.

1965  Medicare legislation is passed.

1967  ACR takes over annual mammography conferences that had been started by Dr. Robert Egan at MD Anderson in 1960. The scope of this conference is later expanded and becomes the National Conference on Breast Cancer.

1968  Public Law 90-602 establishes standards for all X-ray-generating devices. At the annual meeting in June, the Board of Chancellors surrenders its policy-making role to the Council.

1969  The College opens a Washington, DC office.

1970  The College’s continued efforts (from 1965) at recognition for radiologists in Medicare give radiologists essentially the same rights under the plan as other physicians. The College becomes involved with President Nixon's "war against cancer".

1971  CT scanners help open the doors for computer aided imaging. The College takes over management of the ARRS annual meeting.
The Radiation Therapy Oncology Group, organized by Simon Kramer, MD, at Thomas Jefferson University, receives funding from the National Cancer Institute to conduct radiation therapy multicenter clinical trials.

1973  The College announces that there are enough radiologists practicing to remove endorsement for physician owned and used ultrasound and X-ray systems. The College successfully persuades Medicare to pay for diagnostic ultrasound exams.

The Patterns of Care Study in radiation oncology is implemented.

1976  The College issues its first series of guidelines for mammography screening.

1978  The first Radiology Summit is held in Colorado Springs, Colorado, in August.

1982  The Board of Chancellors and the Council vote to move the headquarters to the Washington, DC area. John Curry is promoted to Executive Director.

1983  The College reports that 80 percent, or 13,817, of the living American Board of Radiology diplomats are members of the College.

1985  The College moves its new headquarters to Reston, Virginia, in November.

1986  Headquarters formally dedicated on April 13, 1986.

1987  The Radiological Diagnostic Oncology Group is founded to evaluate current and emerging imaging modalities in the management of patients with cancer.

ACR testifies to Congress the need to develop a separate experience-based relative value scale for radiology. The provision is included in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987.

The ACR Mammography and Radiation Oncology Accreditation Programs are launched.

1988  Influenced by the College, Congress passes a bill that includes biennial screening mammography as a new benefit.

1989  The College begins collecting data for implementation of the experience-based relative value schedule (radiology RVS).

1990  A survey by the College estimates that Americans receive between 275 and 350 million medical imaging procedures in this year. Teleradiology becomes a viable and efficient resource for radiologists.

Mammography screening becomes the first preventive service to be covered by Medicare.
The ACR is awarded a cooperative agreement grant from the CDC for activities related to mammography quality assurance.

**1992**  Congress passes and the President signs into law the *Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA)* of 1992.

ACR publishes the first edition of the Breast Imaging Reporting and Data System (BI-RADS®).

**1993**  Task Force on Appropriateness Criteria created to develop a system to assist radiologists and referring physicians in making decisions about diagnostic imaging and therapeutic treatment.

Congress passes, with ACR support, an extension of the “Stark Law” which creates prohibitions for radiology and other self-referral imaging services and to radiation therapy services and supplies.

**1994**  FDA approves ACR’s Mammography Program as an accrediting body under MQSA.

**1995**  The College manages a joint effort with nearly 50 societies, 70 suppliers, and 4 public health organizations, celebrating the 100th anniversary of Roentgen’s discovery of the X-ray, the Radiology Centennial, Inc.

ACR launches Ultrasound Accreditation Program.

**1996**  The College reports a total membership of 31,156 and more than 200 employees in the Reston and Philadelphia offices. The ACR launches a Stereotactic Breast Biopsy Accreditation program.

**1997**  MRI Accreditation program is launched. Vascular component is added to the Ultrasound Accreditation Program.

**1998**  The College retains the services of The History Factory to preserve and organize the archives as a legacy to future College members.

The ACR’s Ultrasound-Guided Breast Biopsy Accreditation program is added to the Breast Ultrasound Accreditation Program.

The College fends off attempt to repeal Stark self-referral law by House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee Chairman Bill Thomas.

**1999**  The College celebrates its 75th anniversary.

Funding is granted for the ACR Imaging Network (ACRIN) through the NCI.

The ACR launches its Nuclear Medicine Accreditation Program.

The College successfully advocates for communicating screening mammography results directly to patients as part of MQSA.
The American College of Radiology Imaging Network (ACRIN) receives grant award of $23 million to conduct medical imaging multi-center clinical trials under the direction of Bruce Hillman, MD, and Constantine Gatsonis, PhD.

2000 The ACR Radiology Advocacy Alliance and RADPAC are established. The American College of Radiology Association is incorporated.

The National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) is established as part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

2001 Editorial Review board created to ensure quality of ACR education programs.

The name of the Commission on Standards and Accreditation is changed to the Commission on Quality and Safety to more accurately reflect ACR activities.

ACR tag line “Quality is our Image™” is established.

2002 ACR launches separate CT Accreditation program. PET is added to the Nuclear Medicine Accreditation Program.

2003 RADPEER™ tool designed for peer review is implemented.

In the wake of the 9/11 tragedy, a Primer on Disaster Preparedness is released.

ACR Chapter Recognition Program launched.

First ACR eBulletin is published.

2004 Government Relations office is reestablished in Washington, DC.

JACR is launched.

ACR PRED™ (Practice of Radiology Environment Database) is established.

ACR hires full-time public relations manager to help increase the ACR’s role as the “Voice of Radiology”.

2005 eRADPEER is introduced.

Popular online CME program Case-in-Point™ is introduced.

ACR International Outreach Committee is established to improve radiology services and technology in the developing world.

The Patterns of Care study is renamed QRRO, Quality Research in Radiation Oncology.

Results of the ACRIN trial “Diagnostic Performance of Digital vs. Film Mammography for Breast Cancer Screening” are published.
2006  ACRIN Campaign for Imaging Innovation is launched, raising nearly $7 million to supplement ACRIN clinical research.

First members-only Webcast used as new communications and advocacy tool.

The concept of the ACR Education Center is conceived.

The National Oncologic PET Registry is launched to provide data to expand reimbursed uses of PET for cancer. The program is managed by the ACRIN.

2007  Cardiac MRI is added to the MRI Accreditation Program. The ACR establishes the Breast Imaging Centers of Excellence. ACR National Radiology Data Registry (NRDR) is launched.

2008  Unique, cutting-edge ACR Education Center opens.

Congress passes the Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA). Provision includes requirement for accreditation of CT, MRI, breast MRI, nuclear medicine and PET exams for providers that bill Medicare Part B.

ACR IV Contrast Extravasation Registry (ICE), CT Colonography Registry (CTC) and the General Radiology Improvement Database (GRID) are launched.

The ACR becomes a founding member of the Alliance for Radiation Safety in Pediatric Imaging along with the SPR, AAPM and ASRT. Image Gently is launched.


Initial results from the National Oncologic PET Registry (NOPR) are published in the Journal of Clinical Oncology. This and subsequent publications analyzing NOPR data lead Medicare to cover the vast majority of oncologic indications.

2009  Congress passes landmark Affordable Care Act. The law expands insurance coverage through the use of health care exchanges. ACR inserts legislative language to maintain payment for annual mammography screening exams for women 40 and older.

National Oncologic PET Registry is launched. National Mammography Database Registry is launched.

Based in large part on the results on the NOPR peer-reviewed publications, CMS expands coverage for the use of PET for cancer patients.

2010  Breast MRI Accreditation Program is launched. The ACR is approved by CMS as an accrediting organization under MIPPA.

Image Wisely, a joint initiative with the RSNA and focused on reducing radiation dose to adults, is launched.
Results of an RTOG study published in the New England Journal of Medicine confirms that tumor HPV status is a strong and independent prognostic factor for survival among patients with oropharyngeal cancer, leading the way to more personalized treatment strategies for this patient population.

2011 Radiology Leadership Institute (RLI) is established. ACR launches American Institute for Radiologic Pathology (AIRP) to preserve former AFIP. The ACR also launches the Dose Index Registry.

Results of the National Lung Screening Trial are published in the New England Journal of Medicine that demonstrate screening people at high-risk for lung cancer with low-dose CT saves lives.


2012 Chapter Advocacy Network is established. The Harvey L. Neiman Health Policy Institute is launched to examine the role of radiology in evolving health care delivery and payment systems.

2013 New Diagnostic Imaging Centers of Excellence program is launched.

ACR Select, based on the ACR Appropriateness Criteria® and incorporated into computerized ordering and EHR systems to guide providers when ordering medical imaging scans, is launched.

Liver Imaging Reporting and Data System (LI-RADS) version 1.0 is launched.

2014 Congress passes the Protecting Access to Medicare Act. This includes: 1.) required consultation of appropriateness criteria for ordering physicians, 2.) CMS justification for reduced radiology reimbursement, 3.) phasing in of steep reductions over a two year period, and 4.) improved safety through stricter control on radiation dose delivered using advanced diagnostic imaging.

Chief Executive Officer, Harvey L. Neiman, MD, retires. Neiman is hailed as an innovative, visionary leader.

William Thorwarth, Jr., MD takes over as Chief Executive Officer.

Based on ACRIN run trial, Lung Cancer Screening is endorsed by US Preventative Services Task Force.

Lung CT Screening and Reporting Data System (LungRads) is launched.

NRDR approved by CMS as a Qualified Clinical Data Registry (QCDR).

The Imaging and Radiation Therapy Core (IROC) administered by the ACR is funded to carry out a comprehensive quality assurance program for the NCI’s National Clinical Trials Network.