Radiology Education Days Exceeds Expectations

Over 90 participants attended the first Haiti Radiology Education Days June 4-5 at the Grace Children’s Hospital in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The ACR, along with the American Society of Radiologic Technologists and the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers sent a team of 11 radiologists, radiologic technologists and medical sonographers to execute an ambitious schedule of didactic and hands-on training sessions during the intensive two-day course.

ACR’s Involvement in Haiti

Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere. The January 2010 earthquake ravaged the country killing over 300,000 and made over 1 million homeless in and around Port-au-Prince. Immediately following the earthquake, the ACR put out a call to action to identify radiologists who had volunteered recently in Haiti. Those volunteers were surveyed to better determine the impact on the facilities where they served, the damage sustained to equipment and infrastructure, personnel training and education deficiencies and other radiological problems on the ground. In addition, the ACR established the Haiti Radiology Group which formed its own Linked-In group and meets on an ongoing basis to coordinate efforts on the ground in Haiti.

Just over one year after the earthquake, the ACR sent Jim Borgstede, M.D., Chair, ACR Foundation International Outreach Committee (ACRF IOC), Paul Ellenbogen, M.D., current Chair, ACR Board of Chancellors, Chuck Phelps, M.D., long-term volunteer at Grace Children’s Hospital and Brad Short who staffs the ACRF IOC, on a fact finding mission. The group toured Grace Children’s Hospital, the University Hospital in Port-au-Prince, the Hospital of Peace in Port-au-Prince, Radiolab (a private facility near the University Hospital) and the Haitian Medical Society. The group also met with several of the 19 radiologists serving a population of roughly 10 million Haitians. Here is a brief summary of what they found during their trip [http://bit.ly/ngSIOl](http://bit.ly/ngSIOl).

Shortly after the fact finding mission, the ACR Board of Chancellors approved a plan to provide sustained radiology support for improving radiology both at Grace Children’s Hospital and in the country at large. Immediately following the quake, Grace rebuilt temporary facilities and began accepting outpatient adults as well as both inpatient and outpatient children. In the fall of 2011, the ACR worked with Siemens to facilitate the donation of a portable x-ray “hybrid” unit to help at the transitional facility. Grace is working to rebuild an expanded, reinforced and largely self-contained permanent facility on its current grounds. The new hospital would likely be built in the 2015-2016 timeframe.
Educational Program

For 2012, Dr. Ellenbogen suggested developing a basic two-day educational program aimed at improving radiology services in Haiti. The intended audience was radiologists and other physicians utilizing radiology equipment, radiologic technicians and other health personnel. The concept included morning didactic sessions primarily utilizing plain film and ultrasound followed by afternoon courses teaching hands-on clinical image review and hands-on ultrasound training. Sonosite and GE loaned portable ultrasound units for the meeting.

Douglas “Rusty” Brown, M.D. was tapped as chair of the program committee. Under Dr. Brown’s direction, the ACR developed a survey instrument to send to a cross-section of expected attendees. Prospective attendees were queried on the type of radiology equipment they use and the most common diseases they are faced with each day. They were also asked about teaching technique and radiology experience level. From that survey, Dr. Brown fashioned together a draft program and recruited some outstanding instructors including Robert Harris, M.D., (Hitchcock Medical Center), Jack Harris, M.D. (retired radiologist), Chuck Phelps, M.D. (Sherman Radiology Associates), Jim Borgstede, M.D. (University of Colorado), Anna Rozenshtein, M.D., (Columbia University), Ernst Garcon, M.D., (Columbia University and native Haitian) Tammy Stearns, MS, RT(R), RDMS, RVT, (SDMS), Ted Whiten, BA, RDMS, RVT, (SDMS), James Temme, MPA, RT(R)(QM), (Former Chair, ASRT Board) and Kevin Powers, Ed.D, RT(R)(M) (ASRT Director of Education).

Logistically, the program was challenging. The group had to secure support on the ground (including transportation, hotel and meeting rooms, electricity support, catering, facility needs and on-ground support). Fortunately they were ably assisted on the ground by members of the Grace/ICC staff and faculty. All programs, flyers, registration forms, presentations, and the agenda had to be interpreted in Creole/French and English. Proper guidance to faculty travelling to Haiti was developed. Securing and transferring the portable ultrasound units needed to be coordinated as well as the shipment of all program related materials. While many hands made the logistical job possible, the tireless efforts of Melanie Yates Brierre in Haiti and Lauren Alfero and Fran Cordero at the ACR were instrumental. Also, the translation efforts of Ernst Garcon, M.D. and some colleagues from Haiti were vital to the success of the program.

Program Exceeds Expectations

Based on the size of the program buildings, the coordinators expected no more than 60 attendees and received 92. Each attendee was appropriately accommodated. Attendees travelled as much as 12 hours roundtrip each day to attend the sessions. Over 20 Haitian facilities were represented. Over 20 total didactic sessions were given over the two-days as well as hands-on training in the afternoon. The event received significant publicity both for the program and for Grace Children’s Hospital. Members of the team were interviewed by four Haitian television stations. E-mail addresses were obtained from the attendees and the ACR staff is currently developing a SharePoint site for their ongoing education. The planning for a return visit in the spring of 2013 has already begun.

“...For the rest of my medical life, the information acquired here will allow me to offer better quality care and serve as a basis for my training of younger professionals."
- Radiology Education Days Attendee
Despite the difficulty in assessing skills and equipment availability at the outset, attendees rated the program as a 9 on a scale of 1 to 10. The only negative complaints were that they wanted the conference to be longer. The attendees were attentive and asked excellent questions. They proved to be quick learners with the transducers as well as displayed knowledge on the clinical image reviews. While measuring the success of the meeting is sometimes difficult, particularly in a country like Haiti, one measure of import was that every member of the faculty asked to return on future visits. Several noted that this was the most moving experience of their lives. Another possible measure was the Haitians themselves. Several patients were willing to forego care in the morning to be seen as part of the educational program in the afternoon. Many of these patients had never seen an ultrasound let alone be imaged by one. A couple of pregnant women who agreed to be scanned by the portable ultrasound were able to see their fetus in utero for the first time. The sheer amazement and joy as well as the assurance that things were progressing normally was yet another indicator of the promise of radiology in the future. The group also saw another patient who came in with abdominal issues only to find well disseminated cancer throughout the abdomen. She died within a few days. This too is an indicator of why radiology is desperately needed in this country. While this program was a first effort to try to improve radiology education in Haiti, it needs to be put in context. There is much work to be done and the efforts needed to produce sustainability will require significant work.

Dr. Rusty Brown demonstrates using the ultrasound.

Dr. Robert Harris presents while Dr. Excellent translates.

Watch the video...
Hear the words of the faculty as they experienced their visit firsthand:  http://bit.ly/ACRFRED

Donate...
Programs like Radiology Education Days are made possible by the Haiti Radiology Relief Fund. Donate today: http://bit.ly/ACRFHRRF

Read the blog...
Check out Brad Short’s Radiology in Haiti blog for a in-depth look at his experiences in Haiti

Like us...
Check out our Facebook page for more photos from the RED program and to get the latest updates about our efforts in Haiti
2012-2013 Goldberg-Reeder Resident Travel Grant Recipients

The ACR Foundation International Outreach Committee is proud to announce the winners of the 2012-2013 Goldberg-Reeder Resident Travel Grant:

• **Surbhi Grover, M.D.**
  Gaborone Private Hospital — Gaborone, Botswana

• **Ifeanyi Onyeacholem, M.D.**
  Universidade Eduardo Mondlane — Maputo, Mozambique

• **Robin Sobolewski, M.D.**
  Centro de Saude dos Mosteiros — Fogo, Cape Verde

• **Mary Wood, M.D.**
  Pontifica Universidad Catolica de Chile — Santiago, Chile

Congratulations to the winners! We wish them all safe travels and look forward to sharing their experiences when they return. Visit [http://bit.ly/GRGrant](http://bit.ly/GRGrant) to view past recipients, read about their work abroad, and to see updates from this year’s winners.

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**RAD-AID Fourth Annual Conference**

October 27, 2012

The fourth annual RAD-AID Conference on International Radiology for Developing Countries will be held Saturday, October 27th at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. This free one-day conference will cover topics of economic development, public health in global radiology, educational training for local personnel in the developing world and more. It is open to radiologists, physician extenders, technologists, nurses, as well as specialists in the fields of public health, healthcare economics, health policy, business/industry, academics, and private practice. For more information and to register visit [www.rad-aid.org](http://www.rad-aid.org).

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Let us know! Announcements are a great way to get the word out about your program or need for donations. We’d also love to hear about your experience volunteering and may even share it in Interlink. Email Lauren at [lalfero@acr.org](mailto:lalfero@acr.org) with your announcement or story.

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- **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.
- **Donate** to the Haiti Radiology Relief Fund.

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