



FALL 2009

*focus*

VOL. 29 No. 3



## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

*Dr. Lynn Fordham*

Dear AAWR members:

Autumn is upon us. Soon it will be Thanksgiving and then of course, the RSNA meeting arrives. The AAWR presents the majority of our onsite programming and conducts much of its business during the meeting. The Executive Committee and committee chairs will meet Sunday afternoon to review the work of the many AAWR committees and formulate a plan for the coming year. The directors of the AAWR Research and Education Foundation, also meeting on Sunday, will consider strategies to increase interest in research and award applications. Luncheon seminars are scheduled for the Association Monday through Thursday. I hope you will set aside time to attend. You should have received email invitations to the seminars. If not, contact AAWR directly. Please sign up, in advance and consider bringing a guest. There will be limited onsite registration available at the AAWR booth.

The luncheon seminars offer a wide range of programming focusing on successful women in all stages of their careers including those from other countries. Monday is the business meeting and awards ceremony for the AAWR and the AAWR Research and Education Foundation. We will vote on

any changes to the bylaws, elect the officers for the coming year and take time to celebrate the achievements of some of our members with the Marie Curie-Sklodowska, Alice Ettiger and Member-in-Training awards. It is always an inspiring session as we hear the stories of our awardees.

Tuesday is the Member-in-Training lunch seminar. Our speaker is Dr. Marilyn Goske who will be discussing the some of the generational issues and stereotypes in today's workplace. This is designed for Generation Y, X, Boomers and all the others. I am sure I will be going home with a long to do list based on her talk. New this year, we will have informal round table discussions immediately following Tuesday's Member-in-Training lunch. Each table will have 1-2 moderators. Suggested topics for discussion will be present at each table. Look for more information on this new facilitated discussion group to follow. Please consider participating in or volunteering to moderate a table discussion. Consider it a live, in person chat room if you will. I look forward to your feedback on this new format.

Wednesday is the President's lunch. Dr. Elizabeth Travis will be speaking on Women in Academic Medicine Organizations: *Passé'* or *au courant*?

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This is an important issue for all men and women as medical organizations compete for our time and money. Thursday is the international lunch. Dr. Majda M. Thurnher will be speaking on Changing Demographics in Europe: Sneak Preview of the Future. All members and members-in-training are invited and encouraged to attend any and all sessions. Please feel free to invite friends, residents in your programs and members of your practice.

AAWR is very pleased to again be offering a refresher course at the RSNA. This year's course is entitled "Imaging and Role of Radiation Therapy in Gynecologic Malignancies," to be presented at 8:30 am on Thursday. Further information and registration for this session can be obtained at the RSNA website. The speakers will be Dr. Patricia Eifel from MD Anderson Cancer Center, Dr. Julia Fielding of the University of North Carolina, and Dr. Katarzyna Macura of Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions. The session was organized and will be moderated by our President-elect Dr. Zhongxing Liao of MD Anderson Cancer Center. I hope to see you there.

My thanks to the editors and to all who have contributed to the AAWR *Focus* and helped to keep us all informed and inspired. It has been a great year. Please see inside for more details.

## **Best wishes for a happy and healthy Thanksgiving!**

**This issue of the AAWR newsletter is dedicated to Dr. Peggy Fritzsche, for her dedication and support of the Association and the field of radiology.**

## *In Honor of Dr. Peggy Fritzsche-Hasso*



*The AAWR is sad to announce the passing of Dr. Peggy Fritzsche. Dr. Fritzsche served as the Association's 9th president in 1990, and had been an active member since 1986. Below is a copy of Dr. Fritzsche's obituary as written on [www.legacy.com](http://www.legacy.com).*

FRITZSCHE-HASSO, Peggy passed away peacefully on September 25, 2009 in Redlands, California. A native of Dayton, Ohio, Peggy was a renowned radiologist, educator and a strong champion of organized medicine. During her last years of life, she was a Professor of Radiology at the Loma Linda (CA) University Medical School. During her career she attained many honors and awards from professional organizations in medicine, including the Gold Medal of the Radiological Society of North America. Her career encompassed leading research in genito-urinary radiology and in MRI. Her survivors include husband Anton N. Hasso, MD, her sons Stephen and Martin, daughter-in-law Muriel and infant grandson Leo Anton Martin Hasso, all from California. Her siblings, Jack Fritzsche (Barbara Ann) and Barbara Jane Hofacker (Tom), both of Dayton, also survive Peggy, as do many nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews. Visitation will be on Wednesday, October 7, 2009 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at Tobias Funeral Home, 5471 Far Hills Avenue, Washington Township, OH 45429 (At Rahn Rd.). The funeral will be held at 11:30am on Thursday, October 8, 2009 at Centerville Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 456 W. Spring Valley Rd., Centerville, OH 45458. Donations may be made in her name to the Kettering Medical Center Foundation, 3535 Southern Blvd., Kettering, OH 45429. Envelopes will be available at the services. On line condolences may be sent to [www.tobiasfuneralhome.com](http://www.tobiasfuneralhome.com).

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### **Donations may be made in Peggy's honor to:**

Loma Linda University Church of Seventh-day Adventists  
11125 Campus Street, Loma Linda, CA 92354

Research and Education Foundation  
Radiological Society of North America  
820 Jorie Blvd., Oak Brook, IL 60523  
Phone: 630.571.2670, Fax: 630.571.7837

The Roentgen Fund  
American Roentgen Ray Society  
1891 Preston White Drive, Reston, VA 20191  
Phone: 800.227.5463, Fax: 703.648.8900

# AAWR UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT RSNA

All luncheons will be held in Room S105D of the McCormick Place

Monday, November 30, 2009

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

## Business Meeting Luncheon

**Topic:** *Award Presentations and Election of Officers*

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

## Residents' Luncheon

**Speaker:** Dr. Marilyn Goske

**Topic:** *Generations at Work*

**Introduction by:** Dr. Zhongxing Liao

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

## President's Luncheon

**Speaker:** Dr. Elizabeth Travis

**Topic:** *Women in Academic Medicine Organizations: Passé' or au courant?*

**Introduction by:** Dr. Ritsuko Komaki

Thursday, December 3, 2009

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

## International Luncheon

**Speaker:** Dr. Majda M. Thurnher

**Topic:** *Changing Demographics in Europe: Sneak Preview of the Future*

**Introduction by:** Dr. Ewa Kuligowska

*A registration form for the AAWR luncheons may be downloaded from the events section on the homepage of the AAWR Web site at [www.aawr.org](http://www.aawr.org). Sign up today! You may also register onsite at the AAWR Booth #2515 in the South Building, Hall A of the McCormick Place. Please note that onsite reservations are subject to availability.*

Thursday, December 3, 2009

8:30 am – 10:00 am

## AAWR REFRESHER COURSE (RC 616) AT RSNA 2009

**Speakers:** Dr. Patricia Eifel of MD Anderson Cancer Center, Dr. Julia Fielding of the University of North Carolina, Dr. Katarzyna Macura of Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions

**Moderator:** Dr. Zhongxing Liao of MD Anderson Cancer Center

**Topic:** *Image and Role of Radiation in Gynecologic Malignancies*

**Registration:** To register for the AAWR refresher course, please access the RSNA Web site, [www.rsna.org](http://www.rsna.org).

## HOW YOU CAN HELP!

If you would like to volunteer to serve as a hostess for one of the luncheons or volunteer to work the booth, please contact Angela Davis at [adavis@meetingmanagers.com](mailto:adavis@meetingmanagers.com) or via telephone at 713.965.0566 by Friday, November 20. The exhibit hours are as follows:

### AAWR EXHIBIT HOURS AT RSNA 2009

Sunday, November 29	10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Monday, November 30	10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Tuesday, December 1	10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Wednesday, December 2	10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Thursday, December 3	10:00 am to 2:00 pm

**We look forward to seeing you at RSNA!**

## THE AAWR/AAPM SESSION FOR WOMEN PHYSICISTS

By Jean Moran, PhD and Mary Martel, PhD

This year the AAWR co-sponsored a session on professional development for women physicists at the annual American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) meeting in Anaheim, California. The event was part of the AAPM's professional track and was attended by approximately 100 women and men.

We presented background information about women in the AAPM and why we had a session with devoted to women at our national meeting. Women comprise approximately 25% of the AAPM membership. However, women are under-represented at the highest levels of leadership in the AAPM. Therefore, the emphasis of our session was to provide some guidance to women physicists on how to improve their success. Dr. Mary Martel and Dr. Jean Moran also shared their example paths with respect to how they built their careers within the AAPM through service to the organization in various capacities over many years.

Dr. Karen Garman, spoke on "Time Management: The Three P's: Planning, Procrastination; Priorities." Karen is President and Senior Learning Consultant for Healthcare Education, Leadership and Performance, Inc. or HELP Inc. with over 25 years of experience in professional development in Healthcare. The audience greatly appreciated Karen's insight into how we work and how we can work better and smarter. Dr. Moran discussed organizing the work day by performing the highest priority items at the beginning.

Mary then presented more of the history of women in the AAPM. The numbers were astounding. There have only three women presidents of the organization with a 25 year gap between the first and the second. Mary was President of the AAPM in 2007. No women have served as council chair, only 3 women have been scientific program directors (none since 1999), and there has only been 1 Coolidge Award winner for lifetime achievement (Edith Quimby). In addition, the median salary for women is lower in all categories.

The final presentation of the session was by Dr. Elizabeth Travis, a radiobiologist and leader in cancer research. As a Professor in the Department of Experimental Radiation Oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Center and Associate Vice President for Women Faculty Programs Liz presented the disparities that are present in medical school faculties today, including statistics of the number of women faculty at all levels. There are still many women who are not being promoted to senior ranks. Liz also framed the roles of mentors and talked about ways to provide mentorship for women.

There was a tremendous energy at the session. Discussions ensued about how to get more involved, how to create support networks, and how to find a mentor. The audience and speakers were excited about the possibilities. There were many leaders of the AAPM at the session (women and men). There is a clear need for more support and networking opportunities for women physicists. We also learned about efforts in the AAPM Professional Council to provide mentorship for all AAPM members.

We were able to share information about the New Professionals Subcommittee within the AAPM, chaired by Jessica Clements. There are formal and informal mentoring opportunities planned. Based on questions and suggestions our proposed topic for next year is negotiation for women. We can shape our future. We thank the AAWR for co-sponsoring this session with the AAPM.

Dr. Spring Kong and Dr. Nina Mayr supported our efforts. Angela Davis was instrumental in working out details and kindly provided us with materials on the AAWR to share with AAPM members.



**Back row from left:** Dr. Karen Garman (4th position);  
**Front row from left:** Drs. Jean Moran, Spring Kong, Liz Travis,  
and Mary Martel with some attendees from the session.  
Photo Courtesy of James M. Balter, PhD



## WHAT THE ACADEMY OF RADIOLOGY RESEARCH (ARR) DOES FOR THE AAWR

By Etta D. Pisano, MD, FACR

As stated on the Academy's website, the mission of the Academy of Radiology Research is "identification of sources of support for radiology research and the use of that research to improve the knowledge base, educational programs, and patient care activities of radiology. Specific aims include increasing government and private support for radiology research by advocating and educating; advocating for the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) at NIH; advising the federal government on radiology research priorities; enhancing training opportunities for radiology investigators; integrating federal and university research programs; encouraging investigation of health outcomes of radiology services; and emphasizing the importance of radiology research." The Academy was established in 1995.

AAWR is one of the 22 professional societies in radiology and imaging who support the Academy in its goal of increasing the support for imaging research. While the original goal of the Academy was the creation of NIBIB, the Academy has continued to exist in order to support the Institute's further growth and development, and to promote increased spending on imaging research across the NIH. The average annual total budget for the Academy is less than \$500,000. With those resources, imaging researchers have earned almost three-quarters of a billion dollars in new federal funding for imaging and bioengineering research. These figures include the funding for the new Institute which has an annual budget approaching \$300 million, a tripling of the NCI Cancer Imaging Program budget (which includes ACRIN), as well as a quadrupling of the overall NIH grants to radiology departments.

What exactly does the ARR do for the AAWR? Why do we belong? As members of the Academy, we take our seats next to the other leaders of national radiology organizations advocating for the scientific basis of our profession. It has been correctly asserted by the leaders in radiology that today's research in imaging is tomorrow's practice. That is a good summary of why the work of the Academy really matters to the members of the AAWR.

By participating on the Board of Directors of the Academy, I represent the interests of our membership in the investment by the Federal Government in what new tools will be developed through NIH research funding that will enhance the quality of the care we can

provide to our patients. Last year, I participated as an expert in a congressional briefing on Women's Health Research, cosponsored by the Academy. I spoke to some members of Congress and their staffers on recent advances on imaging of breast cancer, work that had been funded in part through ACRIN and other federal initiatives. This and similar activities on the Hill sponsored by the ARR help our representatives in Congress understand why the research funds that they allocate are important for our patients. These activities help to put a human face on our work as clinicians and scientists. This year's events included a tour for Congressman of the NIBIB and a briefing on electronic health records and how that will be implemented nationwide for imaging.

### The AAWR T-Shirt

Thanks to the efforts of Meghan Blake, MD and a generous financial support from Ann M. Lewicki, MD, MPH, AAWR's Historian, the AAWR signature T-shirt featuring the portrait of our role model Marie Sklodowska Curie is available for sale (\$10/each) and is on display on our website. Please consider supporting the AAWR by adding this special T-shirt to your collection. Please contact the AAWR Office at [admin@aawr.org](mailto:admin@aawr.org) to your order your shirt today.





## Career Women and their Daughters: Lessons from “Reviving Ophelia”

By Teresita L. Angtuaco, MD, FACR, FSRU, FAIUM, Professor of Radiology, Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

AAWR Luncheon at the ARRS Annual Meeting  
April 29, 2009, Boston, MA

The book “Reviving Ophelia” by Mary Pipher is symbolic of how a daughter’s reality is heavily influenced by psychological pressures that adolescent girls face growing up in this country. The book shows parental compassion and strength stemming from strategies with which to revive these Ophelias’ lost sense of self.

At the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, with co-investigator Dr. Maria G. Portilla, a pediatrician specializing in Adolescent Medicine and Eating Disorders, we devised a survey to look at how our daughters felt about having career women as mothers. The survey was sent to all women faculty of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) in the Women’s Faculty Development Caucus, an organization with 293 current members. They were asked to have their daughters answer the survey and either send it directly to us or through their mothers. The following questions were asked:

- Do you think it would have been better if you had a “stay at home Mom” instead of a “career Mom”? Give instances where this helped or did not help.
- What aspects of your Mom’s career did you find most impressive?
- What could you have done to improve your relationship with your Mom
- Did your Mom’s career influence your choice of a career?
- How has your Mom’s career influenced what you would do as a mother?
- What advice can you give adolescents daughters of career women?
- What could your mother do or have done better relating to your needs?

### Results:

There were 24 responses which we separated into three age groups: less than 20 yrs old; 20-30; more than 30. Some women faculty themselves who had career mothers took the survey. Majority of the women facul-

ty were pleasantly surprised at their daughters’ answers that validated their decision to remain a career woman. Most daughters sent their answers through their Moms; very few mailed them directly to us.

The vast majority of daughters who responded were very supportive of the mothers’ decision to pursue their careers instead of staying home to take care of them. A common thread was pride in their mothers’ accomplishments and efforts to achieve their goals. A few wished that their mothers stayed home while they were little. Although the majority would not change their current relationship with their mothers, many wished they could have done better communicating with each other. There were many valuable lessons learned from the responses. The question that generated the most response was advice they would give other daughters of career women, some of which are quoted below:

- Don’t get upset if they have a meeting and cannot come to something...it isn’t the end of the world; they would probably do everything they can to be able to come; even if you don’t know the probably feel horrible about it
- Be patient and appreciate what your mother does for you
- Just spend time together, no matter how demanding a career, a mother can always make time for her children
- Step back from the arguments you may have with your mom and realize what a wonderful and unique woman she is; learn from her and be proud of her so that you can also be proud of who you are
- Be thankful that you have someone in your life that you can look to and learn the good things about life from; strive everyday to be the best you can; take your talents and apply them to a career that you can be satisfied with, not for the money but for the people you will be helping
- Your mom is a person and a woman like you; trying to set an example as well as trying to be a “complete person”; try to understand this and give her a break; help her out without having to be told to do so

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*Career Women and their Daughters* continued from page 6

- Although you might think that she doesn't understand what's going on in your life, she does; make an effort to involve her in your life, sit with her and ask for advice; a career mom is able to balance many different things in her life and she will have a lot of advice and she will love sharing her own stories
- Teenage girls observe carefully how your mother has to be especially well organized and aware of many needs; ask your mother what it is like to balance priorities and how to deal with the conflicts between the two
- Keep in mind that there is no "one right way" to be a family; be flexible and find what works best for your family over time
- Be proud of your mom's career because it is as much a reflection of your ability to accept compromises as it is her work ethic; make sure the friends you choose make you a better person
- If you have a problem with it, get over it; the big bad world does not owe you anything; you are probably better off your mom has a career
- Do what you need to do to follow your heart and your passions; do what you need to do to take responsibility for your decisions and actions; talk a lot with your parents; ask tons of questions about why they do what they do; speak up about our needs of your career mom...get her attention when you need it
- Give your mom a break; you do not have to follow her in her career footsteps; she is providing you with opportunities by which you can discover your own passions and interests
- There were many other valuable lessons regarding what these daughters would advice career mothers as reflected in the following quotes:
  - Listen, don't judge. Listening means not only listening but not talking after you listen; don't accuse or judge Be home when you are home; don't come home and work; having you at home and not be able to disturb you because you are working is pointless; if it is that important stay at work
  - Listen, instead of freaking out every time something happens
  - May be she could have listened a little more and talked a little less
  - I wished she would've helped me more on things, even when I said I didn't need it; I kind of wish she wouldn't have let me be so independent sometimes
  - I would have liked it more if she got involved from a friend's perspective; our relationship would have been deeper than just a mother-daughter relationship
  - Sometimes I felt that I took a back seat to her career; I felt she didn't teach me to deal with conflict very well, just to learn from it and not to try and change it
  - There are times when we have miscommunications or get into arguments but I think our relationship is perfect in its imperfections; a perfect relationship would have been boring and would never allow people to grow
  - My mom always tried to respect my space, I would have liked to know her opinion when I was 14 or 20; it might not have been bad for her to speak to me directly about things

**Conclusion:**

We hope the survey opened some lines of communications waiting to be tapped between mothers and daughters. If it did, then we consider this survey a success in spite of the small numbers of responses. We hope the dialogue continues and bring career mothers and their daughters closer together.

## LESSONS FROM AN EXECUTIVE COACH

### Case 2: Becoming a Division Head or something equivalent

Dr. White would like to be promoted to Division Head at her current institution so that her husband can remain in a stable and lucrative practice.

It is true that many universities REQUIRE an offer from another institution in order to approve a salary hike or promotion. Although it seems wasteful to go on interviews when you have little interest in taking a new job it is a necessary part of the negotiation process. Dr. White should go on a few interviews – she may or may not get an offer, but she will learn how other departments function and what her value is in the marketplace. She may also find that her current position meets her needs.

## NEGOTIATING – CASE STUDY #3

### NEW CHAIR: DIFFICULT DECISIONS, DIFFICULT FACULTY

Dr. Green has served 6 months as chair of Radiology, having been brought in from outside by the Dean over the strenuous objections of the powerful previous chair, Dr. Black, an interventional radiologist. Dr. Black had lobbied hard, though unsuccessfully, for his protégé in the division of interventional radiology and division chief, Dr. Cole, to succeed him as chair. Dr. Black has been actively undermining Dr. Green's efforts to bring greater harmony to a highly fractured department as well as to substantially increase revenues and improve a generally anemic research base in the department, all of which he had been charged to do by the Dean when he was appointed.

Revenues from interventional radiology in particular are at risk because of intense competition. As a solution, the division of interventional radiology, led by Drs. Cole and his mentor, Dr. Black, has been fighting hard to separate themselves from the Dept. of Radiology and form a separate department of vascular and endovascular imaging and therapy. Assume that they have made a reasonable and legitimate, though not compelling, business case for doing so. Other divisions are strongly opposed.

- **What would you advise Dr. Green to do?**
- **How does he manage his relationship with rank and file members of the IR section?**
- **How does he manage his relationship with the other divisions in the Department?**
- **How does he manage Dr. Black?**

## THE INTERVIEW

*AAWR member Ellie Lee, MD participated in this issues interview of a radiologist.*

**Residency training program:** Duke University Medical Center – Department of Radiology

**Do your work in private practice or academia?** Academia

**Full time or part time?** Part Time

**Are there any detriments to working part time?** Unable to participate or apply for research funding.

**Do you have a significant other in your life?** Yes, Husband – Physician

**Do you have children? How many?** Yes, 2

**How many staff physicians are in your group? If you are a resident, how many trainees are in your program?** 42 Staff Physicians

**What constitutes a typical workday?** Arrive early in the morning to read out the overnight cases with the on-call resident. Then begin the day's work. In the AM, sort out the biopsy schedule and go over the clinical histories and plan the approach of the procedures for the day. Then, read out the inpatient and outpatient studies being performed with the Day residents and fellows. Also incorporate time to go over interesting cases with the residents.

**What is your favorite part of your job? Your least favorite?** Favorite: Teaching the residents and interacting with the clinicians. Least favorite: Due to increasing clinical volumes, decreasing time to teach resident.

**How many hours do you work each week?** Approximately 25-30 hours/week

**What is your goal for the future of women in radiology?** Females make up approximately 50% of the incoming medical school class, but only a small percentage go into Radiology. My goal would be to act as a mentor to encourage more female medical students to go into Radiology.

**Why should this be important to other female or male radiologists?** Females are underrepresented in the Radiology field, and this would increase their presence.

**Name 3 concrete steps that the AAWR membership could take to achieve that goal.** 1) Provide Mentor Lists to the medical schools of female radiologists in their area. 2) Provide more direct contact to the medical students during their 1st or 2nd years of medical school (example radiologic correlations in their anatomy course) 3) Encourage members to be more involved with the medical schools.

**Do you have any hobbies, special interests or other aspects of your life you would like included with the information about you?** Pilates





## Past President's Reflections as 6th President of the AAWR

By Patricia A. Randall, MD, FACR

As I look back at the year of my AAWR presidency (1986-87), it seems like "ancient history". So much has happened in Medicine and especially in Radiology since that time. Even during that year, it was a busy time for the few of us who gathered at the RSNA and supported our fledgling society. We had trouble getting commitments from members to attend the annual meeting/luncheon as well as volunteering to "man" the AAWR booth. Since our inception 5 years prior, we had been admitted to the ACR Council and invited to attend the yearly "Summit" meeting of all the Radiology Societies. These meetings were marvelous for networking and "learning the ropes". We had also begun sponsoring Refresher Courses at the RSNA which were uniquely geared to woman's issues. During my year, I was the moderator for the course entitled "Climbing the Ladder; Barriers and Strategies". A panel of three successful women Radiologists discussed their strategies and how they overcame barriers. This type of mentoring was extremely helpful to our members at various levels of their careers.

Many interesting events in my career preceded that year and helped position me at the RSNA during the crucial formative period of the AAWR.

First, I had entered Medical School relatively late, after first obtaining a BS in Medical Technology. During my last year of college, I had learned that Medical School, which I had always considered beyond me, could be done if one worked really hard. I could do that.

After Medical School, I chose to do a Radiology residency because of the positive influence of Dr. Emanuel Salzman, Chair of the Radiology Dept. at Denver General Hospital, where I took a Rotating Internship and subsequent Radiology Residency. From there, I journeyed to the Heart Hospital in Minneapolis, MN, to spend two year in a Cardiovascular Radiology Fellowship with Dr. Kurt Amplatz. That opportunity opened many doors for me and introduced me to vistas beyond my comprehension. Of interest, I was Kurt's first FEMALE Fellow, which always required detailed explanation. However, several other females (Dr. Toni Gomes and Dr. Laura Knight) quickly followed, so the title is no longer unique.

My first academic position was at Stanford University in California where I learned a great deal from colleagues such as Dr. Herbert Abrams and Dr. Lewis Wexler. Finally, in 1975, I came to the Radiology Department, Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Stephen Kieffer. Happily, I have been there ever since. I began as an Assistant

Professor and rose to Associate Professor in 1978. I was in that position while President of the AAWR.

My first involvement in Radiological Societies began at the local level in the Radiological Society of Central New York. When I first arrived in Syracuse, I noted (complained) that no females were represented in the list of Officers of the Society. The next thing I knew, I was Secretary and soon after, became President. Many opportunities in Syracuse were available and offered to me. I did not say "no" very often because I felt it was important for woman physicians to be active and involved.

My career and personal life have flourished in Syracuse. The two most important events were: (1) meeting and marrying my husband, Dr. Stanley P. Meltzer and (2) becoming a tenured Professor in 1988. Numerous other opportunities have come my way and I was fortunate to have a husband who was supportive and encouraging. He would tell me that I was the "politician" in our family. Therefore, I have been very active and involved in many organizations. I was especially involved in Organized Medicine at the Local, State and National level. It is my firm belief that my time and early involvement in the AAWR gave me needed confidence and management skills that proved extremely helpful in these other venues.

Now, I am in the decrescendo of my career. My husband and I officially retired in early 2002. However, we still are both working part-time. I no longer am an employee of New York State in the SUNY system, but I still work one week per month in the Thoracic Reading Area as an independent contractor of the Radiology Medical Service Group. The flexibility of Radiology has allowed me to continue on this part-time basis. Since "retiring", I have learned to use PACS and Voice Recognition dictating. This work schedule has allowed my husband and me much more time for travel, which we dearly enjoy. Since 2002, we have been to China, South America, Antarctica, Egypt and Jordan.

Radiology has been a wonderful career for me and I am proud to be called a "Radiologist". It has changed dramatically since I entered my residency in 1967, with the "new" modalities of ultrasound, computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging. A radiologist must keep learning continually. For that reason, I have always been intellectually stimulated and challenged. A Radiologist is truly like "Sherlock Holmes". We perceive subtle findings on the images, assimilate all the data, put it all together and aid the clinicians as they strive to diagnose their patient's maladies.



*Dr. Patricia Randall is shown here in a hot air balloon over the Nile in Luxor, Egypt, September 2008.*

# KUDOS *and* PLAUDITS



## Liz Kenny, MD, FRANZCR

Dr. Liz Kenny will be awarded Honorary Membership of the Radiological Society of North America during the 2009 annual meeting of the RSNA. Liz graduated in Medicine from the University of Queensland in 1980, and completed

her specialty training in Radiation Oncology at the Queensland Radium Institute in Brisbane in 1987. Liz is a Senior Radiation Oncologist at the Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital. Her main areas of specialty interest are Head and Neck Cancer and Breast Cancer.

In 2005, Liz was appointed as Medical Director, Cancer Services Central and is committed to improving Cancer Services in Queensland. Liz currently also serves as the clinical lead for the Queensland Health Imaging Program and remains committed to promoting and enabling the clinical role of radiologists and their involvement in multidisciplinary teams.

Liz has served as the Dean of the faculty of Radiation Oncology of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists and the President of the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia.

Liz is the immediate past President of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists.

During 2008, Liz was awarded an Honorary Membership of the European Society of Radiology and an Honorary Fellowship of the American College of Radiology. Dr. Kenny has been a member of the AAWR since 2008.



## Elizabeth Krupinski, PhD

Elizabeth Krupinski, PhD has been elected to serve a 2-year term beginning in 2010, as the Chair of the Society for Imaging Informatics in Medicine (SIIM). Dr. Krupinski is a Professor at the University of Arizona in Radiology and Psychology; and is Vice-Chair of

Research for the Radiology Department. She received her undergraduate degree from Cornell University and PhD from Temple University, both in Experimental Psychology. She began her career at Arizona in 1992 after initially becoming involved in radiology image perception as a research assistant in the Department of Radiology at the University of Pennsylvania. While at Penn she was engaged in some of the early research studies using eye-position tracking to understand the perceptual and cogni-

tive mechanisms underlying image interpretation, and at Arizona runs one of the main labs doing eye-position recording studies in medical imaging. Her main interests are in medical image perception, assessment of observer performance, and human factors as they relate to the interpretation of medical images. The impact of the digital reading environment on radiologists, diagnostic accuracy and the efficiency with which they interpret exams has been a major focus of her research, and in recent years she has been investigating the role of reader fatigue. She is Associate Director of Evaluation for the Arizona Telemedicine Program. She has published extensively in both of these areas, and has presented at conferences nationally and internationally. She serves on the editorial boards of a number of journals in both radiology and telemedicine, is the Co-Editor of the Journal of Telemedicine & Telecare, and serves on review panels for the NIH, DoD, FDA and TATRC. She is the President of the Medical Image Perception Society (MIPS) and the immediate past President of the American Telemedicine Association (ATA). Dr. Krupinski has been a member of the AAWR since 1999, and is the 2005 recipient of the AAWR Research and Education Foundation's Professional Leadership Award for Mid-Career Faculty.



## Ann M. Lewicki, MD, MPH

Dr. Ann Lewicki has been elected to the Board of Trustees of Albion College. Albion College is a private liberal arts college in Albion, Michigan. Dr. Lewicki did her undergraduate studies at Albion; and in 2006, she received the College's Distinguished Alumni Award. This Award recognizes leadership and service to others. Dr. Lewicki is a Clinical Professor of Radiology at Georgetown University and is a founding member of the AAWR. She received the Marie Curie Skodowska Award of the AAWR in 1994 and has served as the AAWR Historian for a number of years.



## RADIATION ONCOLOGY CORNER

By Beth M. Beadle, MD, PhD

### Radiation Oncology Opportunities in a Changing Era: Personal and Professional Choices for Clinical and Scientific Practice

Radiation Oncology is considered a hidden gem of a specialty in medicine. Most medical students have little exposure to the field, and resident applicants often have a personal connection to oncology which motivates their career choice. Radiation Oncology is a thriving field that continues to attract qualified physicians with a broad range of experiences. However, with the recent economic downturn and potential health care reform measures, there is some concern that the opportunities in the field may be changing.

#### Career trends

The Association of Residents in Radiation Oncology (ARRO) publishes an annual survey documenting the career plans of residents. The results of the 2007-2008 chief resident survey are published on the ARRO website ([www.arro.org](http://www.arro.org)); 40% of seniors accepted positions in academic practice, 51% in private practice, and 9% chose other career paths. This is similar to the results of the 2004 survey. (1). The longitudinal experience of the residents graduating from the Joint Center for Radiation Therapy, which is affiliated with the Harvard Medical School, was published in 2007 and described the career trajectories of 48 residents who graduated over 13 consecutive years (2). Of the 48 residents, 65% chose an academic career, and at a median follow-up of 6 years, 44% remained in academics. Their analysis showed that more recent graduates were less likely to choose an academic career path but were more likely to stay in their chosen career than those who graduated earlier. The authors hypothesize that the changing face of American healthcare, increasing medical student debt, and the importance of lifestyle may have contributed to these findings.

#### Academic careers

The ARRO survey noted that residents who chose academic careers listed the following as their reasons: "1: colleagues, 2: clinical research, 3: teaching, 4: geography, and 5: support staff (physics-dosimetry)" (3). The opportunities for academic physicians continue to grow, according to Dr. Zhongxing Liao, Professor of Radiation Oncology at M. D. Anderson and current president of the AAWR: "In spite of its long history and considerable success, recent developments are making Radiation Oncology still more exciting and filled with promise than ever." She notes that the growth of

image-guided therapy, combined chemoradiation, and molecular characterization of tumors and normal tissue provide exciting research opportunities in academic Radiation Oncology. Dr. Liao further notes: "The large numbers of outstanding medical students who have chosen careers in Radiation Oncology assure the future of the field. These talented young physicians enhance the likelihood of important clinical and translational research contributions in the near future."

#### Physician-scientist careers

One notable trend in the field of Radiation Oncology over the past several years is the increasing interest in pursuing a physician-scientist career path. There has been a large increase in the number of applicants for residency with both M.D. and Ph.D. degrees. This issue was highlighted in an article by Buchholz et al., discussing the need for "an infrastructure for accepting these highly qualified individuals into physician-scientist faculty positions" (4). The authors further note that departments must provide mentorship, financial support, clinical support, laboratory space, and protected time to help ensure success of future physician-scientists.

Dr. Wendy Woodward began her physician-scientist career at M. D. Anderson: "There were jobs with some mix of lab and clinic at most of the academic centers I was interested in, but the devil is in the details." She notes that her position started as 50% research and 50% clinical and is now 78% research and 22% clinical: "The transition to more lab time was a function of receiving a career development grant along with being able to be efficient in the clinic to exceed my clinical goals." Her advice for those interested in physician-scientist careers is: "Find leadership you trust and who are interested in your success... Overall, it is a tough, but fun, job." Dr. Ann Klopp also chose to pursue a physician-scientist path at M. D. Anderson. She states that there were many impressive positions available during her search and that "health care reform has certainly raised concerns about future reimbursements in Radiation Oncology, but there is generally optimism about increases in research funding." Dr. Klopp believes that the large number of residents with a research background looking for physician-scientist positions "can only be a good thing for our field in the long-term."

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*Radiation Oncology Corner* continued from page 11

### Private practice careers

Private practice opportunities continue to be a thriving choice of career for new graduates in Radiation Oncology. In the ARRO survey, graduates who sought private practice positions ranked the following reasons: "1: lifestyle, 2: practice environment, 3: patient care, 4: geography, and 5: colleagues" (3). Dr. Nancy Ellerbroek, a member of Valley Radiotherapy Associates and former president of AAWR, notes that the distinction between academic and community practice has blurred significantly. She notes: "The reason our group has expanded from 5 physicians in 2 centers to 33 physicians at 18 centers was partly in response to the trend of increased demands by HMOs to be able to offer their patients many locations and treatment modalities. The development of practice guidelines and regular reviews of clinical outcomes was also of critical important to us. The transition from a small practice with nearly effortless communication to a larger group was quite a challenge." Furthermore, she states: "A larger group in either academic or community settings can allow for more flexibility for pregnancy and maternity leave. I greatly appreciate the support they have given me by allowing me to work a reduced and flexible schedule when needed." Dr. Ellerbroek notes that, fundamentally, community practice is very rewarding on a personal level.

### Fellowships

For those residents who wish to have further training, fellowships in Radiation Oncology are becoming increasingly popular. A review by ARRO identified 24 programs that were offering fellowship training. Some centers offer enrichment in general practice while others have specific foci, including proton therapy, brachytherapy, and translational research. Dr. Quynh Nguyen, an Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology at M. D. Anderson, completed a one year fellowship in Proton Therapy at M. D. Anderson. Dr. Nguyen notes: "The additional training during my fellowship year allowed me the opportunity to further build the foundation of my clinical experience as well as participate in clinical research at a large institution. A dedicated fellowship allows you to focus your interest and gain valuable clinical and research experience in a specific area, preparing you for an academic career or becoming an expert in that area of interest."

### Conclusion

Although the economic climate continues to change, Radiation Oncology continues to offer a broad range of career paths. Given that 60% of cancer patients receive radiation, it is unlikely that physicians skilled in Radiation Oncology will be unable to find a need in the

community. The integration of clinical research, biology, physics, and patient care provides physicians unique opportunities to customize their careers, and even evolve over time. As Dr. Ellerbroek notes: "The only guarantee for our future is that it will be challenging, and we must respond by being even more organized and supportive of each other."

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Thank you for helping AAWR to increase its revenues in order to better serve our members.

# The AAWR Congratulates Its 2009 Award Recipients



**Ella Kazerooni, MD, MS, FACR**  
**Marie Sklodowska-Curie Award**

Ella Kazerooni, MD, MS, FACR has been elected as the 2009 AAWR Marie Sklodowska-Curie Award recipient. The Marie Sklodowska-Curie Award is presented annually to

an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of radiology. Dr. Kazerooni is a Professor of Radiology, Associate Chair for Clinical Affairs and Director of Cardiothoracic Radiology at the University of Michigan. Dr. Kazerooni is currently the President of the American Roentgen Ray Society, a Trustee of the American Board of Radiology, and chairs the Committee on Chest Imaging, American College of Radiology Commission on Body Imaging. She has served many roles in organized radiology, including president of the Society of Thoracic Radiology, the Association of University Radiologist and the Radiology Alliance for Health Services Research in Radiology. She is an elected member of the Society of Computed Body Tomography and Magnetic Resonance and Fleischner Society.

Dr. Kazerooni was recently installed as the president of the American Roentgen Ray Society at the annual meeting in Boston and received a gold medal from the Association of University Radiologists in May.

With a Master's degree in Clinical Research Design & Statistical Analysis, her research focuses on the development and evaluation of advanced imaging technologies as applied to diseases of the cardiothoracic organs. This includes evaluating the technologies at several levels, from safety to validity and reliability, reader agreement and impact on medical decision making. Specific areas of research include lung cancer screening, and the diagnosis and management of coronary artery disease, pulmonary embolism, thoracic trauma, interstitial and obstructive lung diseases. She is the institutional PI for the NIH/NCI National Lung Screening Trial, and a co-investigator on numerous NIH funded grants, including the COPD gene study, PLOPED III, the Lung Imaging Database Consortium, Reference Image Database to Evaluate Response to therapy in lung cancer and the Imaging Database Resources Initiative.

Dr. Kazerooni enjoys working with and helping junior faculty, fellows and residents develop their academic careers, is active in several career development programs, and has received both the Teacher of the Year Award and the Mentor of the Year Award from the radiology residents at the University of Michigan. She is a

frequently invited guest speaker at academic institutions and national/international meetings. Dr. Kazerooni has been an active member of the AAWR since 1993.



**Barbara N. Weissman, MD**  
**Alice Ettinger Award**

Barbara N. Weissman, MD, a member of the AAWR since 1986, has been chosen as the 2009 AAWR Alice Ettinger Award recipient. This lifetime achievement award recognizes long-term contribution to radiology

and to the American Association for Women Radiologists. A native of New York City, Dr. Weissman graduated from the Tufts University School of Medicine where she was inspired by Dr. Alice Ettinger to pursue a career in Radiology. After Radiology Residency at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston, Dr. Weissman joined the staffs of the Peter Bent Brigham and Robert Breck Brigham Hospitals where she served as section chief of musculoskeletal radiology. Over her 35 year tenure, she helped build a nationally recognized premier musculoskeletal radiology service with an acclaimed fellowship. She developed the orthopedic radiology post graduate course that continues to be offered under her direction. For 15 years, Dr. Weissman also served as the Vice Chair of Ambulatory Services, overseeing a vibrant ambulatory group. In 2004, she became Vice Chair of Radiology and Director of the Radiology Residency Program at the Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Dr. Weissman has published extensively in the field of musculoskeletal imaging including coauthoring the textbook *Orthopedic Radiology* with Dr. Clement Sledge and editing *Imaging of Arthritis and Metabolic Bone Disease* (2009). She is a full Professor of Radiology at Harvard Medical School and an invited lecturer nationally and internationally. She is past President of the Medical Staff of the Brigham & Women's Hospital, is a member of the ACR Appropriateness Criteria Expert Panel on Musculoskeletal Imaging, and an examiner for the American Board of Radiology. She is a two time recipient of the Harry Z. Mellins Prize as an Outstanding Clinician and Leader and the recipient of the 2002 Outstanding Educator Award from the RSNA. She was honored by the creation of an endowed chair in her name at the Brigham and Women's Hospital.

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Dr. Weissman lives in Newton with her husband Dr. Irving L. Weissman, Chief of Ophthalmology at Caritas St. Elizabeth's Medical Center. Their daughter Abigail is a doctoral student in psychology, son Matthew is an internist and pediatrician, daughter-in-law Juliet is a Vice President of the College Board, and granddaughters Liana (2 1/2 years) and Daria (4 months) are considering their options.

Dr. Weissman is eternally grateful for her wonderful family, her outstanding mentors, brilliant co-workers, and enthusiastic trainees.



**Stephanie Terezakis, MD**

***Eleanor Montague Distinguished Resident Award in Radiation Oncology***

Stephanie Terezakis, MD has been selected as the 2009 recipient of the AAWR Eleanor Montague Distinguished Resident Award in Radiation Oncology. Dr. Terezakis graduated from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in 2004 and recently completed her residency at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center this past June, where she held the position of Chief Resident for the 2008-2009 academic year. Dr. Terezakis was awarded the Mortimer J. Lacher Lymphoma Fellowship in 2008, which allowed her to complete the Program for Clinical Effectiveness at Harvard School of Public Health and also permitted her the opportunity to pursue her research in the use of PET/CT for radiation planning of lymphoma patients. She has recently joined the faculty at Johns Hopkins in the department of radiation oncology where she will be specializing in pediatrics and lymphoma and pursuing clinical research opportunities in these fields. Dr. Terezakis has been a member of the AAWR since 2006.



**Dorota Jakubowski Wisner, MD, PhD**

***Lucy Frank Squire Distinguished Resident Award***

Dr. Dorota Jakubowski Wisner has been selected as the recipient of the 2009 Lucy Frank Squire Distinguished Resident Award in Diagnostic Radiology. Dr. Wisner originally trained under the Medical Scientist Training Program at the University of California, Irvine. Her graduate work was completed in the Department of Physics and Astronomy under the guidance of Bruce Tromberg, PhD and Mark Mandelkern, MD, PhD in the field of near-infrared spectroscopy applied to biological tissues and its immediate application to the analysis of breast

tumors. During her residency in diagnostic radiology at the University of California, San Francisco, she spent her final year in a NIH T32 research fellowship studying the characteristics of ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) on dynamic contrast-enhanced breast MRI. Dr. Wisner is involved in both the development and evaluation of specialized pulse sequence methods for assessing DCIS, and the subsequent clinical evaluation of women with biopsy-proven DCIS. She plans to specialize in breast imaging both clinically and as her research interest, and will complete the Women's Imaging Fellowship at University of California, San Francisco in 2009-2010. Dr. Wisner has been a member of the AAWR since 2005.

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## **Congratulations to the 2009 AAWR Research & Education Foundation Award Recipients**



**Feng-Ming Kong, MD, PhD, MPH**  
***AAMC Professional Development Seminar for Mid-Career Women Faculty***

Feng-Ming (Spring) Kong, MD, PhD, MPH has been selected to represent the AAWR at the 2009 AAMC Professional Development Seminar for Mid-Career Women Faculty. This seminar is for mid-career women faculty with clear potential for advancement to a major administrative position such as section or department head. Dr. Kong completed medical school and a doctoral program in Oncology at Fudan University in Shanghai, followed by a post-doctorate fellowship in translational scientific research for radiation lung toxicities at Duke University Medical Center, in Durham, N.C. She then received resident training in radiation oncology at Washington University in St. Louis and was certified by the American Board of Radiology in radiation oncology in 2003. Dr. Kong also received a master degree on clinical trial design and data analysis through the NIH K30 program/U-M School of Public Health in 2006. Dr. Kong received numerous awards such as ASCO young investigator award, AAWR early career leadership award, ASCO career developmental award and NIH grants. Dr. Kong's clinical interests include radiation therapy of lung cancer and other thoracic malignancies, and the care of treatment-related toxicities after thoracic radiation therapy. Dr. Kong's main research interest is on maximizing therapeutic ratio of radiation therapy for patients with lung cancer, with an emphasis on functional image and molecular marker guided individualized high-dose radiation therapy. Dr. Kong has over 60 publi-

*2009 Award Recipients continued on page 15*

*Career Women and their Daughters* continued from page 14

cations, multiple book chapters, and involved in ACR and NCCN radiation practice guidelines. Dr. Kong is a founding board member of Sino-American Network for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (SANTRO), and the SANTRO president of 2008-2009. Dr. Kong is currently an associate professor and the lead of thoracic radiation oncology research in the Department of Radiation Oncology. Dr. Kong has been active member of the AAWR since 2003, and has served on various committees, including the Executive Committee and the Radiation Oncology Committee.



**Megan Daly, MD**

***Member-in-Training Award for Outstanding ASTRO Presentation in Radiation Oncology***

Dr. Megan Daly is the 2009 recipient of the AAWR Research & Education Foundation's Member-in-Training Award for Outstanding ASTRO Presentation in Radiation Oncology. Dr. Daly graduated from Stanford University with a B.S. in Biological sciences in 2001. She worked as a research assistant at the NASA/Ames Research Center for one year, then completed an M.D. at the Stanford University School of Medicine in 2006. After a transitional internship year at the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, Dr. Daly began her residency in radiation oncology at Stanford University. Her current clinical research interests include outcomes studies for stereotactic radiosurgery, head and neck cancers, and GI malignancies. In her spare time, she enjoys marathon running, travel and wine tasting. She has been an AAWR member since 2007.



**Trang La, MD**

***Member-in-Training Award for Outstanding RSNA Presentation in Radiation Oncology***

Dr. Trang La is the 2009 recipient of the AAWR Research & Education Foundation's Member-in-Training Award for Outstanding RSNA Presentation in Radiation Oncology. Dr. La graduated from Yale University with a B.S. in biology and psychology and attended medical school at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. She completed a transitional internship year at the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center and is currently a co-Chief Resident in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Stanford University. Her clinical research interests include the study of radiation therapy in treating pediatric malignancies. She enjoys traveling, hiking, and spending time with her westie, Ruckus. She has been an AAWR member since 2005.



## My Experience as the 2009 AAWR/AAMC Early-Career Recipient

*By Martha-Grace Knuttinen, MD, PhD*

I was excited when I received the notice that the AAWR Research and Education Foundation had chosen me to receive the award for the AAMC Early Career Women Faculty Professional Development Seminar which was held this past July in Washington D.C. I have already encountered a number of challenges as a junior faculty member and I felt that I lacked an overall strategic framework for approaching career development. Attending the seminar, helped me develop the confidence to succeed. One of the many things that made it special was being able to meet and interact with approximately 100 women in many different specialties. Seeing that there are so many other women in junior faculty positions whose lives parallel mine was inspirational.

From the pre-conference workshops on grant writing and handling difficult conversations to the multiple plenary sessions that focused on providing insights into the realities of building a career in academic medicine, each seminar was packed with "real" advice from senior faculty women in academic medicine. Perhaps what I gained most was a sense of confidence that if other women could succeed on the academic track, then so could I. The small breakout sessions allowed for one on one sessions with a senior faculty member in order to help the participant identify skills which she lacked and provide a guideline for developing these skills. The information from the breakout sessions has continued to be instrumental in helping me organize what I need to do in order to enhance my academic career and plan for eventual promotion. Furthermore, the grant writing sessions provided me with insights on how to best approach the arduous task of writing and applying for an NIH sponsored grant, a feat which at times I felt was too much for me to accomplish.

The best aspect of the seminar was the personal interaction with amazing women role models who were able to discuss their own experiences in terms of dealing with balancing work, research, administrative responsibilities and personal life. Many of the things I learned during the seminar are things that I have brought back to my institution and have begun using in my own mentoring of junior residents and medical students. Thank you again to the AAWR for giving me the opportunity to discover new strategies that will help me grow in my roles as a clinician, researcher and educator.

## Dr. Ritsuko Komaki - First Gold Medalist of the Japanese Society of Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology

By Drs. Feng-Ming (Spring) Kong, Zhongxing Liao, and Nina A. Mayr

Special congratulations go to Dr. Ritsuko Komaki, M.D., FACR, FASTRO, the Gloria Lupton Tennison Distinguished Professor in Lung Cancer from the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center who was named the first Gold Medalist by the Japanese Society of Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (JASTRO) in Kyoto on September 17, 2009.

"This Gold Medal from JASTRO is a huge honor for me, it is significant for my career and life"... "My parents would be really happy if they were still alive", Dr. Komaki noted. Dr. Komaki was born in Amagasaki City near Osaka, Japan, and raised in Hiroshima. Many of Dr. Komaki's family and friends were maimed or killed by the atomic bomb explosion. One of her friends, Ms. Sadako Sasaki, was exposed to high levels of radiation, developed acute granulocytic leukemia when she was 10 years old and died at the age of 11. Dr. Komaki, known then as Ritsuko,, devastated by the death of her friend decided to dedicate her professional life to the treatment of cancer. She volunteered to work at the Radiation Effect Research Foundation in Hiroshima during summer vacation while she attended the Hiroshima University Medical School. After learning about radiation-induced chromosome abnormalities and leukemia during a hematology-oncology fellowship, she discovered the field of Radiation Oncology and started to appreciate that radiation, if used appropriately, can be a powerful tool in the cure of cancer. Dr. Komaki has since focused her career on this amazing medical field.



Dr. Ritsuko Komaki receiving the 1st Gold Medal from JASTRO

"The goal of my life is to let people understand the difference in the effects on human beings between therapeutic radiotherapy and accidental radiation", Dr. Komaki stated. Dr. Komaki came to United States in early 80s and has become a world expert in the field of Radiation Oncology. Thus countless times, she has transformed the devastation and tragedies related to radiation she had experienced in her youth into hope of cure for cancer patients. She did not forget her friends in Japan. "Few people realize how hard Dr. Komaki has worked over more than 20 years to help the development of Radiation Oncology in Japan. It began with the ASTRO meeting in 1985 and goes on to this day.", commented Dr. James D. Cox , M.D., the

head of the Radiation Oncology Division at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, and the editor in Chief of the International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology and Physics. In 1987, Drs. Komaki and Cox helped Japanese radiation oncologists to kick off the Japanese Society of Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (JASTRO). During the last 22 years, Drs. Komaki and Cox have worked tirelessly to support the growth of JASTRO, and made JASTRO a world renowned organization. In recognizing Dr. Komaki's special contributions to the Society and her efforts in training Japanese radiation oncologists, JASTRO specially created this Gold



### Dr. Ritsuko Komaki with JAWRO leaders

From left side of front line, Founding Member: Dr. Yuko Nakayama, Kanagawa Cancer Center; Secretary Public Relations: Dr. Kumiko Karasawa, Juntendo University; Secretary General: Professor Nobue Uchida, Shimane University; The Chair of JAWRO: Professor Yoko.Harima, Kansai Medical University; Emeritus Chair Professor Ritsuko Komaki, MDACC; Secretary of Publicity: Dr. Yuko Kaneyasu, Hiroshima University (and her daughter); Secretary of Publicity: Dr. Etsuyo Ogo, Kurume University; Founding Member: Professor Miwako Nozaki, Dokkyo University

Dr. Komaki continued on page 17



*Dr. Komaki continued from page 16*

Medal award for her! Dr. Komaki treasures this honor. Dr. Cox added "This recognition is so precious to her, it cannot be overstated".

Dr. Komaki received this award during the 2009 JASTRO Annual Meeting (picture below). During the Award ceremony on September 17, Dr. Komaki gave the keynote lecture entitled "Molecular and Physical Targeting—a Platform for Improving the Therapeutic Ratio in Cancer Treatment".

As one of pioneer radiation oncologists of AAWR, Dr. Komaki always appreciates support from AAWR. Always modest, Dr. Komaki believes her standing in AAWR as president in 2001, and receiving the Marie Sklodowska-Curie Award in 2005, influenced JASTRO members to make her their First Gold Metal recipient.

Dr. Komaki is pleased to note that Japanese women are working as colleagues in the realms of research, clinical care and medical politics.. Immediately after the JASTRO Gold Medal Lecture, Dr. Komaki was back at work and joined JAWRO members for a scientific session.

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