

F O C U S

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AAWR

The Official Newsletter of the American Association for Women in Radiology

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American Association for Women in Radiology

AAWR Events

AAWR Webinar

Society Leadership: Elections, Appointments, and Getting the Roles You Want

September 30, 2025, 8:00pm (ET)

RSNA Events

- **Celebration Dinner, RPM Events**
November 30, 2025, 7:00pm (CT)
- **GE Healthcare Networking Breakfast**
December 1, 2025 7:00-8:00am (CT)
- **AAWR President's Luncheon**
December 1, 2025, 12:00-1:30pm (CT)
- **AAWR MIT Speed Mentoring**
December 2, 2025, 10:30-11:30am (CT)
- **AAWR Higginbotham MIT Luncheon**
December 2, 2025, 12:00-1:30pm (CT)

AAWR Virtual Year-End Membership Meeting

December 8, 2025, 8:00pm (ET)

For more information on upcoming events, visit aawr.org/AAWR-Events

SAVE THE DATE



Mark your calendar for

**the AAWR Celebration
Dinner, Sunday,
November 30, 7 pm**

More to come!



President's Address



**Meredith J. Englander
MD, FSIR, FACR**

President, AAWR

I just read an [article](#) about a recent event held at Gloria Steinem's home in New York. Attendees were invited by the iconic activist to discuss women's health and research funding gaps. Even after 60 years, she remains a central figure in organizing and leading important conversations. By convening the next generation of advocates, she is helping to facilitate their work in making a difference. Gloria Steinem understands the importance of women gathering, sharing ideas, and supporting one another. As I read this article and looked at the photographs from the meeting, I thought about how this assembly wasn't much different than when AAWR members gather. Women coming together in a recurrent, supportive, and nonjudgmental way to provide encouragement, support, and a space for growth is grounded in the ancient tradition of the women's circle. This is a time-tested model for nurturing one another and building community. It was the basis for women's rights movement of the 1960's and it can be the secret to developing a strong and empowering professional network.

Over my career, I have built a wonderful professional network. At every step, I have leaned in to the community of women radiologists and other physicians. As a woman in a male-dominated specialty, this community has given me a home where I feel like I truly belong and where I have thrived. AAWR exists for women in radiology. It is here to give women and their allies a place to support one another and to lift each other up. It's also a place for advocacy for common concerns, like parental leave and reproductive health, and a place to grow leadership skills. AAWR encompasses many



things, all of which are rooted in the bonds of the circle of engaged members.

AAWR has a long history of bringing women together. Over the past year, we have focused on convening AAWR groups at subspecialty and other radiology meetings for informal conversations and networking. We are sponsoring small-group, professional coaching sessions for members to imagine where their careers can go and develop plans to get there. The AAWR sponsorship circle at the ACR annual meeting was a forum for participants to actively assist each other with achieving their professional goals. Although AAWR offers numerous benefits to its members, the community it provides is by far the most impactful.

As we look forward to RSNA, we will be hosting several events for the AAWR community. Emails will be coming soon, and events will be posted on our website. Gloria Steinem won't be there, but we can imagine she is there in spirit, supporting our work. We will host educational sessions, a celebration dinner, mentoring sessions, and a luncheon with a hopefully provocative and compelling discussion topic. Please plan to join us and be part of our broad women's circle. [AAWR](#)

From the Reading Room to the Rocket: A Radiologist's Path to Space



**Gretchen Green, MD, MMS,
FAAWR, FACR**

A Different Kind of Launch

I didn't set out to become a radiologist—or an astronaut. But in many ways, both roles found me.

Early in medical school, I assumed I was destined for emergency medicine. Then, during a radiology elective, a physician asked me to list differential diagnoses for pathology in the terminal ileum. I gave him 14. He looked at me and said, "You're not an ER doc. You're going to be a radiologist." He was right.

That moment launched my love of radiology. I was captivated by how we use physics and technology to see inside the human body. And I was lucky to have mentors at Brown, Yale, and Harvard who helped me recognize that radiology was the perfect match—offering the opportunity to impact patients across specialties, guide treatment, and educate both physicians and patients.

Choosing to Be Seen

As a breast imager, I've always believed that radiologists belong at the heart of patient care—not just in dark rooms, but in the clinic, on the tumor board, and by the patient's side. I co-authored two breast imaging textbooks—one as a fellow at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and the second later as an attending—and served for five years as

a reviewer for RSNA breast imaging exhibits published in the journal *RadioGraphics*.

I've also been proud to help other radiologists and clinicians use their clinical skills in new ways. Through my company, The Expert Resource and flagship course, Expert Witness Startup School, I teach physicians how to build expert witness businesses that improve both confidence and patient care. My Mammography Malpractice Masterclass, which I developed from reviewing over 100 breast imaging-related malpractice cases as an expert witness, helps radiologists recognize recurring patterns and translate those lessons into stronger clinical practice.

Eyes on the Stars

I knew I wanted to be a doctor from the time I was two years old. But I decided to become an astronaut at age 11—40 years ago—after watching the Challenger launch. That mission, and Christa McAuliffe's presence as a teacher on board, made



space feel both real and reachable. I first attended Space Camp that same year, returned as a Crew Trainer, and later served as Chair of the Space Camp Alumni Association. I never stopped imagining what it would be like to go to space.



New Shepard NS-32 Crew



In May 2025, that dream became reality when I flew aboard Blue Origin's New Shepard NS-32 mission, becoming the first woman physician commercial astronaut and one of just over 100 women ever to travel to space. Floating in microgravity, looking down at the curve of Earth, I experienced the rarest kind of clarity—one that comes not just from physical elevation, but from years of purposeful preparation.

From Perspective to Purpose

I brought more than a Polaroid from Space Camp with me into that capsule. I brought the perspective of a radiologist trained to synthesize data and act under uncertainty. I brought the mindset of a woman in medicine who knows the value of being visible. I brought a deep respect for those who paved the way before me—like Lucy Frank Squire, whose radiology course captivated me from the first image and whose namesake award I received from AAWR.

My academic background in the history of women in medicine has given me a lens on progress. I earned a master's degree in the history of medicine for my research on the history of women physicians and the founding of the American Medical Women's Association. Women remain underrepresented in both radiology and spaceflight. But we're here—



and rising. Radiology has evolved from film and fluoroscopy to AI and personalized medicine. Space is evolving too. I've been fortunate to experience both transitions firsthand.

Carrying Others Forward

After my flight, my daughter turned to the Blue Origin team and declared that we'd be the first mother-daughter crew to fly above the Kármán line—the internationally recognized boundary of space. That moment reminded me why visibility matters. Not just for me—but for every girl, every medical student, every radiologist who needs to see someone else doing something they thought was impossible.



Today, I continue to teach, coach, and advocate for those navigating their own career transitions—especially women looking to lead in medicine, law, and aerospace. Whether I'm speaking at the International Space Development Conference or mentoring a new expert witness, my mission is the same: to help others find their purpose and trust their path.

The Sky Is Not the Limit

Being a radiologist gave me the skill set to become an astronaut. But being a woman in radiology gave me the drive to bring others with me.

Space is no longer the domain of test pilots and physicists alone. It belongs to all of us—especially those who bring new perspectives to old frontiers. I'm proud to stand at the intersection of medicine and exploration and honored to help light the path forward.

Welcome, New Members!

Sadaf Ayaz Ahmed
Salma Al-Mohannadi
Maitha Alnuaimi
Hadeel Alwani
Bethelhem Belachew
Emma Bentley
Kelsey Lauren Berman
Caldora Blackburn
Maria Lucia Brun Vergara
Taylor Brunson
Dorothy Bulas
Selina J Chang
Alison Chetlen
Semithe Chevelon
Mounica Chidurala
Barbara Chiu
Barbara Chiu
Kristen Coffey
Devan Crow
Lena Deb
Meena Deshpande
Xin Rong Dong
Munevver Duran
Favour Onose Garuba
Rachal Hegde
Brielle Hentz
Ateeya Hessami
Aileen Hoffmann
Madison Hunter-Bazin
Jeevika Jeevika
Christine Johnstad
Mariko Kawamura
Sara Louise Kendrick

Rachel Klapper
Aaminah Kobeisy
Elisa Kodama
Madison Korb
Satvika Kumar
Mariam Mansour
Naga Sai Rasagna
Mareddy
Kamish Daliz Marrero
Kennedye Necole McGhee
Colleen McNally
Aparna Medarametla
Memoona Mian
Melissa Millett
Marie Moore
Lily Nguyen
Tannoz Norouzi
Brianna Oliver
Tammy Phan
Adyasha Monsoon
Pradhan
KAVITA H RAJKOTIA
Prerana Ramesh
Danielle Rigau
Hailey Rizk
Maria Alejandra
Rodríguez Estrella
Saba Saiel-Bayot
Erin Simon Schwartz
zoya siddiqui
Roxana Soler
Miyuki Sone
Pamela Spicer

Sheiva Shannon Vakili
Natalie Velez
Amy Walker
Sayeh Bozorghdad Watts
Hayley Womack
Melissa Yang
Jennifer Young
Model Zerfu

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Claudia F.E. Kirsch MD,
MA, PhD candidate at
cfekirsch@gmail.com

