

## Gold Medalist Tribute • Ella Annabelle E. Kazerooni, MD, MS

*Introduction by Steven E. Seltzer, MD*

Presenting the AUR Gold Medal to Ella Annabelle E. Kazerooni, MD, MS, is gratifying for two reasons. First, the award recognizes Ella's tremendous personal achievements and leadership. Second, it affirms the AUR's mission, namely creating an organization to foster the professional development of the up-and-coming stars in American academic radiology. Awarding the AUR Gold Medal to Ella is a "double success," as she is very much a "product" of our system who has achieved professionally through her own creativity, productivity, and hard work.

Dr Kazerooni grew up abroad but pursued higher education at the University of Michigan, completing undergraduate and medical degrees and a diagnostic radiology residency there. While we were privileged to have her in Boston for a thoracic radiology fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital, she returned to Ann Arbor to join the faculty of the University of Michigan Department of Radiology in 1992, reaching the rank of professor in 2003. She now serves the department as Director of Cardiothoracic Radiology and Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs.

Dr Kazerooni's talents as a clinical expert, researcher, and teacher in thoracic radiology were evident early in her career. With energy and enthusiasm, she has pursued research interests ranging from the imaging assessment of chronic lung disease and pulmonary fibrosis to the management of pulmonary nodules in the age of multidetector CT. Her exceptional record of scholarly publications includes more than 160 original articles, three books, and dozens of book chapters and course syllabi. She has received more than 30 intra- and extramural grants to support her research.

In 1995, Dr Kazerooni was awarded a General Electric-AUR Radiology Research Academic Fellowship (GERRAF). This award was a pivotal catalyst for her professional growth and development. The GERRAF award introduced her to the field of health services research and gave her the tools to be a national leader in clinical effectiveness and technology assessment research. As one of the GERRAF program's illustrious graduates, she is now giving back to the profession by serving on the GERRAF Board of Review and mentoring today's and tomorrow's fellows.

Ella's involvement in education has been broad and deep. She served for 5 years as the director of medi-

cal student education for Michigan radiology and has trained a generation of residents and fellows in the basics and finer points of thoracic imaging. A sought-after educator, she has presented more than three dozen invited lectures and several named honorary lectures.

In recent years, as Dr Kazerooni's professional career has flourished, she has established herself as an outstanding leader, mover and shaker, and role model in our field. Her willingness to volunteer time

and energy to serve our national organizations is amazing and appears to be unlimited. She has been president of the Association of University Radiologists, the Society of Thoracic Radiology, and the Radiology Alliance for Health Services Research and is president-elect of the American Roentgen Ray Society. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Academy of Radiology Research. Dr Kazerooni personifies the joiner, the doer, and the 21st century leader in academic radiology.

Clearly, Ella cares deeply about our profession and is committed to its growth and development. She is proud of her efforts to promote diversity in our academic departments

and to ensure that all academic activities taking place in our departments are nurtured and valued.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Ella finds time to be a loving wife and mother. She met her husband, Charles Nino, MD, an interventional cardiologist, in high school, and they married at the end of medical school. They are proud parents of three children, Charles (13), Isabel (9), and John (5), and are thankful for the support of Ella's mom, Pamela, and parents in law, Judy and Luis Nino, to whom Ella is indebted for enabling her to do what she does. Many of us have seen her at AUR meetings with young children in tow. The nurturing qualities that characterize her professional personality are clearly also at work in her personal life.

The Association of University Radiologists has been an enormous beneficiary of the talents, skills, and dedication of Dr Kazerooni. It is quite fitting that we bestow on her our highest honor.



*Ella Annabelle E. Kazerooni, MD, MS*

