

AUR GOLD MEDALIST TRIBUTE

Jannette Collins, MD, MEd, FCCP, FACR

Introduction by Eric J. Stern, MD

The AUR awards its highest honor, the Gold Medal, in recognition of unusually distinguished service or contributions to the organization, academic radiology, and to our specialty. This year, Jannette Collins, MD, MEd, FCCP, FACR, receives the Gold Medal of the AUR.

Leadership and education have defined the professional life of Dr Collins. After receiving a BS degree in elementary education from Montana State University and a master's degree in education from the University of Cincinnati, Dr Collins taught in primary and secondary schools for 8 years.

Fortunately for us, she then chose a career in medicine at the Medical College of Ohio, where she received her first, but not last, gold medal—for graduating first in her class. In 1989, Dr Collins began radiology residency at the University of Wisconsin, followed by a thoracic imaging fellowship at Yale. She joined the faculty at the University of Wisconsin in 1994 and quickly progressed to tenured professor in 2002. While there, she served as radiology residency program director and assistant dean of graduate medical education. In 2009, Dr Collins returned to the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine as the Ben Felson Professor and Chair of Radiology. In addition, she has completed special fellowships in medical education research through the Association of American Medical Colleges and the executive leadership program (ELAM) at MCP Hahnemann University, and she received the Melvin M. Figley Fellowship in Radiology Journalism from the American Roentgen Ray Society.

Dr Collins is an author of more than 200 publications, primarily in the areas of thoracic imaging and all aspects of radiology education, and has been invited over 200 times for national and international visiting professorships and to present invited lectures. Her book *Chest Radiology: The Essentials*, with a third edition soon to be released, has been read by countless trainees and practicing radiologists worldwide. In addition, Dr Collins is the long-serving editor-in-chief of *Seminars in Roentgenology*.

In bringing her formal advanced education training to radiology over the past 2 decades, Dr Collins has been an indefatigable driving force and nationally recognized leader in radiology education. Among her publications are numerous landmark educational reference materials, including (a) a cardiopulmonary curriculum for radiology residents,



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which has been adopted by and published on the Web sites of the Society of Thoracic Radiology (STR) and the Association of Program Directors in Radiology (APDR) and published in *Academic Radiology*; (b) a cardiothoracic curriculum for medical students, which has been adopted by and published on the Web sites of the STR and the Alliance of Medical Student Educators in Radiology and published in *Academic Radiology*; (c) a tool to evaluate resident competencies, which has been published on the APDR Web site and in *Academic Radiology* and has been modified for use by most radiology residency programs; (d) a faculty evaluation form used by the STR for the past 10 years; and (e) a 122-page radiology residency program directors' manual, which was published in *Academic Radiology* and has served as a primary resource for radiology program directors for the past 10 years.

In addition to serving as the 53rd president of the AUR, Dr Collins has also served as president of the APDR, the Alliance of Clinician-Educators in Radiology (ACER) (as one of the founding officers), the AUR Research and Education Foundation, and the STR. In recognition of her work, Dr Collins is the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2004 APDR Achievement Award, the AUR Joseph E. and Nancy O. Whitley Award (1996, 1997, and 2001), the 2005 RSNA Outstanding Educator Award, and the 2013 ACER Achievement Award. In 2012, she received the American Board of Radiology (ABR) Distinguished Service Award. Dr Collins was a member of the Radiology Residency Review Committee for 6 years and an ABR oral examiner nine times, and she currently chairs the ABR Thoracic MOC/Certifying Exam Committee.

Dr Collins has said with deep gratitude, "The AUR provided me the support and opportunities for growth that have allowed me to become the leader I am today." A generation of radiologists has benefited enormously from Dr Collins' many educational and leadership efforts. It is with deep admiration, and gratitude, that we bestow the AUR's highest honor upon Jannette Collins, MD, MEd, FCCP, FACR, for her many outstanding contributions. On behalf of the leadership and members of the AUR, congratulations on your many achievements.

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Vijay M. Rao, MD

Introduction by David C. Levin, MD

Vijay Rao, MD, attended the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, that country's top medical school, where she graduated fourth in her class. That alone tells you a lot about her. Shortly thereafter, she immigrated to the United States, arriving with little more than the clothes on her back and two suitcases. After a medical internship, she undertook her radiology residency at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. Upon completing the residency, she accepted a faculty position and has remained there for her entire career.

I first got to know Dr Rao when I came to Jefferson Medical College in 1986 as department chair and decided to change the way our residency program was run. Several people in the department suggested that Vijay would make a good program director, so I asked her to take that position—one of the best decisions I ever made. She accepted, and that position became the first of her many leadership accomplishments in radiology. Her subspecialty is head and neck radiology, and as the years went on, she became recognized as a national leader in that field. Dr Rao served as codirector of Jefferson's neuroradiology/head and neck radiology division from 1986 to 2002. She attained the rank of professor of radiology in 1989 and was appointed associate chair for education that same year. In 2000, she became vice chair for education. In 2002, I semiretired, and Dr Rao was appointed as the new department chair, becoming the first woman to lead a clinical department in Jefferson's 190-year history. She now holds the title of the David C. Levin Professor and Chair of Radiology and has done an outstanding job of running the department for the last 12 years. She also serves on the hospital's board of trustees.

Vijay's research has focused on the imaging of head and neck structures and, more recently, on health policy issues in radiology, such as utilization trends and practice patterns. She is the author or coauthor of 203 peer-reviewed articles in the medical literature, as well as 236 abstracts, 11 book chapters, and one textbook. She has been the primary or coauthor of numerous scientific presentations at national meetings and has delivered many invited lectures around the country and abroad.

Dr Rao has served in leadership roles in many major radiologic organizations. She has been President of the Association of Program Directors in Radiology (APDR), the American Society of Head and Neck Radiology, and the American Association for Women Radiologists. She is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the RSNA, having previously served on the board of its Research and Education Foundation. She also serves on the boards of the Pennsylvania Radiological Society and the American Board of Radiology Foundation.

Every year, *Philadelphia* magazine lists the "Top Docs" in the area, based on surveys of medical peers, and Dr Rao has been on this list for a number of years because of her expertise in head and neck imaging. In 2005, she was designated as one of 25 women of distinction by the *Philadelphia Business Journal*—and was the only physician in the group. In 2006, she received the Distinguished Achievement Award of the APDR.

Vijay is part of an outstanding all-medical family. Her husband, Koneti, is an eminent hematologist at Temple University. Her son, Deepak Rao, MD, PhD, is a fellow in immunology at Brigham and Women's Hospital; and her daughter, Gita Rao, MD, MPH, is a resident in pediatrics at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Vijay and I have been colleagues in research for many years, and I am constantly impressed by her intelligence, dedication, integrity, and clear thinking. Aside from her sterling personal qualities, she has made major contributions to the world of radiology and is universally respected by everyone who knows her. The AUR does itself proud by presenting its 2014 Gold Medal to Vijay M. Rao, MD.



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