

# 69th AUR Annual Meeting

May 3-6, 2021

Radiology's Social Contract: Embracing Professionalism  
and Addressing Health Disparities



Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 69<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Association of University Radiologists (AUR). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's meeting will be completely virtual, meaning that all attendees will be able to participate from their own chosen locales – whether it be from home, the workplace, or other preferred venue. While we will all miss the opportunities to see our friends and colleagues in person and to travel to spring-time Boston, Massachusetts, this year's meeting program will continue the tradition of offering a broad array of educational sessions that focus on the areas of great interest to the academic radiologist. While the bulk of these offerings will be presented during the May 3, 2021 to May 6, 2021 meeting period, there will also be additional on-demand educational sessions that will be available for viewing during the months to follow.

The theme for the 2021 AUR meeting is “Radiology’s Social Contract: Embracing Professionalism and Addressing Health Disparities.” Society endows physicians and medical professionals with the right to practice their craft independently and asks that physicians and the medical profession place the interests of the patient above their own interests. In so doing, we have been entrusted with the care of our patients, the maintenance of high standards of medical practice, and the provision of expert knowledge and opinion about broad healthcare issues. This social contract has been recognized for millennia, dating back to the time of ancient Greece, when the Hippocratic Oath was first written. In recent times, it has become clear that the medical profession is also called to pursue its commitment to improving patients’ access to care – as specifically articulated in the Charter on Medical Professionalism. Even in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it has been well demonstrated that barriers to access -- based on race, education, finances, geography and other socioeconomic factors -- impede the provision of health care to substantial segments of the population, both in the U.S. and abroad. Radiologists have an important role to play in addressing such health disparities.

On Monday morning, we will open with the plenary session and welcome our speaker, Wafaa El-Sadr, MD, MPH, MPA. Dr. El-Sadr is University Professor at Columbia University, MacArthur Fellow, and

internationally renowned expert on Global Health and Infectious Disease. Her work in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia has resulted in the development of large-scale health programs (targeting HIV, TB, and maternal-child health) and the strengthening of public health infrastructure in 21 nations. Her keynote talk is entitled "COVID-19: Shining a New Light on Health Disparities." On Tuesday morning, we will open with the Brogdon Panel, in which a panel of distinguished radiologists will be discussing the challenges and opportunities in radiology professionalism. On Wednesday morning, our opening speaker for the AMSER Lucy Squire and APDR-ACR Keynote Lecture is Dr. Alison J. Whelan, chief academic officer at the AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges).

Many thanks are due to the hard-working, dedicated AUR staff, and to the members of the Program Planning Committee for having put together a marvelous educational program. Special thanks go to Dr. Petra Lewis, who helped reformulate our program planning efforts for the virtual arena. I would like to thank Dr. James Rawson for his leadership of the AUR during this past tumultuous year. Finally, we all wish to express our appreciation for the contributions made by the many individual members of the AUR, as well as by the members and leaders of the affinity groups and affiliated societies -- including American Alliance of Academic Chief Residents in Radiology (A3CR2), Alliance of Clinician-Educators in Radiology (ACER), Alliance of Medical Student Educators in Radiology (AMSER), Radiology Alliance for Health Services Research (RAHSR), Radiology Research Alliance (RRA), Association of Program Coordinators in Radiology (APCR), Association of Program Directors in Interventional Radiology (APDIR), Association of Program Directors in Radiology (APDR), Society of Chairs of Academic Radiology Departments (SCARD), and Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SNMMI).

I look forward to your participation in the AUR 2021 meeting.

*Steve*

Stephen Chan, MD, MBA, MPH  
AUR Program Chair and President-Elect