A³CR² Outstanding Teacher Award

Mark E. Mullins, MD, PhD

Introduction by Robert E. Hobohm, MD

It is with great pleasure that we present Mark E. Mullins, MD, PhD, with the 2017 A³CR² Outstanding Teacher Award. He received both his medical degree and doctorate degree in chemistry from Harvard University and subsequently completed his radiology residency and neuroradiology fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr Mullins is currently professor of radiology and vice chair for education in the Department of Radiology at Emory University School of Medicine, after having recently served as program director for 7 years. He has more than 25 years of teaching experience and has held numerous positions of leadership in local, regional, and national groups, including president of the Alliance of Medical Student Educators in Radiology in 2008–2009, president of the Alliance of Clinician-Educators in Radiology in 2015–2016, and member of the Board of Directors for the Association of University Radiologists (AUR) from 2009 to 2016. Those residents who have worked with Dr Mullins describe him as an outstanding neuroradiologist, teacher, and mentor. They cite his mentorship having been invaluable for their growth and development as radiology resident physicians. Dr Mullins has demonstrated dedication to teaching trainees of all levels—from medical students to advanced neuroradiology fellows. He is particularly skilled at finding a teaching point in every case, tailoring questions first to the medical student and building upon basic concepts with more advanced pearls and pitfalls for the upper-level resident and fellow. Furthermore, his didactics during noon conferences and case conferences and at national meetings (including the AUR) have always been well attended and enlightening.

Dr Mullins has been a dedicated mentor during his service as program director to the residents of Emory University. He has always been available for career advice and, in his current role as vice chair of education, is always looking for ways to improve trainee education by ensuring continued high-quality education for trainees, with an unwavering commitment to educating the next generation of radiologists.

ACER Achievement Award

Mahesh M. Thapa, MD

Introduction by Eric J. Stern, MD

"Innovative radiology educator": This phrase succinctly sums up the academic career of Mahesh M. Thapa, MD, thus far. Dr Thapa is a highly recognized AUR member, having served in many capacities, including as the 2014–2015 Alliance of Clinician-Educators in Radiology (ACER) President. The ACER leadership is delighted to recognize him for his many contributions to radiology education with the 2017 ACER Achievement Award.

When I think about Mahesh, I think about his many passions for life. Mahesh has mastered the art of leveraging his many passions together, artfully blending his personal interests in digital imaging and photography with his academic career as an innovative educator. In addition to his work in musculoskeletal ultrasound and interventional applications, Mahesh has spent the better part of the last 10 years creating and collaborating on a large body of work in innovative educational techniques to help us all become better teachers. As an early adopter, he has introduced many of us to "cool technologies" that we might use to develop better websites, classroom flipping, brain-friendly teaching, podcasting, screencasting, recording and hosting online conferences, using social media platforms, and developing educational/teaching portfolios.

Mahesh’s many passions have inevitably and enviably been entwined with his alter ego, the "starving photographer." Among his many talents, Mahesh is a professional landscape photographer extraordinaire—dare I say, the Ansel Adams of radiology. At almost any meeting he attends, Mahesh will invariably make the time to balance his academic pursuits with his passion for photography. I highly recommend checking his website (starvingphotographer.com) or becoming one of his more than 275,000 Instagram followers to appreciate his art. (I have nothing to disclose but my own admiration for his work.)

Mahesh is an extremely creative radiology educator who is very deserving of this award. On behalf of the leadership and members of ACER and the AUR, congratulations to Mahesh on his many outstanding and continuing achievements.