2020 Annual Report

imagination

in action

Society of Interventional Radiology

SIR Foundation
Dear member,

Interventional radiologists are known for their innovative spirit when it comes to tackling tough medical issues and delivering quality patient care. 2020 saw IRs put their imagination in action, tapping into that spirit and skillset not merely to overcome unprecedented challenges, but to leverage the challenges of our changing healthcare environment into opportunities that will propel IR to new heights.

SIR and SIR Foundation volunteers, members and staff, are imagining a brighter future for patients through minimally invasive medicine by launching:

- New initiatives for building a more diverse and inclusive SIR and IR community
- Education and training programs that support members throughout their career from medical school, to residency and into practice and research
- A new data registry, VIRTEX, to aggregate clinical IR data to drive improvements in quality, practice performance, care outcomes and innovations
- Grassroots advocacy and awareness programs designed to advocate for greater access to IR care and inform patients of their treatment options

Imagination in action will continue to propel our specialty. I look forward to working together to educate and train future IRs, foster scientific research and innovation, and increase cross-specialty collaboration to the benefit of patients worldwide.

Keith M. Hume
Executive Director,
Society of Interventional Radiology
CEO, SIR Foundation
9,000+ registrants for SIR and SIR section hosted meetings and webinars

imagination in engagement
SIR introduced a new Underrepresented Minorities (URM) Section with a broad range of objectives, including increasing the presence of underrepresented minorities in IR, improving awareness of IR care among minority communities, and developing educational content with specific relevance to section members.

Statement against racism and inequality
In June, amid mounting occurrences in the United States of violence and injustice perpetuated against the Black community, SIR President Michael D. Dake, MD, FSIR, and Diversity and Inclusiveness Advisory Group Chair Paul J. Rochon, MD, FSIR, issued a powerful statement denouncing acts of hatred and bigotry directed at people of color and reiterated SIR’s commitment to programs, initiatives and a culture in which all members of the IR world are respected and embraced.

Kinked Wire podcast
In its first full year, SIR’s new Kinked Wire podcast delivered 16 episodes covering clinical opportunities, regional COVID-19 updates, practice management, diversity and inclusion, and wellbeing, with a broad range of engaging guests.

Diversity and inclusion
Members are more readily reporting important ethnicity and gender demographics that help SIR members understand the diversity in the specialty.

In 2020, 57% of SIR members provided ethnicity data, a 12% increase over 2019.

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Learning opportunities that emphasize health equity
Created by SIR Foundation, the Grants for Education of Medical Students (GEMS) program provided a vibrant and meaningful virtual curriculum for medical students from underrepresented and socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds. The program’s clerkship rotations provided students with opportunities to develop relationships with GEMS mentors and broaden their professional network.

New course offering
SIR’s Diversity and Inclusiveness Advisory Group launched an introductory course on diversity and inclusion to increase understanding of how unconscious biases can affect relationships and services with persons from diverse backgrounds.
2,600+ registrations for 5 (SIR 2020, FSP, ACIR, LEARN, Stroke Series) SIR virtual meetings and programs in 2020
COVID resource center

In March, SIR’s response to the COVID pandemic was swift. A multifunctional task force of staff and members quickly created a comprehensive online resource to curate the most critical guidance. With volumes of information that changed hourly, SIR kept members apprised of the latest developments with most timely and important information just clicks away.

Residency Essentials: One curriculum, any IR program

2020 saw the much-anticipated rollout of Residency Essentials, delivering a dynamic, high-quality learning experience for residents and providing program directors with tools to support resident engagement and progress. The curriculum which covers key topic areas throughout 78 modules, serves as a turnkey solution for new residencies, as well as a valuable source of didactic lecture content for established IR programs.

Continuity and adaptation of IR education

Amid myriad challenges and obstacles presented by the pandemic, SIR quickly pivoted to respond with virtual versions for many of our in-person meetings and events. These included online presentations of:

The new IR Residency was officially implemented with the official sunset of the Vascular and Interventional Radiology Fellowship in June 2020. The IR residency now has 89 integrated and 91 independent residency programs.

78 modules
94 residency programs participating
444 residents enrolled
New Virtual Angio Club series

Launched in October, this new webinar series enables participants to submit and discuss noteworthy cases and to engage with other interventional radiologists across the country and around the world. Occurring every other month, the Virtual Angio Club series is anticipated to grow in popularity and scope.

Over 600 attendees worldwide participated in our first Virtual Angio Club event.

First IR Quarterly supplement: “The re-emergence of peripheral arterial disease”

A supplement to SIR’s IR Quarterly-member magazine provided timely updates to such important PAD-related topics as the use of paclitaxel, an overview of clinical trials, PAD training in IR residencies, and more. Articles previewing and later recapping the SIR’s LEARN Live meeting were published in the online version as well.

Journal of Vascular and Interventional Radiology (JVIR)

Other initiatives launched during Haskal’s tenure include the Writing Club, JVIR China, an editorial fellowship and virtual-reality-based training videos. This continuing growth trajectory makes JVIR the commanding voice of IR science and paves the way for the publication of highest-level IR research.

Ziv J Haskal, MD, FSIR, concluded his 10-year tenure as JVIR editor-in-chief. In this time the journal’s impact factor increased to 3.037 placing JVIR in a distinct class of peer-reviewed journals.
92 topic-focused webinars and events in 2020 with over 6,400+ registrants.
During the fall, SIR introduced VIRTEX, our new and significantly improved data registry to capture the confluence of data and performance. VIRTEX will be the gold standard for gathering and sharing clinical IR data to drive improvements in quality, practice performance, care outcomes and innovations for years to come.

**Emergency funding for COVID-19**

To help fight the global pandemic, SIR Foundation issued an urgent request for letters of intent (LOIs) for multidisciplinary, minimally invasive locoregional therapies for treating critically ill COVID-19 patients. The LOIs emphasized the need for collaboration outside the IR specialty.

**Research consensus panels**

SIR Foundation hosted three research consensus panels (RCPs) to discuss critical research areas in IR and determine how priority topics can be further developed. 2020 consensus panels included explorations of lymphatics, obesity therapeutics, and venous recanalization.

**Clinical registries**

SIR Foundation and the Society of Interventional Oncology (SIO) collaborated to establish the IO-CORE (Global Interventional Oncology Clinical Outcomes) Registry to collect clinical evidence in interventional oncology from the Americas, Europe and the Asia-Pacific region. Fundraising for two other registries—the Musculoskeletal (MSK) IO-CORE registry and PROARTE (PROstate Artéry Embolization to Reduce the Symptoms of Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia)—is underway.

**New clinical practice guidelines for IVC filters**

SIR released its first official evidence-based guidelines with recommendations on the use of inferior vena cava (IVC) filters to treat various thromboembolism. Developed by a multidisciplinary panel using gold-standard guideline methodology following the Standards for Developing Trustworthy Clinical Practice Guidelines set by the National Academy of Medicine, the guidelines underscore SIR’s commitment to raising the quality and profile of IR standards to the highest levels in medicine.

$100,000

in grants awarded for research on COVID therapies
imagination in awareness
Virtual Balloon Auction
SIR Foundation’s first Virtual Balloon Auction raised $68,250 to support the foundation’s programs and initiatives to propel innovation and advance the value and quality of IR through evidence-based practice and data collection. Medtronic generously donated $75,000 to match our members contributions.

Corporate Ambassador Program
The Corporate Ambassador Program (CAP) continued to engage industry partners aligned with the society and foundation missions. Together, we pursued activities that advanced our strategic plan and strengthened the voice of IR. SIR and SIR Foundation remain grateful for the generous contributions these forward-thinking organizations lend in support of the specialty.

25+ participating companies
$2.3M in generous contributions received

Vision to Heal, Together
The final phase of the Vision to Heal, Together national awareness campaign ran from January to March, Building on 4.9 million impressions created during the 2019 phase of the campaign, traffic to the campaign’s microsite visiontoheal.org grew by 50%, while actions taken on the page increased by 15%.

Carrier advocacy letter templates
SIR developed five core claim denial appeal templates for vertebroplasty, pelvic venous disease, UAE, PAE and pulmonary cryoablation. These letters have already achieved success in overturning past national denials, specifically in pelvic venous disease.

Voices FOR IR
SIR’s newly launched Voices for IR grassroots advocacy program was instrumental in galvanizing member opposition to proposed cuts in Medicare reimbursements, resulting in changing a proposed 9% pay cut to a 2% reduction.

$143,250 raised by the SIR Foundation

Opposition to Medicare cuts
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Over 3,000 SIR members engaged in sending 8,500+ emails

50% increase in traffic to visiontoheal.org
15% rise in webpage actions

30 meetings with congressional leaders

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15% rise in webpage actions
financials
Adapting operations during a pandemic

SIR and SIR Foundation remained solvent during a year of extreme disruption and challenges through prudent financial planning, agility and adaptation. Volunteers and staff pivoted to develop new virtual, revenue-generating programming opportunities, including the annual meeting, topical webinars, and a unique Virtual Balloon Auction by SIR Foundation.

Financial impact of delivering programs and services during the pandemic

Through these efforts, SIR and SIR Foundation operated at a combined net profit of $487,024 and ended the fiscal year with total assets of $13.1M and $7.7M. Both organizations are well poised and prepared to meet the challenges and uncertainties that remain in 2021.