



Women in IR News

Fall 2022

Q&A With WIR Chair, Olga Brook, MD, FSIR

Can you tell us a little about yourself?

Originally from Russia, I completed my medical training in Israel, first at the Rappaport Faculty of Medicine, Technion for medical school, then at Rambam Medical Center for residency. I then completed four fellowships including abdominal imaging and interventions and interventional radiology at Beth Israel Medical Center, where I now serve as section chief of abdominal radiology. I am an associate professor at Harvard Medical School with research interest in quality improvement. I love challenging the way how and why we do things in order to make our practice better. My area of expertise in IR was uterine fibroid embolization and currently cross-sectional interventions. Currently, I am completing my MBA at the University of Massachusetts.

What motivated you to serve as the Women in IR chair?

Both patients and the practice of IR will benefit from more women and under-represented minorities (URMs) in the field and our numbers are notoriously low, though improving lately. Many studies have shown that having only like-minded individuals within a practice is detrimental to practice success. Increasing diversity in the field and practice leads to more diverse ways of thinking and though sometimes uncomfortable, encourages innovation and creativity. I want to normalize women being IRs. We are lucky to have women IR role models, but we are yet to break single digit percentage and thus I would like to encourage more women to do IR and to be actively involved.

What are your plans for this year as the Women in IR chair?

I am aiming to reinvigorate the speakers bureau, which consists of a database of expert women and URM IRs that can be invited to speak at the conferences and symposia. This would serve as an additional source to standard "word of mouth" connections. In addition to this, I will continue to support women trainees from all levels.

Shin Mei Chan, MS4

Maureen P. Kohi, MD, FSIR



Dr. Maureen P. Kohi is the Ernest H. Wood Distinguished Professor and Chair of the University of North Carolina Department of Radiology. An impassioned advocate for women's health, she has focused much of her career on the endovascular treatment for fibroids, adenomyosis, pelvic venous disease, and postpartum hemorrhage. Dr. Kohi credits much of her passion and success to her mentors in IR. One of her earliest mentors, Dr. Ernest Ring, made her fall in love with academic IR, taught her procedural elegance, speed, and efficiency, and got her involved in the Society of Interventional Radiology. Through SIR, her network of mentors grew

exponentially to include other giants from the preceding generation of interventionalists, as well as peer mentors, especially other women in IR.

She now finds great joy in paying it forward by mentoring future interventionalists. If she could go back and give her younger self advice, it would be to believe in herself and not sweat the small things. Work-life balance has always been important to her, and she stresses the importance of making life outside of IR a priority during training to her mentees. As one of the few female chairs of radiology, she is excited for the future as more women choose IR and take on leadership roles.

Alex Banathy, MD PGY5, and Meghan Clark, MD PGY5

Fun facts: WIR at #SIR22BOS

- 561: Number of women attendees
- 172: Number of women speakers
- 85: Number of women presenting authors
- 44: Number of women moderators

Call for leadership nominations

SIR and SIR Foundation encourages SIR members with an interest in serving in one of these positions to review the nominations materials and to complete a nominations application. This is an effective way to communicate your interest in a leadership position. Each year the SIR and SIR Foundation Nominating Committees carefully evaluate the nominations based on the current and future leadership needs. There are many qualified candidates who apply. For this reason, individuals may apply or be nominated several times before selection as a candidate.

Submit any nominations by Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2022, through SIR Connect.

Save the date!

The SIR 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting will be held in Phoenix, March 4-9, 2023. We hope to see everyone there!

Upcoming events

- Oct. 6-8, 2022: Y90: The Complete Course
- Oct. 7-8, 2022: NY: Endovascular Summit