CHAIRMAN MESSAGE:

Dear ACR Members:

After the events at the end of 2012 when the 112th Congress used additional imaging cuts to develop offsets for the New Year's Eve Fiscal Cliff / Doc Fix deal, it is easy to believe that contributing to RADPAC has been a futile exercise and easy to wonder whether there is value in continuing to contribute to RADPAC. And while I share everyone’s frustration with the way the 112th Congress and the Administration crafted the year-end legislation, I strongly disagree with the fatalistic views regarding the value of political advocacy and the value of RADPAC to our specialty. Over the next five years, the next three Congresses will shape the future of health care in the United States and now, more than ever before, is a time when we must continue to educate our political leaders in order to protect our interests and assure the relevance of radiologists in health reform, not only for ourselves and our specialty but for our patients. The stronger RADPAC is, the louder our voice will be. This is why I encourage you to continue your generous support for RADPAC and ask that you spread the word to your colleagues in your practice, throughout your state and all over the country.

LEGISLATIVE SECTION:

A Letter to the 113th Congress

On February 6th, ACR leadership sent a letter to influential Members of Congress to express extreme disappointment with the inordinate amount of reimbursement cuts imaging has endured in the regulatory arena. Furthermore, ACR reiterated its desire to work with Congress to develop a meaningful appropriateness criteria policy that incorporates clinical decision support to help control volume and improve patient care rather than continuing to implement arbitrary across the board cuts.

For more information click the link: http://www.acr.org/News-Publications/News/News-Articles/2013/Advocacy/20130206-Ellenbogen-Letter-to-Congress

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113th Congress Offers New Momentum to SGR Repeal

A cavalcade of recent developments has members of the House of Representatives bullish on the prospect of finally repealing the flawed Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released its annual review of the federal budget and economy which found that the overall cost of canceling this formula is now approximately $138 billion over 10 years. This new figure equates to a reduction of greater than $100 billion dollars in relation to previous 10-year cost estimates. The latest report cites lower spending on physicians’ services over the past three years in relation to established spending targets as the principal reason for the dramatic reduction in the cost of repealing the SGR. For more information: [http://www.acr.org/Advocacy/Legislative-Issues/SGR](http://www.acr.org/Advocacy/Legislative-Issues/SGR)

“Stand Up For Radiology” Program Conducts Inaugural Congressional Fly-in

On Wednesday, February 6th and Thursday, February 7th four radiologists traveled to Washington, DC to conduct Capitol Hill visits with targeted members of the House and Senate in conjunction with the inaugural “Stand Up for Radiology” program. Drs. Linda Reilman, MD, Ross Golding, MD, Peter Peer, MD, and Bruce Burton, MD, traveled from Ohio, Nevada, Michigan, and Kentucky, respectively, to meet with such important federal offices as: House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH), Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp (R-MI), and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY). The “Stand Up for Radiology” program also coincides with the continuing opportunities to further cut imaging reimbursement stemming from the upcoming deadlines surrounding the implementation of the federal “sequester.”

March Madness

RADPAC has created a March Madness Campaign to coincide with the widely popular March Madness College Basketball Tournament in March.

RADPAC will donate $500 to the chapter that wins its division. RADPAC asks that the $500 be used for the chapter to help pay for a resident to attend the AMCLC.

To learn details about the March Madness Campaign, click here.

Important Change Regarding Format for RADPAC Events at 2013 AMCLC

RADPAC will again host its RADPAC Annual Reception on Tuesday, May 7th from 6:00pm to 7:00pm at the Washington Hilton. This reception is open to all AMCLC attendees.

And, like last year, there will be a RADPAC Thank You Dinner. This year's event will be at an off-site location. Transportation will be provided. It will be a fun, scenic evening that shows you Washington, DC in a way you may have never seen before. Like last year, this event will be available ONLY for those ACRA members who have contributed (or pledged) $1,000 in the 2013 calendar year by no later than Friday, April 19. To contribute now you can go to www.radpac.org and click on the Contribute Online button on the right. In addition, in order to be recognized on signage at the meeting as a contributor RADPAC will need to have your contribution pledged or given prior to April 11, 2013.

Please note that contributions made at the AMCLC will NOT be counted for invitational purposes to this exclusive RADPAC Thank You Dinner. As an ACRA member, if you have a record of giving on a periodic basis to RADPAC and if you choose such a method again for 2013 you will qualify for the Thank You Dinner if your contribution totals $1,000 or more during this calendar year.

Those who pledge/contribute at the $1,000 level or above will receive two tickets for this event - one for themselves and one for a guest. These tickets are non-transferable.

For information on this special event, please contact Heather Kaiser at the ACRA office at 1-800-227-5463, ext. 4543 or by email to hkaiser@acr.org.
Affirmed Residents

As non dues-paying members of the ACR, radiology residents enjoy many benefits provided by the college. Whether accessing the Case in Point online series, freely accessing the JACR, attending the American Institute for Radiologic Pathology (AIRP) course, or utilizing the Resident and Fellow Section (RFS) resources on the ACR website, residents commonly rely on the ACR as a source of information throughout residency and fellowship. By affirming your membership to the ACR, you are acknowledging the value of your membership in the College.

Additionally, affirming your membership allows RADPAC, our bi-partisan political action committee, to directly communicate with you about important federal legislative issues affecting our profession. Since residents do not pay dues, RADPAC is only able to communicate with trainees who have affirmed their membership. As healthcare reform continues to unfold, we all know how vital it is for radiology to be well represented on Capitol Hill. It is equally as important for trainees to remain up-to-date with legislation that may potentially impact our profession.

Residents please click here to affirm your ACR membership. (Or copy and past this URL into your browser: https://shop.acr.org/MemberAffirmation.aspx)

Puerto Rico Already At 26%

RADPAC wants to congratulate Puerto Rico for being the first state to reach 20% contributor participation in 2013. To see how other states compare click the link below:

http://www.radpac.org/Resources/State-By-State-Comparison

2012 Annual Report

RADPAC has posted to its website the 2012 RADPAC Annual Report. To see detailed information and a listing of the 2012 RADPAC contributors click the link below:


For more information, contact:
Heather Kaiser
hkaiser@acr.org
703-716-7543