

# ACR Update

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Eric Rubin, MD, FACR  
Chair – ACR Commission on Human Resources  
Member - ACR Board of Chancellors  
August 2022





**Jacqueline A. Bello, MD, FACR**  
Chair, ACR Board of Chancellors  
May 2022 to May 2024



**Alan Matsumoto, MD, FACR**  
Vice Chair, ACR Board of Chancellors  
May 2022 to May 2024



**Amy L. Kotsenas, MD, FACR**  
ACR Council Speaker  
May 2021 to May 2023



**Timothy Crummy, MD, FACR**  
ACR Council Vice Speaker  
May 2021 to May 2023



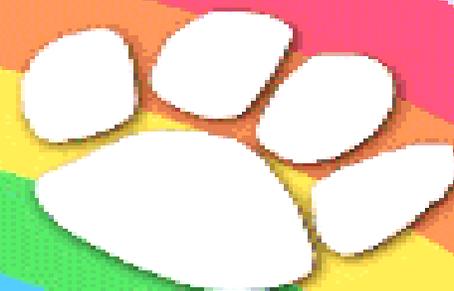
**Howard Fleishon, MD, MMM, FACR**  
President  
April 2022 to May 2023



**Frank Lexa, MD, MBA, FACR**  
Vice President April 2022 to May 2023



# BEAR



## WITH US!



WE'RE EXPERIENCING  
TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES





Changing Workforce



Increasing Consumerism



Transition From Volume to Value Systems

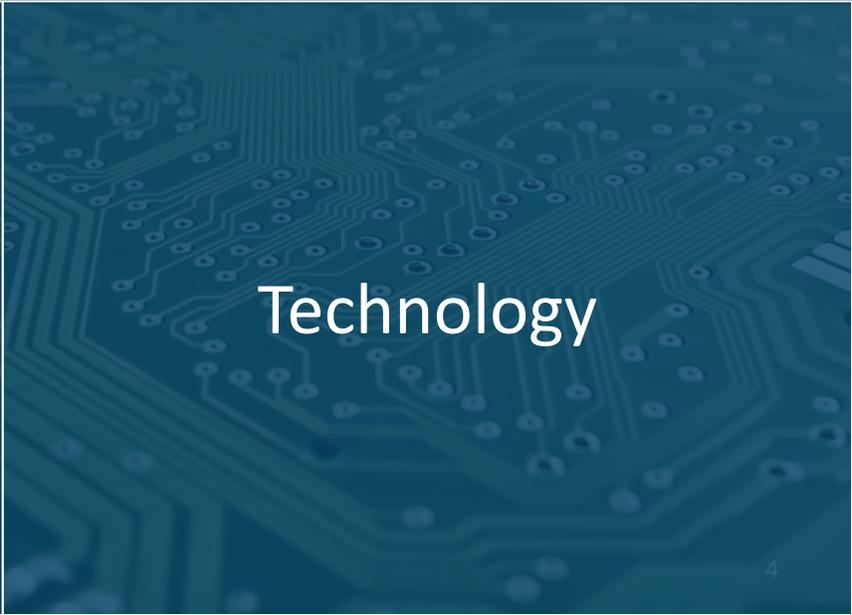
## Opportunities and Challenges the Profession



Practice Consolidation



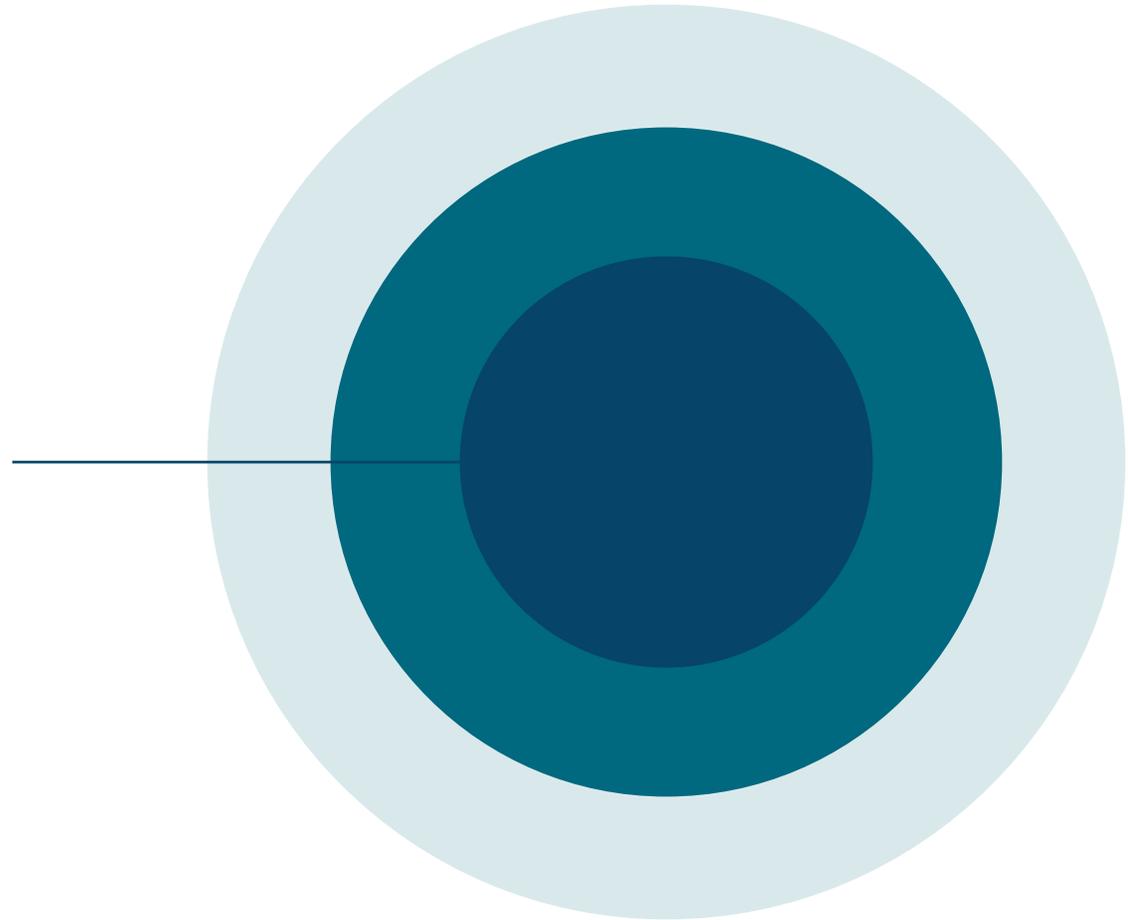
Artificial Intelligence



Technology

## **ACR Mission:**

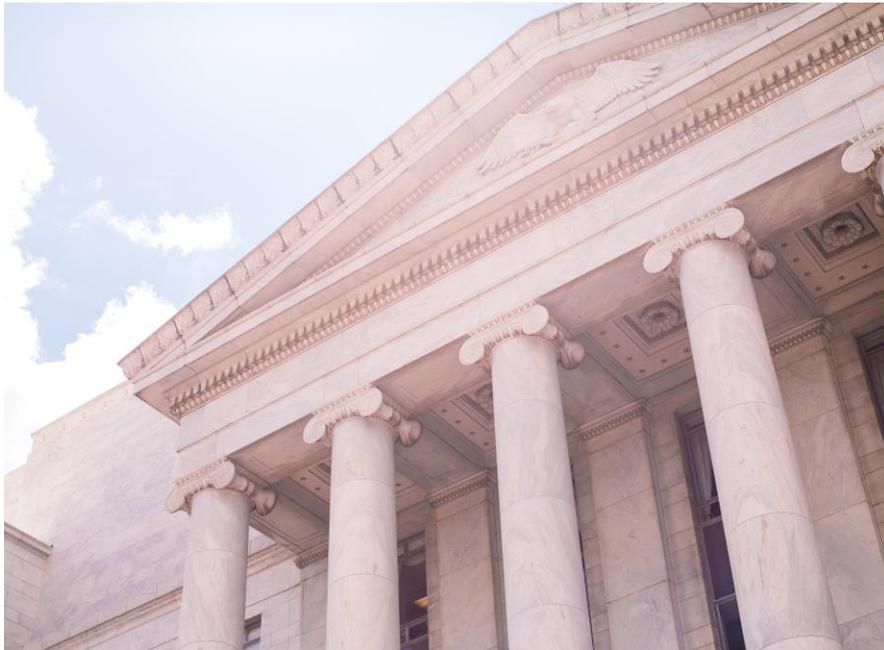
“ACR is the voice of our members, empowering them to serve patients and society by advancing the practice and science of radiological care.”



## ACR Vision:

“ACR members thrive,  
improving population health  
and leading through  
excellence in radiological  
care.”





- ACR is recognized by congressional representatives and industry as the largest and most influential advocacy organization for the profession.
- The ACR maintains 12 full time staff and engages consultants for advocacy.
- Other organizations in Radiology look to ACR for advocacy leadership.

## No Surprises Act - Goals

- Patient held harmless
- Reimbursement Model → Arbitration



## IDR Criteria – No Surprises Act (NSA)

- Training, Experience, quality, and outcomes
- Market share of parties
- Acuity of patients/complexity of cases
- Teaching status, case mix, scope of services of facility
- Good faith efforts by the parties to contract
- Contracting rate history from last four years
- **QUALIFYING PAYMENT AMOUNT**
- Cannot Consider:
  - Billed Charges (ie too high)
  - Payment Rates by public payors (ie too low)

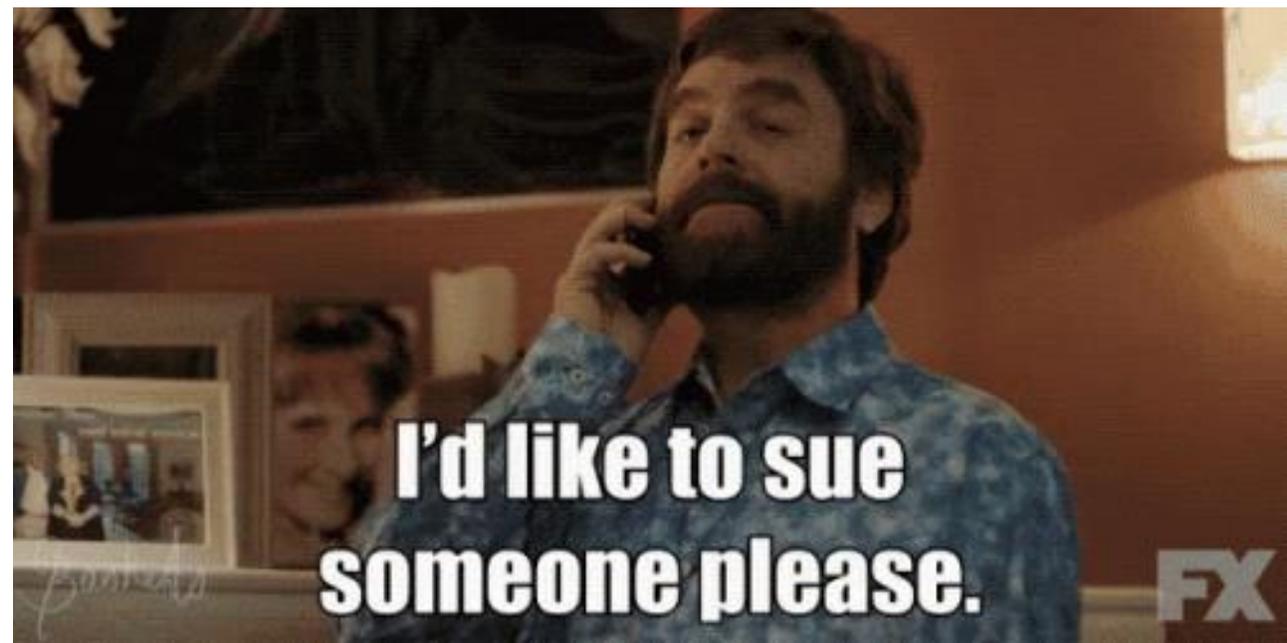


## NSA – Interim Final Rule

- Rulemaking by Administration operationalizes the law...
- Median In Network Rate – Each Contracted Rate a ‘Data Point’
- Rulemaking – “Certified IDR entity must begin with the presumption that the QPA is the appropriate out of network rate (and) must select the offer closest to the QPA’

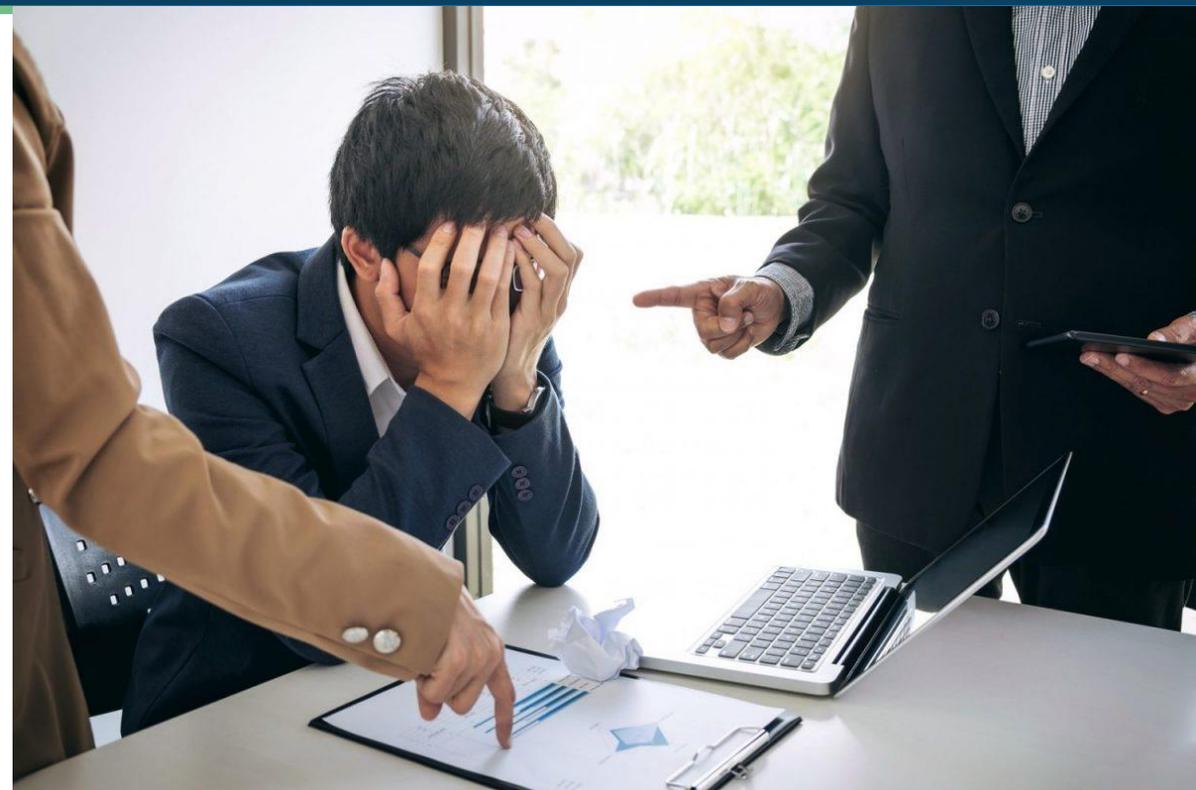
## Medical Community Response – Lots of Lawsuits

- TMA → “Rebuttable Presumption”
  - Judge Agreed – Not in law
  - Vacated that portion of the rule
  - Administration removed that portion of law
  - Administration appealed last minute
  - Awaiting Final Rule
- ACR/ACEP/ASA
  - Case Stayed by Judge
  - Pending Final Rule



## NSA → Current Status

- Final Rule Pending
- Areas of Current Concern
  - Abusive payer behavior
  - Administrative burdens
  - Mandatory negotiation period
- ACR needs your help → Every practice at risk



- **Future Focus Points**

- **Reduced imaging reimbursement**

- Federal Government (Medicare)
- Continued Monitoring of No Surprises Act Implementation
  - IDR lawsuits (Texas, AMA/AHA, ACEP/ACR/ASA)

- **Scope Issues**

- Non-Physician Providers (NPPs) seeking more traditional physician responsibilities and greater independence from supervisory requirements
- Will require increased state GR activity

- **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

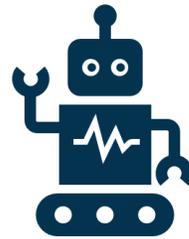
- Continuing to lead the debate on how best to utilize AI in imaging



**Radiation  
Oncology  
APM**



**Telehealth**



**AI**



**CPT/RUC**



**Value  
payment**



# ACR CPT Team Activities

- **CPT Editorial Panel** — meets 3 time per year
- **Recent Codes**
  - Category III AI Codes (Focus on Quantitative Evaluation)
  - VR Procedural Dissociation
- **Extensive coding education for ACR members**
  - *AMA/ACR Clinical Examples in Radiology*
  - *ACR Radiology Coding Source™* newsletter
  - Coding guides — Ultrasound, Nuclear Medicine
  - Coding updates — Interventional Radiology, Breast Imaging FAQs
- **National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) Procedure-to-Procedure edits**
- **Medically Unlikely Edit (MUE) values.**

## Focus Areas – CPT, Relative Value Scale Update Committee (RUC), and the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule

- **Purpose:** To create and value new, revised and existing codes.
- **Goal:** To obtain accurate and appropriate reimbursement rates.
- Meets 3 times a year



## ***2022 - ACR action saved radiology approximately \$1.2 billion***

- Ami Bera, MD and Larry Buchson, MD co-sponsors
- Increase the Medicare conversion factor rate for physicians by 3.75% in calendar year 2021 and by 3% in 2022.
- Push into 2023 the statutory pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) requirement balances that would have triggered 4% funding cuts this year
- Suspend a 2% Medicare payment cut required under the 2011 Budget Control Act (referred to as “sequester cuts”) for all of 2021
- In 2022, the 2% sequester cuts are suspended through March 31, then reduced from 2% to 1% for the next three months, through June 30. The 2% sequester cuts are then scheduled to be fully implemented on July 1

## 2023 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule

- 2023 Proposed Conversion Factor: \$33.0775
  - 2022 Conversion Factor is \$34.6062
  - Negative 1.55% budget neutrality update due to increases in values for some E/M codes, expiration of one year 3% bump passed by Congress for 2022
- Year 2 of Clinical Labor Wage Update
  - Direct practice expense contains 3 components: medical supplies, equipment and clinical labor, all of which must be “budget neutral” to each other
  - CMS recently updated the clinical labor wage data component of direct practice expense, which led to a significant code level reduction to medical supplies and equipment heavy codes
  - CMS transitioned the increases and corresponding decreases beginning 1/1/2022. The 4-year phase-in ends in 2025.

# Clinical Decision Support for Medicare

- MEDPAC → Recommended Prior Authorization to Congress
- ACR → Alternative Solution → AUC/CDS
- Congress → PAMA (2014)
- Non Radiologists →



# Clinical Decision Support for Medicare

What is the Medicare Clinical Decision Support (CDS)/Appropriateness Use Criteria (AUC) requirement? 

Effective January 1, 2018, the Protecting Access to Medicare Act (PAMA) will require referring providers to consult AUC before ordering advanced diagnostic imaging services (ADIS) — CT, MR, nuclear medicine and PET — for Medicare patients. Regulations are to be issued by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) later this year.

## 2022 AMA Resolution 211

“Our AMA will advocate to Congress and CMS to delay implementation of and advance modifications to the Medicare AUC Program in such a manner that...adequately addresses technical and workflow challenges that add to clinician’s administrative burden and practice expenses...”

## CDS → A New Deal?

- Point of Service → Retrospective Review
- Registries
  - Data aggregation
  - Performance benchmarking
  - External reporting
  - Using multiple data points in time



# The Faces of Radiology Leadership



[acr.org/RLI](https://acr.org/RLI)

# What Can the RLI Do for You?

Enhance your ability to:

- Adapt and thrive within new payment models
- Manage change for increased patient-centered care and technology implementation
- Communicate with patients, referring clinicians and allied health professionals for strengthened value in the patient care cycle
- Improve practice stability and productivity through greater attention to burnout and physician wellness
- Help lead radiology's implementation of AI
- Take a more active role in the health system c-suite

## The RLI Program Portfolio



Residents and  
Fellows Training



Mid Career  
Training



Executive-Level  
Training



Chapter Meetings,  
Scholarships and  
other Resources

## 2022 RLI Resident Programs

The Radiology Leadership Institute® (RLI) offers residents and fellows an array of live and online courses for comprehensive training in professional development, leadership and career management. Gain the fundamental skills needed for early career success today

### RLI Resident Milestones Program (Virtual)

September 2022–March 2023

This turnkey program helps residents understand their role in healthcare economics while also helping satisfy the ACGME's Physician Role in Health Care Systems sub-competency.

### Leadership Essentials 201: Preparing for Practice

September–December 2022

A comprehensive virtual program that equips residents and fellows with non-clinical and foundational leadership skills needed to maximize early career success. Examples of topics include basics of radiology business, negotiations and value of being a mentor.

### RLI Kickstart Your Career Workshop

Oct. 1, 2022

This one-day, in-person workshop provides skills and tools to help successfully transition into your first job. Topics include understanding practice settings, interviewing, evaluating a job offer and more.

Registration Is Now Open

Sept. 9-11, 2022  
Babson College

# 2022 RLI Summit

The RLI Summit only happens once a year. Don't miss this chance to learn from radiology thought leaders and business school experts.

**Register Today!**



[acr.org/RLISummit](http://acr.org/RLISummit)

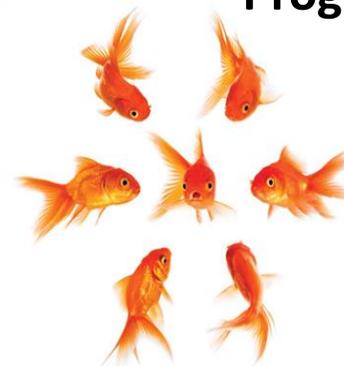


## RLI Podcast! Taking the Lead

Follow the leadership journey of radiology's most notable influencers

**SUBSCRIBE FREE ON ITUNES TO HEAR NEW EPISODES  
ACR.ORG/RLIPODCAST**

**Program starts January 2023!**



## Feeling Like a Fish Out of Water in Your Hospital Boardroom?

**Learn How to Maximize Your Influence and Impact**



# 2023 ACR-RBMA Practice Leadership Forum

Jan. 13-15 | Orlando, FL



## Leadership Power Hour Webinar Series

Expert insights from radiology leaders who've been in your shoes

VIEW TOPICS AND REGISTER AT  
[ACR.ORG/POWERHOUR](http://acr.org/powerhour)  
1-800-373-2204

All RLI Power Hour webinars are offered at no cost!



THANK YOU  
FOR SUPPORTING A DECADE OF LEADERSHIP

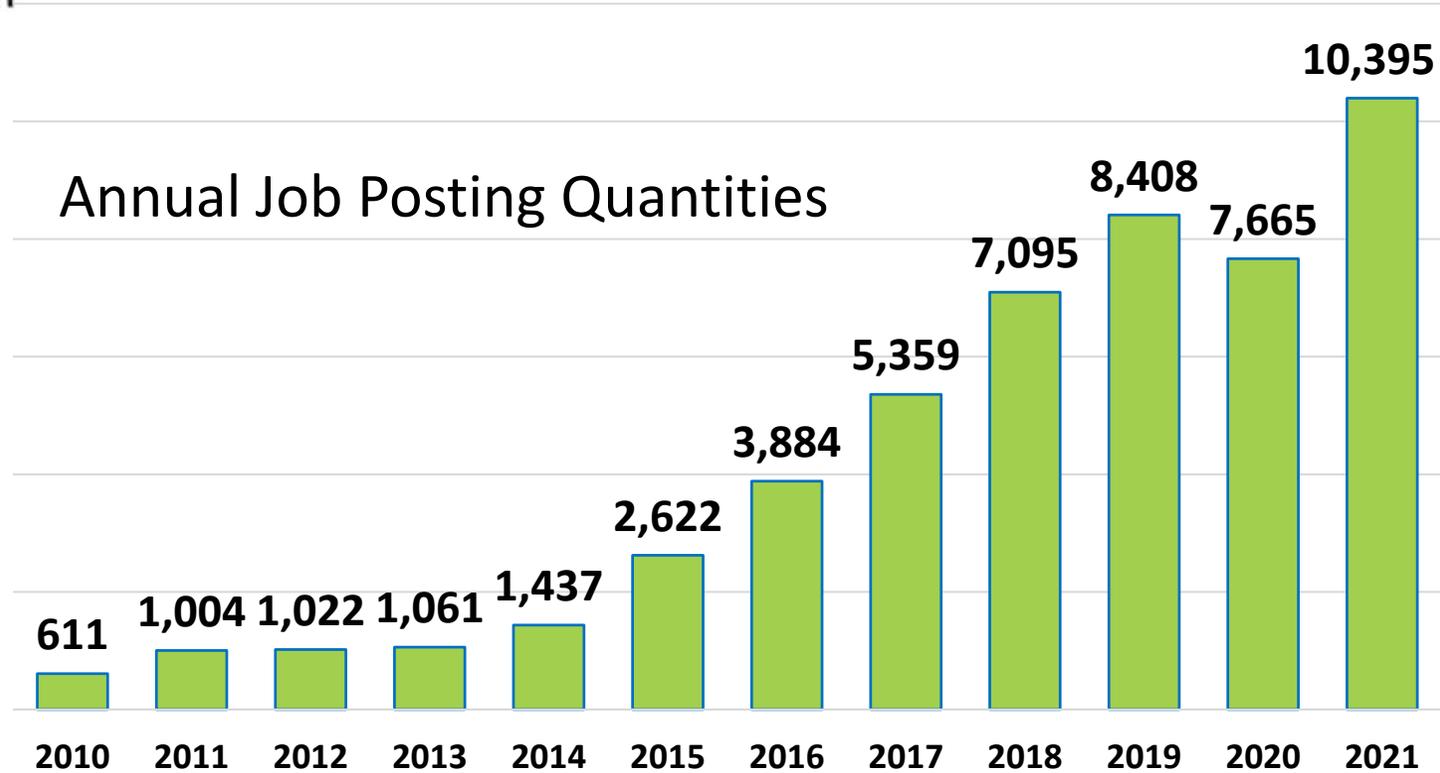
## ACR Chapter Sponsors

Canadian Association of Radiologists	Michigan Radiological Society
Florida Radiological Society	Radiological Society of New Jersey
Hawaii Radiological Society	New York State Radiological Society
Illinois Radiological Society	North Carolina Radiological Society
Indiana Radiological Society	Pennsylvania Radiological Society
Kentucky Radiological Society	Texas Radiological Society
Maine Radiological Society	Utah Radiological Society
Massachusetts Radiological Society	<b>Virginia Radiological Society</b>
Michigan Radiological Society	Washington State Radiological Society



# ACR Career Center

- 1,594 live job postings



# ACR Goal of Employer Survey January 2022

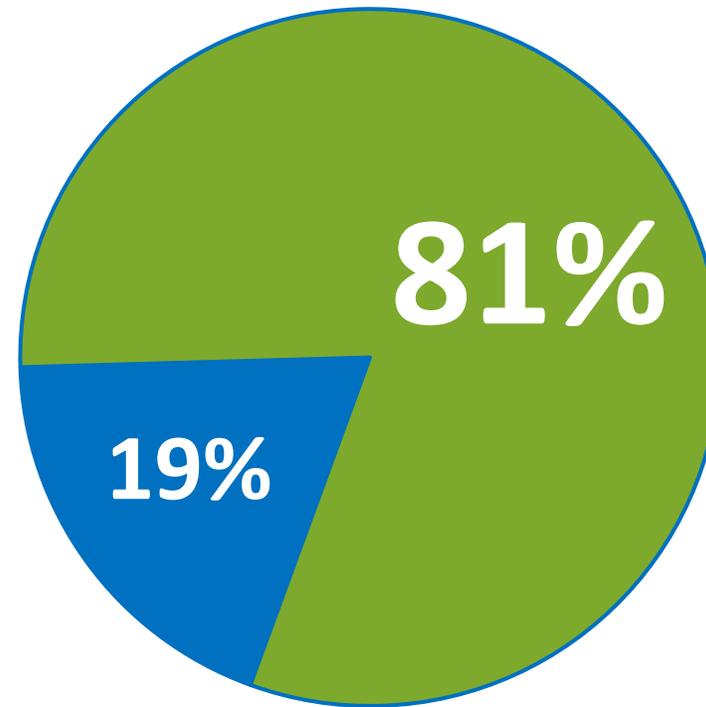


- **Identify hiring trends in subspecialties and procedures:**
  - ✓ **Required**
  - ✓ **Preferred**
- **Increase transparency of desired subspecialties and procedure skill sets:**
  - ✓ **Prior to the interview**
  - ✓ **Prepared to perform on the first day of employment**

# Survey Feedback on Subspecialty Training Requirements and Preferences



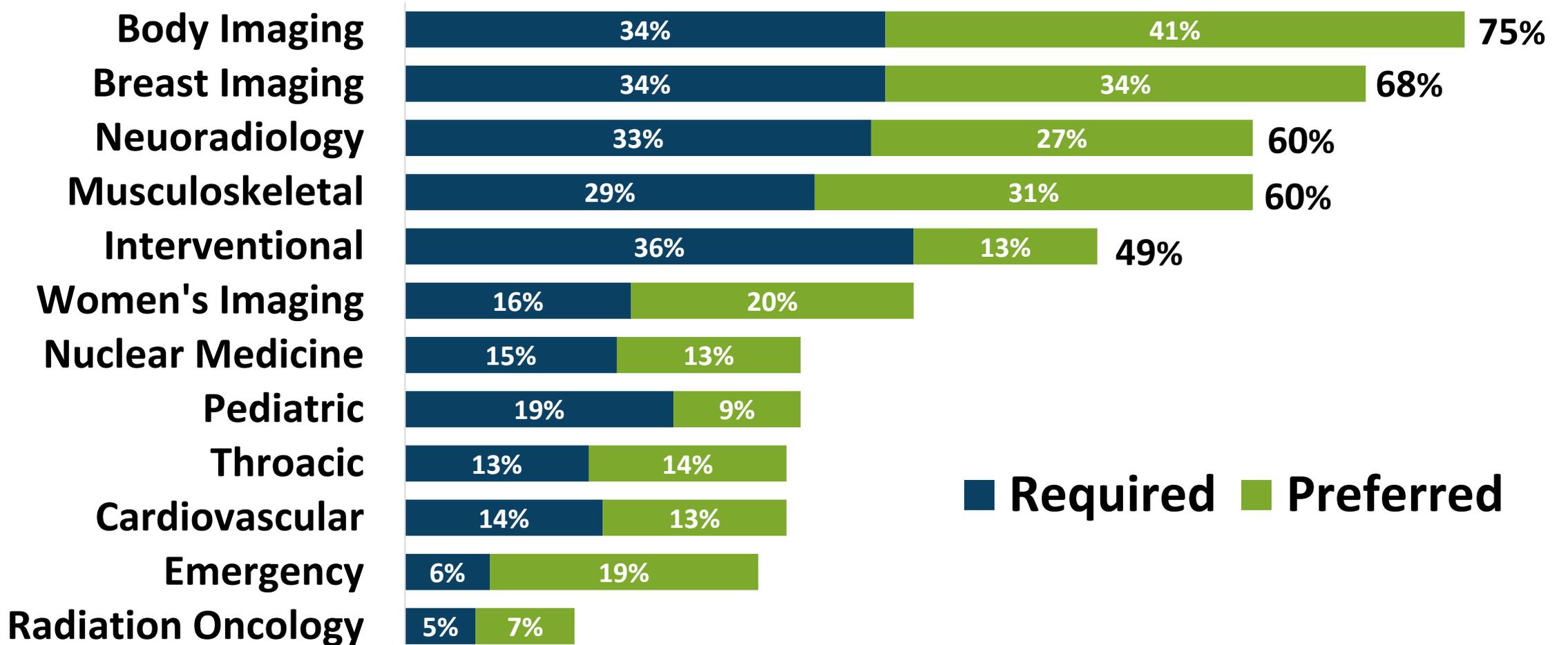
## Employers Are Seeking Fellowship-Trained New Hires



■ No ■ Yes

**Required  
or  
Preferred  
Subspecialty**

# Top Subspecialties In Recent ACR Career Center Job Postings



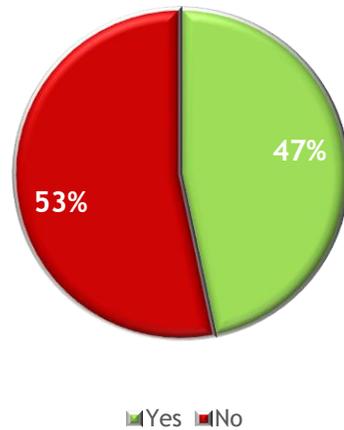
# Survey Feedback on Procedure Skill Set Requirements and Preferences



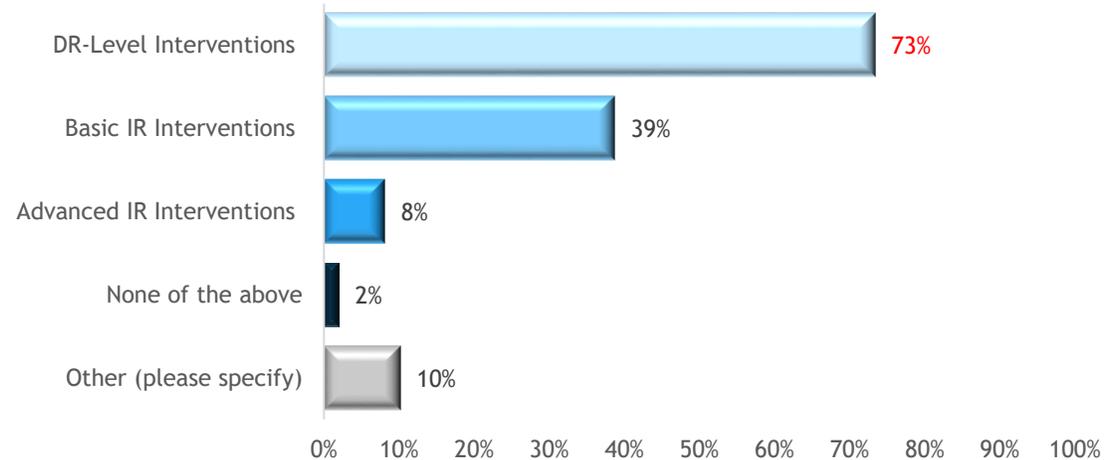
# Fewer than Half of respondents require and/or prefer specific procedural knowledge

- Of those who indicate a preference/requirement regarding procedural knowledge
  - More than **7 in 10** (73%) indicate **DR-Level Interventions** are required or preferred
  - Nearly **4 in 10** (39%) indicated a requirement/preference for **Basic IR Procedures**
  - And fewer than **1 in 10** (8%) required/preference for **Advanced IR procedures**
  - Open Ended responses indicate that had ***Breast Procedures*** been included in the procedure list it would have matched the response rate for ***Advanced IR Procedures*** (8%)

Procedural Requirements



Required/Preferred Procedure Level



# Interventional Procedures

## **BASIC INTERVENTIONAL PROCEDURES**

### **Top Procedures Required/Preferred:**

- Percutaneous Abscess Drain
- Percutaneous Biopsies

### **Additional Procedures Required/Preferred:**

- Percutaneous Nephrostomy Placement
- Chest Tube Exchange
- Percutaneous Cholecystostomy Exchange
- Non-Tunneled Central Line Exchange
- Inferior Vena Cava Filter Placement

## **ADVANCED INTERVENTIONAL PROCEDURES**

### **Top Procedures Required/Preferred:**

- Embolization
- Peripheral Revascularization
- Hemodialysis Access Intervention
- Interventional Oncological Procedures



# Highlights

## Professional and Lifelong Learning

### Medical Student Education Programs

- Engagement campaign promoting STARS, Radiology-TEACHES, and medical student curriculum offered free to medical students
- Radiology-TEACHES
  - 57% Medical School Program Participation
  - More than 5K medical students who have completed activities



The American College of Radiology® (ACR®), in collaboration with the Association of University Radiologists (AUR) and the Alliance of Medical Student Educators in Radiology (AMSER), is now offering the medical student community the following education content in radiology and clinical decision support — **free of charge**.





# Highlights

## Professional and Lifelong Learning

### ACR Bulletin Awards

- *Health Equity Special Issue, Sep 2020, Azbee National Gold Award from the American Society of Business Publication Editors*
- APEX Awards of Excellence
  - *Mythbusting Lung Screening, Podcast*
  - *“Reading the Signs,” Feb 2020 article*
  - *“The House of Radiology” Nov Bulletin cover*



# RADIOLOGY'S FUTURE: RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS

- Collaborative effort with APDR Leadership to assess potential disconnect of resident training relative to healthcare system needs
  - YPS Survey
  - Deep dive in Career Center position postings
- Integrates with recent GSER/SIR Task Force report
- Planned session at AUR 2022





# Highlights: Population Health

## Lung Cancer Screening 2.0

### Webinar Series (with NLCRT)

- 3,041 registrants
- 500 average attendees
- 1,305 On demand views

### New ACR/NLCRT Podcast: Pleural Space: Conversations in Lung Cancer

- 3 Episodes released since November

ACR to work with NLCRT and American Cancer Society to develop LCS HEDIS criteria

March National Colorectal Cancer Screening

MY CTC Locator Tool expanded

**NATIONAL LUNG CANCER ROUNDTABLE** | **WEBINAR**

**Advances in Lung Cancer**  
Treatment and Care:  
Long-term Survivorship is Now a Reality

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2021**

**JILL FELDMAN**  
EGFR Resisters

**RAYMOND OSAROGIAGBON, MBBS**  
Baptist Cancer Center

**ELYSE PARK, PHD, MPH**  
Massachusetts General Hospital

**ANURAG SINGH, MD**  
Roswell Park Cancer Center

**BRENDON STILES, MD**  
Montefiore Medical Center

**PLEURAL SPACE**  
Conversations in Lung Cancer

**S2**

**NATIONAL LUNG CANCER ROUNDTABLE** | **ACR**  
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF RADIOLOGY



## Priority research categories

- Payment models
- Imaging value proposition
- Practice advancement
- Workforce
- Health equity and access



# HPI

HARVEY L. NEIMAN  
HEALTH POLICY INSTITUTE

Studies in Health Care and Economics

## Our Mission

To establish foundational evidence for health policy and radiology practice that promotes effective and efficient use of resources and improves patient care

## Recent Publications

**32**  
*Peer-Reviewed  
Publications in  
past year*

### ACR Bulletin

Covering topics relevant to the practice of radiology

Career | **Economics** | Patient Engagement | Practice Management

#### Price Transparency: Progress or Problems?

Consumer price listings may ultimately give consumers less of what they really want – high quality care.

### Funding to Kickstart Radiology Advancements via Research

The recipients of the FCRI and HPI grants are working on research to move the radiology profession forward and bring better care to patients.

### Contrast Shortage

CASE STUDIES IN CLINICAL PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

#### An Empiric Medicare Claims-Based Utilization Approach to Mitigating the Iodinated Contrast Shortage

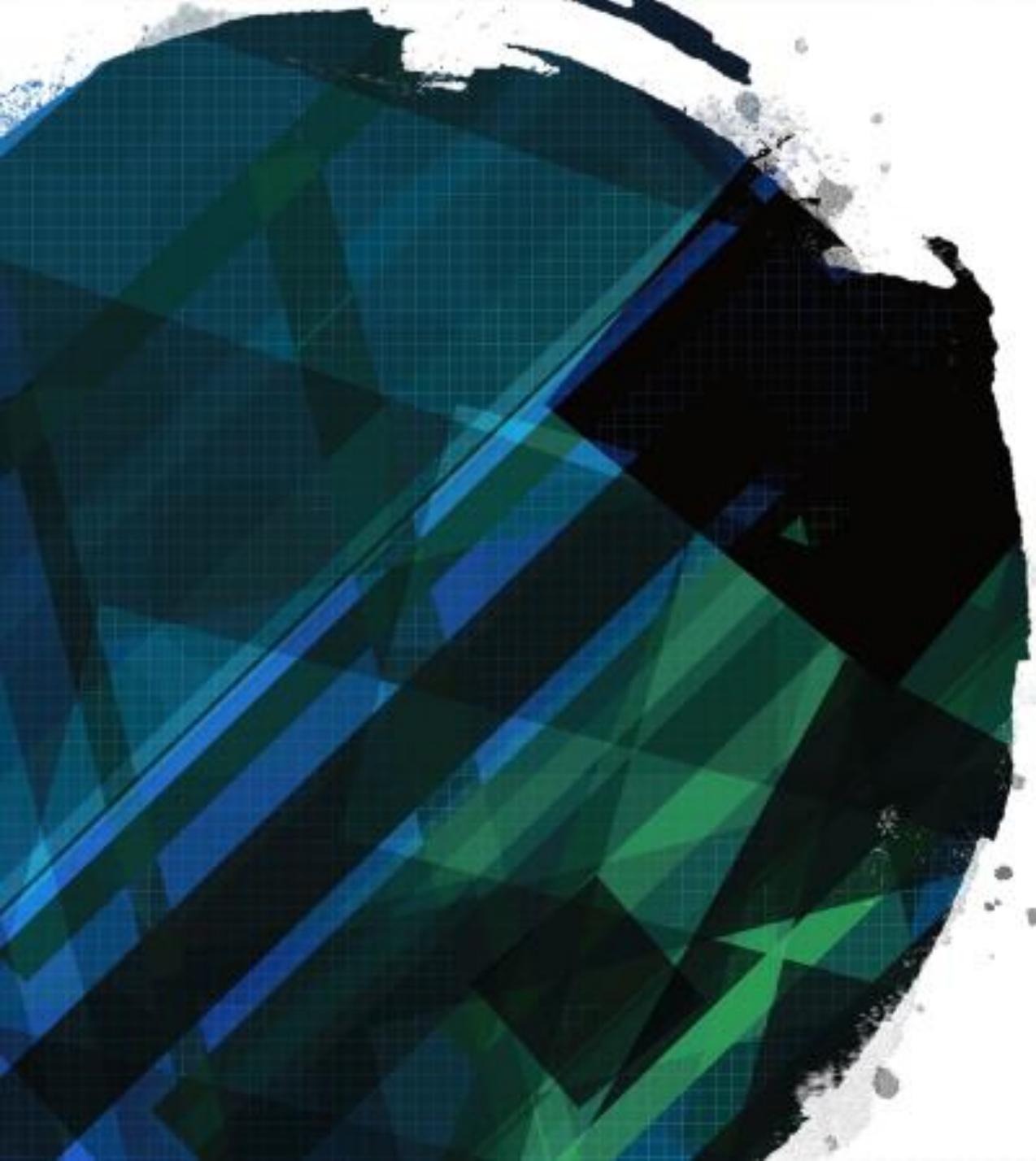
Richard Duszak Jr, MD, Jennifer Hemingway, MS, Eric W. Christensen, PhD, Amit M. Saindane, MD, MBA, Danny R. Hughes, PhD, Elizabeth Y. Rula, PhD

### Non-Physician Practice Trends

ORIGINAL ARTICLE ■ *Clinical Practice Management*

#### Radiology Practices Employing Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants: Characteristics and Trends From 2017 Through 2019

Stefan Santavicca, MS<sup>a</sup>, Danny R. Hughes, PhD<sup>b</sup>, Andrew B. Rosenkrantz, MD, MPA<sup>c</sup>, Eric Rubin, MD<sup>d</sup>, Richard Duszak Jr, MD<sup>e</sup>



# Health Equity *COALITION*

**"Efforts and courage are not  
enough without purpose and  
direction."**

*- John F. Kennedy Sept 1960*

## Health Equity Coalition Mobilization Team Members



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## Health Equity Coalition





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