

August 2004

Dear Fellow APCR Members,

In reflecting back, I remember so well meeting for the first time other residency coordinators at a workshop in San Antonio in 1996. As a relatively new coordinator, I spent the first days with this great sense of awe and amazement. What a wonderful group of knowledgeable, funny, kind and considerate people! I was actually able to talk to someone who understood my questions, knew exactly what I was going through, had felt the same frustrations as I had and also shared the laughter and the joys. This was so incredible for me as absolutely NOBODY I knew had a clue what this crazy job entailed. Have you ever tried to describe your job to a friend or a family member? Did their eyes glaze over?

As I continue to reflect back, I also realize how incredibly far we have all come in just a few short years. What an amazing success story! Most of the credit goes, of course, to our “founders”, especially our past presidents, Dianna Otterstad, Sherry Bucholz, and Pauline Marek. A special thanks also to both our former APDR liaison, Dr. Jerry Arndt and to our current liaison, Dr. George Curry who have served so well as coordinator advocates and helped smooth our way. I am sincerely humbled to accept the responsibility of President of our organization for the year of 2004-2005. I ask for help and support from each of you as we continue to move forward. I feel what has set our organization apart from many others is that we are so willing to share information, provide support and genuinely care about each other and our institutions.

We had a very successful meeting in San Francisco in April and I am looking forward to the meeting in Montreal next year. During the brief time I served as Program Planning Chair, I was able to talk to Dr. Jannette Collins, President-elect of the AUR, and have her agree to speak to us next year on the “Coordinator’s Role in Core Competencies”. Janet Birkmann, our current President-elect and the Chair of the Planning Committee, together with her committee members, have some excellent ideas and are continuing to work closely with the AUR and APDR to bring us an outstanding program.

During our meeting in San Francisco an Ad-Hoc Committee, chaired by Dianna Otterstad, was convened. This committee will work with the APDR’s RRC Committee for PIF revision. Please let Dianna know if you have suggestions.

Lois Shuman and the Membership Committee report that we have 135 members as of last month. Lois and the committee members are contacting programs that do not have APCR representation and are also contacting our Canadian counterparts. I fully expect our membership to continue to grow.

Rhonda Tuttle and the Long Range Planning Committee are continuing to work on the development of a Program Coordinator's Handbook. This can be a vital tool both to experienced and to new coordinators.

Amy Richgels and the Professional Development Committee are going to continue to investigate the process for certification of coordinators. They will present a plan at next year's meeting.

Janet Birkmann and the Website Committee continue to do an excellent job with our website. Make sure you look at the website on a regular basis as Janet adds new information as it becomes available.

Sandy Sees and the Awards Committee are working on nominations for the 2004-5 Outstanding Coordinator's Award. I'm sure they will continue to keep us guessing until May!

Pauline Marek and the Nominating Committee are working to establish the criteria and responsibilities for being a board member.

I would like to express my thanks to our Board, Chairs and Committee members for their time commitment and for continuing to do an excellent job. I'd like to encourage our members to consider joining a committee.

I hope each of you will continue to enjoy the summer. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Julia Clark Burks
President
Association of Program Coordinators in Radiology