



ASSOCIATION OF PROGRAM COORDINATORS IN RADIOLOGY

820 Jorie Boulevard, Oak Brook, IL 60523-2251

(630) 368-3737

President's Letter

April 2021

Dear Fellow APCR Members,

A year ago, our APCR President at the time, Janet Palmer, wrote "We are living in unprecedented times, living in a season of change and uncertainty, in conditions none of us have ever before experienced. But the sun still rises every morning, the grass still grows, spring has arrived..." A year later and I find myself thinking that while so much has changed, that opening sentence still holds true in this moment. This last year has tested all members of society and us as individuals. In our role as Program Coordinators, we have had to adjust to working in a remote environment. Aside from our countless day-to-day Zoom meetings and getting more familiar with e-signatures and cloud based file sharing, we had to tackle momentous tasks like switching conferences over to remote learning, onboarding our new trainees without seeing them face-to-face, innovating new ways to recruit in a virtual format, and figuring out how to transition our graduation celebrations online. And yet, while we had to learn to work differently, our role as Program Coordinators remained the same; we were still the ones sending the reminders, checking the due dates, inputting the information, holding it all together. There was comfort in the predictability but chaos in the approach.

Over the last year, we have not only learned but we have grown. Programs have developed amazing tools, processes, and methods that have enriched our tool box and experiences as Program Coordinators. But we have also had challenges. Many of us struggled with feeling isolated and not being able to be around our attendings, trainees, and colleagues. Many of us felt fatigued from hour after hour on Zoom meetings. Many of us felt overwhelmed with what was happening both outside of and within our work environments. All of us had to adjust our expectations and adapt to a new normal. I personally had to learn to become more comfortable with not being able to get it all done in the time I wanted, in the way I wanted, and in the exact way I had planned.

It is in that vein that I approach our membership now. Serving as APCR President in this environment has been challenging but exceptionally rewarding. There is much I could have, should have, would have done, but I hope we can focus on where we are now. AUR will look different this year as will our APCR sessions, meetings, and networking; but the spirit remains the same- we are a group of engaged professionals eager to learn from each other and support each other. While none of us knows what subsequent years will bring, I am confident that this spirit will continue!

In that spirit of engagement, I ask you to review the amazing program that our President-Elect, Basia Nowakowski has put together. Aside from the three APCR Programming sessions, please be sure to attend the APCR Member Meeting and APCR Committee Meeting all of which will be outlined/highlighted for you in an APCR communication, in the Member Meeting Packet, and on our Yapp App (<https://my.yapp.us/APCR2021>). Please help us create excitement and community by posting photos and sharing content on Yapp. A special thanks to Joey Stuckelman and Amy Spencer for their work on this helpful and fun tool!

In closing, I want to thank all of the members who supported me over the last year, from the Committee Chairs to the APCR Board of Directors to the Past-Presidents. I truly could not have done this without you. Thank you for your guidance, your patience, and your grace.

Amanda Easton

APCR President