

Achievement Award
Association of Program Directors in Radiology
Vijay M. Rao, MD, FACR



Introduction by David C. Levin, MD

Vijay M. Rao, MD, is someone who has ascended to the very pinnacle of achievement among women in academic radiology. She possesses the "right stuff" not only as an educator, but also as a clinician, researcher, and radiology chair.

After completing her residency at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Dr Rao remained on the faculty thereafter, reaching the rank of professor of radiology in 1989. In 1986, she assumed the post of residency program director. In 1989, she became associate chair for education, and in 2000, she became vice chair for education. In 2002, she was appointed chair of Jefferson's Department of Radiology. Under her leadership, Jefferson's residency has flourished, culminating this year in its achieving the ABR's top rank among all programs in this country.

Dr Rao has numerous other accomplishments in education to her credit as well. Shortly after the APDR was formed, she was appointed chair of the curriculum committee, a post she held for the next 7 years. During that time, she worked with the various subspecialty societies to develop curricular guidelines for radiology residencies. She held a number of other important positions in the APDR and then served as its president for 2002–2003. She is currently the APDR liaison to SCARD. Since 1999,

Dr Rao has been a member of the program committee of the RSNA Research and Education Foundation, and she chaired that committee from 2003 to 2005. In 2000, she chaired a large Invitational Consensus Conference of the foundation, the purpose of which was to develop educational grants and other new education initiatives. She recently completed a term as president of the American Society of Head and Neck Radiology.

In addition to her accomplishments in education, Vijay has also compiled a stellar record in research. She has published 144 papers, 151 abstracts, and a textbook on head and neck imaging and has given innumerable scientific presentations at national meetings or as an invited speaker at other academic institutions. Her areas of research interest include head and neck imaging and health services. In the clinical sphere, she is a renowned expert on MR imaging and CT of head and neck structures, and in spite of a heavy administrative burden, she still finds time to read cases in Jefferson's neuroradiology/head and neck division. Every year, *Philadelphia* magazine publishes a list of "Top Docs," based upon reputation among peers. Vijay has made the list regularly for many years. In December 2005, she was honored by the *Philadelphia Business Journal* as one of 25 Women of Distinction throughout the Philadelphia region—and was the only physician in the group.

Aside from her impressive record in academic radiology, she has made time to run a household and raise two outstanding children, both of whom are now medical students. She has obviously been a marvelous role model for them, despite the fact that she always worked at her job full time and never even took an extended leave after they were born. Vijay is married to Koneti Rao, MD, an eminent hematologist at the Temple University School of Medicine. The two of them are justifiably proud of their children, who in turn reflect the intelligence and values of their parents.

The APDR Achievement Award is a fitting tribute to Vijay M. Rao, MD, for her many contributions to organized radiology. Not just a "triple threat," she is really a quadruple threat—a superb clinician, an outstanding educator, a productive researcher, and a strong and visionary leader of a major academic radiology department.