

President's Page

## Enormous Opportunities, Substantial Challenges

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It is a very great pleasure to take on the responsibilities of the presidency of SCMR at this exciting time in our field. There is a huge buzz of expectation about the growth of the *Journal of Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance* in the coming years. Key "leading indicators" that all of us encounter include the renewed sense of excitement and excitement in the magnetic resonance community generally (witness the overflowing cardiac sessions at ISMRM in Denver), the receptiveness of the broader cardiology community to the expectation that cardiovascular magnetic resonance (CMR) will play an important role in the field in the coming years and the strong commitments made across the board by industry to advance and grow the field. Rapid advances in technology, an emerging wave of important clinical trials and comparative technology studies, the growing application of CMR to drug, gene therapy, and device development and the early exploratory studies of invasive/interventional CMR have all created a sense that the time is ripe for CMR to emerge as a major force in cardiovascular research and practice.

The society has benefited enormously from the foresight of Gerald Pohost, our founding president and a great pioneer in CMR; the extraordinary talents and commitment of Dudley Pennell, who now becomes immediate past president; and the contributions of all of the founding board members and founding members at large in these early years. We all owe them a debt of gratitude.

Now we must prepare SCMR and, in fact, the entire field of CMR for the consequences of the rising tide of opportunity and interest. This will require aggressive efforts to expand the pool of competent physicians and technologists so that CMR methods can diffuse through both the academic and clinical communities. We must attract potential newcomers to the field, to SCMR's meetings, to JCMR, and to our web site. Once there, we must provide the opportunities for education and training needed to empower them.

To begin that process, the SCMR 2001 Annual Meeting, under the leadership of Norbert Wilke and the Program Committee, will be expanded to include a physician education day on Thursday before the main meeting. In addition, the Technologist Committee, chaired by Christine Lorenz, will sponsor an overlapping Technologists' Meeting on Saturday and Sunday. These efforts will be supplemented by provision of opportunities for case review and hands-on training where possible for physicians and technologists alike. The meeting will also offer on-line abstract submission and grading for the first time. We will also change the focus of the customary pre-AHA meeting to address the needs of newcomers to the field. The 2001 ACC meeting itself will include a CMR minicourse, directed at beginners, on Sunday. So the role and focus of an SCMR pre-ACC meeting in 2001 remains to be determined. Going further, we will seek to make the SCMR web site a more robust educational resource by capturing all didactic sessions at SCMR sponsored meetings and making them available on the web site in the future.

These should be very exciting years for CMR and for the Society. We need to enlist the active participation of larger numbers of members in the active work of the group. By the time of publication of this issue of JCMR, the results of the recent Board election will be known and we will be welcoming a significant number of new Board members. I am sure they will contribute immensely to advancing our objectives. But we also need a more active committee system with more effective interaction with the Board and greater opportunities for substantive work. This will need to be a main focus for us in the months to come. In closing, I would like to urge everyone in the Society to feel very welcome to contact me with your suggestions, opinions, gripes. In the long run, SCMR will only be a long-term success if it strives to be as responsive as possible to the needs of its members.

*Nathaniel Reichek, MD*