

2024 ACR-RBMA Practice Leadership Forum

ACR Update

Saturday, January 20 | Phoenix

Faculty



William T. Thorwarth, Jr., MD, FACR



ACR.org



American College
of Radiology™

2024 ACR-RBMA Practice Leadership Forum

ACR Update

William T. Thorwarth Jr. MD, FACR

CEO, ACR

January 20, 2024

Disclosures

- Employed by the American College of Radiology
- I affirm that my current COI disclosure has been accurately reported to the ACR
- I have no disclosures relevant to this presentation
- Outside Activities:
 - > Council of Medical Specialty Societies – Past Board member and Secretary
 - > Specialty Society CEO Coalition, past-Chair



But I Must Disclose

As I approach the end of my tenure as ACR CEO, I could not be more proud of our organization, our leadership and the incredibly talented and dedicated staff as, **together**, they “empower our members to serve patients and society by advancing the science and professions of radiological care”.

ACR Leadership



Jacqueline A. Bello, MD, FACR

Chair, ACR Board of Chancellors



Alan Matsumoto, MD, FACR

Vice-Chair, ACR Board of Chancellors

ACR Leadership



William T. Herrington, MD, FACR
ACR President



Don C. Yoo, MD, FACR
ACR Vice-President

ACR Leadership



Timothy Crummy, MD, FACR

Speaker, ACR Council



Kurt Schoppe, MD

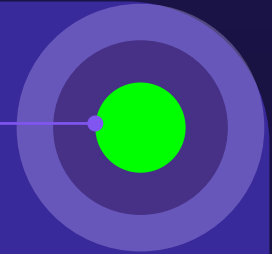
Vice-Speaker, ACR Council

ACR Strategic Plan | **Mission**

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 Strategic Plan | **Vision**

ACR Vision

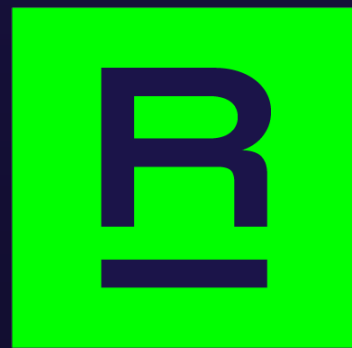


ACR members thrive,
improving population health
and leading through excellence
in radiological care.”



Rebranding

- 4 Year Project with extensive member research
- Focus on the evolving needs of our members
- Strong input from the YPS and RFS Sections.
- Launched at ACR 2023



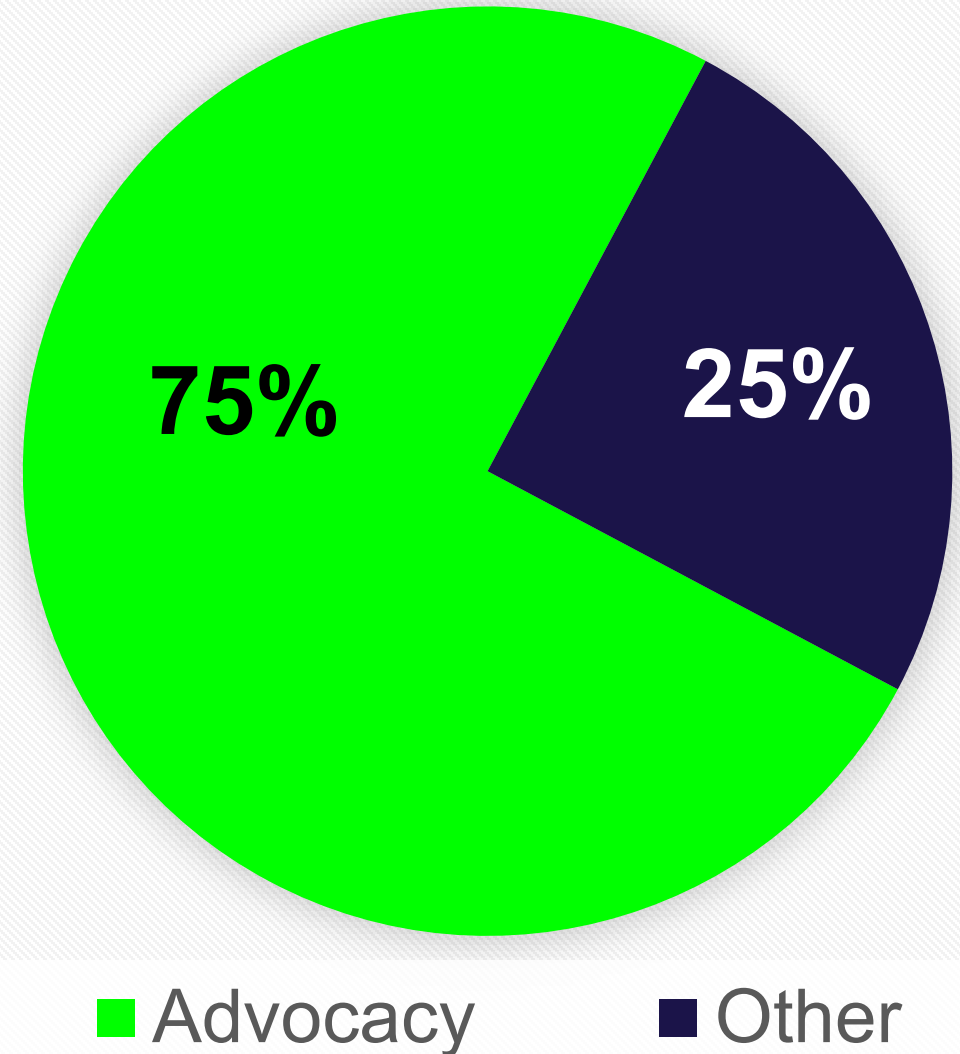
American College
of Radiology[™]

Focused. Forward. Together.[™]

Your ACRA Membership Dues At Work



- ✓ Last ACRA dues increase in 2016 to current \$900
- ✓ No increase during COVID
- ✓ No increase despite rising inflation
- ✓ No increase for 2024



ACR Member Value

✓ Leading in arenas of advocacy and economics

✓ Amplifying the voice of radiology in the media and on Capitol Hill

✓ Offering 72 hours of free CME & innovative education

✓ Setting Quality & Safety standards for the profession

✓ Award winning publications including the ACR Bulletin and JACR

✓ ACR Data Science Institute

✓ ACR Center for Research and Innovation/HPI

✓ ACR Career Center

✓ ACR Radiology Leadership Institute



This is just the tip of the iceberg!

Makes sure to do you part and encourage those in your practice and chapter to [join the ACR today](#)

Overview of Presentation

-
-
- 01** ACR Centennial Celebration

 - 02** ACR Advocacy and Economics

 - 03** ACR Radiology Leadership Institute (RLI)

 - 04** ACR Career Center and Workforce

 - 05** Population Health and Neiman HPI

 - 06** Health Equity Coalition



ACR Centennial Celebration

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American College of Radiology

ACR TURNS 100!

ACR is celebrating its Centennial anniversary during 2023 and 2024.

Join the celebration!

Learn more at

acr.org/100





American College of Radiology

acr.org/100

will be updated regularly

- Centennial Committee led by Jim Borgstede, MD and Catherine Everett, MD
- Celebrating over two years reflecting the informal organizational first meeting in 1923 and the ACR's incorporation in 1924
- Historical articles, podcasts, video, timelines, etc.
- **2023** focused on the first 100 years
- **2024** will focus on the future of the profession
- ACR Chapters asked to participate with 2-4 minute video





Economics and Advocacy Update

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2022-23 Efforts To Avert Full Proposed Medicare Cuts



The efforts of the **ACR-led coalition** of over **100** physician and non-physician organizations resulted in a savings to radiology of **\$437 million** for 2023



In the last three years (2021–2023) of fighting these scheduled Medicare payment reductions, the **ACR-led coalition** has saved our profession **\$1.637 billion** (approx. **\$46K/rad**)

Additional information can be found at:

www.acr.org/Media-Center/ACR-News-Releases/2022/Congress-Comes-Up-Short-on-2023-Medicare-Conversion-Factor-Adjustment

CMS Final Rule for 2024



CMS physician payment proposed rule released on July 13



Conversion factor would be reduced from \$33.88 to \$32.74



ACR submitted comments in September. Final rule issued in Nov.

- CMS estimates an overall 3% decrease in payment rates to radiology
 - Interventional radiology (-4%)
 - Nuclear medicine (-3%)
 - Radiation oncology (-2%)
- The estimated impact will be approximately 1 to 2 percent greater when the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (CAA) payment supplements are allocated.
- The PAMA AUC program would be paused for re-evaluation but CMS cites value (\$700M/year)
- ACR has developed a 21-page detailed summary of the p rule which can be found online at acr.org
- ACR issued comments on the Final Rule.
- The rule became effective for services provided after January 1, 2024 but our work continues

Legislative MPFS Payment Reform

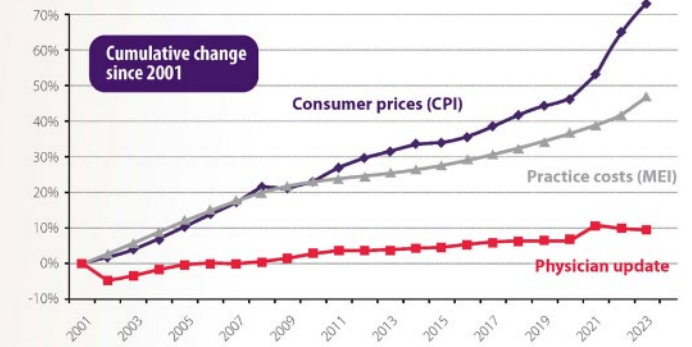
MPFS the only major fee schedule lacking an inflationary update.

- Policy has support from the entire provider community
- Broad coalition letter of support sent to Hill with over a hundred organizational signatures
- Bipartisan legislation adds a permanent MEI based update to the MFPS: Ted Burnes will cover
- Will require significant \$ investment from Congress, likely to be multi-Congress effort needing support of all

Medicare physician payment is NOT keeping up with inflation.

Medicare updates compared to inflation (2001–2023)

Adjusted for inflation in practice costs, Medicare physician payment declined 26% from 2001 to 2023.



Sources: Federal Register, Medicare Trustees Report, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Congressional Budget Office.

Updated April 2023

We need to fix Medicare physician payment NOW.

No Surprises Act (NSA) Implementation



Bipartisan legislation passed in 2020 to protect patients from surprise medical bills; established an Independent Dispute Resolution (IDR) process



Several rules issued by government agencies to govern IDR process



Legal challenges followed



Qualified Payment Amount (QPA)



Increased Fees



Batching

Problematic NSA Regulations

NSA directs arbiter to consider all information submitted by the physician and insurer; QPA could be one of many equally weighted factors

- The rules made the QPA primary factor in the IDR process—an artificially low benchmark controlled by insurers
- December 2022: amendment to IDR fee guidance, ↑ \$50 fee it set in October to \$350 prompted TMA 4 suit - successful
- Even with final CMS fee of \$115 makes IDR process cost prohibitive and inaccessible for radiologists for many claims (HPI Research)
- Restrictive rules on batching

ACR Advocacy in Court: NSA

December 2021

ACR sued 3 Federal Government agencies for first time

Why?

Gov't issued flawed rules implementing No Surprises Act

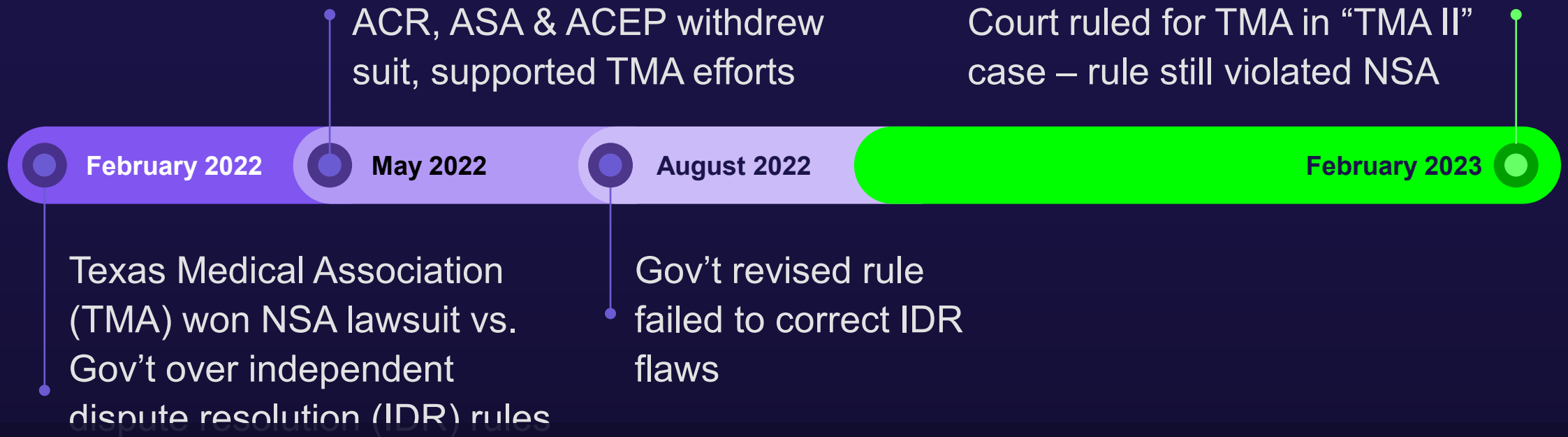


ACR sued jointly with American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) and American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP)



We support patients getting out of middle, seek fairer claims process

ACR Advocacy in Court: NSA



**Gov't appealing TMA II decision.
ACR filed amicus brief with ASA & ACEP**

ACR Advocacy in Court: No Surprises Act

“TMA III”

A third TMA no surprises lawsuit against US gov’t

- TMA challenged flawed Qualifying Payment Amount (QPA) methodology in 2021 rule, lack of transparency in QPA calculations (first two cases focused on QPA as primary \$ factor)
- ACR, ASA & ACEP submitted supporting amicus brief. **Ruled in favor of TMA.**
- Appeal pending before Texas federal court

“TMA IV”

Targets IDR fee hike and “batching” claims

- Gov’t raised IDR administrative fees by 600 percent with very little notice and no comment period
- IDR rule precludes radiologists from batching many related claims
- ACR, ASA & ACEP submitted supporting amicus brief
- Texas court: ruled violates “notice and comment” requirement of federal law
- CMS suspended IDR process while it evaluated court’s ruling, now reopened

Increasing Graduate Medical Education Positions

Physician workforce shortages persist

- ACR advocacy for additional GME positions for radiology
- Support for Physician Shortage Reduction Act (H.R. 2389): would expand the number of Medicare-supported medical residency positions by 14,000 over seven years
- Study on professional workforce diversity. ACR PIER program!
- Distribution to focus on hospitals: in rural or non-contiguous areas; those training over their GME cap, in states with new medical schools/branches and those serving HPSAs



Hill Day | 2023: Great to be back!

Hill Day Issues

- **Mitigating Future Medicare Reimbursement Cuts**
 - Focused the need for physician payment reform
 - Inflationary update (HR 2474)
 - Exploring budget neutrality requirement of the MPFS
- **Proper Implementation of No Surprise Act**
 - Misinterpretation of independent dispute resolution (IDR) process
 - Legal challenges Further Congressional intervention?
- **Amending PAMA**
 - Enact legislation to end continuous CMS administrative delays



Artificial Intelligence and Digital Health



AI Safety and Effectiveness

- Ongoing collaboration with ACR Informatics/DSI—e.g., FDA, NIH
- Continue to monitor Biden Administration meetings on overarching AI issues—e.g., via National AI Advisory Committee and President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology



Health IT / Information Blocking

- Commented on HHS proposed rule to update health IT certification, data sharing, and info-blocking rules
- Anticipating more info-blocking rules later this year—re: provider penalties

National Institutes of Health

- The current fiscal year (FY) 2023 budget is \$47.5 billion. ACR is advocating for \$50.9 billion
 - ACR working closely with Academy and others.

- The President's FY 2024 budget included \$48.6 billion for NIH,
- Includes a \$500 million increase in funding for the NCI, including research towards prevention, diagnosis and treatment efforts, and approaches in cancer research, including ACR CRI.

***ACR integral to ARPA-H “Biomedical Data Fabric”
using our IT infrastructure***



ACR State Legislative Update- Focus on Scope Additional ACR GR Staff

- **ACRa State Scope of Practice Fund \$225K**
 - Grants approved in 2023 - MI, NJ, OK, TX (\$67,000)
 - Seat on AMA's Scope of Practice Partnership \$25K
- **400+ bills, 80+ bills on scope of non-physician personnel, 70+ on breast health**
 - Nurses and Physician Assistants independent practice
 - Physician Assistants → Physician Associate
 - Use/Supervision of fluoroscopy
 - Ordering of diagnostic imaging by physical therapists
- **Prior Authorization/ Gold Carding**
 - Tracking bills in AR, DC, KS, KY, MD, MO, MT, ND, NE, NJ, VA & WV
 - Legislation has passed so far in ND, VA & WV
- **Breast Health**
 - **Eliminate cost sharing for diagnostic and supplemental breast examinations (w. Komen and coalition partners)**
 - In 2023: New Mexico (NM HB 27) signed into law, no cost sharing for patients for diagnostic workup
 - Bills awaiting Governors' signatures – Georgia, Maryland [May 3] and Washington
 - Similar Bills pending in 22 additional states



Cloud of 2024 Elections – Ted Burnes Report





ACR Radiology Leadership Institute (RLI) Update

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**American College
of Radiology™
Radiology Leadership Institute**

Leadership Is for Everyone



Online Courses and Podcasts

- Leadership Accelerator
- Power Hour Webinar Series
- RLI Taking the Lead Podcast



Live Events and Networking

- RLI Leadership Summit
- **ACR-RBMA Practice Leadership Forum**



For Residents and Fellows

- RLI Resident Milestones
- Kickstart Your Career
- Leadership Essentials



Be a Leader

acr.org/RLI



ACR Chapter Sponsors



American College
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Radiology Leadership Institute

THANK YOU

For Supporting a
Decade of Leadership

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

Virginia Radiological Society

Michigan Radiological Society

Washington State Radiological Society



ACR Career Center and Workforce

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ACR Career Center



Emerging state “pay transparency” laws require disclosure of salary ranges for posted positions.

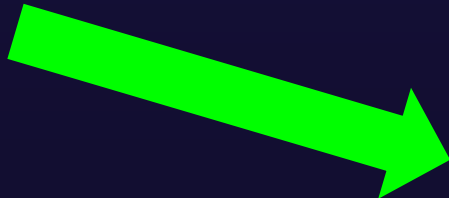
- 17 states enacted
 - Others considering legislation
- Aim to improve pay equity and close gender and racial pay gaps
- Required for all postings because job seekers may come from all over the nation

Contacts:
Careercenter@acr.org
800-227-3370
ACR.org/CareerCenter

ACR Career Center

Pay Transparency Laws

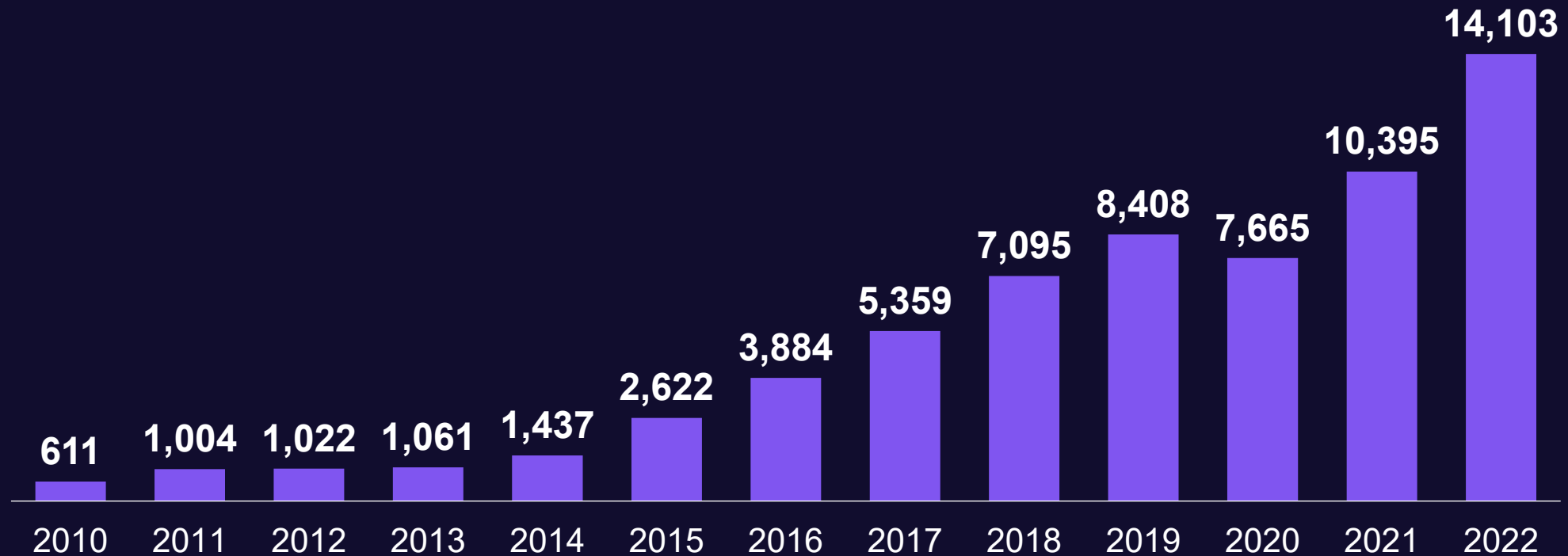
- Feedback:
- Salary range may not adequately represent the various ways that employers will base total compensation in radiology
- Response:
 - We will be adding a text box below the salary range to itemize or explain their compensation packages



Job Information
Job ID: 70103767
Workplace Type: On-Site
Location: Mankato, Minnesota, United States
Company Name For Job: Mayo Clinic
Position Title: Diagnostic Radiologist
Work Setting: Hospital-affiliated group practice
Job Type: Full Time Regular
Fellowship Training: Required
Job Category: Post-Training
Specialties: Diagnostic Radiology
Salary: \$514,065.00 - \$514,065.00

Trends in ACR Career Center Job Posting Quantities

Annual Job Posting Quantities





Population Health and Neiman HPI

Focused. Forward. Together.™

Highlights

Population Health

Lung Cancer Screening 2.0

- Webinar Series (with NLCRT)
 - 500 Average Attendees
 - 1,305 On Demand Views
-
- **ACR to work with NLCRT and American Cancer Society to develop LCS HEDIS criteria**
 - **March National Colorectal Cancer Screening**
 - **MY CRC 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
SPEAKER

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

National Lung Cancer Screening Day



- 2nd Saturday in November – this year on Veterans' Day
- Collaboration of National Lung Cancer Roundtable, Radiology Health Equity Coalition, Go2 Foundation and ACR
- 2nd Annual: Huge growth from 2022 with **over 800 sites** participating
- LCS Site Locator hits went up 20X



Neiman HPI – Mission and Objectives

Our Mission

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



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

32 Peer-Reviewed Publications last year

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, MS¹, Danny R. Hughes, PhD², Andrew B. Rosenkrantz, MD, MPA³, Eric Rubin, MD⁴, Richard Duszak Jr, MD⁵

Recent Publications



Neiman HPI – Mission and Objectives

Cancer Equity Atlas in final stages of development!

HPI Collaborations in Health Equity Research

- **Goal:**

- Identify disparities and their drivers, and provide actionable information for policy



- **Current research focused on disparities in breast cancer screening**

- Racial disparities in the transition to newer mammographic technology
- Disparities in mammography rates for Native American women

RADIOLOGY HEALTH EQUITY COALITION



Breast Cancer

40% higher breast cancer mortality for black women



Neiman HPI – Mission and Objectives

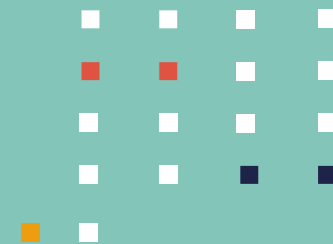
Opportunities through Neiman HPI

Neiman Institute Grants Program	Comparative Effectiveness Research Course
 <h3>Objectives</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expand academic partnerships and resources• Provide funding and support for policy research• Build new collaborations and research coalition	<p>This Free virtual course introduces residents to key concepts in health policy research, comparative effectiveness research, and big data analytics from leading researchers in the field.</p>  <p>American College of Radiology™ Institute for Radiologic Pathology</p>
<p>More Info www.neimanhpi.org/grants-fellowships/</p>	<p>For upcoming course offerings www.neimanhpi.org/airp-cer-course/</p>

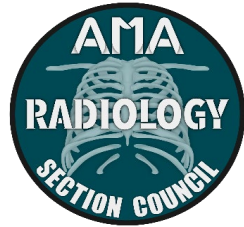
RADIOLOGY HEALTH EQUITY COALITION



Commit to Act



Mobilization Team Members



NMA Section on Radiology
and Radiation Oncology

SCARD



**RADIOLOGY HEALTH
EQUITY COALITION**

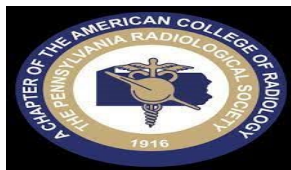


Coalition Partners State Chapters



CARROS

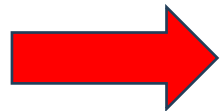
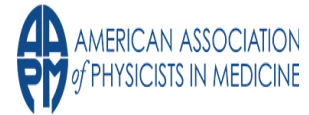
The Council of Affiliated
Regional Radiation
Oncology Societies



RADIOLOGY HEALTH
EQUITY COALITION



Coalition Partners Radiology Societies



**RADIOLOGY HEALTH
EQUITY COALITION**



Coming Soon!



What Can You Do?



Step One

Pledge to join the community.



Share Ideas & Resources

We want to hear from you.



Spread The Word

Talk to your colleagues and ask them to join.



We Are Growing

Submit your ideas.





ACR – Your Career-Long Partner

I always have considered my ACR dues as “Profession Insurance”.



Focused. Forward. Together.

Thank you!

wthorwarth@acr.org