



SIIM BACKGROUND

The Society for Imaging Informatics in Medicine (SIIM) aspires to be the leading health care professional organization representing interests and goals of those who work with and whose work is affected by the rapidly changing world of information and imaging technologies. SIIM seeks to spearhead research, education, and discovery of innovative solutions, and to explore new technologies and applications to improve the delivery of medical imaging services and the quality and safety of patient care.

A VIBRANT AND OPEN COMMUNITY

In 2006, the Society for Computer Applications in Radiology (SCAR) announced a name change to the Society for Imaging Informatics in Medicine (SIIM). The new name appropriately describes the diversity of the Society's members, reflects the expansion of our research and educational activities, and embraces the dynamic changes in the health care environment. Many important components of imaging informatics demand an interdisciplinary approach, including image processing, image transmission and display, imaging information management, and decision support systems. SIIM provides a collegial forum where physicians, administrators, health information professionals, technologists, scientists, and engineers can learn about these topics from one another. In short, SIIM brings together individuals who develop and use information systems for medical imaging.

SIIM serves you by providing a cadre of benefits and services, including essential tools to help you solve clinical imaging informatics problems with your peers, who are often working on the same type of problems.

There is strength in diversity and SIIM provides access to ideas and information from many disciplines. Membership in SIIM is open to anyone globally with an interest in the vital and growing field of electronic medical imaging and imaging informatics.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

SIIM offers 6 membership categories, including individual, international, student, emeritus, institutional, and corporate. All membership categories contain a number of core benefits and services, including complimentary subscriptions to the *Journal of Digital Imaging* and *SIIM News*, discounts on SIIM publications, reduced registration fees for the SIIM Annual Meeting, and unlimited consultative access to the SIIM Expert Hotline.

SIIM works with its corporate and institutional members to establish partnerships customized to the needs of both the vendors and providers to share the risks in adopting new technological innovation, programs, and services in the fast-changing health care environment. From its inception, SIIM has made a significant contribution to facilitating productive, open, and forward-thinking interactions between users and the industry.

In support of SIIM's goal to foster communication among vendors and users of computerized health care solutions, the Society provides administrative and organizational services for vendor user groups. Institutional users of PACS, RIS, and other electronic management systems communicate, meet, and work with the vendor under the auspices of SIIM for product modification, improvement, and future planning. Current user groups include IRISS (IDXrad Radiology Information System Society), FUSUN (Fuji Users Synapse Users Network), and DIAMOND (Dynamic Imaging Associated Members Organized for Networking & Discussion).

In the interest of expanding research and education opportunities to a wider audience, SIIM has joined in liaison activities with other professional organizations. SIIM maintains liaison relationships with SPIE, HIMSS (of which SIIM has been a cosponsor since 2001), RSNA, SIR, AMIA, ACR, AAPM, ASRT, ARRT, NEMA (MITA) and the ARR.

SIIM continues its success as a unique professional organization at the nexus of medical imaging and information technologies.

RESEARCH & GRANTS

The mission of the Society for Imaging Informatics in Medicine (SIIM) is to advance computer applications and information technology in medical imaging through education and research. Several society initiatives further that mission, including the TRIP™ Initiative, which aims to lead research to address the problem of information/image data overload; the annual R&D Symposium, which highlights promising research; and the SIIM Grant program, which supports original research in imaging informatics.

TRIP™ Initiative: TRIP™ (Transforming the Radiological Interpretation Process) is an initiative of SIIM to spearhead research, education, and discovery of innovative solutions to the problem of information/image data overload. Rapid technological advances are creating burgeoning medical image data sets acquired by digital imaging devices, requiring the radiological community to shift its image interpretation and management processes. The SIIM TRIP™ Initiative fosters interdisciplinary research on technology as well as environmental and human factors to better manage and exploit the massive amount of information available. A conference along with several forums and white papers have been produced in support of the TRIP™ program.

The ultimate goal of the initiative is to improve the quality and safety of patient care. In the fast-changing health care environment, vendors, researchers, and providers are working to establish relationships that share the risk of adopting new technological

innovation, programs, services and processes designed to improve provider performance and patient care. SIIM institutional and corporate members are ideally situated to effectively confront these issues and be at the forefront in identifying solutions. TRIP™ Corporate Partnerships support activities such as the TRIP™ research conferences/workshops and quality research of young scholars through the SIIM informatics grant program, and bring the best of industry, government, and academia together to interact and share results with investigators at annual forums.

R&D Symposia: Each year the SIIM Research and Development Committee presents the R&D Symposium as part of the SIIM Annual Meeting. This special session features the progress and results of SIIM-supported research projects. SIIM Grantees have the opportunity to present their findings at the R&D Symposium, which has become a forum for promising research.

Grants: SIIM expanded its research grant program in 2008 to include the research grants; small grants for imaging informatics training and product support development; an emeritus mentor grant; and a micro grant. SIIM's grant program offers annual grants in support of original research in imaging informatics that have the potential to impact the practice of medicine and ultimately improve patient care. Any area of research involving medical imaging informatics is eligible for support, as well as development of new hardware, software, or processes to support medical practice, education, or research.

ANNUAL MEETING

The SIIM Annual Meeting is a comprehensive educational and scientific program unmatched in the field. The meeting provides an open environment for imaging informatics professionals – including physicians, physicists, technologists, health care administrators, imaging informatics professionals (IIPs), IT professionals, scientists, and engineers – who are able to access expert, unbiased, and cutting-edge resources in a collegial and practical atmosphere.

The meeting is designed to provide important information to professionals who use, buy, or develop computer-based equipment with applications in radiology and throughout the digital medical enterprise.

The meeting fosters peer-to-peer and expert consultation for anyone planning to implement an electronic image management system and includes didactic presentations, debates, technical exhibits, workshops, and original scientific research. A special curriculum, called SIIM University, presents information in varying levels of complexity to accommodate attendees' differing knowledge levels. These sessions provide basic-to-expert levels of information on a broad array of subjects, including PACS operational policies and procedures, communicating results, basics of imaging informatics, PACS/RIS replacement, 3D & advanced visualization, digital radiography, workflow, connectivity, and quality control. Hot topic sessions, scientific sessions, an R&D symposium, hands-on sessions and learning labs, and roundtable breakfasts, are additional components of the annual meeting, as is an exhibit hall featuring approximately 150 companies. SIIM 2009 is scheduled June 4-7, 2009, in Charlotte, NC.

PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

SIIM offers the latest science and research in its quarterly, peer-reviewed journal, the *Journal of Digital Imaging*; society news, educational content, and feature articles in its quarterly newsletter, *SIIM News*; the popular Primer Series on issues affecting the digital medical enterprise; along with white papers, handbooks, meeting syllabi, and scientific proceedings. In addition, you can ask questions and research the archives of the SIIM Expert Hotline; network with peers through SIIM's online communities; and find a host of other resources online at www.siimweb.org.

Answers to the diverse and numerous questions relating to PACS and imaging informatics are provided to members through the SIIM Expert Hotline, now offered as an online benefit and archive. Searching and viewing are free on the website. Experts made up of volunteer SIIM members in academia, industry, and government review each question submitted and post timely answers based on their own and others' experience in the field. Topics addressed span a wide array of subjects including, but not limited to, planning for PACS implementation, clinical understanding of PACS/imaging informatics, HIS/RIS interfaces, and comparison of different PACS and PACS' effects on institutional operations.

SIIM provides several publications and resources to assist professionals working in the growing IIP field as well as those preparing for the forthcoming certification exam: an online IIP Symposium WebSeminar; the SIIM/SCAR University Digital Medical Enterprise Primer series; a special supplement to the *Journal of Digital Imaging* with references and reading lists for IIPs preparing for certification; and the Imaging Informatics Professional Symposium Course Syllabi.

To address the continuing educational needs of the IIP community, SIIM has organized an Education Advisory Network (EAN) comprised of SIIM members who are leaders in the field of imaging informatics education from throughout the United States and Canada. It is a subcommittee of the SIIM Education Committee. The EAN is designed as a forum for the exchange of information and to facilitate collaboration in the development of educational criteria and curricula for imaging informatics professionals. The EAN recently released educational learning objectives for each of the 10 domains for the American Board of Imaging Informatics (ABII) Test Content Outline.

In 2005, SIIM launched development of the Certified Imaging Informatics Professional (CIIP) program to provide professional certification to members of this growing field. The independent certifying organization, the ABII, was launched in 2007, and to date 270 individuals have achieved the CIIP designation.

SOCIETY FOR IMAGING INFORMATICS IN MEDICINE (SIIM) HISTORY

SIIM had its origins in 1980 with a small group of forward-thinking individuals who could see that medical imaging was on the verge of undergoing a revolutionary change. The Radiology Information System Consortium (RISC) was formed in 1980 by a group

of academic and private hospitals for the purpose of developing a RIS with a commercial partner and making it available to member institutions and others. In 1989, the Society for Computer Applications in Radiology (SCAR) was founded as an organization under the RISC banner. SCAR provided a structure to include individual members, and RISC's biannual meeting on computer applications was transferred to SCAR in 1990. In 1996, RISC and SCAR were merged under the SCAR name to include individual, corporate, and institutional members.

In 2005, SCAR celebrated its 25th anniversary with a new vision for the future. The Society's new tagline – innovating imaging informatics – emphasizes the organization's commitment to lead the medical imaging community in the use and innovation of cutting-edge imaging technology.

In 2006, the Society changed its name to the Society for Imaging Informatics in Medicine (SIIM) to better reflect the broadened role of imaging across the medical enterprise. The Society decided to change its name to better describe the diversity of its constituency, to expand research and activities into the entire field of imaging informatics, to include all of the imaging sciences, and to embrace the dynamic changes in the health care environment.

From its inception, SIIM has made a significant contribution to facilitating productive, forward-thinking interactions between users and the industry. SIIM continues its success as a unique professional organization at the nexus of medical imaging and information technologies.

Please visit the SIIM website at www.siiimweb.org for more information.