

Aussi disponible en français sous le titre :

L'Association canadienne des radiologistes
Rapport annuel 2023

Commercial reproduction and distribution of this report, and of its content, is prohibited except with written permission from the Canadian Association of Radiologists.

Produced by:

1120-220 Laurier Ave W
Ottawa, ON K1P 5Z9
Tel.: 613 860-3111
Fax: 613 860-3112

Contact:

Natalie St-Pierre
Director, Marketing and Communications
613 860-3111 ext:240
nst-pierre@car.ca
www.car.ca

 [@CARadiologists](https://twitter.com/CARadiologists)
 facebook.com/CARadiologists
 linkedin.com/company/canadian-association-of-radiologists

We recognize the hard work that our members put in on a daily basis and their amazing contributions to the Canadian healthcare system. Despite this, patients across the country face lengthy wait times for necessary imaging, and practices are struggling with the shortage of health human resources and burnout.

The CAR has been advocating for a better way forward for radiology. We hear our members. We need in more investment from the federal government. We are advocating for more technologists, a better e-system for referrals, more modern equipment, and oversight of AI.



About the Canadian Association of Radiologists

The Canadian Association of Radiologists (CAR) is the national voice of radiologists in Canada, dedicated to imaging excellence and advocating for the highest standard of patient care across the country. The CAR is a recognized leader in education, research, and innovation in radiology. The CAR is focused on providing world-class resources that empower our members to be more successful in their profession.

CAR Mission and Vision

Mission

To be the national voice for medical imaging excellence in patient care.

Vision

1.

The CAR is the **national authority and voice of radiologists** speaking to the federal government, industry, provincial and international radiology organizations, and other specialty societies on matters of radiology training, research, workforce, licensing, accreditation, standards, and future trends in radiology.

2.

The CAR is a strong organization with universal membership providing a **unified, guiding, respected voice for all Canadian radiologists** and the practice of radiology in Canada.

3.

Emphasizing appropriate, safe, and cost-efficient quality care, the CAR is the **preferred source of best practice information for radiologists, government, industry, healthcare authorities, and the public**. The CAR actively disseminates best practices by creating and maintaining guidelines and standards, and promoting continuing education for radiologists, other physicians, healthcare workers, healthcare policy makers, and the public.

Board of Directors

Executive of the CAR Board of Directors 2023-2024



President,
Dr. Ania Kielar



Past-President,
Dr. Gilles Soulez



Vice-President,
Dr. Alison Harris



Secretary-Treasurer,
Dr. John-Paul King



Board Meetings Chair,
Dr. Jana Taylor

CAR Board of Directors



Dr. Pierre Bourgouin



Dr. Virginie Demers



Dr. Rachel Fleming



Dr. Daniel Petrie



Dr. Carlos Torres



Dr. Richard Walker



Dr. Sheldon Wiebe



Dr. Don Yoo



Dr. Hang Yu



Dr. Alex Menard

Departing Board Members

Several board members who have graciously dedicated their time and effort to serving CAR members and the Board of Directors will be departing at the conclusion of the term. A call for nominations went out to members seeking representation from Quebec, Nova Scotia, the American College of Radiology, and a Canadian residency program. Dr. Véronique Caty, representative for the Canadian Association for Interventional Radiology (CAIR), resigned from the Board on November 26, 2023, and her replacement will be selected by the CAIR board. The 2024-25 slate of the Board of Directors will be approved by CAR members at the Annual General Meeting on April 11, 2024.

The CAR is grateful to the following members for their years of dedication to the Board and Canadian radiology:

Dr. Daniel Petrie (NS)

Dr. Daniel Petrie is a community radiologist at the Aberdeen Hospital in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, serving the Northern Zone of the Nova Scotia Health Authority. Dr. Petrie completed his medical studies and diagnostic radiology residency at Dalhousie University and is certified by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada as well as the American Board of Radiology. Before entering medicine, he studied undergraduate physics at the University of Guelph, and completed a master's degree in biomedical physics at the University of Western Ontario, focusing on MRI physics. Dr. Petrie served as President of the Nova Scotia Association of Radiologists from 2015-2017 and was re-elected to serve as President again in the fall of 2019. He has developed interests in teleradiology, lung cancer screening, smoking cessation, breast imaging, and advocacy for a strong future for community radiology in Canada. His recent work includes the Cancer Care Nova Scotia Thoracic Diagnostic Specialist Working Group for early notification of suspicious lung lesions pilot project. Dr. Petrie and his family live in Halifax, NS.



Dr. Pierre Bourgouin (QC)

Dr. Pierre Bourgouin is currently a neuroradiologist at the CHUM in Montréal, Professor at the University of Montréal, and Associate Dean in the Faculty of Medicine. He completed his residency in Diagnostic Radiology at the University of Montréal and two and a half years of fellowships at the Massachusetts General Hospital and the Montréal Neurological Institute in chest radiology, MRI, and neuroradiology. Dr. Bourgouin has been teaching neuroradiology to medical students, clinical clerks, residents, and fellows at the University of Montréal since 1991 and also at McGill University from 1991 to 1999. His research interests include MRI of multiple sclerosis and functional MRI of the brain. Dr. Bourgouin's scientific publications include two books, four book chapters, 53 papers in peer-reviewed journals, and 116 abstracts at scientific meetings. Financial support for his research programs includes two grants for development of research infrastructures from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI). Dr. Bourgouin was a member of the annual meeting scientific committee of the Radiological Society of North America for seven years. He was Radiologist-in-Chief at the CHUM for 12 years, Chairman of the Academic Department of Radiology, Radiation Oncology and Nuclear Medicine for seven years, and has been Associate Dean of Medicine, Executive, Clinical Sciences and Health Network since 2011. Dr. Bourgouin lives in Montréal with his wife and three children. He enjoys skiing, jogging, and windsurfing.



Dr. Don Yoo (ACR)

Dr. Yoo graduated from the State University of New York Science Center at Brooklyn. He completed his residency at Rhode Island Hospital/Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and finished his fellowship at the Joint Program in Nuclear Medicine in Boston, Massachusetts. Dr. Yoo is the Director of Nuclear Medicine at Rhode Island and the Miriam Hospitals and is Professor of Diagnostic Imaging, Clinician Educator at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. Dr. Yoo has specialized training in nuclear medicine and positron emission tomography (PET). His main area of interest is in oncologic applications of PET. Dr. Yoo is the Director of Medical Student Radiology Education at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and is heavily involved in teaching radiology residents and medical students. Dr. Yoo has given many nuclear medicine and PET/CT talks at national meetings and has been a Grand Rounds speaker at several academic institutions. Dr. Yoo is on the ACR Board of Chancellors and is Vice-President of the ACR. Dr. Yoo served as the Chair of the ACR Commission on Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging from 2017-2023. He is Co-Director of the ACR Nuclear Medicine Course and is a regular faculty member for the ACR – Dartmouth PET/CT Course.



Dr. Hang Yu (RFS Chair)

Dr. Hang Yu grew up in Mississauga, ON, and did his undergrad in health sciences and medical school at McMaster University. He is currently a PGY4 in diagnostic radiology at the University of Manitoba. Beyond work and academics, Dr. Yu enjoys baking anything with chocolate, watching reality TV, learning and reading history, and exploring new destinations with his partner.



Strategic Goals

In September 2022, the Canadian Association of Radiologists (CAR) convened with its Board of Directors in Halifax to set the course for the organization's future. The planning process was based on surveys of the Canadian radiology community with guidance from the CAR Board of Directors. The strategic plan, *Vision 2028*, charts the path forward for the CAR over the next five years, reflecting a renewed vision: "The Voice for Medical Imaging Excellence."

Vision 2028 is comprised of these strategic goals:



Through our advocacy: greater funding for radiology, increased capacity of radiology workforce and improved patient access. Reinforce the critical role of radiologists in a stressed Canadian healthcare system.



Relevant core education program: enhanced access and expanded offerings assist radiologists to succeed in a rapidly evolving healthcare system.



Increase in membership: taking into account the diverse range of radiologists in Canada and fostering equity, diversity and inclusion in all CAR led initiatives.



AI policy guidelines and effective partnerships that ensure a more reliable and stable approach to AI deployment in radiology leading to improved productivity and enhancing radiology capacity as well as ensuring patient safety and outcomes.



Leadership in accreditation that drives consistent quality and patient outcomes. Enhances CAR's role as a more visible and influential anchor in the radiology community.



Moving towards sustainability and planetary health: recognizing the important role of radiologists in ensuring appropriate imaging and reducing emissions leading to a more sustainable healthcare system for all.

President's Message



The pandemic has had a dramatic impact on healthcare delivery over the last few years. Although the acute pressures of COVID-19 are mostly behind us, patients continue to face lengthy waitlists for medical imaging. This is due to an array of variables including health human resource (HHR) shortages in radiology departments and a lack of modern medical imaging equipment. These challenges are present across the country. We are also seeing high levels of burnout among radiology professionals. The CAR is heavily focused on advocacy, and we are pressing for financial investments in imaging equipment renewal/expansion as well as the development of a national HHR strategy, which would include a long-term plan for sustaining the radiology workforce in Canada. The Board of Directors and CAR staff have been working with Health Canada and other divisions at the federal level to take a leadership role in these areas. We are also working with our provincial societies in Alberta, Quebec, and Nova Scotia to ensure that our messaging is aligned at the provincial level. Additionally, we have partnered with other national organizations including the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists and Sonography Canada in our efforts to raise awareness for these priorities as a collective.

We had a very successful [Day on Parliament Hill](#) where your board representatives met with Senators, Deputy Ministers, and Members of Parliament. Our message is being heard and we are optimistic that there will be movement to address the shortage of the radiology workforce and support for new technologies that can help address workflow challenges in radiology departments across the country.

The CAR is focused on supporting our members in many other ways including the development of practice and referral guidelines to be integrated into Clinical Decision Support Systems. It is anticipated that these referral guidelines will be complete by the end of 2024. We will then work with partners to package these electronically and provide open access to referring health professions across the country.

Quality is of the utmost importance to the CAR and our members. We have a very successful Mammography Accreditation Program and, building on this success, we will continue to expand in this area by introducing new accreditation programs including CT, MRI, and ultrasound. We are also nearing the completion of a national lung cancer screening program, [QUEST Lung](#), available on [RAD Academy](#) for all members.

We pride ourselves on having a robust education program. All CAR members have access to our online learning management system, [RAD Academy](#), as a benefit of membership. There are over 200 accredited courses where radiologists can earn Continuing Professional Development (CPD) credits that are recognized by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. We also host a large radiology meeting in Montréal every year and, in 2023, we had record attendance with nearly 700 people.

Research and Innovation is an important priority for the CAR. Under the leadership of Dr. Jaron Chong, Chair, AI Standing Committee, we are developing a Healthcare AI Validation Network (HAIVN) to facilitate post marketing surveillance of AI software in collaboration with Health Canada. This will help to evaluate AI solutions that will improve our radiology performance in a Canadian environment. The idea is to start with radiology and broaden the scope to other areas of healthcare.

Membership continues to grow with our Resident and Fellow Section and Medical Student Network. Our Affiliate Societies, the CanSPR, the CETARS, the CSAR and the CSTR, have been actively recruiting new members and have taken a leadership role in guideline development and education. Also new this year is the recently established Canadian Society of Skeletal Radiology (CSSR).

With the support of our members and a dedicated team of staff and volunteers, the CAR is more prominent than ever, and radiologists are being seen more, heard more, and better understood. We also have a footprint on the global stage with many strong international partnerships with various societies.

Special acknowledgement goes to our Board of Directors who have done an amazing job in representing their peers and for being the voice of radiology in Canada. We are privileged to be supported by an outstanding staff led by Nick Neuheimer, CEO. Kudos to the whole team!

Our focus on advocacy, education, guideline development, and building strong partnerships in the medical community continues to help the CAR position radiology at the forefront of patient care. I am predicting a stellar year in 2024 as we continue to expand on our programs and advocacy work. Our success is directly attributed to our members. We are grateful for your continued support and the leadership of our volunteers.

Dr. Ania Kielar
CAR President

Message from the Chief Executive Officer



Dear CAR Members,

Over the last eight years, I have had the opportunity to see the CAR flourish and our members enhance their leadership in the healthcare community. I am proud of the work that we have accomplished and have seen significant momentum in advocacy, patient care, education, and innovation. Medical imaging has been at the forefront of technological advancement in healthcare. Radiologists are being heard more, seen more, and better understood. Despite a challenging few years, the radiology community demonstrated resilience throughout the pandemic and continues to do so now with the ongoing healthcare issues in radiology. In 2023, the CAR embarked on a new strategic vision and identified our priorities for the next five years. Advocacy continues to be the top priority for the CAR, and we have made great strides at the Federal level. Patient care is a key focus and is reflected in our guidelines, education, and accreditation, helping to ensure patients have access to quality medical imaging. We are also taking steps to expand on our accreditation programs and expect to roll out four new programs over the next five years. Innovation in radiology is moving at a rapid pace. Through the introduction of new technologies, we can broaden the scope of medical imaging and find efficiencies within radiology departments across the country.

Advocating for Patients at the Federal Level

The pandemic led to significant disruptions in the Canadian healthcare system that continue to require immense effort and time to address, including long wait times for patients. There is a considerable shortage of radiology health human resources and high levels of burnout among the radiology community that need to be tackled. Working with Health Canada, the CAR has been advocating for a national strategy to hire and train more medical radiation technologists and sonographers as well as radiologists in specific regions. The availability of modern medical imaging equipment remains a challenge. Working with our provincial partners we are appealing to governments to ensure that a portion of the Canadian Healthcare Transfer is targeted to radiology to purchase this equipment. Ensuring that patients obtain the right test at the right time is also important. In the development of Canadian referral guidelines for medical imaging, we can help guide patients to the right diagnosis and streamline patients through the system. The implementation of clinical decision support (CDS) systems in Canada would ease this process and improve efficiencies. The integration of artificial intelligence can have a positive impact on patient care by helping to triage patients and enhance workflows, provided there is human oversight.

We have submitted eight Pre-Budget Submissions and been invited to appear before the Standing Committees on Health and Finance on several occasions. In the last five years, we have had over 150 meetings with Members of Parliament, Ministers, and Senators. In the fall of 2023, we had one of the most successful Days on Parliament Hill where we met with several Senators, key policy advisors, and the Assistant Deputy Minister of Health. We also had the opportunity to connect with the Deputy Minister for Innovation, Science, and Economic Development. We are making progress and are optimistic for Federal leadership in our priority areas.

Raising the Bar on Education and Guidelines

An incredible amount of work has been done to increase the quantity and quality of educational content from the CAR. The offerings on RAD Academy, the CAR's online learning management system, continue to grow with over 200 courses available including a national lung cancer screening program. Our Annual Scientific Meeting post-pandemic was a huge success with over 700 participants and featured high-quality clinical talks. We have developed over 25 clinical practice guidelines in the last five years and have championed the creation of Canadian e-referral guidelines, working with other national associations representing referring health professions. We are anticipating this work to be completed by the end of 2024 and will work to roll them out across the country in various CDS systems.

Driving Innovation

The CAR Artificial Intelligence (AI) Standing Committee under the leadership of Dr. Jaron Chong has been actively working to create a Healthcare Artificial Intelligence Validation Network (HAIVN). We are in discussions with Health Canada and the department of Innovation, Science, and Economic Development for the implementation of this framework. The goal of HAIVN is to provide post-market surveillance for AI solutions that are integrated into Canada and ensure that these solutions are functioning appropriately. HAIVN would act as an advisory to Health Canada and industry within Canada. The objective is to start with radiology and expand this program to all other areas of healthcare.

Engaging our People

The CAR exists to make our members more successful, therefore everything that we do is for the benefit of radiologists in Canada and their patients. Our members are at the forefront of patient care and ensuring quality within radiology. It is the CAR's role to showcase the work they do at a national level. We do this by including members in our advocacy efforts, providing venues to share their expertise, and connecting them to one another to foster a sense of community. We are incredibly proud of the excellent work being done by CAR members and will continue to support their efforts.

None of this would be possible without the dedicated CAR staff and CAR Board of Directors. I feel privileged to be part of an organization that puts patients first and offer a sincere thank you to everyone who has graciously worked to support improving the lives of Canadians.

Nick Neuheimer
Chief Executive Officer

Top Initiatives in 2023

1.

Developed Vision 2028, the CAR's new strategic plan

2.

Launched a new podcast called Radiology Roundtable that features CARJ authors and discussion of their articles.

3.

Day on the Hill took place on October 19th where CAR leadership met with federal ministers, Members of Parliament, and members of the Standing Committee on Finance and Health, to advocate for radiology at the national level.

4.

Creation of new Affiliate Society – the Canadian Society of Skeletal Radiology (CSSR)

5.

Developed three practice guidelines, six position statements, and survey findings on endometriosis

2023: A Year in Numbers



Hospital News

1

Radiology feature in Hospital News



25

Meetings with Members of Parliament, Senators, and the Standing Committee on Health



7

Clinical Practice Guidelines, Statements and White Papers



5

Episodes of Radiology Roundtable podcast recorded and launched



7

Successful social media public awareness and advocacy campaigns (Breast Cancer Awareness Month, MRT Week/International Day of Radiology, Heart Month, Day on the Hill, Pride Month, Indigenous Peoples Day, International Women's Day/Canadian Women's Physicians Day)

215

educational offerings on RAD Academy and

1,082

registered users



300%

Increase in CARJ submissions



670

Units accredited by Mammography Accreditation Program



663

Participants Annual Scientific Meeting



2,900 CAR members

8,117 Social media followers

Advocating for Federal Investment in Radiology



A major priority for the CAR's advocacy efforts in 2023 was a dedicated investment for radiology from the Federal government through the Canadian Health Transfer. This funding is intended to address issues facing the Canadian healthcare system such as backlogs for medical imaging, upgrading ageing imaging equipment, depleted health human resources, and innovation. In March 2022, the **Federal government announced** a \$2 billion investment in reducing wait times including for diagnostic imaging. The CAR had been advocating for an investment like this for several years and considered this to be a major victory for the radiology community and Canadian patients. However, more is needed to address the radiology crisis in Canada.

As part of the CAR's advocacy efforts, we held our 8th Annual Day on the Hill which connected experts in radiology with Members of Parliament, Senators, and members of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health and Finance. The CAR leadership also had the opportunity to connect with the Assistant Deputy Minister for Health as well as the Deputy Minister of Innovation, Science, and Economic Development and will continue to keep the lines of communications open with these leaders. The CAR partnered with the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (CAMRT) and Sonography Canada to develop **recommendations** to address the medical imaging challenges in Canada. Over the course of more than 25 meetings, the CAR's priorities resonated well with federal officials:

People

1. Invest in the hiring and retention of MRTs and sonographers as part of a health human resource strategy to reduce backlogs and improve health services. Canada needs an additional 2,000 MRTs and sonographers in the next three years.

Technology

2. Take a leadership role in the implementation of Clinical Decision Support systems to help streamline the imaging referral process and ensure patients receive the right test at the right time.
3. Demonstrate leadership in AI through the incorporation of the CAR's Healthcare Artificial Intelligence Validation Network's (HAIVN) framework to improve the evaluation and regulation of AI in Canada as part of Health Canada's Medical Devices Directorate regulatory process. The intention is to start with radiology and expand to other areas of the healthcare sector.

Equipment

4. Guide an investment of \$2 billion over three years for radiology equipment.

The CAR also connected with provincial partners to ensure that the message was also being received with health authorities at the provincial level. Federal representatives understood the significant impact of excessively long wait times for medical imaging and that Canadians deserve better. Some of the MPs offered to champion these initiatives and to write letters to the Ministers of Finance and Health with these requests. Overall, we were very pleased with the reception and are optimistic in terms of next steps as it pertains to the Canadian Health Transfer.



Safely Incorporating Artificial Intelligence into Radiology

The CAR has been actively involved in research and leadership on incorporating Artificial Intelligence and machine learning technology into radiology and the healthcare system more broadly. The CAR has consistently supported the integration of AI provided it is done so with a rigorous, comprehensive system of oversight before widespread adoption takes place. Dr. Jaron Chong is Chair of the Standing Committee on AI and led a conversation with federal ministers on the topic during the CAR's Annual Day on the Hill. Dr. Chong and the Standing Committee members have put together the framework for the Healthcare Artificial Intelligence Validation Network (HAVIN), a network of experts who **serve as the national body responsible for evaluating the performance of these technologies and pre-identifying any potential issues that may affect patient care.**

"AI has the capacity to impact healthcare delivery in a positive way. There are currently many AI applications specific to radiology that show promise in terms of enhancing workflows and streamlining medical imaging procedures," said Dr. Chong. "Many of these technologies have been integrated into healthcare systems outside of Canada with favourable results. However, before broadly introducing them to the Canadian

healthcare system, it is essential that a national regulatory framework be developed which includes expert oversight to maximize safety and value."

The CAR has been in discussions with Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada (ISED) and Health Canada regarding HAVIN and is exploring how it can assist these federal branches of government in the validation process of emerging technologies. Additionally, Dr. Chong and Standing Committee member Dr. An Tang collaborated with several international agencies to **co-author a paper** on the topic entitled *Developing, Purchasing, Implementing and Monitoring AI Tools in Radiology: Practical Considerations. A Multi-Society Statement From the ACR, CAR, ESR, RANZCR & RSNA*, which was published in early 2024. "Because of the nature of software, which can be written once and deployed everywhere across countries and jurisdictions, we felt that it was preferable to release jointly through several radiology societies across the world," said Dr. Tang. "Previous white papers and multi-society statements already covered ethical issues. The time was ripe for a paper on the adoption of AI tools."

Setting the Highest Standard of Patient Care

Patient safety is paramount to the CAR. Through the establishment of evidence-based clinical practice guidelines and quality assurance programs, the CAR can have a direct impact on safeguarding Canadians. It is the CAR's objective to ensure that radiologists are relying on the most up-to-date research and following the highest standards of patient care across the country.

Quality Assurance

In keeping with our commitment to promote safe, efficient, and quality health care for Canadians, the CAR works closely with recognized experts and other professional bodies to develop national standards and guidelines. Our goal is to become an influential thought leader and the most important authority on radiology in Canada. This means ensuring that Canadians can

benefit fully from diagnostic imaging and the skills and expertise of radiologists. The CAR's evidence-based practice guidelines define the principles of practice and recommendations to ensure the right treatment at the right time. Serving as the national voice for radiologists in Canada, the CAR practice guidelines promote high-quality care for diagnosis, medical practice, and treatment.

Clinical Practice Guidelines and Position Statements

The CAR had a productive year publishing three practice guidelines, six position statements, and survey findings on endometriosis. All materials were produced using a rigorous methodological approach and informed by established experts in the field.

Guidelines and Position Statements produced in 2023

[CAR Practice Guidelines for Computed Tomography Colonography](#)

[CAR Practice Statement on Advanced Pelvic Ultrasound for Endometriosis](#)

[Recommendations for the Management of Incidental Musculoskeletal Findings on MRI and CT](#)

[Current Practice Patterns, Challenges, and Need for Education in Performing and Reporting Advanced Pelvic US and MRI to Investigate Endometriosis: A Survey by the Canadian Association of Radiologists Endometriosis Working Group](#)

[CAR's Response to Drug Shortages in Canada](#)

[CAR Position Statement on Reproductive Care](#)

[CAR Position Statement on Structured Reporting](#)

[CAR, CAMRT, CHUG Joint Position Statement: Establishing a Sustainable and Secure Canadian Helium Supply](#)

[CAR Position Statement on Changes to the Delivery of Healthcare Services in Canada](#)

[Current Practice Patterns, Challenges, and Need for Education in Performing and Reporting Advanced Pelvic US and MRI to Investigate Endometriosis: A Survey by the Canadian Association of Radiologists Endometriosis Working Group](#)

[New Recommendations on Breast Cancer Screening in the U.S. an Important Step Forward](#)

Guidelines and Position Statements in development in 2024

[CAR & CSTR Practice Guidelines on Cardiac CT– Part 1 \(CCTA\)](#)

[Bone Mineral Density Practice Guideline](#)

[Incidental Findings – Spleen and Nodes](#)

[CAR & CSTR Practice Guidelines on Cardiac CT– Part 2 \(Non-coronary imaging\)](#)

[Practice Guideline on CT Screening for Lung Cancer](#)

[Imaging the Pregnant Trauma Patient](#)

[Guidance on Contrast Media Hypersensitivity](#)

[Practice Guideline on Adults with Right Lower Quadrant Pain](#)

[Pelvic MRI for Endometriosis](#)

[See all clinical practice guidelines](#)

[See all position statements](#)

Diagnostic Imaging Referral Guidelines

In collaboration with the Canadian Medical Association, the CAR has been updating the diagnostic imaging referral guidelines, with the goal of integrating the recommendations into electronic Clinical Decision Support (CDS) systems in Canada. We follow a [standardized process](#) across all guidelines.

To date, seven sections have been completed and six are at various stages of guideline development (anticipated completion in 2024).

The seven completed referral guidelines are listed below:

Breast Disease

- [CARJ publication](#)

Head and Neck (to be posted once French recommendations are complete)

- [CARJ publication](#)

Gastrointestinal System

- [CARJ publication](#)

Musculoskeletal System

- [CARJ publication](#)

Obstetrics and Gynecology

- [CARJ publication](#)

Thoracic

- [CARJ publication](#)

Trauma

- [CARJ publication](#)

The six referral guidelines under development are:

- Cardiovascular
- Genitourinary
- Pediatrics
- Spine
- Central Nervous System
- Cancer

Expanding Accreditation Offerings into CT and Beyond

There was great collaboration in 2023 between the CAR and Niagara Health, the organization piloting the CAR's new CT Accreditation Program (CTAP). The purpose of this program is to help organizations and facilities analyze data to better understand their own processes, policies, and technologies, with the aim of ensuring the highest possible standard of CT care. The pilot program is being performed under the leadership of Niagara Health Diagnostic Imaging Director and CAR member Dr. Julian Dobranowski, who says "being leaders in quality is a privilege and we are thrilled to be helping the development and piloting of CT accreditation with the CAR." The draw for organization to accredit their facilities and CT equipment is to instill best practices with staff and ensure that imaging departments are safe and effective in delivering high quality care.

In the upcoming year, the CAR aims to expand its accreditation offerings by introducing new programs in addition to CTAP and the already running Mammography Accreditation Program (MAP), such as MRI and ultrasound. The CAR is also nearing the completion of *QUEST Lung*, a national lung cancer screening program that available on [RAD Academy](#) for all members.

RAD Academy Thrives and Expands Educational Reach

The commitment to addressing the educational needs of Canada’s radiology community remains a top priority for the CAR and the success of the RAD Academy underscores its significance among radiologists. Throughout 2023, engagement with RAD Academy, the CAR’s dedicated learning management system, continued to surge.

The success of RAD Academy is not limited to its online platform alone; 2023 was marked by a bustling schedule of educational webinars. The CAR, in collaboration with various partners, hosted over a dozen webinars that delved into a diverse array of topics and subspecialties within radiology.

This multifaceted approach to learning and knowledge-sharing contributed to the dynamic growth experienced by the radiology community throughout the year.

As we transition into 2024, the momentum of growth and innovation is poised to continue with RAD Academy and educational webinars. The CAR remains dedicated to fostering an environment of continuous learning and professional development within the radiology community, and RAD Academy stands as a beacon of excellence in achieving this mission, ensuring that radiologists across Canada stay abreast of the latest developments in their field.



Growing the CAR Affiliate Societies

Interest in Affiliate Societies is on the rise at the CAR. The addition of the Canadian Society for Skeletal Radiology (CSSR) brings the total number of Affiliate Societies to five. These societies, representing radiologists with shared interests in specific subspecialties, are experiencing growth in both visibility and membership. Their significant contributions to the 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting, the development of high-quality educational content on RAD Academy, and the establishment of practice guidelines have led to a dramatic increase in membership.

Take a look at what the Affiliate Societies accomplished in 2023 and what is on the horizon for 2024:

The Canadian Emergency, Trauma, and Acute Care Radiology Society (CETARS)



CETARS

Canadian Emergency, Trauma and
Acute Care Radiology Society
Société canadienne de radiologie d'urgence,
de traumatologie et de soins actifs



President:

Michael Patlas, MD, University of Toronto

CETARS now has **168 members compared to 140 in January 2023**

Recent Activities

- Hosted a webinar session on **Stroke Imaging in ED: What Radiologists Need to Know** – October 2023
- Finalized speakers and topics for CAR 2024
- Developed and launched a CETARS online Discussion Forum – November 2023
- Promoted webinars for the Association of Radiologists of Ukraine (ARU)
- Wrote monthly CETARS eNews articles for promotion and visibility
- Sent an email inviting all residents and fellows to join on behalf of the CETARS resident member of the Executive Committee – November 2023

Upcoming Activities

- Development of the Right Lower Quadrant (RLQ) Pain practice guideline (CETARS & CSAR combined) – Q2 2024
- Development of the Imaging of the Pregnant Trauma Patient practice guideline – Q2 2024
- Develop accredited Section 3 Self-Assessment Program activities based on CAR 2024 session content – Q3 2024
- Education activity in partnership with a sponsor in 2024 – Topic to be confirmed
- The CETARS Medal of Excellence award will be presented at CAR 2024
- Upcoming CETARS in-person business meeting and networking dinner at CAR 2024

The Canadian Society of Abdominal Radiology (CSAR)



CSAR

Canadian Society of Abdominal Radiology
Société canadienne de radiologie abdominale

CSAR now has **202 members compared to 167 in January 2023**

Recent Activities

- Finalized speakers and topics for CAR 2024
- Primovist Liver Webinar sponsored by Bayer – February 8, 2023
- Completed the [CT Colonography practice guideline](#) – Q3 2023
- Developed and launched a CSAR online Discussion Forum – November 2023
- Wrote monthly CSAR eNews articles for promotion and visibility
- Sent an email inviting all residents and fellows to join on behalf of the CSAR resident member of the Executive Committee – November 2023



President:

Tanya Chawla, MD, University of Toronto

Upcoming Activities

- Development of the Endometriosis practice guideline – Q3 2024
- Development of the Right Lower Quadrant (RLQ) Pain practice guideline (CSAR & CETARS combined) – Q2 2024
- Case repository and associated CME activity of the Prostate MRI white paper – Q2 2024
- Develop accredited Section 3 Self-Assessment Program activities based on CAR 2024 session content – Q3 2024
- Education activity in partnership with a sponsor in 2024 – Topic to be confirmed
- Multidisciplinary Rounds (MDTs) position paper – To be confirmed
- Upcoming CSAR in-person business meeting and networking dinner at CAR ASM 2024

The Canadian Society of Pediatric Radiology (CanSPR)



CanSPR

Canadian Society of Pediatric Radiology
Société canadienne de radiologie pédiatrique

CanSPR now has **119 members compared to 99 in January 2023**

Recent Activities

- Finalized speakers and topics for CAR 2024
- Developed and launched a CanSPR online Discussion Forum – November 2023
- Wrote monthly CanSPR eNews articles for promotion and visibility
- Sent an email inviting all residents and fellows to join on behalf of the CanSPR resident member of the Executive Committee – November 2023

Upcoming Activities

- Continued development of the CT Accreditation Program – imaging protocols – 2024
- Magnetic Resonance Accreditation Program (MRAP) development – 2024



President:

Elka Miller, MD, University of Toronto

- Diagnostic Sonography Accreditation Program (DSAP) development – 2024
- Produce a series of educational interactive eLearning lectures on RAD Academy – Emergencies in Pediatric Imaging – 2024
- Review pediatric referral guidelines – Q2 2024
- Development of a new practice guideline in 2024 – Topic to be confirmed
- Development of CanSPR subcommittees: Ultrasound, Research, Radiation/CT/X-Ray, Education, Reaching Remote Communities in Canada
- Development of the CanSPR Award of Excellence
- Develop accredited Section 3 Self-Assessment Program activities based on CAR 2024 session content – Q3 2024
- Upcoming CanSPR in-person business meeting and networking dinner at CAR 2024

The Canadian Society of Skeletal Radiology (CSSR)



CSSR

Canadian Society of Skeletal Radiology
Société canadienne de radiologie musculo-squelettique



President:

Viviane Khoury, MD, McGill University

Recent Activities

- Terms of Reference have been finalized
- The CSSR logo has been designed and is now completed
- Developed and launched a CSSR online Discussion Forum – January 2024

Upcoming Activities

- Establishing Executive Committee
- Defining the mission, vision, and goals
- Create a 2024 strategic plan and identify priorities and objectives
- Develop membership base, engagement, and networking opportunities
- Develop accredited Section 3 Self-Assessment Program activities based on CAR 2024 session content
- Brainstorm and organize all topics and speakers for CAR 2025
- Upcoming CSSR in-person business meeting and networking dinner at CAR ASM 2024

The Canadian Society of Thoracic Radiology (CSTR)



CSTR

Canadian Society of Thoracic Radiology
Société canadienne de radiologie thoracique



President:

Elsie Nguyen, MD, University of Toronto

CSTR now has **183 members** compared to **173** in **January 2023**

Recent Activities

- The **QUEST Lung Cancer Screening Education Program** was completed and translated. Didactic lectures and interactive modules are available on RAD Academy.
- Completed the Lung Cancer Screening accreditation program standards
- Finalized speakers and topics for CAR 2024
- Cardiac CT practice guideline has been completed and approved by the CAR Board – Q1 2024
- Conducted a Masterclass webinar series on Interstitial Lung Disease
 - **Alphabet Soup: ILAs, PPF and PF-ILDs** – September 2023
 - **Cystic Lung Disease** – October 2023
 - **Smoking Related Lung Disease** – November 2023
- Developed and launched a CSTR online Discussion Forum – November 2023

- Wrote monthly CSTR eNews articles for promotion and visibility
- Sent an email inviting all residents and fellows to join on behalf of the CSTR resident member of the Executive Committee – November 2023

Upcoming Activities

- Develop accredited Section 3 Self-Assessment Program activities based on CAR 2024 session content – Q3 2024
- Revision of the Lung Cancer Screening practice guideline – Q3 2024
- Education activity in partnership with a sponsor in 2024 – Topic to be confirmed
- A CSTR newsletter has been completed and will be released in early 2024 – Q1 2024
- The CSTR Award of Excellence will be presented at CAR 2024
- Upcoming CSTR in-person business meeting and networking dinner at CAR 2024

Engaging Our Members



Total CAR membership is nearing 3000 members. Areas that have seen the most engagement are the Resident and Fellow Section (RFS), Medical Student Network (MSN), and the five CAR Affiliate Societies, each of which have attracted new members over the past year.

Expansion and engagement of our membership base is always a top priority for the CAR, allowing us to solidify our position as the national voice of radiologists. As such, the CAR has engaged with Marketing General Incorporated to put together marketing campaigns that highlight the CAR's member benefits in hopes of drawing in more new members. Our goal is to add value to our members and position them for success in their education and practice.

New Heights in Social Media and Digital Communication

The CAR continued to be an impactful voice on social media in 2023 as seen by a dramatic increase in followers and new heights reached in a handful of key metrics. Across all CAR social media channels, the total digital following surpassed 8000 by gaining more than 1400 new followers, reaching a total of 8117. The CAR's LinkedIn audience expanded by more than 60% last year, picking up 851 followers, and led the way with the highest growth in impressions and engagements.

In addition to gaining followers, the CAR's social media accounts set new records in several key measurement metrics. Between organic and paid content, the CAR surpassed 1 million impressions and totalled nearly 40k engagements, both of which are all-time highs.

Communication with members continues to be fruitful. The *Weekly Scan* news bulletin shares timely information and member achievements more than 40 times each year. The monthly newsletter, *Beyond the Image*, highlights news and accomplishments in radiology with in-depth, member-focused articles and features. Both publications routinely post email open rates above 60% and click rates approaching 4% which are high above industry communication standards of 25% and 2% respectively.

Key social media numbers 2023

- 1.043 million impressions – highest ever
- 39,204 engagements – highest ever
- Top post – 1,751 engagements
- 8,117 total followers

Organic social media campaigns

Heart month

- Posts: 9
- Impressions: 2,101
- Engagements: 71

Int'l Women's Day/Cdn. Women Physician's Day

- Posts: 6
- Impressions: 2,720
- Engagements: 113

CAR 2023

- Posts: 190
- Impressions: 87,018
- Engagements: 6,282

Pride month

- Posts: 3
- Impressions: 1,386
- Engagements: 45

Indigenous Peoples Day

- Posts: 3
- Impressions: 968
- Engagements: 21

CAR 2023 Award Winners

The CAR recognized the incredible contributions of Award recipients and Fellows of the CAR in 2023.



CAR Gold Medal Award

Dr. Nancy Wadden, Clinical Associate Professor in the Faculty of Medicine at Memorial University of Newfoundland

This medal is presented to a long-time member of the CAR who has made outstanding contributions to the Association as well as to the profession of radiology in Canada. It is the CAR's highest honour.



Distinguished Career Achievement Award

Dr. Iain Kirkpatrick, Max Rady College of Medicine Radiology, University of Manitoba

The CAR Distinguished Career Achievement Award is presented to honour individuals who, over the course of their career, have made very significant contributions to radiology in Canada.



Young Investigator Award

Dr. Kate Hanneman, Associate Professor, University of Toronto

This award is presented to a CAR member in the early stages of their career and recognizes exceptional contributions to medical imaging-related research.

2023 Fellows of the CAR

The Fellowship of the Canadian Association of Radiology (FCAR) is one of the highest honours that the CAR can bestow upon its members. Recognition as a Fellow of the CAR demonstrates a history of service to the CAR as a volunteer in collaboration and leadership, as well as clinical, scientific, and professional accomplishments. Please join us in also recognizing our 2023 Fellows of the CAR:

Dr. Jeffrey Chankowsky
Dr. Tanya Chawla
Dr. Carolyn Flegg

Dr. Gilles Soulez
Dr. An Tang
Dr. Jana Taylor

Dr. Carlos Torres
Dr. Nancy Wadden
Dr. John Whelan

Our 2023 Corporate Partners

We are pleased to acknowledge the CAR's corporate partners. The CAR has benefited from our relationships with these organizations from knowledge sharing to in-kind contributions. Without their support, we would not be able to fulfill our goals and objectives.



For more information about the CAR or our programs and services please visit car.ca or our social accounts on LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter @CARadiologists.



Canadian Association of Radiologists
L'Association canadienne des radiologistes

1120-220 Laurier Ave W
Ottawa, ON K1P 5Z9
Tel.: 613 860-3111
Fax: 613 860-3112
www.car.ca

