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July 27, 2006

Russell Ritenour, Ph.D.
President, AAPM
One Physics Ellipse
College Park, MD 20740

Dear Russ,

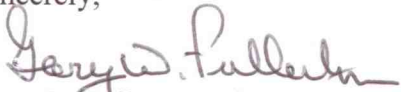
This letter is my report concerning participation in the spring meeting of the Academy of Radiology Research as the AAPM representative. The ARR President, Dr. Reed Dunnick, chaired the meeting which was held at the Hilton Austin Hotel in Austin, Texas in conjunction with the AUR meeting. The ARR continues to do well in the arena of arranging interactions with Washington politics. Nick Bryan was elected Vice-President for a two-year turn, Steven Selzer, replaced Nick as Secretary-Treasurer and Richard Ehman was re-elected for a second three-year term on the Executive Committee.

There was extensive discussion of the Blueprint for Imaging Research (BIBR) meeting organized by ARR which achieved good visibility in Washington but has had difficulty achieving a summary document of reasonable (readable) length. All agree that the original report is too long and long-winded to be useful. Dick Ehman is working on a more concise re-write and Bill Hendee is a member of the writing team. CIBR is continuing to recruit for new member societies. The Engineering Societies have so far declined to join. Discussions with representatives of several bioengineering societies prior to the ARR meeting indicate that CIBR will be a hard sell to the engineers as the engineering societies are undertaking similar initiatives themselves with a broader scientific impact than CIBR can offer.

Ed Nagy reported arrangements for a political fund raising breakfast for a key representative. It was reported that the budget for NIBIB was projected to be flat and perhaps even to decrease a small amount in 2007. Drs. Seltzer and Fullerton reported on the BIROW program. The preliminary report was completed and distributed to members of the ARR Board. The BIROW report was well received but the Board clearly has more interest in BIBR than continued participation in BIROW. A small working group (R. Ehman, Chairman, N. Bryan, S. Seltzer and J. Thrall) was appointed to re-evaluate the role of ARR in the BIROW process. The Director of NIBIB, Rod Pettigrew, came to BIROW IV with the request that a restructuring be considered to include more bioengineering input. The ARR is respectful of this request but appear unlikely to take any action that limits radiologist control of the program.

Richard Baird, the new head of NIBIB Education and Training programs, was introduced and presented an overview of the plans and organization of NIBIB. He discussed plans for dealing with reduced funding expected over the next years. Please contact me if you need additional details concerning AAPM interactions with ARR. I believe continued participation is valuable to our association although AAPM appears to have limited potential for impact on main stream decisions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gary D. Fullerton".

Gary D. Fullerton, Ph.D.
AAPM Delegate to ARR