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Winter 2019

Moving On—Reconnecting with Our Passions

By Harry Agress, Jr., MD, FACR
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Harry Agress, Jr.

By definition, all of us (that is, the illustrious high-spirited group of seasoned, intelligent, charming, and mature men and women, known as SRS) have dedicated the vast majority of our lives to the pursuit of patient care and education through the rewarding and fascinating world of medical imaging. We have also had the privilege of doing so during one of the most prolific periods of technological innovation in any field of medicine. Long gone are the “glory” days of injecting a syringe of air into the CNS space or interpreting a collection of large dots created by a rectilinear scanner. During such an evolution, we have all been extremely involved in its development, whether in academic arenas and/or private practices.

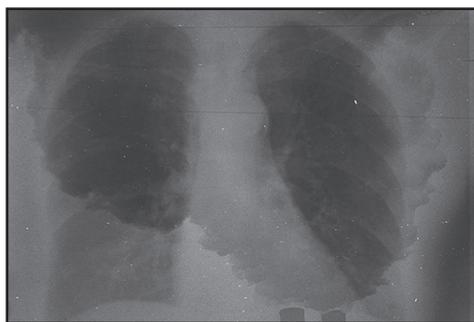
That being the case, it can be difficult adjusting to a new world after this intense and personally committed stage of our lives. I, personally, don't care for the “R” word, so we will just call it “Moving On.”

I have thought quite a bit about Moving On, and I have come to realize that this period can provide a unique and rewarding opportunity to do the things that we have always thought about but never had the time to pursue. This does not mean completely eliminating involvement in radiology, as it is very rewarding to volunteer time to our organizations or pass on our knowledge to the

next generation of radiologists, something I have been fortunate enough to do.

For me, I needed to explore other aspects of my persona that had been neglected or pushed to the far back burners of my mind. I started to think less about my analytic side and more about the artistic. I have always loved photography and playing the piano, both of which give me a great sense of satisfaction. Most importantly, I found it extremely gratifying to develop something on my own. Being in touch with my passions takes me into another world and, incidentally, can occupy vast amounts of time. Perfect for Moving On.

I was introduced to photography when I was 10 years old. My father was an old school internist and hematologist in St. Louis. One day a patient, who had just visited Japan, gave him a Nikon camera. Fortunately, for me, my Dad was too busy seeing patients and taking midnight house calls to get into photography. So, he gave me the camera and thus started a love affair with photography that has continued to this day. Although I have kept shooting throughout my life (see photo above of “Chest X-ray and Smokestacks,” a true double exposure, taken during medical school days) it wasn't until I faced Moving On, that I was able to put it all together. I had thousands of scattered pictures. My first objective was to select and organize the best of these into something coherent. I sought assistance from individuals who said they knew how to do this. Some did and some definitely did not (part of the journey).



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A Word From the Chair

by
Bruce L. McClennan, MD



“If you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change!”—Wayne Dyer

Two years ago, my Fall 2017 column addressed the fledgling field of machine learning (ML). We, radiologists, have lived much of our professional lives in what I call the world of “IFE” (initials for everything). We surely have looked at or into things, like the human body, with an almost constantly changing array of instruments, powered as they were with x-rays, sound waves, radiofrequency waves, and isotopes, CT, ultrasound, MRI, alongside PACS, EMR, etc.—daily encountered as our practices continue to evolve.

Now, I know that: the future doesn't arrive all at once. So, with two years of study and perspective, artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, deep learning (DL), and convolutional neural networks parentheses (CNN) are indeed arriving and causing not just radiologists to change the way we look at things. We have come to understand and gradually accept that algorithms derived from ML, DL using CNN, and more are, or will, change our field for the better.

Big data is no longer such a big deal; organizations like the NIH are making large data sets available to advance our knowledge. The American College of Radiology Data Science Institute provides and gathers cases for examinations with AI techniques. The number of vendors claiming or promising AI solutions rivals or exceeds the heyday of CT, ultrasound, and MRI. Techniques for breast imaging and chest imaging are available today, with much more available shortly for other organ systems. Those of us who are now more senior in our field can and should provide cautionary notes and reminders that

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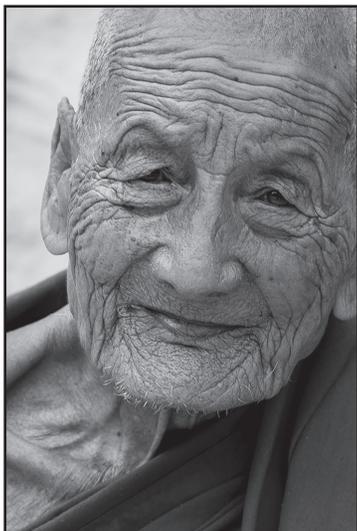
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I went to lectures, workshops and spent endless hours watching YouTube videos on the taking and processing of photo files. How much fun; back in school, but no exam.

Once I got my photo act together, I created a website (www.harryagressphotography.com) which, for me, was a wonderful achievement and a great way to share my images. It also has taken me back to many wonderful occasions and countries to which my wife, Ronnie, and I have been fortunate enough to visit (see Lijiang Impressions, a celebration of ancient Chinese culture in Yunnan Province).

It seems logical that I enjoyed looking at images, which is exactly what I had been doing all my life (I had always learned better from visual cues than written ones). I also think that photography and radiology are all about curiosity. In radiology we are deeply involved in solving medical problems, and we certainly observe very carefully in the privileged process of examining all that encompasses the human body. With photography, I am constantly observing and trying to express the feeling of an exact moment, understanding a different culture or simply finding beauty in details and patterns. It gives me the chance to look outside the human body and then again sometimes back into its soul; for example, through the contemplative and peaceful

eyes of a 98-year-old Buddhist monk (see photo) in Myanmar.



I might also add that shooting photos can make travelling infinitely more interesting. I think that many places I have visited would have felt more mundane without my camera and the associated desire to observe more carefully.

I was lucky enough to get into several shows and have exhibitions. Initially, I found myself measuring my “success” by number of sales, but ultimately, I found that “pushing” my work was not very satisfying. It also emphasized the huge gap between our

privileged status as physicians and those who are not. When I call someone as a doctor, I usually get a very prompt response. When I call or email as a photographer, I frequently get a very delayed, if any, response. This required a lot of yogasque “deep breaths” but as I am on the tenacious side, more often than not, persistence did pay off.



I ultimately realized that it was very satisfying to donate my works to hospitals, mainly to create a more welcoming and caring environment for patients, their families, and the staff. I then divided my website into two collections: “Global” (by country) and “Nature and Wellness” (mainly geared to healthcare).

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there are actual patients behind these patterns and pixels that computers are evaluating. There are patient privacy concerns, as well as ethical and legal issues, that will need to be addressed, and the hope is that all efforts will be aimed at improving the common good, which means our patients, of course. This is a great time to be a senior radiologist, as we can share our knowledge and skills gained from decades of hard work with the introduction of new technologies to our field. As AI changes and shapes our field at an ever-increasing pace, we can provide perspective, if not guidance, as ML shapes and improves our discipline.

Finally, I wish our membership a happy, healthy holiday season and new year. We will gather again in Chicago next spring, and I look forward to greeting you all in the Windy City.

photography has become a very key part of my life. The best is that I do it as I wish, by my own rules. I hope all of you soon reconnect with your passions, get them up on the front burners, and enjoy this wonderful journey.

Presently, Dr. Agress is a Clinical Professor in the Department of Radiology, College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University in New York City and Chairman Emeritus, Department of Radiology and Director Emeritus, PET/CT Center and Division of Nuclear Medicine at Hackensack University Medical Center, Hackensack, NJ. He can be reached at hagress@gmail.com.

Registration for the 2020 ARRS Annual Meeting in Chicago is open at arrs.org/meeting.

Register by the early-bird deadline, March 2, to receive the lowest rates. Registration rates increase on March 3.

Plan to attend “The History of Radiology Journals” presented by SRS member, Dr. Michael Huckman, on Monday, May 4 at 5:00 pm.

Make sure to select the SRS Reception when you register online for the Annual Meeting. Don’t miss this great opportunity to see friends and colleagues on Monday, May 4.



Request for SRS Chair Nominations

Calling all SRS members. You have the opportunity to be part of the process to select the next SRS Chair. The term for this position is three years and will begin May 9, 2020.

To submit a name or names for consideration, please email Sara Leu, ARRS Membership Manager and SRS Staff Liaison, by December 31, 2019.

To be eligible to serve as SRS Chair, an individual must be a current ARRS and SRS member. Make sure your SRS dues stay current so you can be part of the voting process in January.

The SRS Chair must be able to attend the ARRS Annual Meeting and is responsible for any related travel and registration expenses. SRS Chair responsibilities include:

- Working with the SRS staff liaison to prepare the SRS newsletter, which includes writing the Chair column and selecting featured article authors for each issue.
- Running the SRS Advisory Group meeting held during the ARRS Annual Meeting.
- Working with the SRS staff liaison on SRS related activities taking place during the Annual Meeting.

SRS members will receive another communication in January with information on how to vote for the next Chair.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Sara Leu at sleu@arrs.org.



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With your tax-deductible gift, The Roentgen Fund can continue to promote innovation and research that will advance radiology for the next generation. Visit www.arrs.org/RoentgenFund to see how you can make a difference in radiology today and tomorrow.

Tell your friends...

“The Senior Radiologists Section (SRS) provides an opportunity and a forum for senior members of the ARRS to be kept informed on the new developments in radiology as well as enjoy the camaraderie of their colleagues.” —*John Tampas, former chair of SRS.*

Benefits include:

- SRS newsletter, *SRS Notes*
- Discounted registration fee to the ARRS Annual Meeting
- Annual Meeting reception
- SRS Annual Meeting activities (includes sponsored speaker and special tours)

To qualify to join this special interest group within the ARRS membership, you must meet one of the following criteria:

- Be a current emeritus ARRS member (fully retired) age 60 or older
- Be a current ARRS member age 65 or older

SRS dues are in addition to any membership dues that are owed to the ARRS related to an individual's membership category. Payment of all applicable ARRS dues is required to be a participant of the SRS.

Interested ARRS members may download an SRS application at www.arrs.org/SRSapp and mail it, along with payment, to: ARRS-SRS, 44211 Slatestone Court, Leesburg, VA 20176-5109. Questions regarding SRS membership or renewal should be addressed to Sara Leu at sleu@arrs.org or at 866-940-2777 or 703-729-3353.

Upcoming ARRS Annual Meetings

May 3–8, 2020
Sheraton Grand Chicago

April 18–23, 2021
Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina

May 1–6, 2022
Hyatt Regency, New Orleans

May 7–12, 2023
Marriott Wardman Park Hotel
Washington, DC

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SRS Birthdays

We wish these SRS members a very happy birthday.

September	October	November	December
6 Peter E. Doris	4 James R. Custer	16 Hernani S. Tansuche	3 John Meeham
9 Harry E. Morgan	6 Charles F. Greer	20 William M. Thompson	5 Harry J. Barr
15 James M. Tallman	8 Eric J. Udoff	22 David C. Levin	6 Stephen F. Albert
Harbans Singh	9 Melvin L. Turner	25 Ellen L. Wolf	10 Frank T. Daly, Jr.
16 Howard Berman	12 Robert E. Campbell	29 Sarah G. Pope	17 Charles Walter Snyder
22 William H. Sutro	James E. Reinhardt	Tie S. Ong	26 Herbert F. Gramm
23 Joe F. Jacobs			28 Lynne S. Steinbach
24 Lee F. Rogers			