Dear Colleagues,

In the words of our Board Chair and Past President, Dr. Robert Miller, at our recent September Board meeting in Ottawa, the CAR is now in the “normalization phase”. With the evolutionary changes of the past year complete, your Board members and I are pleased that we are “back to work” full force. That is not to say that there has not been much work completed in that time period! As you are aware from my previous messages, an incredible amount has been accomplished. Continuing to move ahead, we are focused on providing the top quality and timely service that our members have been accustomed to in the past.

Communication is the lifeblood of an association in that it carries the material and information to the membership. Within the Board, we have instituted a weekly newsletter so that I can keep your Board tuned in to the most current information of recent happenings and events at a level appropriate for your governing representatives. You, the general CAR membership, will also receive communications on a regular, but less frequent basis, along the lines in the report proposed by our Communications Working Group and accepted at our recent Board meeting. I am confident that this will satisfy most of your questions about what has been/is happening in and around the CAR. These updates will come to you from our CAR CEO, Adele Fifield.

The CAR continues to promote research in the field of imaging. On this topic, we have provided assistance for the team headed by Dr. David Koff (Chair, Department of Radiology, McMaster University) to obtain funding from Canada Health Infoway to complete their research in Digital Imaging Compression. We are very excited to promote this high quality research in anticipation of the results to be added to the work they have already completed!

We have recently initiated two new Working Groups. The first is the Residents WG which will be chaired by Dr. James Clarke which will have representation from across the country. This WG is charged with answering many questions related to the needs of our radiologists-in-training and how the CAR can address those needs. Residents are the future of our profession and the CAR is committed to serving...
them well. This has been discussed for years and now we hope to have the answers in a format that will allow the Board to take action early in 2009.

The second WG being finalized is the Programming (CME) WG. This group will focus its efforts on creating a plan and structure for CAR Continuing Medical Education programs. This is separate from the Annual Scientific Meeting WG although both groups will be working together on projects where needed. As advances such as CT Colonography, CT Coronary Studies, BMD and others occur rapidly, it is important that the CAR be in a position to provide CME to members who are in need of this valuable training.

There was a time that Radiologists were thought of as physicians who “read” the images. There is no doubt that our responsibilities reach far beyond that level. Dr. Greg Butler, Chair of the Standards WG is working hard to put together a comprehensive review of our present standards and the need for new or revised documents in the future. Quality and safety are issues in the forefront of our development of standards and guidelines and you will be hearing more about this very soon.

As a final note, I would like you to know that the CAR has received a substantial amount of funds and is also contributing funds and expertise to run a second study on Electronic Order Entry Decision Support with the CAR Appropriateness Criteria Guidelines. This project is also in Manitoba, this time in Steinbach, with the involvement and cooperation of a group of family physicians and local radiologists. We are pleased that Health Canada has seen the value of this type of work and is working cooperatively with the CAR. We anticipate further utilization of our Guidelines in other provinces in the near future.

There are many more issues and announcements that you will be interested in hearing. The communiqué from the CAR office will be coming out to you on a regular basis but please do not hesitate to call the office and ask questions of our knowledgeable staff. Of course, if you have any issue you would like to discuss with me, I am available through the CAR office.

This is a very exciting time as we “ramp up” the activities of the CAR. I encourage you once again that if you are interested in volunteering, please let us know so that we can get you involved in an area of your interest. We value your time and your efforts and will do our best to insure that you not only have the opportunity to provide input, but that you will feel that your time has been appreciated and well spent.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

David B. Vickar
President, CAR