

Outreach in pediatric radiology

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This is an extraordinary issue of *Pediatric Radiology*. We are extremely privileged and proud to include a minisymposium titled “World Federation of Pediatric Imaging: Outreach in the Developing World.” This minisymposium is unlike any minisymposium we have published. Rather than a collection of four or five review articles, this minisymposium is mainly composed of short commentaries from pediatric radiologists around the world who are active in the World Federation of Pediatric Imaging (WFPI) or in other outreach activities. As you read, you will be struck by the disparity between wealthy countries, where most of us live and work, and the developing world, where health care resources are sparse and help is needed. These disparities are even more striking if one considers the sheer number of children who live in underserved areas of the world.

Only in its infancy, the WFPI is already making great strides in connecting those who want to help and have resources to those who need assistance and lack resources. The organization is still taking form and learning how to be effective, learning where its efforts are best applied, and learning how to engage those eager to contribute time and effort. Clearly the work of the WFPI is just starting, and it will never finish.

The Society for Pediatric Radiology (SPR) and the European Society of Paediatric Radiology (ESPR) have been instrumental in providing leadership and financial support for the start-up of the WFPI. In addition to these two professional societies, organizations with fewer economic resources have been the source of many volunteers and great ideas.

Three individuals deserve brief recognition. Dr. Ines Boechet, from the United States and a recent past-president

of the SPR, serves as the inaugural president of the WFPI. Dr. Boechet’s vision and desire to assist those less fortunate have been powerful driving forces in the founding of the WFPI and the engagement of pediatric radiologists from around the world. Amanda Dehaye, from France, serves as general manager of the WFPI and has been an integral cog for communications and logistics of the effort. In the words of Dr. Boechet, Amanda is the glue that keeps the WFPI connected. Finally, one cannot say enough about the efforts and enthusiasm of Dr. Savvas Andronikou, from South Africa. Dr. Andronikou has been crucial to the early efforts of the WFPI, particularly with regard to organizing activity in Africa. One cannot help but think that if more people had the energy and enthusiasm of Dr. Andronikou, nothing would stand in our way. Dr. Andronikou was a perfect choice for Honorary Membership in the SPR, awarded at last year’s meeting.

At the *Pediatric Radiology* editorial board meeting at the same SPR meeting, Dr. Dorothy Bulas suggested the creation of this minisymposium. In short order and with his characteristic enthusiasm, Dr. Andronikou volunteered to organize the minisymposium and has enlisted the help of numerous pediatric radiologists from around the world to share their experiences. Thank you, Savvas!

We would like to thank our publisher, Springer, for the opportunity to publish this minisymposium and for help in processing the manuscripts. The articles in this minisymposium are not standard fare, and we greatly appreciate Springer’s acceptance and support of this project.

The purpose of this minisymposium is to expose the readership to the work of the WFPI and related outreach activities. In reading this minisymposium, you will gain a greater sense of the needs and opportunities that exist, the challenges that must be overcome, and the accomplishments that have been made. It is a small world and those involved in pediatric radiology outreach are making a difference. Consider how you, your department or your professional organization might help in the effort.

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