EDITORIAL

A new CERF board

A new CERF board has just been elected with, for the first time, the joint election of a chairman and vice-chairman. In fact, to meet the two-fold need for concurrent functions as chairman of the CERF and chairman of the CNU—the only way to provide a vision and a comprehensive strategy for the discipline, while preserving the experience of presiding over the CNU without destabilizing that institution—we changed the bylaws two years ago in order to make this new position part of the board. This model, seemingly unique or at least rare in the medical disciplines, imparts deep meaning to the function, while preserving a beneficial alternation.

The activity and status of our organization in the French radiology milieu remain fundamental for us. The community of university radiologists plays a central role in the discipline, since it is responsible for translational research in imaging, without which many technological developments would never see the clinical light of day. That community ensures that practices evolve by implementing the results of such research and technological innovations, and of course it evaluates their medical economic impact; it trains future generations in the new technologies that will shape tomorrow’s imaging; and finally it is largely the basis for the continuing education that ensures our medium- and long-term credibility.

Building on these prospects, the closer institutional ties between the CERF and the SFR will be strengthened to ensure the consistency and continuity of our actions. The same applies to the other constituents of the G4, FNMR, and SRH, within which the CERF must remain a source of proposals and must defend its positions on all aspects of our professional practice. The establishment of continuing professional development (CPD), whose enforcement decrees have just been published, will result in our implementing consistent policy for the entire discipline, in a manner that strengthens and enhances all of our university and non-university teaching actions.

In terms of initial training, the first action will be to continue moving the curriculum for our post-graduate students in the direction of specialized radiology practice, which the discipline needs, both in private practice and hospital practice. That specialization is the only guarantee of our long-term credibility vis-à-vis the clinical disciplines. Everyone will of course continue to receive a foundation in general radiology to meet the shortage of radiologists in some regions, and provide continuity of care. In that context, the post-internship training reform currently in progress in France must incorporate the concept of post-internship training for all, in the form of accountability whose outlines remain to be determined.

The reconciliation of the radiology and nuclear medicine curricula that is being discussed by the two disciplines is becoming increasingly inevitable with the continuing expansion of hybrid imaging. The teaching of imaging during the first two stages of medical education is also a challenge, both for the attractiveness of our discipline and for creating greater coordination between harmonized teaching objectives and the content of ranking tests.
The CERF’s involvement in research has finally culminated in institutional recognition of imaging research under the Grand Emprunt—the “big loan” program intended to increase the country’s competitiveness. The abundance of imaging research units in our territory (more than 40) and the number of masters programs in imaging (10 listed) constitutes fertile ground for our young people who want to become more actively involved in transforming our discipline. It is now up to us to better structure the area of clinical imaging research by providing the technical, methodological, and logistical supporting framework, if possible in cooperation with the existing clinical research centers.

It is in that spirit that the CERF will continue to work in the interest of all of us, to preserve for radiology the status it deserves. That work will be accomplished with the help of all the members of this new board, in continuity with what was instituted by the previous boards, under the leadership of their respective chairmen, and Michel Claudon in particular. By aiming for broader dissemination—and, thereby, increased status—of the work of our young students, the new format of Journal de Radiologie is playing a role in achieving our aspirations.

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