Mentoring: A Critical Component of Successful Research

Mentorship comes in many forms. Charles R. Thomas, Jr., M.D., Chair of Radiation Oncology at Oregon Health & Science University's Knight Cancer Institute, is a strong believer in multiple mentors. “Mentoring is not just a one-person job. I like to use the analogy ‘it takes a village to raise a child’—similarly, it takes a village, or community, to put together a successful grant application,” he said. Dr. Thomas recognized the potential of one of his medical physicist faculty, James Tanyi, Ph.D., and encouraged Dr. Tanyi to apply for a 2010 RSNA Research Scholar Grant to study quantitative methodology to measure head/neck cancer patient response to combined chemo/radiotherapy. The application was not funded; however, Dr. Thomas remained supportive and directed Dr. Tanyi to remain vigilant and not be discouraged—the 2011 resubmission was successful. Dr. Thomas concluded, “One of my jobs as a department chair and mentor was to help put together the community that led to Dr. Tanyi’s success. No one person does the job of mentoring alone. There are clinical mentors, scientific mentors; rarely is there a single mentor that has the skillset necessary to be effective in all the roles of mentorship. Successful mentorship comes from teams, much like a graduate thesis committee.”

Want to learn how you can help mentor a grant applicant? Contact Scott Walter, 630-571-7816 or swalter@rsna.org.

Add Leadership to Your Credentials This Year

RSNA has joined with the Association of University Radiologists (AUR), American Roentgen Ray Society (ARRS), Society of Chairs of Academic Radiology Departments (SCARD), and the Association of Administrators in Academic Radiology Departments (AAARAD) in sponsoring the Academy of Radiology Leadership and Management (ARLM) to give radiology practitioners the opportunity to develop professionally.

Medical imaging professionals can earn a Certificate of Achievement from ARLM by participating in 50 hours of education—including at least 30 hours in person—across a spectrum of core learning domains, including financial skills, human resources, professionalism, legal/contracting, academic mission and more. A minimum of three continuing medical education (CME) hours in each domain is required.

Course curriculum includes important issues facing medical imaging professionals, such as Quality Assessment and Improvement in Radiology, Ethics and Professionalism in Research, Conflict of Interest, Critical Issues Facing the Profession of Radiology, and Clinical Portfolios, among others.

There are no fees beyond costs associated with CME activities—and many of those are free to members of the respective sponsoring societies. Additional information on the program is available at www.radleaders.org.