

THE HCI SPOTLIGHT

Dear Colleague—

A few years ago I realized that once we got to Halloween the year was pretty much over. With two major holidays in November and December it will be 2017 before we know it. At HCI, we are getting ready for our 4th quarter planning meeting next week. We will be looking at not only next year but where we are going over the next 5 and 10 years. As part of the process I looked back at where we were at this time in 2001 and 2006, 10 and 5 years ago respectively. It was eye opening! We are lucky to be working with many of our great customers since those years but also we have been fortunate to have expanded into new markets with new partners. By looking back I believe we gain the ability to look forward by evaluating what we have done and what we could have done better. We look forward to working with all of you for many years to come...and hopefully introducing you to some new friends along the way.

Please enjoy this month's newsletter!

Best regards,



Robert J. Stille
President, CEO
HeartCare Imaging, Inc.

CARDIOLOGY

PET imaging can accurately identify difficult-to-diagnose cardiac amyloidosis

Researchers at Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane, Australia, have demonstrated that cardiac amyloidosis (abnormal deposits of proteins in the heart), which is notoriously difficult to diagnose, can be visualized noninvasively with positron emission tomography (PET) using the radiotracer fluorine-18 (F-18)-florbetaben. The study is published in the November issue of "The Journal of Nuclear Medicine."

<http://www.news-medical.net/news/20161101/PET-imaging-can-accurately-identify-difficult-to-diagnose-cardiac-amyloidosis.aspx>

Debate continues on PCI vs. CABG for left main CAD

While there may be a professional divide on whether PCI or CABG is better suited for patients with left main disease, Bhatt said decisions should be made with the heart team on an individual basis to determine which treatment is best.

<http://www.healio.com/cardiac-vascular-intervention/percutaneous-coronary-intervention/news/online/%7B7928846f-0679-4556-a428-c0f293f742e9%7D/video-debate-continues-on-pci-vs-cabg-for-left-main-cad>

Does 'Good' Cholesterol Matter in Heart Disease Risk?

The study, of nearly 632,000 Canadian adults, found that those with the lowest HDL levels had higher death rates from heart disease and stroke over five years. But they also had higher death rates from cancer and other causes. What's more, there was no evidence that very high HDL levels -- above 90 mg/dL -- were desirable. People with HDL that high were more likely to die of non-cardiovascular causes, compared to those with HDL levels in the middle, the study found.

https://medlineplus.gov/news/fullstory_161770.html

Women Have Worse Outcomes During 36 Months After ACS

In a study published in the Nov. 1 issue of The American Journal of Cardiology, among patients with acute coronary syndrome (ACS), women were found to have a higher mortality rate than men during 36 months of follow-up.

<http://www.physiciansbriefing.com/Article.asp?AID=716464>

Optical and PET/CT probes detect early signs of atherosclerosis

Researchers at Stanford University have demonstrated for the first time the use of a dual optical and PET/CT activity-based probe to detect atherosclerotic plaques. The study is published in the October issue of the Journal of Nuclear Medicine.

<http://www.snmmi.org/NewsPublications/NewsDetail.aspx?ItemNumber=21696>

HEALTH

Colon Cancer's Location May Determine Patient Survival

Study found 'right-sided' tumors had worse prognoses, with implications for screening and treatment.

<https://consumer.healthday.com/cancer-information-5/colon-cancer-news-96/colon-cancer-s-location-may-help-determine-patient-survival-716224.html>

Using Telemedicine in mental health emergencies increases access, lowers costs

Using a telemedicine evaluation for pediatric mental health emergencies in ED or urgent care facilities may improve access to mental health services and reduce costs, according to recent study findings presented at the 2016 AAP National Conference and Exhibition.

<http://www.healio.com/psychiatry/pediatrics/news/online/%7B8a054296e-5e61-4dfa-9a09-9f88a06281ce%7D/using-telemedicine-in-mental-health-emergencies-increases-access-lowers-costs>

Researchers: We Found Area of Brain That Responds to Placebo

Scientists say they've pinpointed the brain region linked to the placebo effect. The placebo effect occurs when a fake therapy—such as a sugar pill— leads to a significant decrease in pain or other health-related improvement. The finding could lead to improved treatment for the 100 million Americans who suffer from chronic pain, the study authors said.

<https://consumer.healthday.com/bone-and-joint-information-4/pain-health-news-520/researchers-find-area-of-brain-that-responds-to-placebo-716283.html>

Nuclear Medicine, Radiopharmaceutical Market Primed for Growth

The global market for nuclear medicine equipment and radiopharmaceuticals generated \$4.7 billion in revenues in 2016 and is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 9.3% to reach \$7.3 billion by 2021, according to a new report from MarketsandMarkets.

<http://www.auntminnie.com/index.aspx?sec=news&sub=thd&page=dis&itemId=115435>

Smoking Still Takes Big Toll in US Cancer Deaths

Habit is linked to close to one-third of fatal cancers in people 35 and older, study finds.

<https://consumer.healthday.com/cancer-information-5/smoking-cessation-news-628/smoking-still-takes-big-toll-in-u-s-cancer-deaths-study-shows-716104.html>

Age 55 Years Optimal Cutoff for Staging Thyroid Cancer

Using the cutoff age of 55 years was more appropriate for TNM staging in patients with differentiated thyroid cancer compared with 45 years, study data shows. According to researchers, the raised cutoff point could prevent inaccurate staging and over-aggressive thyroid cancer treatment.

<http://www.healio.com/endocrinology/thyroid/news/in-the-journals/%7Bf9fbd4f-4b4a-4006-98fd-589d17e2fd99%7D/age-55-years-optimal-cutoff-for-staging-thyroid-cancer>

PET/CT worth extra radiation for those with high risk of lung cancer

While combination PET/CT imaging is one of the best ways to detect lung cancer, some are concerned about patient dose when using the modality on a large scale. However, researchers from Singapore optimized a low-dose PET scan while maintaining reliable cancer detection, according to a study published in the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine*.

<http://www.radiologybusiness.com/topics/care-optimization/petct-worth-rads-patients-high-cancer-risk>

Mount Sinai study shows concussion-related brain degeneration can be detected in living people

The research team at Mount Sinai utilized an experimental imaging agent, called [18F]-T807 with PET to study the brain of a living, 39-year old retired National Football League (NFL) player who experienced approximately 22 concussions over the course of his career.

<http://www.snmmi.org/NewsPublications/NewsDetail.aspx?ItemNumber=21663>

Autism Gene Mutation that slows brain activity uncovered

Scientists have pinpointed a gene mutation in a subset of people with autism that hinders the development of brain connections and slows brain activity—a discovery that could lead to new medications to treat autism at its core.

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/313966.php>

BUSINESS

Slavitt Says Tackling Drug Spending Will Be Top Priority for Next CMS leader

The dialogue on prescription drug pricing is currently set up between whether to have innovative, expensive drugs, or to have less expensive treatments, Slavitt said. That's a false choice that isn't productive, he said.

<https://morningconsult.com/alert/slavitt-says-tackling-drug-spending-will-be-top-priority-for-next-cms-leader/>

With Hacking on the Rise, Physician Records at Risk

The numbers are staggering: nearly one in every three Americans have had their medical records compromise, with more than 112 million healthcare records breached last year alone.

<http://medicaleconomics.modernmedicine.com/medical-economics/news/hacking-rise-physician-records-risk>

CMS Releases Final Rule for MACRA

On October 14, 2016, the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released its final rule for the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA). MACRA ends the Sustainable Growth Rate formula for updates to the physician fee schedule, which threatened clinicians participating in Medicare with potential payment cliffs for 13 years. It replaces it with the Quality Payment Program, which rewards the delivery of high-quality patient care.

<http://www.snmmi.org/NewsPublications/NewsDetail.aspx?ItemNumber=21680>

Bundled-Payment Program Deemed Better for Breast CA Care

For breast cancer care, a bundled-payment program is associated with better adherence to quality indicators and better outcomes over time compared with a fee-for-service (FFS) program, according to a study published online Oct. 19 in JAMA Oncology.

<http://www.physiciansbriefing.com/Article.asp?AID=716036>

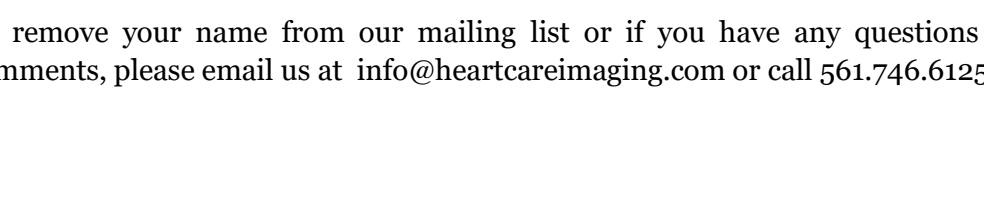
PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES

Mouse Study Hints at Damage Zika May Cause to Adult Brain

Stem cells critical to learning, memory might be vulnerable to the virus.

<https://consumer.healthday.com/diseases-and-conditions-information-37/zika-1007/mouse-study-hints-at-damage-zika-may-cause-in-adult-brain-716177.html>

EDUCATION/CONFERENCES



MID-WINTER MEETING
JANUARY 19-22, 2017 • PHOENIX, ARIZONA

To remove your name from our mailing list or if you have any questions or comments, please email us at info@heartcareimaging.com or call 561.746.6125