American Board of Radiology Foundation elects Glenn S. Forbes, MD, as Chair

The American Board of Radiology Foundation (ABRF) announces the election of its new chair, Glenn S. Forbes, MD, whose two-year term of service will begin July 1, 2011. Dr. Forbes will lead the Foundation in fulfilling its mission, which is to demonstrate, enhance, and continuously improve accountability to the public in the use of medical imaging and radiation therapy. He will replace William R. Hendee, PhD, who is completing a two-year term of service.

“I’m truly honored and highly enthusiastic about my privilege to serve in this role,” says Dr. Forbes. “As professionals in diagnostic radiology, radiation oncology, and medical physics, we support an entity that has a sole commitment to the public good. This entity will continue to promote our professionalism, which reflects our devotion to lifelong learning and selfless service to patients.”

Dr. Forbes joined the staff of Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, in 1977 and is a professor of radiology in Mayo Medical School. At Mayo he has served as chair of the Department of Radiology, chair of the Executive Board of Mayo Clinic Rochester, member of the Board of Governors and Board of Trustees of Mayo Clinic, CEO of Franciscan Skemp Healthcare of Mayo Health System, and medical director of Government Relations and Public Affairs. He currently serves as medical director for Mayo Clinic Imaging Solutions, the business unit within Mayo Clinic’s diversified activities. He is past president and gold medalist of the American Society of Neuroradiology, past first vice president of the Radiological Society of North America, and fellow of the American College of Radiology. He joined the American Board of Radiology Board of Trustees in 2003 and the American Board of Radiology Foundation in 2008.

The ABR Foundation’s long-term vision is to address issues related to uses of medical imaging and radiation therapy and to benefit the public by being a convener and catalyst, as well as a knowledge resource. In 2009 and 2010, the Foundation held two multidisciplinary national summit meetings, co-sponsored by the ABR and the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB): Medical Imaging: Addressing Overutilization in the Era of Healthcare Reform and Improving Patient Care through Effective Communication in Imaging.

Another ABRF initiative is the development of a series of 10 online instructional modules on topics related to ethics and professionalism in radiology. The modules will be co-branded and linked to the websites of the project’s supporters: the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA), the American Radium Society, the American Society for Radiation Oncology, the American College of Radiology, the American Association of Physicists in Medicine, and the American Board of Radiology. RSNA will be the CME provider for this educational activity and will provide the staff time to format the content into the web-based modules.

With a sole commitment to serve the public good and current or past senior leadership representation in every professional entity within the community of medical imaging, radiation oncology, and medical
physics, the ABRF provides a special opportunity to collaborate and form broad partnerships with public engagement directed toward issues of common interest.

“With our Summit meetings, instructional modules, and internal dialogue, we are making great strides in the realms of safety and service,” Dr. Forbes says. “When we face the more multifaceted issues of outcomes, access, and cost, we will stand on the firm ground of our unquestioned mission and vision to engage in the public discussion.”