

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023**

### **President's Report 2023-23**

**It is a pleasure to present my first report as President of the British Institute of Radiology at the end of an eventful year for the Institute.**

The past year was one of celebration and sadness. The death of Queen Elizabeth II occurred just too late for inclusion in last year's review. The British Institute of Radiology (BIR) received its Royal Charter from Her late Majesty in 1958, and she was our Patron for over 60 years. As one of his last acts as President, my predecessor, Dr Sri Redla, sent condolences on behalf of the Institute to His Majesty The King.

The celebration of our 125th anniversary culminated on 8 November 2022, the International Day of Radiology, World Radiography Day, and 125 years almost to the day since the Institute's Grand Inaugural Meeting in 1897. It was not only an honour to be inaugurated as President on that day but also to formally welcome our new Chief Executive, Sara Purdy and unveil plans for our smart new offices in Farringdon. So, a very significant birthday was marked by lots of significant changes, opening up many opportunities for the future. I was particularly delighted to reveal the design of our new coat of arms at the inauguration: You can read more about that on the next page.

The Institute's outstanding educational programme has continued throughout the year, including many specialised events as well as the bigger set-piece congresses. We built on our strong position in artificial intelligence (AI) with our first annual AI Congress in March. The BIR Annual Congress itself marked a welcome return to an in-person format after the COVID years. But online events offer new opportunities for engagement and inclusion, and our first virtual World Imaging Congress was another highlight of the year for me, building on our strong relationship with our World Partner Network, which has now grown to 23 members, including the African and Egyptian Societies of Radiology. It was an honour to welcome the leaders of many of these societies to a series of bilateral meetings during the RSNA Annual Meeting in Chicago.

Our flagship journal, *BJR*, is flourishing. The journal's impact factor is now 3.629, up 19.4% on the year. Alongside this, our open access journals, *BJR|Open* and *BJR|Case reports*, have continued to grow in stature, with *BJR|Case reports* achieving an impact factor for the first time. The latest journal from this successful stable, *BJR|Artificial Intelligence*, will launch early in 2024.

The BIR, of course, is nothing without its members. During the past year, our membership figures passed 4,000 for the first time. The BIR's greatest strength since its foundation all those years ago is that it is open to colleagues from across all of the professions involved in imaging and radiotherapy, regardless of background. This year we have begun to build our membership among some of the less visible groups, such as nurses working in imaging, through a new associate membership scheme. All of this adds to the richness of our volunteer base, on whom we rely to deliver much of the content of our

events, journals and online offerings. I am extremely grateful to them all, alongside the BIR's dedicated staff and, of course, our corporate members and sponsors. It is because of them that the BIR has emerged from the pandemic not just surviving but thriving, and looking forward with confidence to the next 125 years.

Professor Stephen Keevil

BIR President