

ACR's groundbreaking mammography accreditation program, which began as a voluntary effort in 1987, now has become a nationally mandated program. In part, as a result of this program and other breast cancer early detection promotion efforts, the National Cancer Institute has recorded, for the past few years, the first declines in mortality from breast cancer.

In addition to accreditation, the ACR has improved the quality of care through its Performance Standards™, Appropriateness Criteria™, life-saving research through clinical trials and medical continuing education programs for members.

The performance standards are principles for delivering high quality radiological care. They are revised and expanded every year. The standards cover a wide variety of procedures. The Appropriateness Criteria™ ensure that the most appropriate examination is done in the most appropriate setting at the most appropriate time. More than 500 medical experts have assisted in developing these criteria.

The college also offers numerous continuing education seminars each year.

ACR manages the federally funded Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG). This organization carries out multidisciplinary cancer trials nationwide. RTOG has gathered numerous medical facilities in providing state-of-the-art treatment for a wide variety of cancers.

As a complement to RTOG, the college also operates the Radiological Diagnostic Oncology Group (RDOG). This program evaluates current and emerging imaging technologies used in the management of patients with malignant disease. NCI funds RDOG so that the group may provide a timely approach for the cost-effective use of new technologies.

Even before the ACR initiated its quality improvement and research programs, radiologists were deeply involved in working to improve patient care. World War I, for example, presented a great need and a great opportunity for radiology. One of the founders of the college, Dr. Edwin Ernst, recalls how using a table built by German prisoners, and a rolling floor fluoroscopic gas tube, he pinpointed the location of bullet fragments. And radiologists in general played a major role in treating and diagnosing patients in those rugged field hospitals.

Later, in the 1920's the International Radiological Congress helped to standardize measurement. The ACR also worked to secure financing of the x-ray equipment at the Bureau of Standards.

It was also in the 1920's that the American College of Radiology was born as two dozen radiologists gathered for the first time officially to transact the business of the college: to plan ways to improve their profession's expertise.

When the United States entered World War II, radiologists mobilized to serve their country. The college volunteered to handle radiology manpower issues for the Army. The growth and development of radiology after World War paralleled post-war growth of the Nation.

In the early 1950's, three dedicated members of the college—Drs. Eddie Ernst, Wally Wasson and Ben Orndoff—began to cajole, badger and convince their fellow radiologists into preserving the history of their profession. In 1955 they gathered for the first time as the

Gas Tube Gang. The gas tube was the symbol of the early imaging technology.

Through their efforts the college's archive's was created and today it is filled with gas tubes, other early radiological devices, mementos from Dr. Roentgen, Madame Curie and other pioneers, and pages and pages of rich history of the ACR and the field of radiology.

So it is with all of this history in mind and the great contributions the ACR has made to the practice of medicine that I wish the American College of Radiology well on its 75th and continued success in the years to come.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 21, 1999*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 16, Hurricane Floyd slammed into North Carolina, bringing heavy winds and torrential rains to my state, including my Second Congressional District. I have been helping my constituents who are struggling to overcome this devastating disaster, and as a result, I was absent from the Chamber for rollcall vote No. 425 and rollcall vote No. 426. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on No. 425 and "no" on No. 426.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF AGUSTÍN RIVERA

### HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 21, 1999*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of an extraordinary member of my community. For the past decade, Agustín Rivera has demonstrated time and again his commitment and his vision for his community.

Mr. Rivera was a founding member of Música Against Drugs, a Puerto Rican and Latino, client-driven, community-based agency created to serve the needs of individual and families affected by the HIV/AIDS and drug addition epidemics in the Brooklyn, New York communities of Williamsburg, Greenpoint and Bushwick. Mr. Rivera's skills, talent, and energy helped the late Manny Maldonado, the founder of Música, establish a program to fulfill a desperately acute need. For several years they, like too many who were on the vanguard battling the pandemic of AIDS, worked very hard with very little money.

After three years of volunteer organizing, Música received its first public grant. This gave Mr. Rivera the opportunity to become stipend/outreach worker and, later, Outreach Coordinator. He then became the first program director of an innovative nutritional program, La Cocina del Pueblo, which provides nutritional services to people with HIV/AIDS. Subsequently, he became the Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator and, most recently, the Director of the Community Prevention Project.

Even while giving his all—and then some—to Música, Mr. Rivera found the time for some other impressive accomplishments as well. He was a founding member of the Williamsburg, Greenpoint, Bushwick HIV CARE Network. Last and hardly least, he is married to Marilyn Echevarría, and has an 11-year-old son, Austin.

Robert F. Kennedy once said, "It is from the numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal or acts to improve the lot of others or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Rivera has gained the respect of all who have had the privilege of knowing him, and all who have been blessed by experiencing his dedication and compassion. He has saved lives, and he has made lives better, all by his example that life is to be lived. He is a ripple of hope, and this world is a better place for his being in it.

#### NORTH KOREA SANCTIONS

### HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 21, 1999*

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, President Clinton announced his decision to lift some sanctions against North Korea. This is an historic move that comes at a time of real opportunity in United States-North Korea relations, one that does as much to ensure a lasting peace in Korea as any diplomatic initiative taken in the past 50 years.

In the past 3 years, I have spent considerable time on the challenges that North Korea represents. I have made five visits there to see first-hand the famine that has claimed 2 million lives, according to most experts. I have met countless times with aid workers, with Korea-Americans, with experts on North Korea, and with officials from U.N. organizations and other nations. I have struggled to understand why North Korea acts as it does, and, like many of our colleagues, I have worried about the threat North Korea's military poses to the 37,000 American service men and women stationed in South Korea.

Mr. Speaker, my experiences convince me that President Clinton's action stands a better chance than any other alternative in helping the people of North Korea, and in safeguarding peace on the Korean Peninsula.

In the long run, I expect it will bring more freedom and less poverty—as we have seen happen in other communist states that open up to market forces. In the short term, this initiative will help maintain peace on the Korean Peninsula—a peace that South Korea's people and our troops depend upon. And, by removing an obstacle to President Kim Dae Jung's bold and innovative initiative to improve relations with North Korea, it lends support to efforts to encourage "the Hermit Kingdom" to become a responsible member of the international community.