

## MR Center Stage at RSNA



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At McCormick Place in Chicago this week, the [Radiological Society of North America](#) held its annual meeting, which is the world's largest such gathering. By some estimates more than 60,000 medical and science professionals from about 100 countries attended this year's event, which is far more than the membership of RSNA itself. Both the event and the organization have grown dramatically in recent years, highlighting the importance of nuclear magnetic resonance (better known as magnetic resonance (MR) technology to medical imaging.

Although the predominance of exhibits center mainly on medical applications, the heavy use of physics, computing, photonics, software and lab equipment design in the instrumentation and information technology used in both imaging R&D and the products themselves clearly shows the more general appeal that RSNA has been receiving from the scientific community. A glance at this year's winners is evidence of new MR and computed tomography (CT) applications arriving at a fast and furious rate. Among the top-rated presenters at the event shared new ways to perform MRI on the elbow, evaluate MR-imaged breast lesions, choose the best fast spectroscopy methods, and use multi-detector CT to scan bone. No idea is too bizarre—one study made use of the Nintendo Wii remote to facilitate the operation of multidetector CT datasets, another used MR-enabled robots to help people recover from strokes, and one exhibitor showed off a treadmill workstation to keep radiologists in shape as they performed their scanning tasks.

Also in attendance was our 2008 Innovator of the Year, Cameron Piron, who is being featured in the upcoming 2008 year-end issue of R&D Magazine. He was representing Sentinelle Medical Inc., whose breast MRI table, the Vanguard, is now in use in more than 100 facilities.

Still other methods, including gamma imaging and positron emission imaging—both adapted for use in mammography screening—show great promise for a variety of early cancer screening techniques. But MR technology tends to stand out because it is both widely utilized already and is generally thought to be inherently less risky than methods that expose patients to x-rays and other potentially risky forms of radiation. As such it will continue to receive heavy development and we can expect both the RSNA show—and science in general—to continue to benefit from it.