

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF RADIOLOGY GOLD MEDAL

The Gold Medal is awarded by the Board of Chancellors to radiologists for their extraordinary service to the ACR or to the discipline of radiology. Service to radiology can be in teaching, basic research, clinical investigation or radiologic statesmanship, such as outstanding contributions in working with the ACR, other medical organizations, government agencies and quasi-medical organizations.

ALAN D. KAYE, MD, FACR



In another life, Alan D. Kaye, MD, FACR, might have been a history professor, having graduated magna cum laude from Harvard with a bachelor's degree in history and science. However, an assistant professor and friend suggested he pursue medicine. Kaye needed convincing and had to experience life in a hospital before committing to becoming a physician.

"I took a semester off, worked as a nurse's aide and I came out of there saying, 'I don't want to be a doctor,'" Kaye laughs.

He used that time as a learning opportunity and throughout his career has continued to find ways to rack up knowledge. He was initially drawn to radiology's seemingly endless breadth. "I have always loved to learn. Experiencing clinical rotations in medical school, I dismissed many potential specialty choices because they were too narrow for my liking. With radiology, you can never know enough."

Perhaps you can't ever know enough in radiology, but over Kaye's 44 years since becoming a physician, he's been trying. After earning his medical degree from the University of Connecticut, Kaye went on train at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and then serve as senior attending radiologist and department chair at Yale-affiliate Bridgeport Hospital and St. Vincent's Medical Center in Bridgeport,

Conn., and was an assistant clinical professor of radiology at Yale New Haven Hospital. He spent 24 years as the CEO and managing member of Advanced Radiology Consultants LLC.

And if those roles were not enough, Kaye worked his way up — learning along the way — from ACR councilor for the Radiological Society of Connecticut (of which he is also a past president) to the ACR Council Steering Committee, ACR council speaker and then ACR president in 2017–18. This trajectory was motivated by a passion for understanding the inner workings of health policy, economics and advocacy, something he's continued to be involved in as he donates time to health policy efforts for Connecticut state government. Kaye has been an avid opponent of self-referral in imaging.

Kaye's long history in the ACR provided the opportunity to give back and to continue learning. He's contributed to the specialty in other ways, as well, including through teaching residents and referring attendings. Named Bridgeport Hospital's Resident Teacher of the Year three times during his tenure, Kaye enjoys "interacting with smart people," he says. "And when you teach, you learn."

As for his most valued accomplishments, the list is ongoing. "One of the nice things about my career has been that I've had probably seven or eight careers without changing jobs," he says. "I've been chairperson of a department and I've been teacher of the year. I've been the leader of a practice that grew six times and of a regional physician hospital organization that amalgamated into a 1,100-physician integrated network. I became a member of the hospital board and of the Yale Contracting Board, and now I'm chief medical officer of a startup radiology IT company. So I guess you can say that I am a 'serial radiologist.'"

A challenge for most physicians, balancing family and career was a priority for Kaye. "I managed to coach both my daughter and my son in their sports," he says. "But I never looked at managing this balance as a challenge. I have a great partner in my wife." Even now, with all of his career accomplishments, raising children has been the most rewarding part of his life, on par with being with his three granddaughters. "If you want to see me smile, make me think of my Rosie, Bella and Anna."

With the ACR Gold Medal, Kaye has another reason to smile, but it means more than you would expect. "It's been a very rewarding, diverse career with continuous learning that has given me opportunities to make a difference," he says. "This award is the capstone."