

AUR Gold Medalist Tribute

Ruth C. Carlos, MD, MS

Introduction by Bruce J. Hillman, MD

It is my great honor to introduce the recipient of this year's AUR Gold Medal, Ruth C. Carlos, MD, MS. Dr Carlos was born in Manila and raised in the Philippines until the age of 12 years, when her parents, both activist lawyers, moved the family to the United States. Settling in Chicago, Ruth soon adapted to her new environs and quickly distinguished herself as a student. She was admitted to the University of Chicago in 1985, and there she stayed for 12 years, graduating with honors from the undergraduate college, attending medical school, and training in radiology. Dr Carlos acknowledges that she was not the most outstanding radiology trainee in her program. She had difficulty disciplining herself to the nightly study that marks the progress of our best trainees and once went AWOL for several weeks without informing her program of her intentions. Fortunately, her peripatetic approach to our specialty was short-lived. Dr Carlos has fashioned a remarkable career in radiology as a clinician, researcher, mentor, and medical journalist.

In 1997, Dr Carlos accepted a fellowship in cross-sectional imaging at the University of Michigan, where during the past 19 years, she has risen through the ranks from lecturer to professor and assistant chair for clinical research. Early in her career, Dr Carlos recognized that if she were to succeed in academic medicine, she would need to acquire research skills beyond what radiology training provides. She applied for and was awarded highly competitive fellowships from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the AUR GE Radiology Research Academic Fellowship (GERRAF) program. Making the most of these opportunities, she has become one of a small number of radiologists who have achieved national relevance in the crucial health services research and policy arenas. She has employed her unique skill set and native enthusiasm to mentor students of all levels—from undergraduates to junior faculty members—many of whom now follow in her footsteps. Dr Carlos has mentored no fewer than five AUR GERRAF Fellows. For the past several years, she has chaired the AUR GERRAF Board of Review.



Ruth C. Carlos, MD, MS

Among Dr Carlos' many accomplishments are her 111 peer-reviewed publications, numerous invited lectureships, and her presidency of both the AUR and the Radiology Alliance for Health Services Research. She has been a member of the AUR Board of Directors since 2006 and until 2013 served as deputy editor for health services research for *Academic Radiology*. She sits on the executive committee of the American Roentgen Ray Society and has chaired important committee assignments for the RSNA and the American College of Radiology (ACR). She is co-chair of the ACR Imaging Network's (ACRIN's) Patient-centered Outcomes Committee.

I first met Dr Carlos at a 1992 retreat of AUR GERRAF Board members and fellows. Because of our mutual interest in health services research, I have followed her career with interest since that time. Shortly after I began working on the *Journal of the American College of Radiology (JACR)*, I saw an opportunity for us to work together. I appointed her the *JACR* Associate Editor for Health Services Research. In those early days of the journal, there were no real responsibilities associated with the title, so Ruth invented some. Beginning in 2009 and continuing to the present, Dr Carlos has annually chosen a temporally relevant topic, recruited authors and subject matter, improved their submissions, and served as guest editor of an annual year-ending special issue of *JACR*. Many of the articles she

has commissioned have been among the journal's most cited. When it became clear that the future success of *JACR* would depend on its early advent into electronic and social media, I chose Dr Carlos to become the journal's deputy editor with special responsibility for advancing the online development of *JACR*. She has flourished in this role, as has *JACR*. Her creativity, organizational skills, and barely contained enthusiasm have made *JACR* an innovator among medical publications.

For all that she has accomplished and for her great potential to make important contributions to our specialty in the future, the AUR honors itself in presenting its highest honor to Ruth C. Carlos, MD, MS.