RESOLUTION NO. 33

Ten Year Extension of Policy

WHEREAS, the ACR bylaws state that "All official actions and policies of the Council are effective for only ten years unless extended for an additional ten year period by the Council…," and

WHEREAS, the various components of the College feel that the following policy should be extended for an additional ten year period; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED,

that the following policy of the American College of Radiology be extended for an additional ten year period:

(a) Radiation Oncology Residency Matching Program

The American College of Radiology supports the concept of a matching program for radiation oncology and encourages one hundred percent participation of all radiation oncology training programs. The American College of Radiology supports the use of the National Residency Matching Program as the vehicle for radiation oncology residency matching ~~so that the recruitment process can be coordinated with the recruitment process for other medical specialties~~; 1992, amended 2002 (Res. 14-a).

(b) Disposal of Low Level Radioactive Waste

The American College of Radiology encourages its component chapters to actively support state and regional efforts to find safe, cost-effective, and technically sound methods of disposing of low-level radioactive waste. The American College of Radiology will continue to work with the public and other interested bodies to foster understanding and acceptance of the need for the responsible handling of low level radioactive waste. The American College of Radiology will continue to join with other interested medical organizations in reaffirming support for the timely development of low level radioactive waste disposal sites in accordance with federal law; 1992, amended 2002 (Res. 14-b).

(c) Multidisciplinary Management of Early Stage Breast Cancer

If a diagnosis of breast cancer is made, women should be offered a multidisciplinary consultation regarding treatment options. This should include referral to a radiation oncologist to discuss the role of radiation as an option in conservative breast management; 2002 (Res. 42).

(d) Radiologists, Radiation Oncologists, and Self-Referral

The American College of Radiology adopts the following policy on self-referral:

~~The Bylaws Committee in consultation with the Judiciary Committee shall incorporate the substance of this policy in the ACR Code of Ethics~~

The practice of physicians referring patients to health care facilities in which they have a financial interest is not in the best interest of patients. This practice of self-referral may also serve as an improper economic incentive for the provision of unnecessary treatment or services. Even the appearance of such conflicts or incentives can compromise professional integrity. Disclosing referring physicians' investment interests to patients or implementing other affirmative procedures to reduce, but not completely eliminate, the potential for abuse created by self-referral is not sufficient.

In accordance with these views, the American College of Radiology supports current and future federal and state legislation and regulatory action designed to prohibit self-referral or restrict its influence on patient care decisions.

The American College of Radiology believes that radiologists and radiation oncologists should make efforts to restructure the ownership interests in existing imaging or radiation therapy facilities, if not already done, because self-referral may improperly influence the professional judgments of those physicians referring patients to such facilities; 1992, amended 2002 (Res. 34-d).

Sponsored by: ACR Council Steering Committee

Fiscal Note

Ten Year Extension of Policy

To support the resolution for **Ten Year Extension of Policy**, the ACR would incur the following estimated costs:

Costs:

De minimis