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News Release

MedPix™ Receives Patent

BETHESDA, Md. – A faculty member at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU), James Smirniotopoulos, M.D., Radiology and Radiological Sciences chair, has developed MedPix™, a medical image database of more than 29,000 images from more than 7,000 real-life cases. The web-based teaching file was developed to be a centralized focal point of peer reviewed radiographs, where radiologists anywhere can contribute and view cases.

The culmination of seven years of work at USU has resulted in the first patent for MedPix™. Patent number 7,080,098 was assigned by the U.S. Patent and Trademark office July 18.

From 1999 to 2006, and more than a decade of earlier work, Dr. Smirniotopoulos and others worked on developing the MedPix™ schema for classifying images. Since Sept. 3, 2000 it has delivered more than 39,000,000 Web pages.

MedPix™ has more than 21,000 registered members from all around the world. The primary audience includes: residents and practicing physicians, medical students, nurses and graduate nursing students, as well as other post-graduate trainees.

The MedPix™ COW (Case of the Week) provides free Category 1 Continuing Medical Education (CME) for physicians and Continuing Education Units for nursing professionals, and is used by hundreds of healthcare professionals every week. MedPix™ CME is linked to the "Radiology Corner" of Military Medicine. This is a new feature that presents an unknown radiology case with each issue.

New features include the "Diagnostic Image Atlas" that allows you to match a known case from the database, with a clinical case at the workstation. This can be used for resident teaching, as well as to assist in developing a differential diagnosis, much like a textbook, but with all of the searching advantages of a computer.

For more information on MedPix™, call the Office of External Affairs at (301) 295-3166 or visit the Web site at: <http://rad.usuhs.mil/medpix/medpix.html?mode=default#top>