Andrew B. Crummy, M.D., FSIR ~ 2011 SIR Gold Medalist

The Society of Interventional Radiology's Gold Medal is awarded to a member who has helped ensure the future of interventional radiology by advancing the quality of medicine and patient care.

An IR pioneer on multiple fronts, Andrew B. Crummy, MD, FSIR, is recognized as much for his role in the development of digital subtraction angiography (DSA) as he is for his selfless contributions to the Society of Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiology (SCVIR), the forerunner of the Society of Interventional Radiology. After his internship year, Dr. Crummy completed a residency in diagnostic radiology at the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics. He then completed a gastrointestinal radiology fellowship in Massachusetts, followed by a one-year National Institutes of Health fellowship in cardiovascular radiology at Yale University. His first academic staff position, as assistant professor of radiology, was at the University of Colorado.

He has authored or co-authored more than 183 journal publications as well as 38 book chapters. "His more than 50 publications in various journals and his multiple lectures in the United States and abroad have contributed to the improvement of angiographic diagnosis and interventional treatment throughout the world," states Josef Rosch, MD, FSIR.

Dr. Crummy is perhaps best known for his pivotal role in the development and widespread use of DSA. In the 1970s, Dr. Crummy collaborated with Charles Mistretta, PhD, and Charles Strother, MD, at the University of Wisconsin in the development of DSA. Recognizing its potential, he worked to demonstrate the technique's value, simplicity and ease in comparison to cut films and energetically disseminated clinical applications of DSA. Now in everyday practice in nearly every vascular/cardiology laboratory in the world, the procedure is indispensable to the angiographer. "The development of DSA was an iterative process as the apparatus was continuously adapted to meet the needs that were pointed out by Andy," says Dr. Mistretta. "He was the key clinical collaborator in the development of the technique and educated a generation of radiologists on the relative merits of intravenous and intra-arterial injection techniques."

Realizing the importance of service, Dr. Crummy was also instrumental to the development of SIR. In the 1970s, he served on virtually every SIR committee, which led to him being elected to the Society's presidency in 1981. During the time of his presidency, Dr. Crummy challenged the other Society leaders to open its membership while maintaining high standards and had an important role in establishing SIR's fiscal and administrative beginnings. He has also served as president of the medical board at the University of Wisconsin Health Sciences Center and served as an examiner for the American Board of Radiology in diagnostic radiology and advanced qualifications in interventional radiology. According to William J. Casarella, MD, FSIR, SIR President just before Dr. Crummy, "Without his dedication, hard work and skill, we might not have become the modern SIR we are today."