Dear members of the MR Engineering Study Group,

Mark your calendars! On behalf of the MR Engineering Study Group, I cordially invite you to this year's meeting which will be held on Wednesday, June 3, 2015 (13:30 – 15:30 pm, room 105) during the 23rd Annual Meeting of the ISMRM in Toronto, Canada.

Overall, this year's study group meeting will be comprised of three parts:

1) Announcements and administration ("*house-keeping"*, approx. 10 min)
2) Scientific focus session (five lectures, approx. 50 min)
3) Scientific poster session and awards (approx. 1 hour)

Please take a moment to review below specifics regarding this year's agenda.

HOUSE-KEEPING – STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

In an effort to support junior scientists and to give non-voting members of our study group a voice, we are proposing to establish a student representative in addition to the current committee positions Secretary, Vice-Chair and Chair. This representative will be elected by trainees only starting with the 2016 membership year. He/she is encouraged to actively participate in committee meetings and to contribute the perspective of students and junior scientist. However, the student representative will have no vote. We plan to put the idea up for discussion at our meeting and will ask for a subsequent member vote as such change requires a modification of our statues.

SCIENTIFIC FOCUS SESSION

There appears to be rapidly increasing interest within the MR community in the complimentary or alternative use of switched non-linear fields for both B_0 shimming and imaging. As the MR Engineering Study Group, our aim is to stay abreast of this evolving field of research and to stimulate scientific discussion and exchange. We are therefore happy to announce that the scientific focus of this year's meeting will be on "***Dynamic Non-Linear Fields in MR: Technology and Applications***".

Five leaders in the field have agreed to summarize the current state-of-the-art as well as ongoing developments:

1) *Dynamic Shim Updating with Spherical Harmonic Functions*
   Klaas P. Pruessmann, PhD, ETH Zurich, Switzerland
2) *Dynamically Controlled Adaptive Current Network*
   Blaine A. Chronik, PhD, University of Western Ontario, London/ON, Canada
3) *Dynamic Multi-Coil Technique (DYNAMITE)*
   Robin A. de Graaf, PhD, Yale University, New Haven/CT, USA
4) *Parallel Imaging with Local Encoding Fields (PATLOC)*
   Maxim Zaitsev, PhD, University of Freiburg, Germany
5) *Steering Resonance over the Object (STEREO)*
   Michael Garwood, PhD, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis/MN, USA

POSTER SESSION – POSTER AWARDS

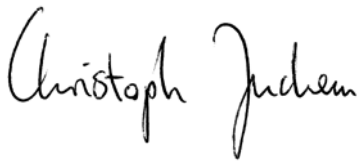
We will have a poster session with both traditional and electronic posters along with poster awards similar to previous years. A selection of abstracts will be determined soon and the corresponding authors will be invited to present and to participate in the competition.

POSTER SESSION – WORK-IN-PROGRESS

As a novelty this year, we will also have a work-in-progress (WIP) section as part of the poster session. This section is intended to allow ***students*** to showcase their ongoing work. More importantly, it is meant to provide them with an informal platform for feedback and help, and an opportunity for networking early in their careers.
Presenters will have to bring their WIP posters (e-posters only, 3 slides maximum) on a thumb drive directly to the study group meeting and will receive a total of 6 minutes for both presentation and discussion. While there is no review process on the WIP posters, authors are requested to register their name, their affiliation and a title with us ***before 05/10/2015*** (or until all slots are filled) for planning purposes. We will create an overview schedule of the posters and distribute it before the conference.

For questions, suggestions or requests of any kind, feel free to contact me directly at christoph.juchem@yale.edu

Best wishes,



Chair, MR Engineering Study Group