

## 30 years of SRMR: The 1990s

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The 1990s are widely regarded as one of the most formative and diverse decades in the evolution of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI). This era brought landmark advances across clinical, preclinical, and non-biological domains. Key developments included the introduction of high-field MRI systems ( $\geq 3$  T), the emergence of functional MRI using the BOLD contrast mechanism, the advent of diffusion-weighted and diffusion tensor imaging (DWI/DTI), and the rise of parallel imaging methods such as SMASH and SENSE. Sequence innovations like MP-RAGE, the first real-time cardiac imaging in mice, and portable systems like the NMR-MOUSE further expanded the scope of MRI into previously uncharted territories.

In parallel to all these exciting advances in MRI a new series of conferences, the ICMRM, was initiated in 1991 at Heidelberg and its society, the Division of Spatially Resolved Magnetic Resonance, was founded in 1995 during the meeting in Würzburg.

Of course, any historical account of this period reflects the lens of the observer. Depending on one's background, certain milestones may seem more defining than others. And speaking with a wink: those who were actively contributing to MRI during this decade—including the author—may carry a particularly personal bias in selecting what mattered most. Still, there is broad agreement that the 1990s shaped the field in ways that continue to define modern MRI practice and research.