

The Read

Volume 7

M Northwestern Medicine[®]
Feinberg School of Medicine

Department of Radiology



Letter from the Chair

James Carr, MD, Department Chair

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to our latest edition of the Newsletter, your source for updates and insights into the dynamic happenings within our department. As we continue to forge ahead in providing exceptional healthcare services, education, and research, it is with great excitement that we share the latest developments across various fronts.

Expanding Emergency Radiology Services: I am excited to announce that our Emergency Radiology service continues on a trajectory of expansion, with plans to extend coverage to most of the NM enterprise by the end of summer. This initiative underscores our commitment to ensure accessible and high-quality emergency care for our community.

Ambulatory Site Expansion: The wheels are in motion for the opening of a new ambulatory site at Bronzeville. This strategic endeavor aims to enhance our capacity to deliver comprehensive and advanced healthcare services to our diverse patient population.

Faculty Affairs Initiatives: Dr. Horowitz and her dedicated team are actively engaged in spearheading several faculty affairs initiatives aimed at fostering professional growth and excellence within our academic community. Some of the work includes efforts to leverage technology and other resources to alleviate the workload for diagnostic radiologists in the reading rooms.

AI Tools Advancement: Leveraging cutting-edge technology, our utilization of AI tools continues to evolve. The Aries tool, in particular, has proven invaluable for chest and spine plain film reads, with exploration into additional AI technologies currently underway.

Research Program Growth: We are delighted to announce the expansion of our research program with the recent unveiling of new RO1s by our faculty, a testament to our ongoing commitment to advancing scientific discovery and innovation.

Sustainability Initiatives: Dr. Hijaz is leading our sustainability efforts with a focus on initiatives such as assessing power consumption with MRI and CT. Through these endeavors, we are dedicated to

reducing our environmental footprint while maintaining excellence in patient care.

We are excited to announce the planning of an upcoming faculty retreat.

Celebrating Achievements: We extend heartfelt congratulations to several of our esteemed physicians who have been recognized for their leadership and contributions to the field. From serving as presidents of prominent medical societies to receiving prestigious awards, their accomplishments inspire us all. To name just a few, Dr. Markl is current president of SCMR, Dr. Lewandowski is current president of SIR, Dr. Nemcek recently received the SIR gold medal, Dr. Miller is current president of SAR, Dr. Gabriel is a future president of the Society of Radiologists in Ultrasound. Congratulations on the remarkable achievements of our Radiology faculty.

Education Excellence: Our education team continues to achieve remarkable success, evidenced by an outstanding residency match and the resounding success of our recent resident retreat. We commend their dedication to shaping the future of healthcare professionals.

Upcoming Faculty Retreat: As part of our commitment to professional development and collaboration, we are excited to announce the planning of an upcoming faculty retreat towards the end of the year. Stay tuned for more details on this exciting event.

As we navigate the ever-evolving landscape of healthcare, we remain steadfast in our dedication to excellence and innovation. Together, we will continue to uphold our mission of providing exceptional patient care, advancing research, and shaping the future of healthcare.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment and contributions to our shared vision of excellence.

Cover Photo: An infrared 3D surface map of a craniotomy. Todd Parrish's Neuroimaging Lab develops infrared imaging to locate functional brain regions and guide tumor resection.

A Fun Luncheon, Critical Topics and Supporting a Pipeline For Future Medical Students

DEI Update

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council has stayed busy over the past several months. Dr. Senta Berggruen participated in an RSNA Women in Radiology (WIR) panel on November 26. During the one-hour event moderated by medical students, many topics were discussed relevant to women in radiology including career development, leadership, mentorship, and networking for women in radiology. The panel was very well attended by medical students, residents, and radiologists from around the world.

WIR held a holiday event on December 13 to discuss holiday traditions and share best practices to start the new year. A gift exchange was also included. In addition, WIR organized a raffle for the charity, Sarah's Circle. Faculty and residents donated items for a raffle basket with all proceeds benefiting Sarah's Circle.

In January Anne Darrow, MD, gave a presentation about serving the LGBTQ+ community, including imaging findings of transgender patients and improving radiological services for the LGBTQ+ patients. Dr. Darrow is a radiology resident in

Chicago and sponsored by ACR grants.

In April Dr. Senta Berggruen gave a talk called "Allyship," covering a topic critical to creating a comfortable work environment. She named ways we can be allies to vulnerable populations, gave clear examples of the forms prejudice can take, and defined terms such as *microaggressions*.

The DEI Council is proud to support pipeline development events for Chicagoland high school students. On May 18 the Department of Radiology hosted high school students from Horizons for Youth for a career day event that introduced students to sonography, radiography, MRI, research, radiology administration, NM Academy, and radiology training. Dr. Gabriel, Dr. Cecil Wood, Dr. Senta Berggruen, Charles Fasanati, Natalie Anzaldi, Michal Brooks, and Heather Mallett were among the organizers and participants. This is an important event designed to show those who are underrepresented in medicine what's possible for them.



Underrepresented in Medicine Program Sparks Creativity and Commitment

DEI

Last summer two medical students took advantage of the chance to work with Northwestern faculty on hands-on projects. The Underrepresented in Medicine (UIM) program received many applications accompanied by proposed projects. Drs. Michael Markl, Ryan Avery and Robert Lewandowski evaluated these proposals and paired two students with faculty who guided them in the work the students wanted to explore.

Northwestern student Sophia Pantano worked with Dr. Lindsay Griffin, MD on her project “Determining Criteria for an MRI-First Pathway in Suspected Pediatric Appendicitis.” Pantano chose to work on body imaging because anatomy was her favorite part of the first-year curriculum. Pantano already knew Dr. Griffin at Lurie Children’s Hospital and requested her guidance on her project.

Pantano enjoyed learning about radiology as a specialty and seeing how it uses physics. Dr. Griffin taught her how to look at patient data and what radiology research can look like. They would meet in the reading room where Pantano would shadow Dr. Griffin.



Pantano recommends UIM as a bridge that connects students with faculty. She’s now working in Dr. Michael Markl’s lab, evaluating cardiac tissue characteristics and function on MRI in heart transplant patients.



Mentoring Program Supports Trainees and New Faculty

Wellness & Professional Development Update | Jeanne Horowitz, MD, Vice Chair of Education & Faculty Affairs

We have been fortunate to recruit new faculty for many sections in the Department of Radiology. The Northwestern University Radiology Mentorship Program (NU RaMP) pairs new faculty, as well as other junior and some mid-career faculty, with a radiology faculty mentor. NU RaMP also runs faculty development workshops to help our radiologists with their career development, leadership development, research, and promotions.

In November 2023, we ran a faculty development workshop “Successful Mentor-Mentee Relationships: Setting Expectations for Success” by Dr. Jeanne Horowitz and guest speaker Dr. Bari Dane from New York University. It reviewed mentor/mentee best practices and how to align mentor-mentee expectations. It was a great session for new radiology faculty beginning to work with mentors, and demonstrated resources for mentors and mentees on our NU RaMP website. Good communication between mentees and mentors is so important, so each knows what to expect from the other in order to get the most benefit out of the relationship.

In December 2023 our “New Faculty Check-In Plus Onboarding” session gave a chance for faculty who joined our department this fall to learn about the mentorship program as well as other hospital and university resources. Many new attendings experienced “check-in” sessions as a trainee with their program directors, but a check-in at the attending level can help with questions on clinical, educational, or research topics that a new attending might have. This gives a chance for new radiologists to get to know and support one another as they start their careers.

We’ve had a faculty development workshop on tips for radiology attendings, “The First Five Years.” It was given by guest speaker Dr. Joseph Leach from University of California, San Francisco as well as our own Dr. Anu Jawahar. This was a great session that discussed the challenges of transitioning from being a trainee to an attending, and gave tips for early career success in clinical, educational, and research arenas.

Future Radiologist Learns Life Lessons Through DEI Efforts

DEI



Casey Bishop, Neuroradiology Fellow, has received a couple of different kinds of education since he was an undergraduate at Northwestern University. During his first week at Georgetown Medical School, he heard of a candidate for class president who had spoken disparagingly about women becoming surgeons. Bishop decided he couldn't stand by while this man became class president, so he ran against him.

Bishop won, and it was the beginning of a four-year "extracurricular course" in how to build connections and use them to get things done.

While at Georgetown, Bishop noticed things like an outdated curriculum (they were teaching an incorrect origin of AIDS) and no official Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) division. He used the connections he was making as class president to raise the issues, and he worked with students and faculty to create a DEI Council and a DEI division with its own dean.

Around that time, the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) released guidelines on how institutions could be more inclusive. One of their recommendations was all-gender restrooms, but that wasn't a change Georgetown accepted easily.

Bishop approached the DEI Council for support, and they decided to start with the single-stall restrooms. The Council voted unanimously to change from women's single-stall restrooms and men's single-stall restrooms to making each one all-gender.

It wouldn't require any remodeling. All it would take was changing the signage, but the first time the

Medical Education Committee voted on it, it failed.

Bishop spent the next three months having conversations with each committee member. It was part of his education in how complex people are and how important it is to let them be who they are while also finding the places they can be challenged and nudged.

He learned from trial and error how to find pressure points and change minds, and he learned how long it can take just to get a single yes vote. In the end, there were only a few holdouts when the Medical Education Committee finally passed the proposal.

Bishop admits he's always had a strong personality. Running for class president four years running (he won every time) helped him clarify when to worry about people liking him and when to push forward even when it cost him a few opinions.

"It's one thing to create an inclusive environment and another to build the pipeline to support it."

He says a big lesson he learned was that it's one thing to create an inclusive environment and another to build the pipeline to support it. He has worked on the pathway to get a diverse population of students through high school, college, and medical school. He says you can't have a diversity of doctors without a diverse pool of medical students.

Bishop very much enjoyed his time at Georgetown and the different types of education he received there. He pulled back from activist activities after starting his residency, but he hopes to get back to it soon.

Awards Recognize Outstanding Performance

Faculty Update

On September 19th, 2023 the Department of Radiology recognized eleven faculty members and fellows for their stellar work in teaching, research, and patient care. Dr. Eric Russell received the Lifetime Achievement Award, and seven promotions were also recognized.

In the Prentice Harris Family Atrium, faculty, staff, students, residents, and fellows enjoyed the buffet lunch that accompanied the presentation.

AWARDS

Dr. Erin N. McComb, MD, Outstanding Clinical Radiologist “Best Eye”

Dr. Marinos Kontzialis, MD, Best Radiology Lectures

Dr. Marinos Kontzialis, MD, Best Teacher at the Workstation

Dr. Bartley G. Thornburg, MD, Excellence in Procedural Teaching

Dr. Samdeep K. Mouli, MD, MS, Outstanding Contribution to Research by a Clinical Educator

Dr. Ulaş Bağcı, PhD, Outstanding Contribution to Research by Research Faculty

Dr. Jeanne M. Horowitz, MD, Excellence in Mentorship

Dr. Ali M. Serhal, MD, Rising Star - Clinical

Dr. Laleh Golestani Rad, PhD, Rising Star - Research

Dr. Eric J. Russell, MD, Outstanding Patient Care - Faculty



Dr. Tyler Hinkel, DO, Outstanding Patient Care - Fellow

Dr. Senta Berggruen, MD, Outstanding Service



Dr. Eric J. Russell, MD, Lifetime Achievement Award

PROMOTIONS

Senta Berggruen, Professor

Imran Omar, Professor

Judy Gadde, Associate Professor

Erin McComb, Associate Professor

Yufen Jennie Chen, Associate Professor

Brad Herynk, Assistant Professor

Esther Ro, Assistant Professor

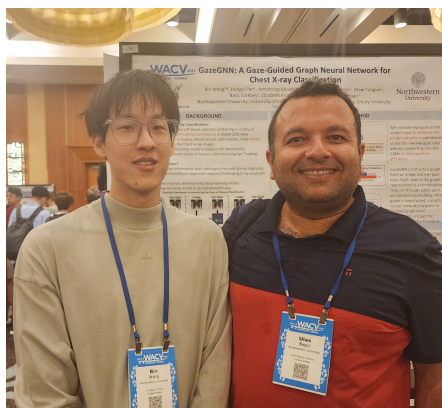


Bağcı Lab Contributes Five Papers to the 2024 WACV for Innovations in AI and Computer Vision

AI Update

Dr. Ulaş Bağcı's lab has emerged as a leading research group in artificial intelligence and computer vision, making pioneering contributions that have garnered significant attention at the prestigious Winter Conference on Applications of Computer Vision (WACV) in 2024.

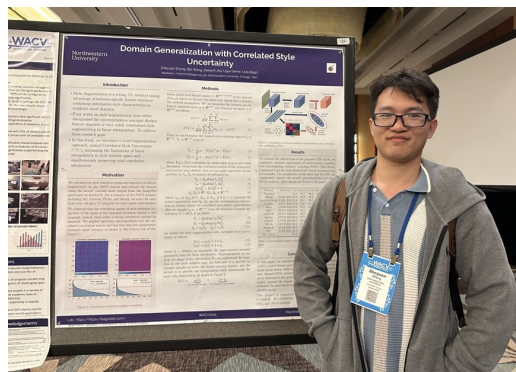
The WACV is widely recognized for its focus on practical applications and innovative algorithms in artificial intelligence and computer vision. The conference is a prominent platform for esteemed researchers, forward-thinking visionaries, and accomplished industry professionals to disseminate their cutting-edge advancements and innovations. Each year, the WACV receives diverse applications that represent the wide-ranging field of artificial intelligence (AI) – from healthcare to robotics. This year, Dr. Bağcı's lab contributed five articles to this esteemed conference.



Computer vision is an interdisciplinary field that enables machines to interpret and understand visual information from the world, much like the human visual system. It involves the development of algorithms and systems that allow machines to analyze, process, and interpret visual data, such as images and videos. AI in healthcare is expanding day by day with the help of computer vision and image analysis techniques.

Dr. Bağcı's studies showcased at WACV 2024 mark a crucial breakthrough in the intersection of AI and radiology. Essential to the field of computer vision is understanding how humans interact with the visual world, then training AI to replicate this process of pattern recognition at a significantly faster rate. To

exemplify one of these five studies: Radiologists and medical professionals analyze images manually for diagnostic and clinical purposes. Dr. Bağcı's lab relies on the cutting-edge technology of eye tracking with AI algorithms to utilize gaze information for rapid screening of cardiac and lung diseases. Their method is called "GazeGNN."



GazeGNN creates a unified representation graph, seamlessly integrating eye gaze data and image information. More than a simple time-saving measure, GazeGNN demonstrates the practicality and feasibility of integrating real-time eye tracking techniques into the daily work of radiologists. GazeGNN stands as the inaugural work-adopting graph neural networks to fuse image segmentation with gaze data.

Dr. Bağcı's other studies include theoretical AI algorithms that are useful for many computer vision applications, but specifically for medical applications spanning from organ and tissue segmentation to disease diagnosis, and patient management for various diseases. In radiology, specifically, AI has the potential to enhance diagnostic accuracy, reduce workload, and improve patient outcomes. As algorithms become more sophisticated and datasets more extensive, AI in computer vision will play an increasingly significant role in addressing complex challenges and making meaningful contributions to various fields, especially in radiology and imaging-based medical disciplines. For years, Dr. Bağcı's team has been at the forefront of this exciting new field, and their inclusion in the 2024 WACV is yet another testament to the importance of their work.

RSNA 2023 Featured Cutting Edge Research from Northwestern Presenters

Faculty Update

Northwestern was proud to welcome the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) Convention to Chicago in November. Northwestern speakers and participants turned out in large numbers. Here are just a few of the presentations on cutting-edge research.

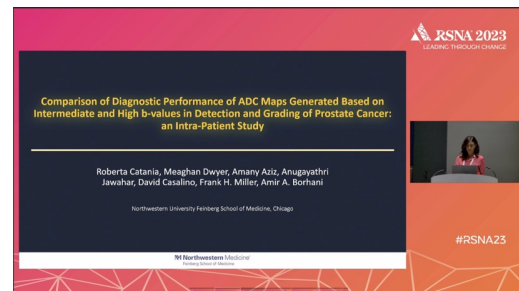
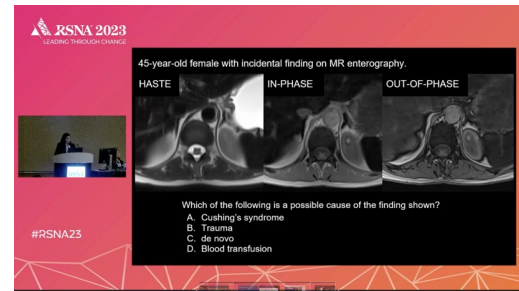
Dr. Anugayathri Jawahar was an invited speaker at the genitourinary case-based peer learning session at which she presented the imaging of adrenal pathologies. Her co-speakers were from Stanford University, Univ of North Carolina and New York University.

Dr. Roberta Catania presented her team's work on comparison of ADC map obtained based on acquired b-values of 1600 and 1000 to detect clinically significant prostate cancer. Currently, PIRADS suggests not to use DWI from acquired high b-values due to the possibility of kurtosis effect to occur. Their results showed that whether Kurtosis effect happens at b1600 or not, it doesn't negatively affect detection of prostate cancer and ADC maps based on acquired b-values of 1600 can be used in clinical practice.

Dr. Frank Miller presented on behalf of his co-authors in the RSNA session Radiographics: Editor's Picks/Choice over the Years on their paper on pancreatic cysts for Radiographics which was one of the most downloaded and cited articles last year with over 60,000 downloads and 27 citations. Pancreatic cysts are important because of their increased risk of malignancy. Northwestern developed their institutional guidelines based on consensus agreement using the various global guidelines.

Dr. Michael Markl gave an educational presentation on the technical principles of 4D flow MRI, an imaging method for assessing 3D blood flow in the heart and vessels.

Dr. Ryan Avery presented in Chicago at RSNA 2023 to discuss Cardiac Sarcoidosis. His talk focused on the emerging and increasing utilization of imaging, with a particular focus on Cardiac MRI and PET, to improve the diagnosis and therapeutic monitoring of disease.

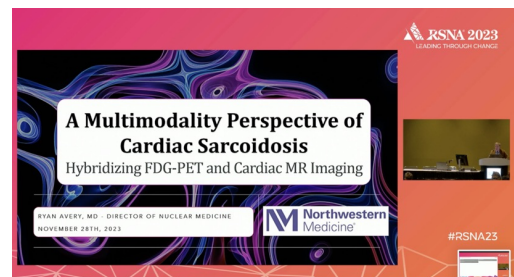
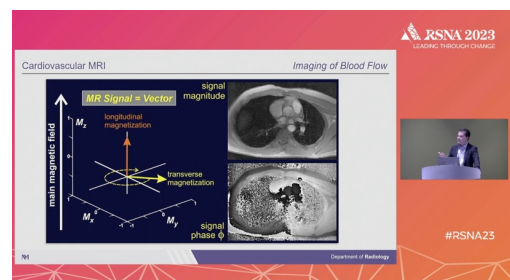


Pancreatic Cystic Lesions and Malignancy: Assessment, Guidelines, and the Field Defect

Frank H. Miller, MD^{*}
Camilla Lopez-Henderson, MD^{*}
Hannah S. Rehm, MD
Cecil G. Wood, MD
Pardeep Mittal, MD
Rajesh N. Karamani, MD
Helena Gabriel, MD
Amir A. Borhani, MD
Paul Nikolaidis, MD
Nancy A. Hammond, MD

Abbreviations: IPMN = intraductal papillary

The widespread use of high-spatial-resolution cross-sectional imaging has led to an increase in detection of incidental pancreatic cystic lesions. These lesions are a diverse group, ranging from indolent and premalignant lesions to invasive cancers. The diagnosis of several of these lesions can be suggested on the basis of their imaging appearance, while many other lesions require follow-up imaging and/or aspiration. The smaller cystic lesions, often branch-duct intraductal papillary mucinous neoplasms, have overlapping imaging characteristics that make diagnostic assessment of the natural history and malignancy risk confusing. Expert panels have developed societal guidelines, based on a consensus, for surveillance of these



Grand Rounds Offer Insights and Best Practices

Clinical Update

The Department of Radiology Grand Rounds series has a longstanding tradition of excellence in instructing radiologists on a variety of topics with continuing medical education credit. This series, led by Dr. Hatice Savas with the sponsorship of Dr. James Carr, had several excellent speakers over the past several months.

In September, David Fessell, MD gave a Grand Rounds on "Reducing Stress and Burnout: Strategies you can use." Dr. Fessell is a faculty associate at the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business and a recently retired professor of radiology from the University of Michigan. This was a fantastic lecture focusing on how to improve radiologist wellness. The first half of the talk focused on how to reduce burnout at the group level, discussing team-based strategies to improve workflow and efficiency. The second half focused on strategies for individuals, such as keeping a gratitude journal and a self-care checklist.

In the fall, Dr. Mary McBride gave a Grand Rounds on "Feedback in Health Professions Education." Dr. McBride is professor of pediatric Cardiology at Ann & Robert H Lurie Children's Hospital and a Northwestern faculty member. Her workshop-style grand rounds was a GME-led initiative to improve the way we provide feedback to our trainees as well as to help equip trainees to receive and apply feedback. She gave tips to promote a feedback culture with a growth mind-set.

Dr. Lawrence Tanenbaum spoke on "AI in the Imaging Enterprise." Dr. Tanenbaum is a neuroradiologist and currently the Vice President, Chief Technology Officer and Director of Advanced Imaging at Radnet Inc. He focused on developing applications of AI and machine

learning, contrast agents, MR, CT and advanced rendering.

Dr. Meghan Lubner, Professor of Radiology from the University of Wisconsin, spoke on "Current Concepts in Cholangiocarcinoma." Newer ideas were covered, such as intraductal papillary mucinous neoplasm of the biliary tree (IPMN-B) being a precursor to cholangiocarcinoma, and how to recognize combined hepatocellular carcinoma-cholangiocarcinoma (cHCC-CC) on imaging.

In the spring, Dr. M. Elizabeth Oates gave a particularly inspiring Grand Rounds on "Women in Radiology: A Story Still in the Making." Dr. Oates gave eye opening statistics, including how recently women were finally recognized in leadership roles in radiology organizations.



Dr. M. Elizabeth Oates

Dr. Omer Awan's Grand Rounds gave us ways to reduce strain while spending long hours in the reading room. They included best practices for taking breaks, ergonomic posture, and lighting.

Northwestern's Grand Rounds cover a wide array of topics and can offer best practices for different areas of professional life. We look forward to more excellent speakers and topics in the coming months.



Drs. James Carr, Hatice Savas, Omer Awan, Imran Omar, and Jeanne Horowitz

Celebrating Tech Staff with Appreciation and Creativity

Resident Update | Nicholas Xiao, MD, Chief Resident

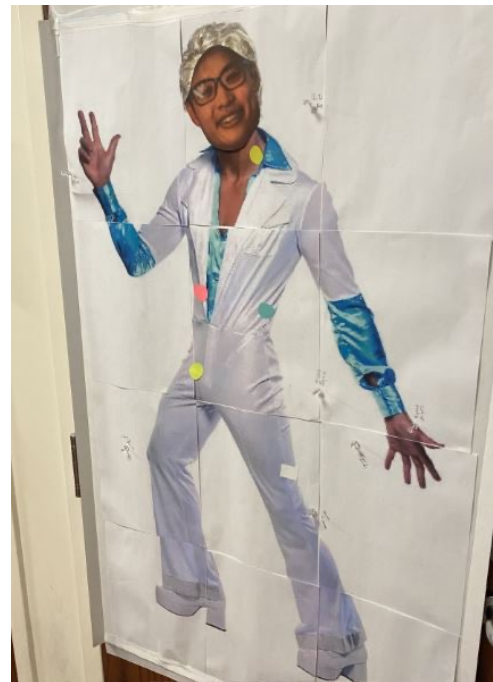
The thing I love most about our residency is the wonderful people that we are privileged to work with. Our fantastic nurses, technologists, co-residents, attendings and medical students help make everyday a fun new adventure.

In November, we celebrated Tech Week, which was a week dedicated to our wonderful technologists who bring extensive experience and energy to each case. Without them, nothing would get done (at least not correctly!).



For Tech Week, we celebrated with catered meals and treats throughout the day. On one day, one of our physician assistants graciously helped cook enough homemade food to feed the entire department! Audrey, one of our long-time technologists and our current technical coordinator, baked amazing anatomically accurate cookies. We also celebrated with a fun “Pin the access on the donkey” game, where I volunteered my photo.

These fun times and memories remind us how thankful we are to have such wonderful colleagues, who not only take spectacular care of patients, but also each other. They truly make coming to work a joy.



Graduate Students, Postdocs, Residents,
Fellows, Faculty, and Staff

Join the Newsletter Committee

- connect with more faculty
- add experience to add to your resume
- gain insight into our department
- write about the latest in research and
- clinical practice

Email radiology@northwestern.edu for more information.

Internship Program Sparks Love for Knowledge and Love of Patient Care

Education Update

The Northwestern Medicine Pre-Med Internship Program was launched in the summer of 2017: an annual eight-week program for pre-med undergraduates across the country. It was an immersive clinical experience for students, with various components designed to give them well-rounded visions of medical professions: attending lecture series by renowned faculty members; clinical shadowing and observation; and a cumulative summer project, mentored by administrative and clinical staff.



For summer of 2023, our department chose four pre-med students. Dr. Senta Berggruen and Dr. Anugayathri Jawahar volunteered as mentors, guiding them through the world of imaging and their individual research projects. The projects were centered around *quality improvement*: each student did literature searches to understand their topics, collected clinical and imaging data on a number of patients, analyzed their results statistically, and presented their findings – which are pending journal publication – at a culminating research summit.

“It was amazing and exciting to watch these students grow in front of our eyes in a short 8-week period and learn so much information and radiology, which was made possible by their interest and enthusiasm,” Dr. Jawahar stated, “This was the goal of this internship, and it was fulfilled.”

An intern from the 2022 cohort, Eshan Damle is a senior at Tulane University. He intends to pursue academic medicine, specifically to study neurovascular injury and disease. Mentored by Dr. Virginia Hill, his research project studied improvements in time-to-

treatment of suspected stroke patients, following a policy change regarding communication between neuroradiologists and the stroke team.

Damle and Dr. Hill also performed a case study discussing the “atypical imaging presentation of a rare spinal tumor;” findings he would go on to present at the 2023 American Society of Neuroradiology conference and publish as a Companion Case of the Week in the *American Journal of Neuroradiology*.

Damle reflected on how his internship experience prepared him for the future: “I feel that this internship significantly augmented my understanding of the various specialties and subspecialties within medicine [and] gave me an unparalleled glimpse into the immense diversity of offerings within medicine.”

Dr. Virginia Hill was an enthusiastic mentor of Damle. It is her hope that “undergraduates graduate from this program with a love for patient care and an understanding of how they can make a big difference in someone's life by providing them with excellent radiology care... that [the program] will grow and entice more excellent, hard-working and dedicated students to go into medicine and radiology.”

Undergraduates interested in the internship program can visit the [Pre-Med Internship Program page](#) or email premedintern@nm.org for more information.

As Dr. Hill quoted from Richard Feynman, any student with a love for “finding things out,” will thrive in Northwestern Medicine’s Pre-Med Internship Program.





Shrinking Our Footprint by Expanding Sustainability Programs

Sustainability Task Force Update | Tarek Hijaz, MD, NM Radiology Sustainability Task Force

The appointment of Mr. Jeff Good last fall as Northwestern Memorial Chief Sustainability Executive signals a new prioritization of sustainability issues within the NM health system. In early October, Mr. Good met with Dr. Tarek Hijaz, head of the NM Radiology Sustainability Task Force, Dr. James Carr, Department Chair, Dr. Michael Markl, Radiology Vice Chair for Research, and Mark Schumacher, Senior Vice President of Operations for Northwestern Medicine, to explore ways in which the Department of Radiology might aid sustainability efforts throughout the NM system. Radiology was the first department to have such a meeting with Mr. Good, and Dr. Hijaz left the meeting with a renewed commitment to the Sustainability Task Force.

The Task Force has been examining sustainability opportunities within the Department of Radiology since its creation last year. The group, whose members include physicians from different subspecialty sections, imaging technical coordinators, and a representative from nursing, has been meeting monthly.

Among the first of the NM Radiology Sustainability Task Force's initiatives, was to explore expansion of an existing collaboration with GE Healthcare for recycling iodine, a non-renewable resource, used in CT imaging. Until recently, very little of the iodine in CT contrast agents had been recycled. Beginning several months ago, CT staff began collecting any iodinated contrast left unused and sending it back to GE Healthcare. CT technical coordinators Ray Diano and Karina Hurtado were critical in this effort. GE Healthcare has been recycling iodine-based contrast in Europe since 2006, but it now offers its recycling program in Canada and the United States.

Following up on the success of this recycling program in CT, the Task Force was able to expand it to allow collection of iodinated contrast used in Interventional Radiology. The ultimate goal is to expand the program to all the downtown hospitals and satellite hospitals, making it a systemwide initiative.

The Task Force is working on expanding another program that makes use of the non-skid socks given to patients when they have to remove their shoes for

procedures. Those socks used to be thrown away after a patient had used them, but now Interventional Radiology staff members collect them and send them to Facilities Management. There they are laundered and sent back out to be re-used. The Task Force is working on expanding that program to CT and other areas, and eventually to other sites. Audrey Pearson, IR Technical Coordinator, was instrumental in moving the sock recycling program forward, and she also assisted in the expansion of the aforementioned iodine recycling efforts.

Among the first of the NM Radiology Sustainability Task Force's initiatives, was to explore expansion of an existing collaboration with GE Healthcare for recycling iodine, a non-renewable resource, used in CT imaging.

Besides these projects, the Task Force is considering a multitude of other ways to improve the Department of Radiology's sustainability profile. Among the topics being discussed are reducing use of single-use disposable items, switching to using reusable versions of items, such as sterile gowns for procedure, ways to reduce energy consumption related to imaging scanners and computers, and how to vet the sustainability of products the department purchases from vendors.

Notably, Dr. Hijaz is a member of sustainability committees belonging to the Association of University Radiologists and to the American College of Radiology. He is also a member of Radiologists for a Sustainable Future. Our Department of Radiology is proud to have representation on the issue of sustainability on a national level.

New Grants

Grant Funding Update | Research Office at Radiology (ROAR)

Bradley Allen, NIH/ NHLBI RO1, “Linking in vivo hemodynamics with outcomes in Type B aortic dissection using 4D flow MRI.”

Bradley Allen, Investigator-Initiated Study via Guerbet, “Qualitative and quantitative performance of gadopixelenol in cardiovascular magnetic resonance imaging.”

Ulaş Bağcı, Malnati Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation Award via Lou and Jean Malnati Brain Tumor Institute of the Lurie Cancer Center, “HOPE: Harnessing Artificial Intelligence for Optimized Pediatric Tumor Evaluation.”

Laleh Golestani Rad and Daniel Kim, NIH / NHLBI RO1, “Safe and Effective MRI for Pediatric Patients with a Cardiac Implantable Electronic Device.”

Laleh Golestani Rad, Industry-Sponsored Award via FUJIFILM Healthcare Americas Corp., “Simulation and measurement of RF heating of cardiovascular implantable electronic devices (CIEDs) in adults and pediatric phantoms in OASIS vertical MRI systems.”

Ramona Gupta, Industry-Sponsored Award via W.L. Gore and Associates, “Evaluation of the GORE(R) VIAFORT Vascular Stent for Treatment of Symptomatic Inferior Vena Cava Obstruction with or without Combined Iliofemoral Obstruction.”

Robert Lewandowski, Industry-Sponsored Award via Instylla, Inc, “A Prospective Multicenter Single-Arm Staged Study to Evaluate the Safety and Effectiveness of Embrace™ Hydrogel Embolic For Transcatheter Embolization of Arterial Bleeding in Solid Organs and Peripheral Arteries.”

Robert Lewandowski, Industry-Sponsored Award via TechsoMed Medical Technologies Ltd., “Pilot Study of the Use of BioTraceIO 360 for Planning, Monitoring and Assessment of Liver Tissue Ablation Procedures.”

Benjamin Liu, Industry-Sponsored Award via Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals, Inc., “A multicenter, randomized, prospective double-blind, cross-over Phase 3 study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of 0.04 mmol Gd/kg body weight of gadoquatane for

MRI in adults with known or suspected pathology of the central nervous system (CNS), compared to 0.1 mmol Gd/kg approved macrocyclic gadolinium-based contrast agents (GBCAs).”

Anthony Maroun, Postdoctoral Fellowship via American Heart Association, “3D Hemodynamic Surveillance for Improved Risk Prediction in Type B Aortic Dissection.”

Samdeep Mouli, Industry-Sponsored Award via Biocompatibles International Ltd., “Prostate Radioembolization in a Canine Model.”

Samdeep Mouli, Industry-Sponsored Award via Boston Scientific Corporation, “VO90YAGER.”

Samdeep Mouli, Industry-Sponsored Award via Siemens Medical Solutions USA Inc., “Role of Arterial Three-Dimensional Road Map Generated from Pre-Procedural In-Suite Computed Tomography Angiogram (Angio-CT) in Prostatic Artery Embolization (PAE) for Treatment of Signs and Symptoms of Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH).”

Todd Parrish, Industry-Sponsored Award via TracInnovations, “TracInnovations (TI) Motion Tracking and Retrospective Motion Correction Data Collection on a Clinical 3T MR Scanner.”

Graduate Students, Postdocs, Residents,
Fellows, Faculty, and Staff

Join the Communications Committee

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