From the Chair

In April, I was honored to receive the Gold Medal Award from the Association of University Radiologists during their annual meeting in Baltimore. In this newsletter you can read about some of the activities of the UC Radiologists who attended the AUR meeting with me. Also in this issue, you can learn about new honors and professional opportunities for some of our colleagues, and new radiology facilities.

UC Radiologists on Capitol Hill

Hundreds of radiologists and radiology trainees traveled to Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. during the American College of Radiology Annual Chapter Meeting and Leadership Conference April 28 – 30, 2014. They met with Representatives and Senators from their states to talk about imaging provisions in H.R. 4302, the Protecting Access to Medicare Act, which prevented an approximately 24% cut in Medicare physician reimbursement. Provisions in this act included a mandate that ordering physicians consult (not adhere to) national medical specialty society developed appropriateness criteria when referring Medicare patients for advanced imaging services. It also included language requiring the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to publicly disclose data used in justifying a 25% professional component multiple procedure payment reduction. Jannette Collins, MD, MEd, FCCP, FACR, Ben Felson Professor and Chair of Radiology, and several radiology residents from the University of Cincinnati, met with Representative Brad Wenstrup and aides of Representative Patrick Tiberi, Representative John Boehner, Senator Sherrod Brown, and Senator Rob Portman. They urged the Senators and Representatives to co-sign a letter to the Secretary of HHS that supports Medicare adopting the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommendation on low-dose CT screening for lung cancer and urges the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to expeditiously complete the National Coverage Decision (NCD) process. While private insurance is mandated to cover the USPSTF recommendations for preventative services, the same mandate does not apply to Medicare. The NCD is a formal, evidence-based process for determining the extent to which Medicare will cover CT screening for lung cancer. CT lung cancer screening is more cost effective than other accepted screening interventions, including breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screens.
Achala Vagal, MD, Associate Professor of Radiology, has received a CCTST (Center for Clinical and Translational Science and Training) CT2 Research Scholars mentored career development award. The Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) program is part of the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences Division of Clinical Innovation at the NIH (National Institutes of Health). The objective of the CTSA CT2 Research Scholars Program is to train and develop investigators to conduct interdisciplinary translational research and to lay a solid foundation for pursuit of a successful research career.

Dr. Vagal was awarded the 2012 American Roentgen Ray Society (ARRS) scholarship. This two year ARRS scholarship was the first critical step towards her research career, allowing her to pursue a Master’s degree in Clinical and Translational Research and establish a foundation for the CT2 grant. The objective of her research proposal is to conduct a pilot study of the natural outcome of imaging targets in acute stroke in the absence of reperfusion therapy. These data will be the foundation for a large-scale observational cohort study including both treated and untreated patients. This study is significant as it will pave the way for a program of research that will first establish a control dataset and eventually form the basis for using advanced imaging modalities for companion diagnostics and prognostics in stroke trials.

Dr. Vagal will have the opportunity to experience a unique and well-integrated combination of environmental and educational activities. She will have the advantage of working with the University of Cincinnati’s well-established stroke program; multidisciplinary stroke researcher Dr. Pooja Khatri, an established clinical neurologist at UC who leads several multicenter international acute stroke trials; Dr. Thomas Tomsick, an internationally recognized neuroradiologist at UC with expertise in neurointervention and neuroimaging within clinical trials, and Dr. Max Wintermark at the University of Virginia, a world-renowned expert in perfusion imaging. Dr. Vagal’s educational program will allow her to develop expertise in perfusion analysis and clinical trial methodology.

CCHMC Silverman Lecture Honors Corning Benton

On March 8, 2014 the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center Department of Radiology honored two pioneers in pediatric radiology: Frederic N. Silverman, MD, Director from 1947-1975, and Corning Benton, MD, faculty member from 1967-2005 and pioneer in Pediatric Neuroradiology and Pediatric Interventional Radiology.

The Silverman Lecture, “Engineering the Future of Radiology,” was presented by William S. Ball, MD, former radiology fellow, Professor Emeritus and currently Vice President for Research, University of Cincinnati. Lectures were presented by faculty members and former fellows on the current state of Pediatric Interventional Radiology, Neuroradiology and the Imaging Research Center of CCHMC.

Lunch was held in the Pratt Library amid historical photos and artifacts. Former pediatric radiology fellows and members of the Benton family attended. The day ended with dinner at the Sky Galley Restaurant at Lunken Airport in memory of Corning Benton’s love of flying.
Whittenburg Earns MHA

Carl Whittenburg, Radiology Director of Business Affairs, graduated from the University of Cincinnati on April 25, 2014 with a master’s degree in Health Administration. The UC MHA program features a unique online learning experience and networking opportunities with local, regional and national health care leaders, program faculty and peers. The program teaches leadership, management, quality improvement and the allocation of resources to improve health and health care delivery. Carl’s final Capstone research paper was entitled “Rural Healthcare in America: Past, Present and Future.”

Argus Authors Enquirer Editorial

In a March 10, 2014 editorial in the Cincinnati Enquirer, Amy Argus, MD, Section Chief of Breast Imaging, discussed a recent British Medical Journal study which had questioned the value of screening mammograms. She highlighted recent developments in mammography, many of them newer than the BMJ study, and urged women to continue to get mammograms.

Moulton Receives Collaborator Award

Lee Ann Liska, CEO of the UC Medical Center, presented the Collaborator Doctor’s Day Award to Jonathan Moulton at the March 24, 2014 Radiology Faculty Meeting. This award “honors a physician who has demonstrated success with many multi-disciplinary teams or specialties, developing strong relationships and advocating for solutions that result in sustained improvements.” Dr. LeAnn Coberly, Professor of Internal Medicine, and Dr. Robert Wones, UCMC VP and Chief Quality Officer, accompanied Ms. Liska in presenting the award.

Mehta Receives SSR Grant

Kaushal Mehta, MD, received the Society of Skeletal Radiology’s Young Investigator Travel Award of $1,500 to attend their Annual Meeting in San Diego, March 16-19. He presented his paper titled Superolateral Hoffa’s Fat Pad Edema in College Volleyball Players.

Vagal Earns MS

Dr. Achala Vagal, Associate Professor of Radiology, graduated from the University of Cincinnati on April 25, 2014 with a master’s degree in Clinical and Translational Research. The Master of Science degree program is designed for clinical professionals and emphasizes specific training in clinical epidemiology/clinical effectiveness, molecular epidemiology, clinical trials, and translational research that will enable clinicians to translate scientific advances into applications for improved clinical practice and human health. Dr. Vagal’s graduate thesis was entitled “Time to Angiographic Reperfusion in Acute Ischemic Stroke: A Decision Analysis.”

Cornelius Chairs ACR Committee

Rebecca Cornelius, MD, has been appointed as Chair of the American College of Radiology Appropriateness Criteria Committee, Panel on Neurologic Imaging. Her term will begin in May of 2014. The committee creates evidence based and expert consensus supported documents as guidelines for appropriate ordering of imaging studies in various clinical scenarios. The committee is also involved in the development and implementation of the ACR Select Decision Support Tool which is being integrated into radiology exam ordering EMR systems throughout the country.

Squires Receives Babcock Award

Judy Squires, MD received this year’s Diane Babcock Travel Award. This award was first given in 2013 to support a radiology resident chosen by the Radiology Department Education Committee to attend a national meeting. Judy attended the American Roentgen Ray Society (ARRS) annual meeting in San Diego in May, 2014, and presented a poster she co-authored, titled “The Evolution of Little Leaguer Elbow: From a Specific Injury to a Spectrum of Elbow Disease”. Diane Babcock, MD, is Professor Emeritus of Pediatric Radiology at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, and a former UC Radiology resident.
Collins Receives Gold Medal Award

The AUR presented its 2014 Gold Medal Award to Jannette Collins, MD. The Gold Medal is awarded annually in recognition of unusually distinguished service or contributions to the AUR, academic radiology, or the field of radiology in general. Dr. Collins also accepted the Joseph E. and Nancy O. Whitley Award as lead author of “24/7/365 In-House Radiologist Coverage: Effect on Resident Education.” The Whitley Award, including a $1,000 honorarium, is awarded annually to the person who presents and submits the best radiologic educational paper. The paper will be published in Academic Radiology.

UC Radiology is Runner-Up in Vydareny Competition

UC Radiology’s team placed second in the 23rd Annual Vydareny Imaging Interpretation Competition, held at the 2014 AUR annual meeting. Attendees formed teams to represent their institutions, and competed in two rounds over two days, submitting answers to ten imaging cases each day. The winner, 1st runner-up, and 2nd runner-up were announced at the annual banquet. The runner-up UC team consisted of Rob Wissman, MD; Eric England, MD; Jannette Collins, MD, MEd, FCCP, FACR; Jennifer Scheler, MD; Arthur Parsee, MD; Daniel LoCascio, MD; Emily Orscheln, MD; Daniel Wannemacher, MD and Charles Young, MD.

While at the AUR meeting, residents took in a Baltimore Orioles-Boston Red Sox game at Camden Yards. Pictured are: Charlie and Courtney Young; Loren Milligan; Dan Wannemacher; Kiley and Dan LoCascio; and Emily Orscheln.
Old Conference Room is Now Angio Suite

In January, 2014, after three months of construction and renovation, a new Philips Angiography Suite was installed in the room that was once the Radiology Conference Room. This new state-of-the-art suite features:

- **Xper CT** - Allows acquisition of axial CT images during an angiogram or a drainage catheter procedure
- **XperGuide** - Allows insertion of needles or probes into precise locations in 3D
- **Dual Fluoro** - Allows digitally processed fluoroscopy in parallel with trace subtract fluoroscopy, providing a non subtracted reference fluoro image for complex interventions
- **FD Smartmask** - Simplifies roadmapping procedures by overlaying on the live monitor fluoroscopy with a selected reference image
- **FD Rotational Angio** - Real time CT imaging
- **56” Monitor** - Enhanced image quality with the ability to display what you want, how you want it
- **Air exchanges** - 16-20 per hour, meeting all current requirements for IR suites

New MAB Ultrasound

The UCMC Imaging Center at the MAB has acquired a GE LOGIQ E9 XD Clear Ultrasound system. The LOGIQ E9 was designed with the technologist and patient in mind, providing responsiveness and flexibility with minimal adjustments. The intuitive and advanced technologies of the GE LOGIQ E9 XD Clear Ultrasound system deliver extraordinary image quality on a broad spectrum of patient body types. The system's simplicity and sophistication enhance workflow and patient throughput. Real-time ultrasound images can be easily integrated with previously acquired ultrasound images or CT/MR. In the photo, Krista Wittwer, Ultrasonographer, demonstrates the machine's features.

Emergency Digital Radiography Room

Technologists in the Emergency Department are excited about the installation of the new digital radiography room. The new GE Proteus unit is equipped with Fuji DR panels that eliminate the need to process each individual cassette and allow technologists to view images within seconds of an exposure. Now technologists can instantly evaluate the need for any additional images and get patients off the table more quickly. The room is designed to handle the rigors of the busy Emergency Department with efficiency and reliability. To facilitate quality assurance, the machine features a full size image review monitor allowing the technologists to review images with the same quality as seen by the radiologists. In the photo, Okun Olugu, RT (R), demonstrates the new equipment.
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PRESENTATIONS


Please take our Alumni Survey

We are interested in what happens to trainees once they leave the UC Radiology Residency program, and we’d like to provide a means for you to relate news to other alumni via “Imaging Matters”. Please go to this web address and take our survey: www.surveymonkey.com/s/62XBZIH8 OR Using your Smartphone’s QR Code Reader App, scan the QR code to the right to go directly to the survey. Thank you for your help.

Imaging Matters is a publication for alumni, current employees and friends of the University of Cincinnati Radiology Department. Please send comments and story ideas to the editor, Clint Bramkamp, at clint.bramkamp@uchealth.com or call (513) 584-1845. □