An issue that is very important to me is civility – in the workplace and throughout our daily lives. The Oxford dictionary defines civility as politeness and courtesy in behavior or speech. Unfortunately, surveys of U.S. and Canadian workers indicate that incivility and rudeness in the workplace are on the rise. And these surveys of over fourteen thousand workers were conducted well before the isolation, stress, and disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic. The price of incivility is huge. Those experiencing this behavior report substantial impacts on their work behaviors and outcomes. Employees are less creative when they feel disrespected. Many decrease their effort or the quality of their work. The stress of an uncivil or even hostile work environment erodes engagement and morale. Even just witnessing incivility has negative consequences. Executives at Fortune 1000 companies report that they spend the equivalent of seven work weeks per year dealing with the aftermath of incivility in the workplace. How do we manage this? Firstly, leaders set the tone. In multiple situations, we are all leaders – as section chiefs, vice chairs, committee chairs, faculty running tumor board, principal operator in an interventional case, or as residents working with junior residents and medical students- and it is up to us to establish a healthy and thriving workplace environment. Our actions and our words matter. One way I have tried to help create a culture of respect is to express my appreciation in every performance review. In our specialty, the ability to work in a team environment, get along with colleagues, and not be considered a jerk may be more important than the number of RVUs, grants, or publications that an individual has obtained. In the end, “your vibe is your tribe,” and a little civility can go a long way.
The 3D printing section in the Department of Radiology provided a digital surgical plan as well as a 3D printed model for a first-of-its-kind cardiac surgery. The surgical plan and digital map was created by Prashanth Ravi, PhD, Assistant Professor of Radiology. Working with radiologists Frank Rybicki and Michael Burch, Dr. Ravi constructed a digital surgical plan that can be viewed as a 3D PDF, or can be viewed in Virtual Reality live at any time – and Dr. Ravi 3D printed a half-size anatomic model that details all of the operative findings and surgical approach.

The collaboration between the Division of Cardiac Surgery and the Radiology 3D printing section led to the first-in-the-USA endoscopic triple valve surgery to repair the aortic and mitral valves and replace the tricuspid valve. Tommaso Hinna Danesi, MD, Assoc. Professor of Surgery, performed the operation via a single one-inch incision, and without any disruption to the patient’s rib cage. The patient’s length of stay was more than a week shortened by the team’s effort, and there were no complications. Since the patient was discharged only a very short time after having 3 heart valves replaced, she was happy to return for a press conference with Dr. Danesi.

The patient had been diagnosed with heart failure in April and was being treated in UCMC’s Cardiac Intensive Care Unit. The cause of the heart failure was determined to be multi-valve disease. Endoscopic surgery avoided cutting bone and allowed a shorter recovery time and fewer side effects than conventional surgery. The surgery was performed July 12 and the patient was discharged from the hospital in less than a week. Dr. Ravi noted, “Creating a digital surgical plan that enables transformative surgeries is among the most satisfying things a medical engineer can do. Our 3D printing section provides unique, patient-specific digital surgical plans in multiple formats – including Virtual Reality. All available in the Department of Radiology. Or, doctors can have a miniature sized 3D printed model to hold a 3D model for rehearsal of the procedure.”

3D Lab Faculty

Research Scientist Shayne Kondor is a specialist in 3D medical modeling and functional prototype development. He trained as an aerospace engineer at Georgia Tech, but transitioned to biomedical engineering two decades ago. As an early adopter of 3D printing in aerospace applications, he saw the value of applying the technology to patient specific device design and manufacturing applications, particularly in dentistry, prosthetics, and orthotics. Starting in 1999, Shayne began investigating 3D printing applications in dentistry for Georgia Tech’s DenTech research center. From 2008-2014 he served as Chief Engineer of the Naval Postgraduate Dental School at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, helping build one of the leading medical 3D Printing labs in the world. Currently, Shayne is working to extend the capabilities and efficiencies of the 3D Printing Lab.

In his spare time Shayne trains for triathlons, having completed the Ironman Triathlon six times from 2005-2011. He and his wife Brittany enjoy yachting aboard their boat “Ironmanta”, and they have a furry four-legged ‘toddler’ named Ryley.

Dr. Ravi applies his expertise in 3D printing technologies and medical image segmentation for creating patient-specific 3D anatomic representations for planning complex surgeries. Dr. Ravi’s recent model for cardiac surgery resulted in the first endoscopic triple valve surgery in the US. Dr. Ravi brings a unique blend of academic and industry experience to the Department. His study on the accuracy of 3D printed anatomical models was published in the June 2021 issue of the RSNA journal Medical Physics and was selected as Editor’s Choice. The paper was also covered by the leading 3D Printing Industry Newsletter. Dr. Ravi is among a handful of junior scientists elected to attend the 2021 Introduction to Academic Radiology for Scientists program at this year’s annual meeting of the RSNA.

State Grant Supports Robotics

The Ohio Department of Higher Education has awarded a grant totaling $926,246 to coordinate projects in healthcare robotics, additive manufacturing, and augmented/virtual reality at the University of Cincinnati, Miami University and Cincinnati State. The program will be led by Marc Cahay, PhD, UC Professor and Department Head of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. The Department of Radiology will serve as the hub for patient specific anatomic models and virtual reality applications.
Breast Cancer Bill Advances in Ohio Legislature

This summer, State Representatives Jean Schmidt (R-Loveland) and Sedrick Denson (D-Cincinnati) introduced Ohio House Bill 371. The bill requires Medicaid and commercial insurance to cover supplemental screenings, including MRI and ultrasound, for adult women with dense breast tissue or elevated risk for breast cancer, and update patient notification letter guidelines for women classified with dense breast tissue. Dr. Annie Brown of UC Breast Imaging has advocated for the bill, including giving interviews with local broadcasters. She also testified before The Ohio House Families, Aging & Human Services Committee. Other supporters at the hearing included representatives of other area health care providers and the Cleveland Clinic, patient advocate Michele Young, and WCPO-TV’s Sherry Hughes, a breast cancer survivor who was diagnosed and treated at UCHealth.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

On October 21, Dr. Charmi Vijapura spoke to the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners about early breast cancer detection and screening mammography. Michelle Young spoke about Ohio House Bill 371, which would expand insurance coverage for Breast Cancer Screening. Commissioner Alicia Reece (left) presented Dr. Vijapura (2nd from left) with a plaque recognizing Breast Cancer Awareness Month. There was also a reception for Breast Cancer Survivors.

Breast Center Accreditation

For the eighth straight year, the UC Cancer Center’s Comprehensive Breast Cancer Center has been named a “Certified Breast Center of Excellence” by the National Quality Measures for Breast Centers (NQMBC). It is one of just sixteen centers in the country to receive this accreditation.

TMIST Study on Channel 9 News

WCPO-TV Channel 9 News did a story on October 7 about the TMIST Study (Tomographic Mammographic Imaging Screening Trial, ECOG-ACRIN EA1151) which is being conducted at multiple sites nationally with a goal of 165,000 participants, to compare the efficacy of 2D vs. 3D mammography. The story included an interview with Director of Breast Imaging Lawrence Sobel, MD.

UC Breast Imaging is currently enrolling participants, and was recently cited by ECOG-ACRIN as one of the top enrolling institutions in the country. TMIST covers screening costs for uninsured participants; as a result many women of color who might wish to get this screening but could not afford it are being screened, and the population being studied is more racially diverse than usual. Monene Kamm is Clinical Research Project Manager and Holly Wilcox is Clinical Research Professional for TMIST. Annette Turner Shepherd is UCH Enterprise Manager for Breast Imaging.
Making Strides

A team from Breast Cancer Imaging joined in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk on Saturday, October 23. The 3.2 mile walk started at the Purple People Bridge, and raised over $350,000. It was one of a number of Making Strides events held nationally on this date by the American Cancer Society. UC Breast Imaging participants included Dr. Annie Brown.

Alpha Omega Alpha

Heba Albasha, MD was inducted into Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society as a Resident. Abouelmagd Makramalla, MD was inducted into AOA as Faculty. The Department of Radiology congratulates them both.

ABR Certifying Exam

Congratulations to the Resident Class of 2020 for passing the ABR certifying exam – a 100% pass rate! This includes: Bradley Abraham, DO; Katherine Abraham, MD; Ronald Erdelyi, MD; Jesse Hinton, MD; Rakesh Patel, MD; Andrew Pavlina, MD; Jenna Poidemann, MD; and Sally Woods, MD.

Tenure

Dr. Achala Vagal and Dr. Jon Jacobson’s tenures were approved by the University of Cincinnati Board of Trustees.

Albasha on Radiographics Panel

Heba Albasha, MD has been appointed to a two-year term to serve as a Radiographics Sub-specialty Review Panelist. She will review exhibits at the RSNA annual meeting and submit recommendations for Radiographics publication.


Pumpkin Painting

On October 8, Pumpkin Painting was a team building exercise for residents. Dr. Artemis Petrides judged the resulting pumpkin designs.

Residents Visit Pumpkin Patch

On October 16, the Resident Wellness Committee organized a trip to the Pumpkin Patch at Burger Farm in Newtown for residents and families.