Adopt-A-Resident Program

Department of Radiology and Imaging Sciences
Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We are so proud of the way our residents are reshaping the future of radiology through the Adopt-A-Resident Program. Since its inception 15 years ago, highly motivated and talented radiology residents have leveraged the program’s support, mentorship, and financial resources to turn their bold ideas into exciting advancements in patient care and resident training.

Indeed, thanks to the work of our “adoptees,” all our diagnostic radiology residents now augment their clinical training by pursuing tracks such as imaging informatics, global health, clinical education, quality, research and more. This kind of resident-led innovation is what makes Emory a national leader in radiology education.

Please join me in celebrating our innovators and in continuing to support the Adopt-A-Resident Program.

Best wishes,

AMIT M. SAINDANE, MD, MBA
Professor and Chair
Department of Radiology and Imaging Sciences

Emory’s Department of Radiology and Imaging Sciences is a community dedicated to promoting health, supporting discovery and innovation, and educating the future healthcare workforce. We embrace and celebrate a collaborative culture, adaptive approaches to continuous innovation, and aligned partnerships in patient-centered care.

That’s why Emory Radiology encourages its diagnostic radiology residents to be well-rounded professionals with a broad range of skills needed to improve healthcare worldwide. The Adopt-A-Resident Program provides funding and faculty mentorship for enterprising residents to undertake and complete specialized projects that advance the quality of clinical, academic, and research training.

The following stories explain how Adopt-A-Resident grantees have harnessed the power of technology to improve training, and also created innovative program tracks to more formally prepare trainees for careers as educators, researchers, informatics specialists, and even medical entrepreneurs.

Join us by supporting the Adopt-A-Resident Program. Your generosity is an investment in both the people and the promise of radiology and imaging sciences.
Jacqueline Koomson, MD

Dr. Koomson proposed collaboration between radiology residents at Emory and 37 Military Hospital (37MH) in Accra, Ghana to create a women’s health imaging elective in which Emory’s senior diagnostic radiology residents and faculty will provide advanced training in the use of ultrasound, CT, and mammography imaging to detect and diagnose health issues affecting women in Ghana. Emory and 37MH residents will use hands-on ultrasound techniques to evaluate and manage gynecological, genitourinary, and breast concerns, such as abnormal vaginal bleeding from fibroids and hydronephrosis from cervical cancer. Such practical experiences will enhance training for both 37MH and Emory’s radiology residents.

The goal, she says, “Is to broaden the expertise of radiology residents at 37MH, stimulate early interest in women’s imaging, and expand the diversity of cases seen by Emory residents.” Her long-term goal is for the elective to become sustainable and offered to 37 MH radiology residents even when Emory residents are not present.

Dr. Gayatri Joshi, Dr. Hernan Bello, Dr. Jay Shah from Emory; Dr. Ewurama Idun of 37MH

2023

Advancing Women’s Imaging: A Global Health Initiative in Accra, Ghana

MENTORS

2022

Radiology Analytics DASHboard for Residents (RADAR)

MENTORS

Hanssen Li, MD

Dr. Li envisions RADAR as a secure, customizable, and open-source system providing residents with real-time, data-driven feedback from their on-call experiences and routine daily clinical rotations. The project is one Dr. Li developed as part of the Imaging Informatics Track, itself a 2017 Adopt-A-Resident project by then-resident Dr. Balthazar, now one of Dr. Li’s faculty mentors.

“Residents may receive subjective feedback about their performance throughout their rotations, but without objective data such as reading speed, accuracy, volume, and the like, especially in comparison to their peers, residents do not actually know how well they are doing or if they are behind until recourse is needed,” Dr. Li explains. “RADAR will correct this so residents can continually monitor their performance and see where they might need to improve.”

RADAR also will provide residency leaders – program directors, program coordinators, and chief residents – with an administrative component to spot trends that might suggest need for additional training in certain areas, as well as provide the information needed for semi-annual resident reviews.

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Drs. Fiza Khan and Zofia Lasiecka aim to sustainably address health disparities in resource-limited countries with their proposed Emory Radiology Global Health Track.

“Being born in Kashmir and growing up in the United States, I was exposed to extreme health-care disparities,” says Dr. Khan. “As a volunteer during medical school at Islamabad hospitals and the rural clinics of Kashmir, physicians struggled to provide basic care due to limited access to and education in ultrasound and radiography, directly impacting patients’ lives. As a radiology resident at Emory, I am in a position to help narrow what seems like a never-ending gap in care and in training.”

Collaborative teaching and learning to sustainably address those disparities will be hallmarks of the track, says Dr. Lasiecka. While volunteering in medical school, “I saw Tanzania had only one physician per 50,000 patients. It opened my eyes to the need for locally trained physicians to ensure sustainability of initiatives to address profound disparities in access to care.”

Drs. Khan and Lasiecka will develop and implement a structured curriculum focused on global health spanning the four years of residency. Monthly lectures, simulation labs, and field trips will build residents’ core competencies during the first two years. A hands-on ultrasound bootcamp will help first-year residents develop proficiency with the most readily available imaging modality for both diagnostic screening and image-guided procedures. Residents then will engage in supervised volunteer service with local partners such as Clarkston Imaging Clinic, established with through the 2019 Adopt-A-Resident grant to Drs. Charlotte Chung and Dean Thongkam.

Residents will conceptualize a capstone project in their third year. Seminars on grant writing and project planning, as well as co-learning via international case conferences will help develop the skills needed to implement the capstone project plan in year four. Throughout the track residents can partner with local or international organizations involved in global health through programs such as the Emory Global Health Residency Scholars Program, RadAid, or Road 2IR.

The award brings Emory Radiology's global health efforts full circle from the work of Dr. Ali Tahvildari, the Adopt-A-Resident program’s second grantee, who created the Global Health Radiology Initiative in 2009.
Valeria Makeeva, MD

In general, incidental findings are reported in 10 to 30% of imaging studies with 5% of reports recommending further workup, presenting an opportunity to address a serious medical condition at an early treatable stage and reduce morbidity. However, an estimated 10-60% of patients fail to receive the recommended workup.

Applying these statistics just to Emory’s 1.2 million imaging studies completed in 2017, about 60,000 of those studies would have recommended further workup, but at least 39,600 of those patients would not have received such a workup. This failure represents a patient safety threat.

Dr. Makeeva proposes to shift the current paradigm for incidental findings follow-up for early-disease patients by developing and evaluating a fully-automated and scalable HL7 tool for differentiating radiology patients most at risk for follow-up loss.

The HL7-Shield aims to build a fund of knowledge surrounding incidental findings follow-up by out-performing current semi-automated models; generating the necessary data volume to make meaningful conclusions; and investigating the characteristics of providers, patients, modalities, and recommendation types associated with increased risk of follow-up loss.

Tina Sankhla, MD

Dr. Sankhla’s project aims to create an elective that sends Emory Radiology to learn and teach at a newly-developing interventional radiology program in Rwanda.

There are currently only 13 practicing radiologists in Rwanda, and the first formally trained interventional radiologist will soon be returning to Rwanda following training to establish an interventional radiology service. Organized by Dr. Nima Kokabi, Emory Radiology plans to send teams consisting of an attending IR, an IR technologist, and IR nurse from Emory to King Faisal Hospital up to three times annually for two weeks at a time to provide additional training and support for the Rwanda IR program.

“I strongly feel that by sharing the skillset needed for image guided procedures, we can have a profound positive impact on patient care in hospitals in developing nations,” says Dr. Sankhla. “Creating this resident elective will provide an opportunity for myself and my fellow residents to help share our knowledge with Rwandan residents.”

Once it’s safe to resume travel, the goal of the project is to send two Emory Radiology residents each year to Rwanda.
Charlotte Chung, MD, and Dean Thongkham, MD

The winners of 2019 coveted Adopt-A-Resident grant are R3 residents Charlotte Chung and Dean Thongkham. Their winning proposal is “Clarkston Imaging Project: Improving Healthcare for the Uninsured Through Establishing Radiologist-Driven Imaging Services.”

Over the past year, Drs. Chung and Thongkham helped facilitate Emory University’s donation of an ultrasound machine to a free clinic in Clarkston. They now envision a program that would take advantage of that donation to help uninsured patients receive much-needed imaging studies. This ultrasound clinic, including the backend radiology workflow and IT solutions, would be staffed by volunteer ultrasound technicians, radiology residents and attendings, drawn primarily from the Emory Radiology department.

“We thought about working with patients and the idea of a bedside doctor. In radiology, that interaction can easily be overlooked,” says Dr. Chung on what led them to choose this project in particular. “Part of our desire was to add value by interacting with patients in an immediate vicinity.”

While in medical school, both Drs. Chung and Thongkham volunteered with free clinics to provide medical care. However, they quickly saw how cost prohibitive and inaccessible medical imaging seemed to be. As they progressed in their residency training, they again saw the challenges free primary care clinics faced in not being able to utilize radiology for patient care. That’s where Drs. Chung and Thongkham, along with their faculty advisors Drs. Sadhna Nandwana, Nabile Safdar, and Smyrna Tuburan, are stepping in to bridge that gap.

“Existing efforts from organizations such as RAD-AID focus on international outreach to low-resource developing countries. We’re trying to address a need in our local community. Clarkston is an incredible, diverse city, serving as a popular relocation center and home for refugee and immigrant communities,” they shared.

But that’s not all they’re trying to improve. They hope to put radiologists at the forefront of patient care. “This project is trying to go where the patients are, to bring medical imaging to the patient,” explains Dr. Thongkham. “With the combination of educational service, excellent medical care, and patient engagement, we create a difference in an area of obvious need.”
Alex Dabrowiecki, MD

Alex Dabrowiecki sees his proposed *Radiology at Emory Medical Innovation (REMI) Track* as a logical addition to the residency program.

“*I chose radiology because of the exciting manipulation of technology that drives our contributions in medicine,*” Dr. Dabrowiecki explains. “*Even as a hard-working and capable (albeit junior) resident attempting to bring a solution of mine to fruition, I quickly stalled, realizing product development was never part of my formal academic education.*”

He is designing the REMI track to combine didactic education with hands-on learning to equip residents with the knowledge and skills necessary to turn a good idea into a marketable product. Participating residents would attend monthly lectures on the theories and tenets of entrepreneurship and product development during their first two years of residency. REMI-track residents in their third and fourth years of residency then would conceive and develop a prototype technological solution with an accompanying business plan as a capstone project.

The goal is to launch the REMI track in 2019.

Anna Trofimova, MD, PhD

Anna Trofimova hopes “*Neuroanatomy Live: An Interactive Curriculum for Radiology Residents and Fellows Using 3D Printing Technology*” will make it easier for residents to master the complexities of neuroanatomy.

“*Radiology is one of, if not the most rapidly developing technology-driven fields in medicine, and we as radiologists work with an increasing number of different imaging modalities and techniques,*” says Dr. Trofimova.

Dr. Trofimova is developing six workshops that augment the presentation of neuroanatomic information with 3-dimensional printed models of the brain, head, and neck.” These will allow residents to better see, feel, and understand complex anatomical and neuroanatomical systems and structures. 3D printing can produce an endless variety of models which can be designed and redesigned as needed.

“I’m very excited to have an opportunity to bring together my passion for neuroradiology and cutting-edge technologies to enhance residents’ education in our and, potentially, other residency programs,” shares Dr. Trofimova.
Patricia Balthazar, MD

Dr. Patricia Balthazar recognizes how radiologists are increasingly expected to take the lead with information systems and envisions I3T providing in-depth imaging informatics experience to trainees working closely with the Division of Imaging Informatics. She explains, “I3T residents will learn skills needed to improve the quality and efficiency of imaging services while supporting clinical, educational, and research efforts through the use of information technology. This will place Emory Radiology at the forefront of imaging informatics education.”

The curriculum Dr. Balthazar designed was approved for roll-out in fall 2018. It includes didactic instruction plus an informatics capstone project.

Capstone projects will prioritize the application of informatics to improve residency training. For example, Dr. Balthazar studied a data retrieval tool to find and list imaging reports with noncritical, incidental findings to improve patient follow-up; a successful pilot-test was presented at the SIIM annual meeting.

Sean Z. Goodin, MD

The models medical students encounter in their training may not be idealized beauties revered for their nearly perfect bodies but they're just as far from a representation of the average person as the supermodel.

That’s why Dr. Sean Z. Goodin proposed developing a new kind of anatomic model to be used in training: a dynamic 3D printed model. These models can easily and inexpensively be altered to simulate body conditions like high or low BMI and produce degenerative pathologies so residents can practice troubleshooting such difficulties.

Like Dr. Goodin’s proposed 3D printed model project, half of Adopt-A-Resident projects employ technology in innovative ways. Projects also are evenly split between exploring innovations in teaching and training and advancing the quality of clinical practice. Some projects even focus on global health issues.

Dr. Goodin’s project has paved the way for other Adopt-A-Resident grantees to leverage 3D printed model technology to enrich training both for residents and for global health partners.
Dexter Mendoza, MD

Dexter Mendoza, MD, always enjoyed teaching, so he proposed a track to prepare residents like him for academic medical careers. He was awarded Adopt-A-Resident program funding to create the Clinician-Educator Track, which features seminars and group discussions about learning theories, learning and teaching styles, curriculum development, mentorship, and research. The track’s required capstone project germinates additional innovation: for his capstone, Dr. Mendoza created a curriculum for building an academic career using teaching and education research. His work resulted in presentations at the Association of University Radiologists 2017 and 2018 conferences plus an article in Academic Radiology.

Dr. Mendoza credits Dr. Mullins plus mentors Ryan Peterson, MD, and Meg Fleming, MD, for his success. He also mentored other residents to ensure a leadership pipeline. Dr. Mendoza also inspired other residents to propose additional program tracks.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Project Awarded</th>
<th>Mentors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Investigating the Effect of Multitasking and Interruptions on the Quality and Practice Environment in Radiology</td>
<td>Michael Osipow, MD, and Aarti Sekhar, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Radiologists as Imaging Consultants: The Challenges and Lessons Learned from Comparing the Roles of Canadian and American Radiologists</td>
<td>Kimberly Applegate, MD, MS</td>
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**Drew Streicher, MD**

Dr. Streicher realized that interruptions such as clinical consults, phone calls, and protocoling exams are inevitable yet valuable. At the same time, these interactions can increase levels of stress and fatigue, which can impact the quality and efficiency of the radiologist’s primary responsibility: imaging interpretation. Through a mutual interest in the topic with his mentors, Drs. Michael Osipow and Aarti Sekhar, the project idea was developed.

Dr. Streicher identified the types and number of interruptions a radiologist experiences and how these interruptions affected stress levels. He also investigated how thoughtful reading room design could impact the number of interruptions and decrease the need for multitasking.

Additionally, through a unique partnership with the SimTigrate design lab at Georgia Tech, Streicher performed a case-control simulation that involved imaging interpretation in two different environments, an interruption heavy and interruption free environment, to determine the effect of multitasking and interruptions on efficiency, report quality, and error rate.

**Nima Kokabi, MD**

Dr. Kokabi proposed investigating the occurrence of unnecessary imaging examinations across two different healthcare systems: the US and Canada.

During two 2-week elective rotations at a tertiary referral center in Canada, Kokabi investigated the utility of various imaging modalities for a specific clinical presentation in a targeted group of patients. The emphasis was on clinicians conforming to available guidelines and the role of radiologists in reducing unnecessary examinations. By surveying both clinicians and radiologists, he was able to map out the working dynamics at both healthcare centers and determine best practices and areas of challenge.

A Resident Quality Assurance Committee has been initiated to investigate practical ways to assess use of medical imaging at Emory and adherence to best practice guidelines. The committee participates in educating trainees in other specialties about evidence-based use of imaging for various clinical presentations.
Dr. Loehfelm was awarded a grant to develop a tablet-computer application to make it easy to share medical images for teaching purposes among faculty and residents at Emory and beyond. Radiologists often collect images from interesting cases to share with their colleagues—a remarkable spine MRI, a rare tumor or infection, or a classic radiographic finding. A typical radiologist might accumulate hundreds or thousands of such images on a USB thumb drive, a shared network folder, and/or external hard drive. Tablet computers, like the iPad, provide an ideal platform for such images: nearly every resident has one, and they are portable, internet-enabled, and have high-quality touch-screen displays. All that would be required to make the images usable on tablet-computers would be an application that could retrieve and display these interesting cases, and a platform to allow anyone sitting at a workstation to easily create them. Loehfelm has developed a PC program to create shareable tests, cases, and teaching files, and an application for Android tablets. The Android app, RADIANT, has been downloaded more than 1500 times around the world, and he was able to use it to digitize the film library of a hospital in Ethiopia. He plans to translate these programs for the iPad and distribute them to the faculty and other residents.
Neil Shah, MD and Bryan Yi, MD, MPH

Dr. Yi initiated a project to transform the classroom experience for residents by creating an audience response system that renders didactic lectures interactive. Using this technology, called ResponseWare, enables the lecturer to query all of his/her students at once or to obtain instant feedback. After Dr. Yi’s graduation, Dr. Shah assumed responsibility for the project. In the past year, Dr. Shah has developed tutorials to facilitate the use of ResponseWare. It has been successfully used by many lecturers. Shah has created templates to make ResponseWare even more user-friendly.

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Ryan Peterson, MD

Dr. Peterson received an award from the Adopt-A-Resident Program to incorporate advanced imaging into human anatomy courses. Dr. Peterson sought to provide more hands-on learning opportunities in radiology to medical students because “diagnostic and interventional radiology has become an essential part of every patient’s care.” He used cross-sectional CT imaging to scan cadavers to show the importance of radiology for medical planning and management. Peterson secured a workstation capable of rendering 3D images and worked with the directors of the human anatomy course to provide images that mesh with their curriculum. He also worked to integrate radiology into medical education and raise medical students’ involvement in radiation by offering greater access to radiology for medical students.

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Radiologists as Anatomists: Improving Gross Anatomy and Radiology Education

Stefan Tigges, MD, MSCR, and Walt Carpenter, MD, PhD

2011

Audience Response System

Ashley Aiken, MD

2010

PROJECT AWARDED
MENTORS

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<td>2010</td>
<td>Diagnostic Radiology in Comprehensive Health Care Clinics and Teaching Hospitals in Nigeria</td>
<td>Yemi Ibraheem, MD</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>Project Awarded <strong>Political and Business Influences that Shape Radiology Practice in the US</strong></td>
<td>Carolyn Meltzer, MD, FACR</td>
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**Nnenna Aguocha, MD, MPH**

Dr. Aguocha embarked on a funded, month-long international rotation in March, 2012 to Nigeria to examine the role of radiology in primary, secondary, and tertiary health care institutions in Abuja and Jos. In Jos, Aguocha provided radiological interpretations for imaging studies performed at nonprofit comprehensive health care clinics, and she organized lectures for radiology residents and faculty at the Jos University Teaching Hospital. In Abuja, she conducted needs assessments and cost/benefits analyses of primary health care clinics and mobile health care units to assess the feasibility of introducing portable ultrasound machines to these clinics, which offer free antenatal care. Aguocha hopes that her project will “encourage radiology residents to think of radiology in global terms and to formulate innovative ideas to extend some of the benefits of radiological advances and resources to developing countries.”

**John Chenevey, MD**

Well aware of how political and business influences shape the way radiology is practiced in the United States, Dr. John Chenevey used the award to participate in radiology organizations and learn more about critical issues in health care policy. Chenevey served as the resident member of the American College of Radiology (ACR) All Members Meeting Steering Committee and the ACR Neuroradiology Commission, as well as participating in the ACR Resident and Fellow Membership Subcommittee. He wrote web articles for the ACR Resident and Fellow Section and contributed to Emory’s residency program through newsletter articles, email updates, and noon conferences. In addition to lecturing at the Georgia and South Carolina state radiology society meetings, he also spoke at the American Institute for Radiologic Pathology as the ACR introductory speaker.
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Project: International Humanitarian Radiology Elective in Ethiopia</td>
<td>Pat Hudgins, MD, FACR</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Radiology Podcasting and iTunes U</td>
<td>Mark Mullins, MD, PhD</td>
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**Ali Tahvildari, MD**

Driven by his interest in global health, Dr. Ali Tahvildari created an educational partnership with the Addis Ababa University (AAU) Department of Radiology in Ethiopia. Tahvildari and his mentor, Dr. Pat Hudgins, traveled to Ethiopia to teach at AAU in 2011 and 2012. Together they created the Global Health Radiology Initiative curriculum.

As a part of a joint effort between AAU and Emory to develop a neuroradiology fellowship for the AAU radiology program, Ethiopian faculty has also have served rotations in Emory’s neuroradiology division. Drs. Tahvildari and Hudgins published an article in the July 2012 JACR about their experience, which drew the attention of RAD-AID, a global health imaging nongovernmental organization (NGO) based in The Johns Hopkins University Department of Radiology. Tahvildari was invited to speak about his experiences at the RAD-AID annual meeting and collaborated on a chapter on education in RAD-AID's Global Health Imaging Textbook. He has created a sustainable resident elective rotation that continues to draw attention to medical humanitarianism in radiology.

**Jay Patel, MD**

The first beneficiary of the Adopt-A-Resident Program, Dr. Jay Patel created a virtual library of radiology conferences, lectures, and case studies available as podcasts.

“Podcasting presents a new conduit to quickly provide radiologists with state-of-the-art information about CT and MRI scanners, acquisition protocols, and post-processing of data sets 24 hours a day. The ease of creation and delivery enables the information to be rapidly updated,” said Patel. These podcasts can be accessed anywhere, even while on the go, moving learning from the library to the computer. Over 150 lectures are now available to Emory residents; these files come in various high-quality formats compatible with desktop computers, iPods, tablets, and other smart devices. Though he has moved on to another institution, current residents continue to create podcasts and refine the application.
If you wish to discuss support for our department with a member of our development team, please contact Ashley Michaud at 404.778.1250 or ashleymichaud@emory.edu.