From the Chair

In this issue of Imaging Matters we present photos of the Radiology Department’s new meeting rooms and offices. Moving into these new spaces was our reward for many months of planning and construction. We have all had to pack and move—some of us more than once—and endure a certain amount of inconvenience. But the result is that we now have facilities that are aesthetically pleasing and fully support our clinical, educational, and research activities.

UC Health University Hospital was among the first participants in the American College of Radiology’s (ACR) General Radiology Information Database (GRID) program. The program provided performance data from multiple imaging centers, enabling quality comparisons among similar facilities nationwide.

UH Radiology was compared to three cohorts: 1) academic medical centers, 2) institutions with more than 150,000 annual radiology procedures, and 3) all hospitals in the ACR database. Highlights of the results are summarized below.

- **UH patients have shorter wait times from when they schedule to when they are seen** (often same day access).
- **UH patients wait less time on average for their procedure to begin.**
- **UH’s repeat rate due to technically sub-optimal images is less than most other facilities, resulting in lower average radiation exposure to the patient.**
- The patient report is available to the referring physician much faster than the average facility turn-around-time, and especially faster than most academic medical centers.
- University Hospital’s rate of unanticipated complications and incidents was lower than that of other facilities nationally.
Achala Vagal Awarded Elio Bracco Scholarship

Achala S. Vagal, MD, Assistant Professor of Radiology, has been named the 2012 American Roentgen Ray Society (ARRS)/Elio Bracco Scholar. Dr. Vagal will use her scholarship for further study on her research project titled, “PREDICT: Penumbral Relation to Clinical Outcome and Time,” which focuses on analyzing the role of delayed ischemic penumbras in clinical decision making for acute stroke therapy. She says, “Our goal is to understand the natural history of untreated penumbra, and use the prognostic value from these advanced neuroimaging techniques so that we can assist the clinical decision making and stroke treatment.”

Dr. Vagal hopes that the results from the PREDICT study will lead to a larger, multi-center clinical trial which will establish a frame of reference for existing and future studies of delayed reperfuions and, ultimately, specific clinical care for stroke patients. In addition to focusing on the PREDICT study, Dr. Vagal will also use her scholarship to pursue a Master of Science degree in Clinical and Translational Research at the University of Cincinnati to fulfill her goal to become an independent investigator and to conduct clinical trials.

The ARRS/Elio Bracco Scholarship is intended to support study in a field selected by the scholar that will enable the scholar to attain his or her professional career goal and prepare her for positions of leadership in academic radiology. The scholarship was presented at the 2012 ARRS Annual Meeting in Vancouver, BC in May.

Mahoney Named Section Chief at VA

Dr. Bruce Mahoney, Assistant Professor of Radiology, is the new Section Chief of Nuclear Medicine at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center (VAMC). Nuclear Medicine is now a section within the Department of Radiology at the VAMC. Dr. Mahoney is certified by the American Board of Radiology as an Authorized User of Radionuclides. As Section Chief, he will chair the VAMC Radiation Safety Committee, review all nuclear medicine procedures, annually review the radiation safety program and perform other leadership functions for the Section. Dr. Mahoney also serves as Medical Director at the University Hospital Imaging Center at UC Physicians Medical Arts Building.

Verma a Fellow of SUR

Sadhna Verma, MD, Associate Professor of Radiology, has been elected a Fellow of the Society of Uroradiology, and was installed at the annual meeting of the SUR in Scottsdale, Arizona on March 25.

Football 101 Supports Breast Cancer Research

Mary Mahoney received a really big check from the UC Athletic Department at the Bearcats football game on September 3. The check for $13,425.00 was the proceeds from the Sixth Annual Football 101 Women’s Football Clinic, which was held at the Lindner Center on June 21, 2011. UC Head Coach Butch Jones’s wife Barb and members of the coaching staff hosted the event. 247 women learned about football, participated in on-field games and drills, and had dinner with the staff and their families. Proceeds will fund breast cancer research at UC. Football 101 was held again on June 7, 2012.
New Conference Rooms Increase Capabilities

The Department of Radiology’s newly renovated space includes improved conference rooms and meeting areas.

**E-684** The new Conference Room, E-684, is now in service. The primary location for academic lectures, this space is also available for other meetings. It is equipped for high resolution video projection with a 144” HD screen. There are also two 55” HD monitors on the side walls which can either duplicate the program on the large screen or show independent video, as from a laptop. The room is equipped for audio conferencing, has internet connections, provides access to the thick client Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS), and should accept most media a lecturer might bring. There is table seating for 35, or up to 50 using extra seating.

**E680-O** This new meeting room seats 12, has a 94” HD projection screen and internet connections. Clint Bramkamp handles scheduling for E684.

**G665A** The Chair’s Meeting Room, G665A, seats 12 and has similar media arrangements plus a whiteboard. Pam Sherman schedules G665A.

Other new or remodeled areas include offices for thirty-two faculty and administrative personnel, and new work space for the fellows and residents.

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**Mahoney Awarded RSNA Seed Grant**

Dr. Mary Mahoney, Professor of Radiology and Chief of Breast Imaging at the University of Cincinnati, was awarded a seed grant from the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) Research & Education Foundation. Seed grants support the early stages of developing a study before major grant applications are submitted to corporations, foundations and government agencies. Due to increased demand, the current round of funding was described as the most competitive ever. Dr. Mahoney says her study aims at “looking at the components of choline in benign and malignant breast tissues to better determine by imaging which lesions are cancer and what the mechanism is that accounts for elevated choline in cancers.”

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**Cornelius and Lee Installed as Fellows of ACR**

Rebecca Cornelius, MD, (left) and Su-Ju Lee, MD, were installed as Fellows in the American College of Radiology at ACR’s convocation in Washington DC in April.
Diagnostic Radiology Recognized at May Service Awards

A Patient Perception of Care Award was given to Diagnostic Radiology at the Service Awards on May 8. The award included Radiographic areas and Ultrasound, and recognized their improving Press Ganey patient satisfaction surveys over three successive quarters.

Left to right: Jack Malott, Director Radiology Administration; Shari Lecky, Technologist & Front Desk Reception; Betty Datar, Technologist; Allison Ritchie, Technologist; Mandy Edwards, Technologist; Tom Giglio, Manager of Radiology; Jennifer Jackson, VP UCHealth & Chief Nursing Officer.

**PUBLICATIONS**


**PRESENTATIONS**


**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.