Rohrmann Endowment for UW Radiology
Resident Educational Excellence

Rohrmann Endowment funds support training experiences for underrepresented minority students

A dedicated team of faculty, staff and trainees serving on the “Build a Pipeline” subcommittee of the Department of Radiology’s Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee began with a vision and a plan in 2020 to develop a program aimed at attracting, recruiting, and training a diverse workforce in order to advance a climate that fosters inclusion excellence. The initial focus of the Build a Pipeline subcommittee was to offer summer internships for underrepresented students from high schools, colleges, and medical schools within the region and over time to expand this program nationally. The mechanism for this outreach program would be the introduction of a structured mentored internship program to expose students to radiology services and research, providing a small stipend to the students for their dedication of time to the training.

The vision became a reality this summer, culminating in a four-week inaugural summer internship for six high school students. In early August, 60 faculty, staff, residents and fellows participated in giving lectures, hosting workshops, providing shadowing experiences and soft skills development as part of this internship in collaboration with the Department of Radiation Oncology. Over the four-week program, student interns learned about radiation safety and shadowed with CT, MRI, ultrasound and Nuclear Medicine technologists, learning about career opportunities in a radiology department.

The Rohrmann Endowment provided funding for the purchase of ultrasound and Ultrasound/CT/MRI compatible phantoms which the trainees learned how to use in simulated ultrasound-guided procedures. “Thank you to Rohrmann Endowment fund donors and the Education Endowment Advisory Committee for allocating funds for us to purchase ultrasound and Ultrasound/CT/MRI compatible phantoms. These were extremely useful for our summer internship conducted for six underrepresented high school students this past August,” Hubert Vesselle, PhD, MD, Professor, Director of Global Health, Build a Pipeline subcommittee co-chair.

Residents and fellows Drs. Kiet Vo, JJ Weaver, Lyndsay Eysenbach, Charles Davis, Alireza Abadi, Shamus Moran, Marissa Lawson, Alp Oztok, and Grace Laidlaw participated in this four-week internship for underrepresented students. We thank each of them for their dedication and service.

You can support programs like these for Radiology Educational Excellence! Donating to the Department of Radiology is crucial to carrying out our mission to train the practitioners and leaders of tomorrow. Learn about the many ways to support our department: https://rad.washington.edu/donate/
Rohrmann Endowment Supports Residents’ Presentations at National and International Meetings

On May 15, 2022, I flew into Savannah, Georgia to attend and present at the annual Society of Breast Imaging (SBI) 2022 conference. Over the past academic year, I had received support through the radiology residency program for a research elective, where I was given half days for four weeks to pursue a project with the breast imaging section on abbreviated breast MRI sequences, specifically UltraFast, and its utility to distinguish malignant from benign breast lesions.

During the research elective, I collected and analyzed the data, which culminated in an abstract submission to SBI, which was accepted for an oral presentation.

Giving my oral presentation to future breast imaging colleagues at SBI was nerve wracking, but incredibly fulfilling. It was also a great experience to be able to network in-person with future colleagues, given that this was the first SBI conference since Covid-19. Lastly, exploring the city of Savannah was stellar!! I want to thank the Rohrmann Endowment for the support and funding to attend this conference to present my work. Most importantly, I want to give my thanks and appreciation to my mentors, Drs. Habib Rahbar and Savannah Partridge, as well as my postdoc fellow contributor, Anum Kazerouni, PhD.

– Anne Chen, MD, PGY-5, Chief Research Resident 2022-23

I encountered a difficult patient scenario when I was on diagnostic radiology call about a year ago. I wanted to lead a debrief for the radiology technicians that were involved and was looking for a “how to” and was surprised to see that there was no radiology specific debriefing literature for guidance in this scenario. I worked with one of our IR attendings, Dr. Jesse Knight (UW IR Fellow 2010) to compile and create IR specific debrief materials. This was accepted for poster presentation at Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiologic Society of Europe (CIRSE) which was held in Barcelona, Spain this September. With the help and support from the generous donations to the Rohrmann Endowment fund, I was able to attend in person. Attending this conference afforded great networking and a unique opportunity to see new techniques and technology from this society. And, it was an honor to share our presentation! Thanks to all who made this possible.

– Kara Fitzgerald, MD, PGY-4 Integrated IR Resident
Meet the New Radiology Residency Leadership Team!

The UW Radiology residency program recently welcomed new leaders who are guiding our residents. You will see some familiar faces and be introduced to new ones – it’s an exciting time for all here in the UW Department of Radiology!

**Diagnostic Radiology Residency Program Leadership**

Dr. Christine Rehwald, Clinical Assistant Professor in MSK, was appointed Diagnostic Radiology (DR) Residency Program Director in October. She completed her DR residency at UW in 2018 followed by an MSK fellowship at UW, serving as Chief Fellow. Dr. Rehwald was Fellowship Director from 2020 to 2022, and DR Associate Program Director from 2021-2022.

Dr. Kyle Spearman, Clinical Assistant Professor in Cardiothoracic Imaging, was appointed DR Residency Associate Program Director in March. He completed his DR residency at UW in 2020 and served as Chief Resident, followed by a fellowship in Cardiothoracic Imaging at UW.

Dr. Safia Cheeney, Acting Assistant Professor in Pediatric Radiology was appointed DR Residency Associate Program Director in October. She completed her DR residency at UW in 2017, followed by fellowships in Breast Imaging, Pediatric Radiology, and Nuclear Medicine.

Dr. Jeffrey Forris Beecham Chick, Associate Professor, Vascular and Interventional Radiology (VIR) was appointed Program Director of the IR Independent Residency Program and the IR Integrated Residency Program in October. He has been Associate Section Chief of VIR since April. Dr. Chick also serves as Director of Quality for IR and the Clinical Research Director of IR. He completed his DR residency at Brigham and Women’s Hospital/Harvard Medical School in 2015, followed by a fellowship in vascular and interventional radiology at Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania/Perelman School of Medicine in 2016.

Dr. Matthew Abad-Santos, Assistant Professor, was appointed Deputy Program Director for Interventional Radiology Residency Programs in October. He completed his DR residency at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in 2020 followed by an independent IR residency program at UW in 2021-2022.

Dr. Ramesh Iyer, Professor of Radiology in Pediatrics at Seattle Children’s Hospital, was appointed Vice Chair of Education in February. He completed his DR residency at UW in 2010, followed by a pediatric radiology fellowship at Seattle Children’s Hospital, serving as Chief Fellow in 2011. He has been on faculty at Seattle Children’s Hospital since 2011. Dr. Iyer has served as Director, Radiology Quality Improvement since 2013.

You can support Radiology Resident Excellence!

Mail your donation [note Rohrmann Endowment on your check]:
UW Advancement, Gift Services, Box 359505, Seattle WA 98195-9505
Online: Acceleratemed.org/Rohrmann
Dr. Ramesh Iyer is a Pediatric Radiologist at Seattle Children’s Hospital and Professor of Radiology at the University of Washington. He serves as Vice Chair of Education for UW Radiology, and Director of Radiology Quality Improvement at Seattle Children’s Hospital. His professional interests include quality improvement and educational administration. He has coauthored over 100 peer-reviewed journal publications and the textbook "Pediatric Imaging: The Essentials."

Dr. Iyer has also recently been named Medical Staff President-Elect at Seattle Children’s Hospital (SCH) on October 1.

Where are you from originally?

I grew up in a suburb of Rochester, NY. I went to public schools, attended Brown University for undergrad, and NYU for medical school. I got married in medical school to my best friend from college, and she grew up in Gig Harbor, WA. As a result, I was looking to come to Seattle for residency and settle down and start our family (and receive world-class training of course), and thankfully I matched at UW!

What was your path towards becoming a radiologist?

Since my mom is a breast imager at the University of Rochester, the most likely answer could be that I wanted to follow her footsteps. However, I was actually drawn to medicine much more by my father who was a general practitioner. By the beginning of my 4th year of medical school, I was fairly certain I was going into internal medicine and probably cardiology – to the extent that most of my preliminary year applications were at institutions where I would have wanted to stay on for IM residency if I decided to switch – classic radiologist move, always hedging! However, I was later drawn to radiology because I realized the facets I liked best about cardiology were really the imaging, and this was true across all systems and specialties. I also liked the idea of radiologists being consultants for virtually every physician in the hospital, truly the hub of healthcare.

What was your experience like as a resident at UW Medicine?

In short, it was awesome. I was incredibly fortunate to have wonderful residency classmates to share the unique four-year training experience with, caring program directors in Angelisa Paladin and Michelle Bittle, and a supportive chair in Norm Beauchamp. The multiple training sites offered opportunities to hone different skillsets and see a spectrum of pathologies. You could read out with and work on academic projects with luminaries in the field. And while the volumes could get high or cases complex, which was stressful at times, you knew that your knowledge base and confidence level would be higher at the end of every rotation. These are the reasons that UW Radiology graduates are highly sought after both locally and around the country!

What excites you most about radiology and what are some of your specialty areas?

What excites me most about radiology is the ability to impact the care of a large number of patients on a daily basis. I love interacting with every type of physician, including the most general and the most specialized. You get the chance to draw upon your foundational knowledge of anatomy and physiology to solve problems, synthesize and communicate information and ideas. You can leverage cutting-edge technology to both diagnose disease and guide therapies. Finally, as a pediatric radiologist, you have the added benefit of working with the best patients!

What do you think are some of the most important experiences for residents to have?

Like all fields of medicine, I do think that participating in plenty of cases as a resident will better prepare you for life as an attending. Whether it’s dictating more examinations, reading many complex studies, scrubbing into more cases, or taking call, that cumulative experience will make you more capable, comfortable, and confident both during and after residency. It’s OK to make mistakes (we all do), and it’s OK to ask for help (we all should). As you review cases, constantly validate or modify your search patterns, and look things up when you can’t recall them. At UW, we are fortunate to have an amazing mix of imaging studies drawing from a huge swath of the Pacific Northwest, and residents...
Some helpful advice to residents from Dr. Iyer: “At UW, we are fortunate to have an amazing mix of imaging studies drawing from a huge swath of the Pacific Northwest, and residents should take full advantage of this during their four years. I also think that collaborating on an academic project is a worthwhile pursuit, regardless of what your career aspirations are.”

should take full advantage of this during their four years. I also think that collaborating on an academic project is a worthwhile pursuit, regardless of what your career aspirations are. You can learn lifelong skills of reviewing the literature, summarizing your ideas on paper, and interacting with teachers and mentors outside of a typical work environment.

How would you describe your approach to resident education as a pediatric radiologist at Seattle Children’s?

When I work with residents at Seattle Children’s, I love getting to know them as people and colleagues. I always ask questions like where they are from, what their interests are outside of the hospital, how residency is going so far, do they have family in the area (kids?), and what fellowship they are going into or considering (for more senior residents). I find myself learning a great deal from residents every day! Establishing a comfortable rapport with residents is important because it makes for a collegial working environment, but also fulfilling on both professional and personal levels. At the end of the day, we are just regular people looking to feel valued at work, and I certainly value being a part of their workday and educational journey.

When it comes to resident education, I try my best to strike a balance between making readouts or doing cases efficient yet educational. I look to review a few take-home points during each readout, and give tips based on errors I have seen or made myself. I want to encourage resident independence, but make sure he or she knows that they can always ask for my help, and that I truly enjoy partnering with them.

Tell us more about your role as Vice Chair of Education and your philosophy and approach to trainee education.

The thing I enjoy most about my role as Vice Chair of Education is the opportunity to advocate for others. I absolutely love supporting our residents, fellows, and program directors. I regularly meet with the PDs to find out how things are going, what they might be struggling with, and how I can be of service to them. I love talking with residents to find out what their training experiences are like and what can be done to improve them. I liaise frequently with the UW GME office to learn about what is happening in educational programs in other disciplines, and how I can best guide our programs to navigate things like ACGME site visits. I work with departmental administration to make sure we are deploying resources to adequately support our PDs and help them do their job in augmenting trainee education. We are also the beneficiaries of donations from generous program alumni and sponsors, and it is incredibly gratifying to use these funds to help support trainee and student opportunities such as presenting at conferences or participating in global health initiatives.

What are your areas of research and clinical focus – and some of the biggest challenges you and your colleagues face in Radiology?

Within pediatric radiology, my main focus is in quality improvement. I have directed our radiology quality improvement programs at Seattle Children’s since 2013, including conducting our peer learning program and leading our structured reporting. One of the most rewarding parts of this job has been running our monthly peer learning conferences for faculty, which I then modify for the residents and fellows in separate monthly conferences. This is case-based education where we have removed the stigma of making an error and re-framed it as an opportunity to learn together in a supportive environment. I am fortunate to have wonderfully collegial peers at Seattle Children’s! At the national level, I have been heavily involved in ACR Appropriateness Criteria as a Panel Chair, and have chaired the Society for Pediatric Radiology (SPR) Quality and Safety Committee.

I think a big challenge in radiology is remaining involved in major hospital decisions despite not being as patient-facing as our clinical colleagues. I find it ironic that radiologists can sometimes be an afterthought in long-term enterprise planning and strategy when we are so integral to healthcare delivery and decision-making. To combat this, I think it’s important for radiologists to get involved in hospital committees and communicate regularly with clinical colleagues to ensure we have a seat at the proverbial table. This was a driver behind my own recent involvement in medical staff leadership at Seattle Children’s.

[continued on p. 6]
Having great mentors plays such an important role for all of us. Who were some of your early mentors? And who were your most recent ones?

Having many mentors offers diversity of perspectives, certain mentors are helpful in specific spheres, and mentoring relationships evolve over time such that they may become obsolete or even reverse roles.

I have stood on the shoulders of numerous mentors over the years, including but not limited to Norm Beauchamp, Angelisa Paladin, Gautham Reddy, Felix Chew, and Edward Weinberger. These mentors were instrumental in teaching me how to career plan, write a manuscript, think about radiology quality improvement, and be a mentor and advocate. Mahesh Thapa and Tess Chapman imparted tips on how to be a successful academic pediatric radiologist. More recently, I have received guidance both from internal (Dushyant Sahani, Angelisa Paladin) and external (Mark Mullins, Lori Deitte) sources on how to best fulfill my vice chair responsibilities.

What advice do you give to radiology residents today?

It’s a delicate balance between learning radiology at work and at home, and taking care of yourself. Making sure to carve out time for yourself and your family and prioritize your well-being is essential for having the stamina to learn how to be a great radiologist. It’s important to do both regularly!

Speaking of which ... I would definitely recommend residents to study for at least a short period of time regularly, such as daily or 4-5 times per week. It’s a great habit, will keep you on point during clinical rotations, and will make the monumental task of mastering all of radiology for boards much more manageable. There’s no need to cram because it’s a marathon, not a sprint. And regular short study intervals allows for daily personal time to refresh and recharge.

Finally, please remember that enthusiasm and positive energy are contagious when you are on service. It makes you a more effective learner, a more impactful physician, and makes everyone’s day in the reading room a little better – a win-win!

What are some of your favorite activities outside of work?

Our family lives on Pine Lake in Sammamish. My wife Meg is a school psychologist in the Issaquah school district and an adjunct professor at Seattle U. Our kids are 16, 14, and 12, and we spend a great deal of time watching their soccer games and driving them to practices!

We always enjoy hosting our kids’ friends and team parties at our house, especially during the summer. I enjoy running most mornings before work, hiking or skiing when time allows, watching sports (NFL, NBA, and tennis in particular), and traveling with my family – recent summer trip to Greece and Italy was amazing.

Fun Facts About Ramesh:

I majored in anthropology/archaeology in college. My coolest job was doing public planetarium shows at the Boston Museum of Science during a summer in college.

My favorite Indian food is dosa. I have soft spots for trivia and ping-pong. And there’s no greater feeling than nostalgia, which probably explains my persistent love of 80s and 90s music, LOL!

Seattle Children’s Hospital named Ramesh Iyer, MD Medical Staff President-Elect on October 1, 2022
UW Radiology Residency Program Highlights

In the Summer edition of this newsletter, we celebrated UW Radiology resident graduates and highlighted awardees. As the calendar flipped to July 1st, the residency program welcomed 13 PGY-2 residents comprised of ten diagnostic radiology (DR) and three interventional radiology (IR) residents who will train with us through 2026 (DR) and 2027 (IR). While those dates may seem light years away, if you ask a PGY-5 resident today they will likely tell you how fast the past few years of training have passed by. There may be days or weeks during a rotation that seem to be rather protracted, but upon reflection there is never enough time to learn and practice with the subspecialty radiologist attendings, engage in every exciting research project, or participate in every meaningful activity that you intended to before your final year of residency.

To our new PGY-2s, a hearty welcome and encouragement to engage with your peers and mentors, and take the time to enjoy this new adventure we call radiology residency!

And so begins …
The Residency Interview Season!

Monday, November 7th marked the kick-off date for the UW Radiology residency interview season. This year we have a robust new residency leadership team and a wonderful line up of faculty who will be devoting their time and expertise throughout the months of November and December and into early January to ensure the success of the residency recruitment process. Last year, the residency received 915 applications. Of those applicants, 136 prospective residents were interviewed and we successfully matched to the 10 diagnostic radiology and 3 interventional radiology resident positions.

The UW Diagnostic Radiology Residency program conducts an annual review to reflect on education and recruitment over the past academic year and summarize goals and action plans for the upcoming academic year. This review proves to be a valuable resource for the residency as well as faculty in the Department of Radiology. It also serves as a helpful reminder of the program’s mission and our commitment to Diversity and Inclusion. We are pleased to share some of these highlights!
The UW Department of Radiology’s Nuclear Medicine Residency program was ranked Number 1 out of 37 programs in the US for research output by Doximity, a professional medical network for physicians.

In the 2022 graduating year, 11 PMID publications from six trainees showed a significant upward trajectory of scholarly activities by Nuclear Medicine residents at UW Radiology, compared to 5 PMID publications from six trainees achieved during the program in 2021.

Since the inception of the Division of Nuclear Medicine in the UW Department of Radiology by Dr. Wil Nelp in 1962, this postdoctoral training program has been highly successful. Graduates hold faculty positions in major academic centers as well as in private practice across the country.

Trainees in the Nuclear Medicine residency program receive excellent teaching by our dedicated faculty to become strong nuclear medicine practitioners. They learn how to integrate nuclear medicine diagnostic scans and therapies in the overall management of patients. Nuclear medicine trainees are also provided many opportunities to become effective educators and independent scientific investigators.

An Educational Exhibit at RSNA 2022 entitled, “Assessing Tumor Response to Therapy With Hybrid Imaging: Practical Aspects” will be presented by Laith Abandeh, MD, nuclear medicine fellow. His co-authors are Murat Sadic, MD, nuclear medicine chief resident and Hubert Vesselle, PhD, MD, professor, PET/CT Fellowship Director.

**Rohrmann Endowment funds e-Anatomy subscription**

In addition to supporting resident educational, research, and outreach activities highlighted in this edition of the Endowment Newsletter, the Rohrmann Endowment for UW Radiology Resident Educational Excellence has been a vital resource for funding many innovative programs since its inception over 12 years ago. For the fourth year in a row, the Rohrmann Endowment is pleased to support funding for the annual subscription to e-Anatomy. e-Anatomy is an online reference tool hosted by IMAIOS to support study, research, and practice. This online tool has been utilized by residents, fellows, faculty, and staff of the UW Radiology Department to support the anatomical reference needs of their work. Residents and faculty alike agree that this software tool aids in their teaching and learning, patient diagnosis, and research as well as being able to access it remotely.

Thank you to all Rohrmann Endowment donors for supporting this valuable resource!

“I am certain that >90% of us residents utilize this resource, particularly on rotations and on call”