

Radiology Residency Newsletter

Spring 2021

Editorial

I'm delighted to introduce the post pandemic edition of the Radiology Residency newsletter as we spring forth into the year of 2021. With COVID 19 flaring up around the same time in 2020, then going on to dominate the better half of the (quite eventful) last year, it has changed the way we look at the world, for better or for worse. Nevertheless we carried on, one day at a time, and made it through to the end. And how!

We brought in accomplished new staff and exceptional clinical educators. We did a complete 360 and switched our mode of learning to be primarily online with two way on camera remote checkouts & web-based didactic and hot seat case conferences. We held the first ever virtual Radiology Open House for medical students, and organized virtual facility tours as well as zoom meet and greet sessions for the interviewing applicants. Special shoutout to our fantastic coordinators, Alysia and Lacie for working tireless hours behind the scenes to make it all happen! This was soon followed by the first all-virtual RSNA where our talented residents shined again displaying their grit and determination with stellar research submissions.

And before the year was out, it was time to get your COVID vaccination shots! Due to Dr. Choudhary's tremendous efforts, all front line workers in Radiology received high priority in the long vaccination line. To top it all off, the Department of Radiology was named the highest performing section in the College of Medicine. This could not have happened without the hard work of our technologists who endured the daily challenges of the healthcare warzone from Day 1 without missing a beat. We are all very thankful for your hard work and dedication!

In the midst of it all, our battle weary senior class took the Radiology boards and crushed it! Congratulations to all of them for this incredible achievement and for showing us how it's done!

I invite you to journey through this window to our little world. Hope you enjoy the ride!

Yours truly,
Surbhi Raichandani

Editorial Board

Editor

Surbhi Raichandani, MD



Faculty Advisors

Kedar Jambhekar, MD

Roopa Ram, MD



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From the Chair's Desk

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to 2021's first edition of the Radiology Residency Newsletter!

We are pleased to finally change course after last year's events, which not only changed us but has also educated us. Many of the things which we would have taken for granted earlier, such as visiting friends and family, sharing celebrations, and taking lunch breaks together became a risk factor and were recommended to avoid. There have also been moments of heartbreak and unexpected losses of family and friends within our radiology family.

But amongst all the doom and gloom, residents have been steadfast in their work ethic and their support of clinical services and have set benchmarks for the rest.

Whether it be the dangerous risk of COVID exposure or driving in massive snowstorms with the prospect of getting stuck in the hospital for many days, you have strived to continue providing your best. You have also been resourceful in giving your best to everyone.

It will be interesting to see what behavior modifications we will continue post-COVID and what we would be very happy to leave behind. But please be assured, we will be working together with you to design the path forward.

On a positive note, we had a successful transition of Program Director and Residency Program Coordinator. Also, we are hoping to reconsider some of our initiatives, which were stalled earlier due to funding uncertainty from COVID. We are very pleased to improve our staffing in the Neuroradiology and Breast Imaging divisions, which should help with your training experience.

Achieving a 100% pass rate in the board exam is reflective of your hard work, the quality of our residency program, the outstanding effort put in by your teachers and the support of your own peers.

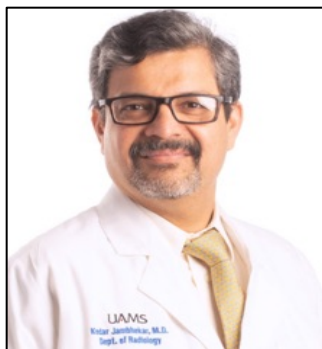
I am so proud of all of you and thank you for your dedication to UAMS.

I know we are all looking forward to a positive year and being back to normal soon.

Best,
Arv

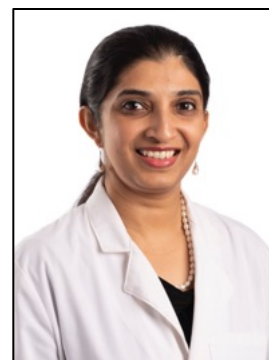


It's been an incredible run!



After being at the helm of the radiology residency for close to 9 years, Dr. Kedar Jambhekar (Dr. J) stepped down from the role of the Residency Program Director. He has been instrumental in shaping the lives of the many residents that trained under his able guidance. Always invested in the residents' personal and professional growth, Dr. J has had a hand in the myriad successes UAMS radiology residents have achieved during training and after graduation. Thank you for all that you have done for us Dr. J!

Champion for Residents!

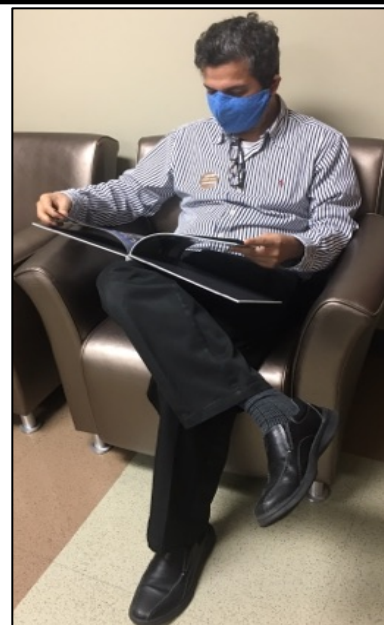


Our personal hero, Dr. Roopa Ram, will be taking on the onerous task of guiding the ship to safe harbors by stepping into Dr. J's (very large) shoes. And there is no one better to do it all! We look forward to what's to come with Dr. Ram's creative vision and astute insight in the mind of a resident. With her unique focus on education and wellness for trainees, everyday residency learning and living can only get better. We are so excited to have you on board!

In this newsletter, which will be my final one as the outgoing PD, I would like to share a few reflections about my time as the PD of the residency program.

I took up the job in March 2012. Dr Kenney was department chair at that time and we were just about to lose Dr. Carol Dell who had been the PD for just a few months (she accepted a faculty appointment in Kentucky). While I really was not adequately trained for the position, I did get loads of excellent advice from Rob Buchmann who had been the PD for 5 years before Dr. Dell.

I had been an educator since I started at UAMS in 2005, and was honored to be considered for the position since I realized this would be an excellent opportunity to improve resident education. Little did I realize that a large part of the job was to stay on top of ACGME rules and regulations and be a “human resources” manager. Luckily, for me, I had an excellent mentor in Dr. Linda Deloney, who had a wealth of knowledge about GME rules and guided me through this process until the day she retired last year. I also had the strong support of three chairs ~ Drs. Kenney, McDonald, and Choudhary, who made resident education a priority and always supported the program. Similarly, I had the strong support of the associate PDs ~ Drs. James Ireland; Vicky Major; Yong Chung at the VA, Leah Braswell; Alisa Kanfi; and Spencer Lewis at ACH and Mollie Meek at the University. I also had excellent chief residents who made my life a lot easier, and I could not have done my job without them. The PD cannot function without the support of the program coordinators and we have had some excellent ones like Kristi and now Alysia. I was also extremely fortunate to have been supported by my division partners as well as the other faculty in the department.



Our residency saw many new initiatives and changes in the past 9 years, some of which were successful, and some not so much. Successful ones included the summer “BOOT Camp” to help a smooth transition into residency for our R1 residents, changing call to a “night float” system to allow for a slightly better lifestyle. Some not so successful efforts were the “Radcreds” system to enable residents to earn and self-report credits every quarter to document learning activities, and changing the lecture schedule from 1-hour conferences twice a day to two back-to-back 45 min lectures from 12.30-2 pm.

The one thing I always believed in was to make changes based on the feedback we got from our primary stakeholders - the residents. Moreover, when things did not work out well after we tried for a year, they were shelved. Along with one of our extremely creative residents, Dr. Rachel Pahls, we developed the “first” tremendously successful “Escape Room” in radiology, which has literally put our program on the world map. I hope that we will begin to offer these again post-COVID.

As program director, I have had the honor to train some of the smartest women and men, who are now extremely successful radiologists, be it in academics or private practice. I am also proud of the fact that our residents do their fellowships in some of the best programs throughout the country.

While we have had challenges, and will continue to have them, after being trained in 2 residences in 2 different parts of the world, I can say with conviction that we have an excellent training program, with faculty who really care about residents, both personally and professionally. I was thrilled when one of our former residents, Dr. Roopa Ram agreed to take over as PD. I know the program is in safe hands and the residents will benefit tremendously from her leadership.

To the residents, I would like to say... residency is tough, call is tougher, but remember there is always light at the end of the tunnel and that you truly are in one of the most exciting fields in medicine.

I am truly honored to have been a part of your training and look forward to following your successful careers!

As I sit in Dr. J's chair in the Program Directors' office to write this, life seems to have come a full circle.

It will nearly be a decade since my graduation from UAMS Radiology, but the sense of belonging I have for this place continues to grow and get stronger each day. I am lucky to have had great teachers and mentors who have shaped my career and many experiences that have influenced me positively and uplifted me to where I am today.

As I take on this leadership role, I look forward to training the next generation of radiologists in a fair, transparent and empowering residency program which will prepare them for real life challenges. I look forward to this roller-coaster ride, fully comforted that if I stumble, my teachers and mentors are here to catch me!

Kudos to our Staff!



Our all star faculty line up received academic promotions to Professor of Radiology!

Congratulations to Dr. Kumar, Dr. Meek, Dr. Raghu and Dr. V!

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to patient care and resident education.



Dr. Gwendolyn Bryant-Smith, Division Director of Breast Imaging brought TMIST (Tomosynthesis Mammographic Imaging Screening Trial), a multi-million dollar breast study to UAMS through her sustained efforts.

Dr. Ram received the MVP award for always going above and beyond to make a real difference in the lives of the people around her. She is truly one of a kind!



Welcome Aboard!



Dr. Harleen Kaur, has joined the Department of Radiology as an assistant professor in the Division of Nuclear Medicine. After completing her nuclear medicine residency training at Beaumont Health in Royal Oak, Michigan, Dr. Kaur served as an assistant professor of Radiology in the Division of Nuclear Medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston prior to joining UAMS.



Dr. Erin Priddy, has joined the Department of Radiology as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Interventional Radiology. Dr. Priddy completed her medical training and diagnostic radiology residency in the University of Louisville, KY, followed by completing a fellowship in Vascular and Interventional Radiology at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor before joining UAMS.



Dr. Surjith Vattoth, has joined the Department of Radiology as an associate professor in the Division of Neuroradiology. After completing fellowships in Neuroradiology, Vascular & IR and Nuclear Medicine at UAB, Alabama, Dr. Vattoth served as an assistant professor of neuroradiology at UAB, and most recently as associate professor of clinical radiology at Weill Cornell Medicine and as senior consultant neuroradiologist at Hamad Medical Corporation in Doha, Qatar before joining UAMS. He is a prolific writer with and has co-authored Diagnostic Imaging series as well as numerous Neuroradiology sections on Stat Dx.



Dr. Fathima Fijula Palot Manzil, has joined the Department of Radiology as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Nuclear Medicine. Dr. Manzil completed a nuclear medicine residency at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Dr. Manzil previously served as an Assistant Professor of Clinical Radiology at Weill Cornell Medicine and Consultant in Clinical Imaging at Hamad Medical Corporation in Doha, Qatar prior to joining UAMS.



Masked and ready to roll!

The incoming R1s pose on the steps in front of the Neuroradiology reading room in the UAMS Cancer Centre.

Pictured from left to right: Jameson Gilstrap (DR), Anas Atassi (DR), Jordan Wells (IR/DR), Shilpa Mohanan (DR), Sanaz Ameli (DR), Haider Rustem (DR), Khaled Dostzada (NuRads) and Ross Holston (DR).

Snaps & Snippets!



On Thank A Resident Day, Dr. Ram spoils us residents with free lunch from Three Fold!



TEAM UAMS STRONG!

Residents and staff put their brains to the test during the first participation for UAMS in AUR's annual Vydareny Imaging Interpretation Competition.



Shaun Jenkins, one of our nuclear medicine technologists who was redeployed at the screening stations in the beginning of the pandemic, receives the MVP of the month award from Dr. Cam Patterson, UAMS Chancellor for his resilience, positive attitude and affable demeanor.
Not all heroes wear capes!

Snaps & Snippets!



Residents take some time to spend a few moments with our four legged doggy volunteers during Dog Therapy.



Ron with his very adorable albeit a bit shy pup, Trufa, who was voted the cutest pet in the Radiology residency program!



Residents get together in the Diner Center to properly bid adieu to Dr. J's term as PD. We are truly grateful for everything you have done for us!



The girls host a socially distanced baby shower for Signe, the newest mom in the program. Congrats to all the new parents in the program ~ Taylor, Matt, Signe and Kori! Best of luck with changing nappies and making it through lots of sleepless nights!

Snapshots & Snippets!



Pictures from the historic snowstorm in Little Rock, which dumped close to 20.3" of record breaking snow in just one week!

Bottom left: Matt's dogs living it up in the snow!
Middle left: Daniel's backyard transformed into a snowman and igloo station!
Bottom right: Ryan with his son, Benjamin, who saw snow for the first time and couldn't get enough of it!

Thanks for reading!

Until next time...



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