UW Radiology RSNA 2021 Virtual Reception – A Great Success, Once Again

Many thanks to the UW Radiology alumni, faculty, and trainees who attended our second virtual RSNA Reception on November 30, 2021. While we continue to practice social distancing and apply all the safeguards necessary to protect our patients, colleagues, and families during the continued challenges surrounding COVID-19 variants, the reception was conducted virtually. Dr. Nathan Cross presented on Informatics and AI in the clinical workflow, followed by an update on the Radiology Residency program by Dr. Tess Chapman. Participants then socialized with their colleagues in breakout rooms. Many enjoy gathering in person during RSNA for this annual reception in Chicago, and we hope to experience this in the future. Looking ahead, we plan to offer a hybrid meeting opportunity – as we received feedback from many who no longer travel to Chicago each year for RSNA that the virtual option allows them to connect with colleagues. We welcome your input and ideas about creative ways you make the most of virtual gatherings, while avoiding the “Zoom meeting fatigue.” If you would like to view the recording of this year’s meeting, it is posted on our Endowment website.

RSNA Reflections from UW Radiology Chief Research Resident

The annual meeting of the RSNA is the Times Square of radiology meetings. With so many simultaneous competing attractions, one could easily end up with sensory overload and “fear of missing out” (FOMO). After trying a spontaneous approach on my first day where I would decide on the next session to attend immediately after the previous one concluded and missing out on some high yield sessions, I realized the importance of planning my schedule in advance. Planning ahead let me prioritize the sessions I felt were important to attend at this stage in my training. Even so, it’s physically impossible to attend the dozens of sessions each day that I considered worthwhile. Without exception, every session I attended was a master class – each imparting knowledge and validation for showing up and listening.

Whether in-person or virtually, attending the annual meeting of the RSNA is a radiologist’s rite of passage. I encourage trainees who have not yet experienced RSNA to make a special effort to attend. You will undoubtedly be thankful you did.

Shamus Moran, MD (PGY-5)
Research Chief Resident, Diagnostic Radiology

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RSNA/Research News:
The department was well represented at this year’s hybrid virtual/in-person RSNA annual meeting. Trainees involved in educational exhibits included: Alireza Abadi, Elliot Breshears, Diana Christensen, Hoiwon Cheung, Shamus Moran, Richa Patel, Grace Laidlaw, Priya Pathak, Hassan Aboughalia, Laith Abandeh, and Deepashri Basavalingu. Certificates of Merit were awarded to exhibits by Priya Pathak, Hassan Aboughalia, Laith Abandeh, Deepashri Basavalingu, Elliot Breshears, and Shamus Moran.
The following current and former trainees received the Roentgen Resident/Fellow Research Award: Jason Hartman (’20), Andrew Woerner (PGY-4), Jennifer Xiao (PGY-6), and Giuseppe Toia (’20). Abdominal Imaging fellows Zi Jun Wu and Guilherme Cunha were recipients of RSNA Research Fellow Grants. Garvit Khatri received a Trainee Research Prize for his research demonstrating that fetal weight percentile curves are significantly skewed.

In November, abdominal imaging fellow Rodrigo Canellas de Souza provided a top-notch review of the endometriosis MRI lexicon during an abdominal imaging journal club attended by residents and fellows. Trainees were treated to a talk in December by our very own 2021 Aunt Minnie Semifinalist for Most Influential Radiology Researcher, Dr. Christoph Lee. Dr. Lee shared his journey to becoming a health services researcher, which has led to a rewarding and distinguished career. Trainees learned about the unique opportunities a career in radiology health services research affords.
Radiology Residents: Tomorrow’s Leaders – Resilient, Undaunted!

UW Radiology Resident and Fellow serve in leadership roles

Congratulations to Richa Patel, MD, Diagnostic Radiology PGY-5, who has been appointed to serve as Associate Editor on the RSNA Case Collection Trainee Editorial Board. Richa’s colleagues in the UW Radiology residency celebrate her appointment, and wish her the very best in this exciting role. Richa will be joining Stanford Radiology for abdominal fellowship training after she graduates from UW this coming spring.

We also extend warm congratulations to Laith Abandeh, MD, Nuclear Medicine PET/CT Fellow, recipient of Reviewer with Distinction for the RSNA Case Collection.

Virtual Interviews for Radiology Residency

As with other institutions across the country, the UW Radiology Residency IR/DR Integrated Residency program has been conducting interviews virtually.

For the Match 2022, the residency has committed to this pledge:

- We will interview 102 candidates for our 10 DR residency positions + 30 candidates for our 3 IR/DR residency positions.
- We will select all candidates by November 1, 2021, to fill these 132 interview slots.
- Any interview slots that open due to a candidate cancelling will be filled by our waitlist (one waitlist for each residency).
- All interviews will be virtual.
- University of Washington GME programs are not holding any campus visits for candidates.
- We will follow the NRMP Code of Conduct and the NRMP rank submission schedule.

Community Service

While UW Radiology residents truly enjoy serving in the community, the past 18 months have presented many challenges for volunteer activities. Not to be dissuaded due to circumstances, residency volunteer coordinators Blaine Menon MD, MPH, Vascular & Interventional Radiology (PGY-3) and Alekhya Yechoor, Diagnostic Radiology (PGY-4) encouraged their fellow residents to donate to the University District Food Bank and International Rescue Committee this past fall.

Alekhya and Blaine are hopeful to get a group together for the spring to support a volunteer activity within the residency program.

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
Call: 206.543.5686 / 866.633.2586
Online: Acceleratemed.org/Rohrmann
Spotlight: UW Radiology alumnus Joe Orzel, MD

Joe Orzel, MD, first completed his Nuclear Medicine Residency at UW in 1984. He then applied to the UW Diagnostic Radiology Residency program, graduating in 1989. Joe shares his experiences in the Department, and what he is up to now!

What was your path towards becoming a radiologist?

When I applied to the Diagnostic Radiology residency, Dr. Rohrmann walked down to the Nuclear Medicine department to talk with Wil Nelp about me, but Wil was not there – so he asked Wil’s secretary, “Who is Dr. Orzel? Would you recommend him?” She said “Yes,” and Dr. Rohrmann said, “That’s good enough for me!”

It was a last-minute decision. I had some job offers in New Mexico but wanted to do radiology residency for a broader scope and more career opportunities.

What was your experience like after residency?

With the practice group in Denver, we did CT coronary angiography – we pioneered and introduced CT colonography, introduced PET CT technology to Denver. I loved the different subspecialties but always enjoyed variety.

Then I decided to move to New Mexico; four of us staffed rural hospitals and imaging in Silver City NM. The administration liked radiology, the expertise we brought, and were interested in investing in technology. As a result we were able to put in a CT scanner of the highest quality. We had better technology than the University of New Mexico!

When I joined the group in Denver, I felt confident to do everything. I was competent – just needed more experience. When you were on neurology rotation, you got to do angiograms and myelograms and procedures. The practical experience made it great. I was so grateful for being able to work with interventional radiologist Joe Eskridge, putting in catheters … “Call me when you are ready to go!” They gave us so much responsibility and opportunities to learn.

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

I felt very competent to go into private practice, as I preferred the efficiency of it. In our practice in New Mexico, I would call the patient’s doctor and go over the CT results and could probably get the biopsy the following day. I felt that if I had decided to stay in academics I could have done that if I had wanted to. During my career I had some offers and could have switched over. Even in residency I was able to publish. I was equipped well enough to do that if I wanted to; that is one of the beauties of that program.

Having great mentors plays such an important role for all of us. Who were some of your early mentors?

I am grateful to Dr. Rohrmann for his leadership and have benefitted greatly. Every time I did an upper GI or barium enema, I thought of Chuck. Ninety percent of what I learned was from him, and I think of him every time I touch a fluoroscopy unit!

Senior guys in the group were like father figures and I learned so much from them. Something I miss about academia is the teaching part of it. Although I did not work in a setting with residents, we did have residents that would rotate through radiology from family practice.

I am amazed at the talent of the people there at UW when I read about their stories! I am in awe of some of the accomplishments of the residents and like to think I can help them out in some way to expand their horizons and it gives me satisfaction. I have been in touch with some of my co-residents and encourage them to get involved. I will still reach out to people and encourage them to think back about how fortunate we all were.

What advice do you give to radiology residents and trainees today?

I was in Denver 19 years, then moved to New Mexico in 2006 – in five years in New Mexico I saw 10 times as much pathology as I did in 19 years in Denver! The message is, don’t think because you’re in some “podunk town” that you’re not going to see pathology! I would tell residents, don’t dismiss some little town because you don’t think you will be able to practice high quality medicine or see interesting cases. In New Mexico we would have people walking in with tumors … those opportunities are all over the place, if you look for them. If you are active and
aggressive in guiding your department, you can bring technology to some of these places if you are proactive.

You have to have a partnership – this will enhance your reputation, if you invest.

As a nuclear medicine radiologist in private practice for the past 32 years, have you had the opportunity to work alongside trainees and help guide their radiological career?

There were many teaching opportunities in New Mexico – we had family practice residents from the University of New Mexico (UNM) and part of their time they wanted to spend with us – they wanted to learn what to order. When they did radiology at UNM, they were fifth in line and rarely got to ask a question.

There are teaching opportunities that you can find if you are willing to do it. You give talks and conferences, too. Whenever we had new technology, I would introduce it and say, “Here is what coronary angio is all about.” You are teaching the surgeons, pulmonary doctors, and they are teaching us.

I always loved being in the reading room, interfacing with techs, and the doctors that come by to review their studies. Unfortunately, now you are locked away sometimes not even in the hospital and you may call someone with an important finding but you are not giving a conference.

What are some of the biggest challenges you and your colleagues have faced in Radiology?

You need to guide leadership to make the right decisions about purchasing technology. Administrative battles were 99% of the grief.

“The job was the good, fun part.”

What are some of your favorite activities outside of work?

My recreational passion has been sailing since about 1996. My wife and I have taken sailing certification classes, we have sailed across the world, and we go the Caribbean every two or three weeks – that and snorkeling have become my passion.

I was a pretty serious golfer and tennis player most of my life, but unfortunately my stiff back and neck have cut down on that activity. I am a pretty avid reader.

Even though I am not practicing radiology now, every morning I go on the ACR website, Case in Point (CIP) – and review the case of the day. I have been doing that since about 2006, and I have done almost every case, I have not missed one, I enjoy it very much – and will continue to do it because it is so interesting! It is so neat to see things that maybe I saw one time and in fact I have contributed five or six cases to the CIP that were published over the years. I also enjoy reading fiction and gardening (I primarily kill weeds) – that keeps me active and busy as well.
Alumnus Spotlight – Joe Orzel, MD

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our group apart. The four of us formed a group and were recruited to staff hospitals in New Mexico. From 2006 through 2014, I worked in Roswell and Silver City NM. Small rural facilities desperately in need of radiology help. Silver City is a small poor mining town of 10,000 in SW NM. Within several years, we transformed imaging. In addition to every routine procedure, we convinced the administration to invest in Imaging. For many years, we had the finest, 160 slice, CT scanner in NM, AZ or western Texas and maybe better interpretations than surrounding University programs or the Mayo Clinic! We introduced coronary artery CT, CT angiography and CT colonography. We also introduce DEXA, digital mammography, breast MRI, stereotactic and MRI breast biopsy and state of the art NM and NM therapeutics and we biopsied every organ known to man except the brain! In those 8 years in the wilds of NM I saw 10 times as much pathology as I saw in 19 years of caring for all the worried well of Denver. Some of these cases were published in the ACR CIP. I had dozens more but too little time to write them all up!

The education I received at the UW gave me the education and experience and confidence to practice radiology and lead and guide our hospital and hopefully contribute to the lives of thousands of patients! When I think back about when our Denver group hired a very intelligent Stanford Neuroradiologist, we discovered that he had never performed a LP or a cerebral angiogram. In my senior year at the UW, Joe Eskridge or Wendy Cohen would come in to Harborview to review films on call after I had completed an extensive cerebral angio for SAH or a C1-2 puncture and lumbar myelogram for a spinal block!

Bottom line is that my education at the UW gave me the skills and confidence to have a long and rewarding career and I’m eternally thankful to you and all the UW faculty that contributed to my education. That is why I have been a consistent contributor to the Rohrmann resident education fund for all these years and I have tried my best to convince my contemporaries to contribute as well!!

All my best for your retirement years!!
– Joe Orzel

Radiology Resident Fellowship Matches!

Come 2023, UW Radiology will be pleased to welcome Elyse Blum, MD, PhD, Lisa Johnson, MD, and Andrew Kim, MD, as Breast Imaging Fellows; Thomas Eggert, MD, as Neuroradiology Fellow; Grace Laidlaw, MD, MS, continuing in the Integrated IR program; and Shamus Moran, MD, as Abdominal Imaging and Nuclear Medicine Fellow. We wish all the best to the PGY-4s who matched into other programs as well.

Aaron Abajian, MD, MS
Independent IR
Memorial Sloan Kettering

Elyse Blum, MD, PhD
Breast
UW

Hoiwan Cheung, MD
MSK
Hospital for Special Surgery

Thomas Eggert, MD
Neuro
UW

Lisa Johnson, MD
Breast
UW

Andrew Kim, MD
Breast
UW

Niketa Kataria, MD
Breast
Northwestern

Grace Laidlaw, MD, MS
Integrated IR
UW

Shamus Moran, MD
Body & Nuclear Medicine, UW

Richa Patel, MD
Body
Stanford

Cody Rissman, MD
MR-Predominant Body, Northwestern

Janis Yee, MD
Breast
UCLA
Your donations to the Rohrmann Endowment make enriching experiences possible for UW Radiology Residents

Funds generated by the Endowment are utilized to provide support for residents’ out-of-pocket educational expenses, such as travel to conferences, books, and also provide support for resident education, research, and community service in the Department of Radiology. Thank you for your generosity!

Please send your donation today (Write “Rohrmann Endowment” in the memo line of your check):

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Marissa Lawson, MD, UW Radiology Breast Imaging Fellow, is the Diversity Chief for the trainees. Her role is vital to the department’s commitment to providing an inclusive and equitable environment for all trainees, faculty, and staff.

Residents are fully masked while training with faculty and fellows, as well as throughout their clinical rotations and in meeting spaces.

In addition to strong clinical training, UW Radiology's residency program has numerous educational opportunities, and many residents choose to take advantage of these options.

The UW Diagnostic Radiology Residency program highlights were shared by Program Director Dr. Tess Chapman during the Virtual Reception. Here are just a few of the many exciting things UW Radiology residents have experienced this past year!

Residents continued to demonstrate their versatility and resiliency in 2021, as the ABR Core and Certifying Exams were conducted virtually.

In 2021, the ABR Core and Certifying Exams were conducted virtually.
Sixth Annual Doug Green Memorial Hike!

The Sixth Annual Doug Green Memorial Hike took place on September 26, 2021, to Lake Serene in Stevens Pass. The Sars-CoV-2 virus Delta Variant did not stop this yearly tradition! Tess Chapman, Michael Flowers, Jonathan Medverd, Ryan O’Malley, Christine Rehwald, and Rocky (Dr. Medverd’s dog) all enjoyed this beautiful hike.

This was our 6th anniversary, believe it or not, and it was a beautiful day for a hike. The weather called for rain, but we were fortunate to not have a drop on us during the hike. It was cool and overcast, but perfect for hiking conditions. The rainy forecast also meant we had the trail mostly to ourselves!

Fall colors were out, and the scenery did not disappoint – gorgeous falls (Bridal Veil Falls), lush forest, and mountain panorama. At the top, the lake was still and peaceful, and the steep relief of Mt. Index provided a dramatic backdrop!

We grabbed a bite and a beer after, and only then did it start raining (POURING, actually). Doug definitely helped us out on this one!

– Christine Rehwald, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor
Program Director, Musculoskeletal Radiology Fellowship

Dr. Douglas Green was a former faculty member in the Body Imaging section, who tragically passed away in a skiing accident in 2016. Doug is described by those who knew him as energetic, caring and selfless, with an unmatched devotion to both patients and resident education, a role model for the ideal physician, who positively influenced everyone around him. Perhaps even more than radiology, he loved the outdoors, and so each year we hold a department-wide hike to remember and celebrate this beloved member of our UW Radiology community.