Message from the Chair

Welcome to the inaugural issue of Photon, the UC San Diego Department of Radiology’s quarterly newsletter. With this newsletter, we hope to follow in the successful publication footsteps of our esteemed peers in the Department of Surgery and of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences. Our newsletter is intended to both highlight the great work that our department’s clinicians and researchers are doing every day, and to provide timely updates on issues of critical importance to our own faculty and staff.

Each issue will include details on departmental initiatives, faculty and staff achievements, upcoming events, and my personal favorite – will introduce a few of the many extraordinary clinicians, researchers, trainees, staff, and personnel who make our department soar.

I welcome this opportunity to share our beloved department with you. In particular, I offer my sincere thanks to Dr. Meg Richman for helping kickstart this newsletter and asking for this nearly three years ago. I’m sorry it took so long, Dr. Richman; without your initiative and insight, this newsletter would not have been possible. I hope the wait has made the result even sweeter.

Warmly,
Alexander Norbash, MD
Professor and Chair,
Department of Radiology;
Associate Vice Chancellor,
Faculty Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

Departmental Updates

The Department of Radiology is happy to report that we are one step closer to achieving a University of California-wide PACS solution. Our shared goal is to have a modern, highly capable, and stable PACS selected by the end of the year. UC leadership initiated this process in Fall 2018 by collaborating with Paragon Consulting Partners in developing a formal request for proposals (RFP) to identify potential PACS vendors. RFP respondents will be evaluated based on criteria developed by the UC Governance and RFP committees. UC San Diego is well represented on these committees by Vice Chair for Information Technology Paul Murphy, MD, and Enterprise Imaging Director Amy Radonich. We highly encourage your feedback on the current IMPAX system and what you most hope to see in the new system. Please reach out to Amy directly with your feedback. Multiple opportunities to demo the applications will be available over the next several months; these opportunities will be announced via email. Additional updates will be provided throughout the process.
Faculty and Staff on the Move!

- Assistant Professor Divya Bolar, MD, PhD, joined us following his Neuroradiology fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital
- Associate Professor Kathryn Fowler, MD, joined us after serving as an Assistant Professor at Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology
- Fellowship & Education Coordinator Blanca Gonzalez completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Accounting from Washington State University
- Assistant Professor Kathleen Jacobs, MD, joined us following her residency and Cardiovascular fellowship at UC San Diego
- Assistant Professor Marin McDonald, MD, joined us following her residency and Neuroradiology fellowship at UC San Diego
- Interim Vascular & Interventional Radiology Chief Jeet Minocha, MD, has been named chief of this division
- Radiology T32 program graduate and Assistant Professor Farshad Moradi, MD, PhD, departed UC San Diego for a new role as an Assistant Professor at Stanford University
- Assistant Professor Rebecca Rakow-Penner, MD, PhD, joined us following her residency and Women’s Imaging fellowship at UC San Diego
- Following 13 years of service in Radiology, Angélica Robles-Fuller has been appointed as the department’s Administrative Officer
- Director of Academic Personnel and Human Resources Rebecca Woolston, EdD, joined us from the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences

Division / Section Chiefs:
Body: Cynthia Santillan, MD
Breast: Haydee Ojeda-Fournier, MD
Cardiothoracic: Seth Kligerman, MD
Musculoskeletal: Mini Pathria, MD
Neuroradiology & MRI: Roland Lee, MD, FACR
Nuclear Medicine: Carl Hoh, MD
Thornton Radiology: Katherine Richman, MD
Ultrasound: Mary O’Boyle, MD
Vascular & Interventional: Jeet Minocha, MD

Chief Residents (Four-year Program):
Michael Booker, MD
Zachary Berman, MD

Chief Residents (Five-year Research Program):
Andrew Sung, MD
Ghiam Yamin, MD, PhD
Congratulations!

- Interventional radiologists Hamed Aryafar, MD; Jeet Minocha, MD; and Isabel Newton, MD, have all been named as “Top Docs” by San Diego Magazine.
- A team comprising Radiology faculty members James Brewer, MD, PhD (also Neurosciences); Anders Dale, PhD (also Neurosciences); and Alexander Norbash, MD, and Vikash Gilja, PhD (Electrical & Computer Engineering); and Alexander Khalessi, MD (Neurosurgery), received a $75K award from the Office of Research Affairs to help launch their planned center to study next-generation brain-machine interfaces.
- Chi-Hua Chen, PhD, received a $2.9 million National Institute on Aging award for her research project titled “Omic Analyses for Stratifying Alzheimer’s Subtypes and Identifying Novel Drug Targets”.
- Christine Chung, MD, was one of 42 scientists across the U.S. to be named a Distinguished Investigator by the Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research; this award is given annually to those within the top 10% of all academic radiology faculty.
- Albert Hsiao, MD, was named a 2019 ARRS Scholar for his research project titled “Adaptive Artificial Intelligence for the Acquisition and Analysis of Multiplanar MRI”; this national recognition comes with a $140K award.
- Clinician-Scientist Radiology Residency Program (T32) co-directors Isabel Newton, MD, PhD, and Claude Sirlin, MD, were awarded supplemental funding from the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering to train an additional research resident for the Class of 2024.
Alumni News

RSNA 2018

We welcomed past, present, and future faculty and alumni attending RSNA in Chicago to celebrate 50 years of UC San Diego Radiology. Attendees included Drs. Alex Sassani, Sue Hobbs, Ron Boucher, Horacio D'Agostino, Geoffrey Chun, Mohamed Abdihalim, Brian Coley, and Christina Chong-Han. Current faculty attendees included our chair Dr. Alex Norbash as well as Drs. Anne Roberts, Christine Chung, Karen Chen, Brady Huang, Mohammad Eghtedari, Paul Murphy, Cynthia Santillan, and Meg Richman. Many current residents and fellows also joined the party, as well as business-office staff Julie Ebreck and Emily Bass.

The Women of UC San Diego Radiology

Drs. Souda Fazeli and Amy Maduram (current residents) organized a cookie swap in December 2018 to celebrate the holidays and the many accomplishments of the women in our department. Dr. Dolores Pretorius hosted the fabulous event attended by children, residents, fellows, and faculty. All the sweets were delicious!

Lasser Alumni Dinner

As we celebrate 50 years of UC San Diego Radiology, we want to honor our first chair, Elliott Lasser, MD, and the marvelous collection of faculty and residents he assembled. At 96 years of age, Dr. Lasser continues to do research on the uses of contrast in areas such as migraine prevention.

Please join us April 14th at 5:30 PM at Buca di Beppo, 705 6th Avenue (92101) to thank Dr. Lasser for his legacy and to mingle with your alumni friends.

Lasser Society Board Members:
Tom Broderick, MD
Nikdokht Farid, MD
Bassem Georgy, MD
Mike Girard, MD
John Hauschmidt, MD
Susan Hobbs, MD
Betsy Jett, MD
Kevin McCammack, MD
Steve Raman, MD
Gary Schooler, MD
Hamid Torshizy, MD
Tere Trout, MD
Amy Wu, MD
Takeshi Yokoo, MD, PhD
Faculty Profile: Christine Fennema-Notestine, PhD
Associate Professor, Psychiatry & Radiology

Christine Fennema-Notestine was driven to pursue a career in cognitive neuroscience after being introduced to research by Dr. Suzanne Corkin while an undergraduate at MIT – and having the opportunity to meet H.M., the memorable amnesiac whose brain would lead to decades of research into the neuroanatomical underpinnings of memory systems. Dr. Fennema-Notestine later completed a PhD in Cognitive Science and Psychology at UC San Diego, where she was supported by National Science Foundation and McDonnell-Pew Center for Cognitive Neuroscience graduate fellowships, and she completed her training in magnetic resonance neuroimaging methods and clinical applications.

Since joining UC San Diego as a faculty member in 2007, Dr. Fennema-Notestine has appreciated her joint appointment between Psychiatry and Radiology, a venture that has permitted her to pursue the full complement of MR neuroimaging acquisition approaches, image processing methods, and clinical applications; she counts collaborating with and learning from faculty across these and other UC San Diego departments as a great advantage of her position.

Prior to embarking on this academic life, Dr. Fennema-Notestine was a cellist and basketball player, and launched a lifelong interest in technology in grade school after winning an Atari system and its accompanying Pong and Breakout games for her drawing of Froot Loops’ mascot Toucan Sam in the Kellogg’s "Stick Up for Breakfast" competition. In more recent years, she enjoys family hiking trips in Central California’s Sequoia National Park.
Faculty Profile: Nikdokht Farid, MD
Associate Clinical Professor, Radiology

Nikdokht (“Niky”) Farid had majored in Neuroscience at UCLA, graduating summa cum laude, and had planned to pursue a career in neurology after completing medical school. Yet when Dr. Farid rotated through the Department of Radiology toward the end of her third year at the UC San Diego School of Medicine, she got a glimpse of just how essential imaging is to the practice of medicine. She saw firsthand that radiologists were faced with a wide array of clinical questions, and that they could use imaging to help diagnose conditions as diverse as appendicitis, pulmonary embolism, and intracranial hemorrhage. The detailed knowledge of pathology and anatomy that was required – and demonstrated – by the radiologists that Dr. Farid interacted with reinforced her interest in becoming a radiologist.

Dr. Farid went on to match with the UC San Diego Department of Radiology for her residency, graduating in 2009. She completed a neuroradiology fellowship in the department in 2010, and joined the department as an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Division of Neuroradiology that same year.

Dr. Farid cites numerous factors for why she loves working in academic radiology, including having the opportunity to provide excellent clinical care each day; working with medical students, residents, and fellows as they move along their own academic and career paths; and being involved in cutting-edge research such as using advanced magnetic resonance diffusion and perfusion techniques to improve the diagnosis and monitoring of patients with brain tumors.

Dr. Farid has received multiple teaching and mentoring awards during her tenure at UC San Diego, and serves as a mentor in the department’s Radiology Residency Program.

Outside of her clinical duties, Dr. Farid is a mother to three young children; she notes that maintaining a healthy work–life balance is a constant challenge that also creates opportunities for her to learn and grow. She is a Baha’i and is actively involved in community-building activities such as teaching children’s spiritual education classes. She also loves to dance and has played the violin since elementary school.
Research Talks

Francisco Contijoch, PhD  
Assistant Professor, UCSD  
Bioengineering & Radiology  
“Multi-modality Cardiovascular Imaging”  
Monday, March 11, 2019  
9–10 AM  
Goldberg Auditorium  
(Moores Cancer Center)

Jiang Du, PhD  
Professor, UCSD Radiology  
“UTE Imaging and Its Clinical Applications”  
Wednesday, April 3, 2019  
4–5 PM  
CFMRI Conference Room  
(School of Medicine)

Divya Bolar, MD, PhD  
Assistant Professor, UCSD Radiology  
“Cerebral Perfusion Imaging with ASL: Ready for Clinical Primetime”  
Wednesday, May 1, 2019  
4–5 PM  
CFMRI Conference Room  
(School of Medicine)

Seminars

Grand Rounds:  
Zeke Silva III, MD, FACR, Chair, ACR Commission on Economics  
“From Innovation to Adoption: Policy and Research Considerations”  
Tuesday, March 5, 2019  
7–8 AM  
Goldberg Auditorium  
(Moores Cancer Center)

SDRS Presentation:  
Zeke Silva III, MD, FACR, Chair, ACR Commission on Economics  
“Hello, I Am a Machine, May I Read Your X-ray? AI Public Policy Considerations”  
Tuesday, March 5, 2019  
6:30–8 PM  
Comer Commons  
(Moores Cancer Center)

Grand Rounds:  
Clifford Weiss, MD  
Medical Director, The Johns Hopkins Center for Bioengineering, Innovation and Design (CBID)  
“Bariatric Embolization”  
Tuesday, March 19, 2019  
7–8 AM  
Goldberg Auditorium  
(Moores Cancer Center)
Annual Meetings

AUR
April 9–12, 2019
Baltimore, MD
Meeting Program

ISMRM
May 11–16, 2019
Montréal, QC, Canada
Meeting Program

ARRS
May 5–10, 2019
Honolulu, HI
Meeting Program

ACR
May 18–22, 2019
Washington, DC
Meeting Program

RSNA
Dec. 1–6, 2019
Chicago, IL
Abstract Submission
Abstract Deadline: April 10, 2019

About Us

Our Mission
To provide patient-first imaging-based care, train tomorrow's radiology leaders, and discover and establish novel solutions at the intersection of health care, science, and technology.

Our Vision
To be the premier global academic radiology department, while leading UC San Diego Medicine in innovative, integrative, and translational health care.

Join Us!
UC San Diego Academic Jobs (Clinical & Research): https://apol-recruit.ucsd.edu/apply

UC San Diego Staff Jobs: https://jobs.ucsd.edu/