

University of Chicago

PAUL HODGES ALUMNI SOCIETY

MAINTAINING AND PERPETUATING SCHOLARLY DEDICATION TO THE RADIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Newsletter

February 2024

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Chair's Corner: Dr. Steven Montner

In the heart of Winter's chill, we find ourselves at the turning point, glimpsing the promise of Spring and a new chapter in the calendar. Personally, it marks the completion of my first quarter as the interim chair of the Department of Radiology. The journey thus far has been both challenging and fulfilling, filled with growth, transitions, and unwavering dedication.

In the realm of academia, the first half of the academic year has witnessed the addition of numerous talented faculty members to our department. However, we've also bid farewell to some valued colleagues, each leaving an indelible mark on our collective journey. Listing them all would risk overlooking someone, a testament to the vibrant tapestry of our department's history.

Progress is evident as most of our sections approach full staffing, paving the way for comprehensive and high-quality service. However, challenges persist in the abdominal, chest, and ED imaging sections, where active recruitment efforts are ongoing. We are starting to gain traction with pediatric radiology recruitment. Our commitment to excellence remains unwavering, and we are actively seeking skilled professionals to join our team in these critical areas.

Amidst these developments, our footprint continues to expand. We've extended our services to River East, experienced growth at the Orland Park site, and anticipate the activation of the Northwest Indiana micro hospital in Crown Point come April 2024. The foundations for the new Cancer Pavilion are being laid, with construction already underway. While setbacks, like the recent flooding incident at River East, test our resilience, we remain steadfast in our commitment to providing top-notch care to our growing number of patients.

As our sections flourish and our reach extends, fostering connections becomes paramount. Drs. Ahmed, Yang, and Pasternak-Wise are spearheading efforts to build a sense of community within our department. Community-building events are in the works, exemplifying the dedication of our outstanding staff to creating a cohesive and supportive environment.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt wishes for a successful New Year to each member of our esteemed alumni community. Your continued support is integral to the success of the Department of Radiology at Hodges. May the coming year bring further growth, achievements, and strengthened bonds among us all.

I wish everyone a successful New Year!

Steve Montner – Interim Chair Department of Radiology



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Grant Winners Announced

The Department extends its gratitude to all contributors for their proposals in this year's Seed Funding Grants. We are thrilled to announce the recipients for this cycle:

- Principal Investigator Dr. Satish Chitneni and Co-Investigators Dr. Daniel Appelbaum, Dr. Nicholas Feinberg, Dr. Richard Freifelder, and Dr. Siriki Atchimnaidu for their project titled 'Development of Radiolabeled Monoclonal Antibody for Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease'.
- Principal Investigator Hannah Zhang and Co-Investigators Dr. Chin-tu Chen, Dr. Daniel Appelbaum, Dr. Willard Sharp, and Dr. Alfredo Garcia for their proposal on 'Noninvasive Imaging of Brain Hypoxia and Oxygen by Positron Emission Tomography in Cardiac Arrest Model'.
- Principal Investigator Dr. Abel Lorente Campos, along with Co-Investigators Dr. Aritrick Chatterjee, Dr. Aytakin Oto, and Dr. Gregory Karczmar, for their proposal "Enhancing Prostate Cancer Detection: Optimizing NERC MRI Imaging through Advanced Techniques and HM-MRI Analysis".

We eagerly anticipate the collaborative efforts and innovative initiatives that will stem from the Department's faculty, staff, and trainees.

Dr. Steffen Sammet is Appointed as Chair of the Point-of-Care Ultrasound Certification Academy Council

Dr. Steffen Sammet has been Appointed as the Chair of the Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) Certification Academy Council by the Inteleos Board of Directors, starting January 1st, 2024. Currently serving as the Vice Chair, Dr. Sammet's new role involves leading the council in establishing benchmarks for assessing clinical proficiency, safety, and patient care commitment among physicians and advanced-practice practitioners globally. Point-of-Care Ultrasound, utilized by medical professionals for diagnostic and procedural guidance, is central to this initiative. Collaborating with partner organizations the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography and the Alliance for Physician Certification and Advancement, the POCUS Certification Academy aims to set standards and enhance global health through excellence in Point-of-Care Ultrasound. Congratulations to Dr. Sammet on his appointment!

Radiologists Named Chicago Magazine Top Doctors 2024

We are delighted to announce the outstanding recognition received by several of our esteemed physicians in the latest issue of Chicago Magazine. Drs. Abraham Dachman, Gregory Stacy, and Paul Chang have been honored among the top 17 in Diagnostic Radiology. Additionally, in Nuclear Medicine, we proudly boast the inclusion of Dr. Daniel Appelbaum, while in Vascular and Interventional Radiology, our distinguished professionals Drs. Brian Funaki, Thuong G. Van Ha, and Jonathan M. Lorenz have been recognized for their exceptional contributions. Congratulations to all these outstanding individuals on this well-deserved accomplishment!



Welcome Dr. Steiner!

Dr. Joseph Steiner joins UChicago from the University of Minnesota, where he led a nuclear medicine physics program and contributed to medical physics education. Passionate about enhancing nuclear medicine practice and education, he's excited about his role at UChicago. Apart from his professional endeavors, he enjoys family time, outdoor activities, board games, museums, and cooking. A football enthusiast, he also indulges in powerlifting and fishing. Contact Dr. Steiner at joseph.steiner@bsd.uchicago.edu or visit his office at M-504, reachable at 773-702-6775.



Publication Highlight: Dr. Dachman's Commentary in Radiology

We're excited to share that Dr. Dachman has recently published a compelling commentary in the January issue of Radiology. Titled "To Wait or to Act: How CT Colonography Can Improve Management of Colorectal Polyps," Dr. Dachman's insights shed light on advancements in the field of colorectal health. Congratulations to Dr. Dachman on this significant contribution! Dive into the commentary by clicking the link below to gain valuable insights from Dr. Dachman's research:

<https://pubs.rsna.org/doi/10.1148/radiol.232975>

Publication Highlight: Dr. Dachman's Commentary in CT Colonography Reporting and Data System

We're thrilled to announce that Dr. Dachman has played a pivotal role in the revision of the CT Colonography Reporting and Data System (C-RADS), featured in the January issue of Radiology. Collaborating with esteemed colleagues, Dr. Dachman co-authored this significant update, marking advancements in the field of radiology reporting guidelines.

Congratulations to Dr. Dachman and the entire team for their dedication and expertise in enhancing C-RADS. To delve into Dr. Dachman's valuable contributions, click the link to view Dr. Dachman's Work: <https://pubs.rsna.org/doi/10.1148/radiol.232007>

Here's the esteemed list of co-authors:

- Judy Yee
- David H. Kim
- Mariya Kobi
- Andrea Laghi
- Elizabeth McFarland
- Courtney Moreno
- Seong Ho Park
- Perry J. Pickhardt
- Andrew Plumb
- B. Dustin Pooler
- Michael Zalis
- Kevin J. Chang

Exploring the Globe with RAD Faculty

Embark on a journey with us as we introduce a new section to the Hodges newsletter – Faculty Travels!

Traveling isn't just a pastime; it's a passion shared by many of our esteemed faculty and staff. From traversing distant landscapes to immersing in diverse cultures, our team members have been on captivating adventures across the globe.

We're excited to share glimpses of these enriching experiences through captivating photos captured by our adventurous faculty. From breathtaking landscapes to cultural encounters, our faculty's journeys are bound to inspire wanderlust in us all.

Are you eager to share your travel tales and snapshots? Don't miss out on the opportunity to be featured in our next edition! Reach out to **Adrian Gutierrez** at adrian.gutierrez@bsd.uchicago.edu to learn more about how you can contribute for the edition!



Dr. Dachman's Panama Adventure!

Join us in reliving Dr. Dachman's recent escapade to Panama! During his journey, Dr. Dachman and his wife immersed themselves in the beauty of Panama's landscapes and wildlife.

From playful encounters with vibrant butterflies to picturesque horseback rides, Dr. Dachman embraced the wonders of nature while exploring Panama's diverse terrain.

Dr. Montner's Hawaiian Getaway!

Let's take a virtual journey to Hawaii with Dr. Montner! Recently, Dr. Montner and his husband embarked on a captivating trip to Honolulu, Hawaii, where they indulged in the island's breathtaking beauty and vibrant culture.

During their adventure, Dr. Montner explored the enchanting Waimea Falls in Oahu, surrounded by lush greenery and cascading waters. Additionally, he captured a stunning photo of a rainbow gracing the skyline of Honolulu, showcasing the natural wonders of the Aloha State.

Check out these mesmerizing snapshots from Dr. Montner's Hawaiian getaway:



Welcome Mohammad Yassin

Mohammad Yassin recently joined the Department as our new GME Administrator. Mohammad will support the Diagnostic Radiology Program, Breast Imaging Fellowship, Musculoskeletal Imaging Fellowship, Cardiopulmonary Imaging Fellowship and our visiting residents and observers. Mohammad comes to us from Rush University where he served as the Coordinator for the Pediatric Residency program, fellowship and clerkship. He previously worked at the University of Chicago as a Medical Assistant and Testing Supervisor. He holds a bachelor's degree from UIC and a master's degree in biomedical science from Roosevelt University.

Mohammad's office is in Q208. He can be reached by email at mohammad.yassin2@bsd.uchicago.edu.



Welcome Rachel Marks

Rachel Marks joined the Department on November 23 as the Accreditation Specialist for the Education Team. Rachel will support the educational programs in terms of ACGME accreditation, evaluation & assessments, and compliance. She will work in conjunction with the Program Directors and GME Administrators. Rachel comes to the Department from UIC where she served as the Residency Administrator for the Diagnostic Radiology Residency Program since 2007. She holds a bachelor's degree from Indiana State University and a master's degree from University of Phoenix. Her interests are running, gardening, and reading.

Rachel's office is in Q219. She can be reached by email (rachel.marks@bsd.uchicago.edu) or by phone (4-9980).

Welcome, Rachel!



Radiology Admin. Staff Travels

The spirit of adventure knows no bounds in the Radiology Department! From our esteemed faculty to our dedicated administrative staff, wanderlust runs deep within our team.

We're thrilled to introduce a new section in our newsletter, shining a spotlight on the travels of our administrative staff members. While they keep things running smoothly behind the scenes, they also find time to explore the world and create cherished memories.

Join us in celebrating the adventures of our admin. staff as they share snapshots from their recent journeys. From picturesque landscapes to cultural encounters, these photos offer a glimpse into the diverse experiences enjoyed by our Radiology family.

Get ready to be inspired by the wanderlust of our admin. staff!

Adrian, hailing from Toronto, experienced an exhilarating month of travel, jetting from Toronto to Las Vegas and finally to New York City. With a whirlwind itinerary, Adrian was undoubtedly on a travel high, capturing unforgettable moments along the way. Explore Adrian's journey through these snapshots!



Alanna recently ventured to Los Angeles, where she soaked in the glamour of Hollywood stars and the serenity of palm trees. Join her on this exciting journey through snapshots capturing the essence of her Los Angeles adventure!

Mandy recently explored the vibrant streets of New York City, the city that never sleeps. With a bucket-list filled with countless plays and French hotspots, she immersed herself in the bustling energy of the Big Apple. Take a glimpse into her NYC adventure with this snap from Ralph's Coffee!



Diversity & Inclusion Spotlight: Dr. Sophie Cemaj

Tell us a bit about yourself (where you grew up and your journey into medicine).

I was born in Southern California and moved to Mexico City as a baby, my parents' hometown. At the age of 5, we moved back to Southern California before moving to Omaha, Nebraska when I was 9 years old. I mostly grew up in Omaha and graduated from the University of Nebraska Medical Center before coming to Chicago for residency. My dad's journey to become a trauma surgeon brought my family to Omaha and also heavily influenced my choice to pursue medicine.

As a future Radiologist training at a prestigious institution, what advice would you give to other URiM to boost their academic and professional opportunities?

Connect with people early, show interest, and be reliable. Reach out to people who have a similar career path to the one you aspire to have. Explore different fields and see if there is something you really love or really hate about a specific field in medicine. Be reliable in the clinical setting or with research projects.

What do you love to do in your spare time, any interesting or unusual hobbies?

I did not know I was a foodie until I moved to Chicago. I love going to restaurants, especially in Chinatown, and talking about the entire dining experience in detail.



D&I Council Hosts Third Annual Multicultural Sharing Potluck

The third annual departmental Multicultural Sharing Potluck organized by the Diversity & Inclusion Council was held on December 5, 2022, with enthusiastic participation from many of our faculty and trainees. There was great conversation to be had – with everyone leaving with a full belly and heart. Thanks to all who attended and/or brought tasty treats, and hope to see more of you next year!



Diversity & Inclusion Video Project

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee is thrilled to roll out a fresh project for the Radiology Department - shining the spotlight on our fantastic faculty and staff, sharing their perspectives on what Diversity and Inclusion truly means. Our mission? To not only spark conversations within our department but to spread the word far and wide across The University.



DR. CARINA YANG
VICE-CHAIR OF DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

[D & I Video](#)

Keen to get involved? **Contact:**
Adrian Gutierrez at adrian.gutierrez@bsd.uchicago.edu
for further information.

Ice Cream Social

On September 20th, Dr. Ahmed led the Wellness Committee in hosting a vibrant Ice Cream Social in partnership with the Diversity & Inclusion Council. Residents, Fellows, and Radiology staff savored delectable homemade ice cream from the black-owned business, Shawn Michelle's, fostering community and indulging in sweet treats.



DIVERSITY & INCLUSION NEWS

Dr. Mesha Martinez Presents D&I Grand Rounds

Dr. Mesha Martinez, a distinguished pediatric neuro-interventional radiologist and founder of Black Neurointerventionalists and their Allies (BNAA), delivered a compelling presentation titled "It Is Still Happening: My Story" at the UCM Department of Radiology D&I Grand Rounds on December 14, 2023. Dr. Martinez's journey, marked by resilience and determination, sheds light on the challenges faced by professionals of color in the medical field. Her contagious enthusiasm and commitment to addressing systemic racism serve as an inspiration for individuals and institutions alike to strive for positive change.



ALUMNI NEWS

Dr. Alixandra Purakal awarded The Recent Alumni Award

Dr. Alixandra Purakal, a graduate of the University of Chicago Diagnostic Radiology residency program, has garnered recognition for her outstanding achievements. During her residency, she earned the Neuroradiology Exemplary Junior Resident Award and the John J. Fennessy Memorial Award for Research and Performance in Thoracic Imaging. Demonstrating leadership, she served as chief resident before embarking on her Breast Imaging fellowship at the University of Chicago. Dr. Purakal's dedication to excellence has been acknowledged with the Recent Alumni Award from the Wayne State University School of Medicine, an honor reserved for individuals who have made remarkable professional strides or contributed significantly to their community within 15 years of receiving their M.D. degree. Congratulations, Dr. Purakal!



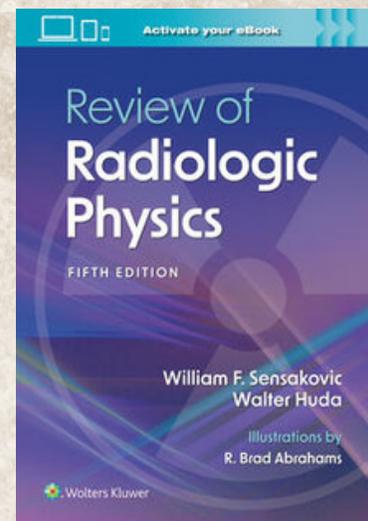
Introducing William F. Sensakovic, PhD.'s Latest Publication: 'Review of Radiologic Physics, 5th Edition'

William F. Sensakovic, PhD, a distinguished graduate of the Medical Physics program (2010 PhD), has unveiled his latest publication, the "Review of Radiologic Physics, 5th Edition." Geared towards radiology residents and radiologic technologists preparing for certification, Dr. Sensakovic's book serves as an invaluable resource for navigating today's clinically focused exams.

This updated edition delves into various crucial topics including x-ray production and interactions, projection and tomographic imaging, image quality, radiobiology, radiation protection, nuclear medicine, ultrasound, and magnetic resonance imaging.

Key features of the book include:

- Coverage of essential information vital for exam success and clinical practice.
- A succinct, bullet-point review format aligned with certification exam content.
- Self-assessment questions at the end of each chapter, along with comprehensive end-of-book exams.
- Focus on fundamental concepts related to image creation, quality, and radiation safety.
- Richly illustrated in full color, with helpful appendices summarizing important units and quantities.



"Review of Radiologic Physics, 5th Edition" is a must-have physics review tool, designed to complement comprehensive textbooks on medical imaging. Explore William's work [here!](#) Congratulations to Dr. Sensakovic on this outstanding contribution to the field of radiology!

New Research Alert: Noah Alperin, PhD, Publishes Groundbreaking Articles

Noah Alperin, PhD, a distinguished graduate of the University of Chicago's Medical Physics program, has recently made significant contributions to the field with the publication of two groundbreaking articles. Explore his work in "CSF-to-blood toxins clearance is modulated by breathing through cranio-spinal CSF oscillation" and "Early Amnesic Mild Cognitive Impairment Is Associated with Reduced Total Cerebral Blood Flow with no Brain Tissue Loss." Dive into Dr. Alperin's insightful research and its implications in the realm of medical science.



Drs. Heang-Ping Chan and Robert Nishikawa Recipients of the Paul C. Hodges Excellence Award



Heang-Ping Chan, PhD.



Robert Nishikawa, PhD.

Drs. Heang-Ping Chan and Robert Nishikawa were honored as the 2023 recipients of the Paul C. Hodges Excellence Award at the Hodges Society reception during RSNA week.

Heang-Ping Chan, PhD, is the Paul. L. Carson Collegiate Professor of Radiology at the University of Michigan. She received her PhD degree in Medical Physics from the University of Chicago and then joined the faculty at U of C, rising to Associate Professor in 1987. Along with University of Chicago colleagues Maryellen Giger and Kunio Doi, Dr. Chan helped to develop and commercialize computer-aided detection (CAD) in the 1980s. Dr. Chan currently directs the Computer-Aided Diagnosis-Artificial Intelligence Research Laboratory at the University of Michigan, which she established in 1989. Her research focuses on diagnostic imaging, medical image analysis, and the application of machine learning and artificial intelligence methods for clinical decision support. She published the first study demonstrating that CAD could improve radiologists' detection of subtle breast cancer on mammographic examinations. She has been a principal investigator on research grants from the National Institutes of Health and other funding agencies for over 35 years. She has authored or co-authored over 250 peer-reviewed journal articles, over 250 conference proceedings papers, and over 540 conference presentations. She has been dedicated to mentoring the next generation of researchers in the development of AI methods in medical imaging applications. Through the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM), she works to promote best practices and guidelines on training and validation methodologies, quality assurance, and user training for decision support and AI systems in clinical practice, ensuring the trustworthy, equitable, and fair use of AI. She is a fellow of the AAPM, the Institute of Physics (IOP), and the International Society for Optics and Photonics (SPIE).

Robert Nishikawa, PhD, is Professor of Radiology and Director of the Imaging Research Lab at the University of Pittsburgh. He received his PhD in Medical Biophysics in 1990 from the University of Toronto. Prior to joining the staff at Pittsburgh, Dr. Nishikawa served as Assistant and Associate Professor in the Department of Radiology at The University of Chicago from 1990-2013. While at the University of Chicago, he developed computer-aided diagnosis systems for classifying and detecting clustered calcifications in mammograms resulting in seven patents that were licensed and commercialized. He has over 250 publications in breast imaging concentrating on computer-aided diagnosis, technology assessment, and quantitative imaging. He has had 35 externally funded grants and contracts, and has received numerous awards including for best paper, innovation, and teaching. He is a fellow of the AAPM, SPIE, Society of Breast Imaging (SBI), the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE). He is also a Distinguished Investigator of the Academy of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging Research. He has been a consultant for numerous medical imaging companies on digital imaging and computer-aided diagnosis. His current research interests include technology assessment and observer performance - specifically optimal ways of implementing AI tools clinically.

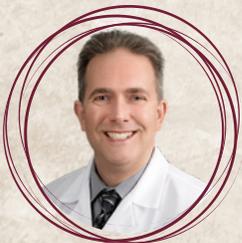
ALUMNI NEWS

2023 Paul C. Hodges Reception Dinner

The Paul C. Hodges Alumni Reception took place on Monday, November 27th, bringing together alumni, residents, fellows, attending physicians, and staff in a celebration of shared connections and ongoing support for the alumni society. The event was a testament to the strength of our community, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended. Your continued support is invaluable, and we look forward to welcoming you back next year. Check out some snapshots from the reception below!



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This Hodges Society newsletter is for you, and about you—so please forward content ideas such as interesting cases, awards, accomplishments, and announcements.

We like to share good news. And please, if you move or change your email, let us know so we can update your contact information and stay in touch.

Please support the ongoing education and research efforts of the Paul C. Hodges Alumni Society by making a tax deductible donation on our Radiology Website through the links below.

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