

UNC RADIOLOGY

ANNUAL REPORT

July 2024 - June 2025



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Cover image: Adobe stock AI image of a child getting a scan.

Message From the Chair

As I reflect on the past academic year, I am filled with pride in the remarkable achievements of our faculty, staff, and trainees. This has been a year of profound progress toward our vision of establishing UNC Radiology as the premier Radiology Department in the Southeast and a leader nationally.

In these pages, you will find highlights of the many honors, awards, publications, and grants earned by our clinical and radiological sciences faculty, staff, and trainees—tangible markers of our collective excellence.

Strengthening our three foundational pillars—patient care, education, and research—remains at the heart of our work. This year, we have invested deeply in expanding and enhancing our extraordinary community of faculty, trainees, and staff. They are the bedrock of our Department and the driving force behind our momentum.

A milestone of the year was our Department-wide State of the Union, where faculty, staff, trainees, and UNC Health and School of Medicine leadership gathered to reflect on our journey. Together, we celebrated how far we have come in five years, recognized our many accomplishments, and charted a path forward—affirming our role as innovators and leaders in our field.

Among our most visible contributions is the work of our Emergency Radiology Division, which this year reached a historic milestone: the successful recruitment and establishment of a full team of six dedicated academic Emergency Radiologists. Their 24/7, high-quality, final reads on the most urgent and complex cases exemplify the impact of radiology on patient care at its most critical moments.

Education continues to be a cornerstone of our mission. We celebrate the accomplishments of our graduating residents and fellows, and wish them continued success as they advance in their careers. We are equally grateful for those who remain with us—joining our fellowship programs or our faculty ranks—and warmly welcome our incoming trainees. With each new class, our education programs grow stronger, broadening opportunities and shaping the future of our specialty.

We also pause to honor the memory of former UNC Radiology faculty member, Dr. Leonard Alden (Al) Parker Jr., who passed away at his Chapel Hill home on June 11,

2025. His legacy of dedication and service endures, and our thoughts are with his family, friends, and all who were touched by his life.

Looking back on these past five years, I am deeply proud of all that we have achieved—and even more excited about where we are headed. The collective dedication of this Department has transformed us, and the trajectory ahead is one of even greater promise. It is an honor to lead this remarkable community—onward to continued excellence and impact.



Maureen Kohi

Maureen P. Kohi, MD, FSIR, FCIRSE, FAHA

Ernest H. Wood Distinguished Professor and Chair



State of the Union: Five Years of Growth, Innovation, and Impact

"Looking Back and Leading Forward" was more than just the theme of the state of the union—it was a reflection of a transformational era in UNC Radiology's history.



Top to bottom, left to right, Endovascular Center grand opening reception. Dr. Genevieve Woodard, performing an ultrasound on a patient. Drs. Charles Burke, David Mauro, Gerald Hladik, and Maureen Kohi doing the ribbon cutting at the Endovascular Center Grand Opening. Dr. Kassie McCullagh and Castillo scholar Jasmine Kimber stand in front of Jasmine's presentation at the Castillo Scholars evening of Scholarship. Trainee outing to an obstacle course. Penumbra educational VIR case observation at Hillsborough Hospital. Lectureship. Dr. Carolina Guimaraes training ultrasound for peds. Dr. Brian Hyslop teaching a resident. Faculty & residents posing before a yoga class. New NC Children's hospital announcement event. Dr. Josh Wallace teaching residents.

On June 11, 2025, our Department Chair Dr. Maureen P. Kohi and leaders across the Department presented the State of the Union address, marking five years of remarkable progress. From a global pandemic to record-setting growth, the years 2020–2025 were a period of resilience, innovation, and reimagining. Here's a look at where we've been—and where we're going.

Clinical Impact

Over the past five years, UNC Radiology experienced an average annual clinical growth of 8.6%, expanding its faculty from 42 to 67. Services extended to new regional sites, including UNC Chatham Hospital, Eastowne, and the UNC Health Endovascular Center. More than \$60 million was invested in cutting-edge imaging technologies across all locations.

Care innovations included launching an Emergency Radiology Division, Rapid Access Clinics, and an IR Office-Based Lab, all aimed at improving access and efficiency. Digital scheduling tools and nurse navigators elevated the patient experience.

Looking ahead, the Department will open Orange County's first freestanding low-cost imaging center, and contribute to the development of NC's first freestanding children's hospital.

Education Excellence

UNC Radiology's residency and fellowship programs continue to thrive. The residency program added tracks in research, education, and early IR specialization, with a 100% match rate and strong national rankings.

Fellowship offerings expanded, including North Carolina's first Emergency Radiology Fellowship and a new Interventional Oncology Fellowship launching in 2025. Undergraduate

medical education opportunities also grew, including acting internships and the Castillo Scholars Program.

Research Leadership

Research efforts achieved a 45% increase in funding, now exceeding \$12 million annually. The Department ranks #1 in NC, #23 nationally, and top 10 amongst Public Departments of Radiology in the NIH Blue Ridge rankings. Since 2023, 13 new clinical trials have been launched, and the Department continues to host its annual Research Symposium.

The new Research Leadership Pathway will train physician-scientists, supported by initiatives like the MS in Biomedical Imaging and T32 grants.

Culture & Support

The Department has prioritized wellness, recognition, and staff development. New mentorship programs, social events, and alumni engagement strengthened community and morale. Staff infrastructure expanded, with process improvements and professional development at the forefront. UNC Radiology enters the next five years with momentum, a clear mission, and a focused vision: to lead in care, education, and discovery—locally and nationally.

Looking Forward

The message from the 2025 State of the Union was clear: UNC Radiology is stronger, and more united than ever. With bold clinical innovations, nationally recognized education and research, and a thriving culture of collaboration and compassion, the Department is well-positioned to lead the next chapter in academic radiology.

Special thanks to Sheerah Coe, MA, and Joanna Newman, MS, for their support of the 2025 State of the Union event.

UNC Health, Duke Health partner on new children's hospital

Original article appeared on UNC Health newsroom on January 28, 2025:
<https://go.unc.edu/Am5r7>

UNC Health and Duke Health, two of the nation's top academic medical systems, are partnering to create a new children's health system in North Carolina, including the state's first freestanding hospital dedicated solely to kids.

The organizations filed articles of incorporation with the state on Jan. 28 to establish NC Children's, a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) entity. The plan calls for a 500-bed hospital, children's outpatient care center, and behavioral health facility. The project fulfills a decade-long goal for both systems and gained momentum after the state's \$320 million investment in early 2024.

The campus, now confirmed for Apex, will sit on 230 acres at US-1 and NC-540 and will be integrated into Veridea, a large mixed-use community. It will bring roughly 8,000 jobs to Apex and Wake County and include research and education facilities backed by the medical schools at UNC and Duke.

"This is an unprecedented partnership between UNC Health and Duke Health, aimed at elevating the care that's available for all children in North Carolina," said Dr. Wesley Burks, CEO of UNC Health and dean of the UNC School of Medicine. "We're thrilled to have Apex as our home and partner."

Duke leaders echoed that vision. "Children are the heart of our future, and families across North Carolina deserve access to the highest quality care," said Dr. Craig Albanese, CEO of Duke University Health System. "This is a tremendous and unique opportunity to work together to reimagine pediatric care for our region's most vulnerable."

The new system will combine clinical programs and research portfolios, creating a destination for pediatric subspecialists, researchers, residents, and fellows. Plans include 103 behavioral health beds, ambulatory surgical facilities, rehabilitation areas, play spaces, and translational research zones.

"It will foster groundbreaking pediatric research and first-class education and training for health care professionals," said Dr. Mary E. Klotman, executive vice president for health affairs at Duke and dean of its medical school. "By uniting our institutions and disciplines, we can give children the healthy lives they deserve and nurture future leaders in health care."

UNC and Duke will transfer their pediatric services and operations to NC Children's, though research and education programs will remain within their schools while collaborating on-

site. The hospital will maintain perpetual academic affiliations with both schools and an open medical staff model, allowing qualified providers—regardless of affiliation—to apply for privileges.

Construction is expected to begin by 2027, with completion of the hospital projected in the early 2030s. Other facilities, such as the behavioral health center and outpatient services, may open earlier.

"This campus will create a brighter, healthier future for generations of children and adolescents across North Carolina and the Southeast," Burks said. "There is a great deal of mutual respect between our institutions, and we both want the same thing for the children of North Carolina — the best care, close to home."



Dr. Wesley Burks (left), CEO of UNC Health and dean of the UNC School of Medicine, and Dr. Craig Albanese, CEO of Duke University Health System, at the announcement of NC Children's Jan. 28. (UNC Health)

UNC Radiology's Emergency Radiology Division Reaches a Historic Milestone

The 2024-2025 academic year marks a pivotal moment for UNC Radiology as we celebrate a remarkable achievement in our Emergency Radiology Division: the successful recruitment and establishment of a full team of six dedicated academic Emergency Radiologists. UNC is the only academic medical center in North Carolina with a fully staffed Emergency Radiology Division—a distinction that sets a new benchmark for excellence in the state.

What began as a growing need for 24/7 Emergency Imaging coverage has evolved into a model of academic, clinical, and educational innovation. The fully realized Emergency Radiology team now provides around-the-clock, high-quality final reads for some of the most critical cases in the hospital—delivering care when it matters most. Their expertise has led to dramatically reduced turnaround times (TAT), directly impacting clinical decision-making and patient outcomes. By assuming responsibility for a large volume of acute imaging, they've also helped relieve workload pressure on other Divisions, enabling more balanced workflows across the Department.

In February 2025, Dr. John Nazarian was appointed Division Chief of Emergency Radiology, marking the beginning of a new era of leadership. With his extensive clinical expertise and dedication to teaching, Dr. Nazarian is poised to guide the Division through its next phase of development and innovation.

The impact of the Division extends far beyond efficiency. Emergency Radiology has quickly become a cornerstone of education at UNC. Residents rotating through evening and overnight shifts benefit from real-time feedback and immersive, hands-on training with a high volume and variety of complex cases. This dynamic learning environment not only sharpens diagnostic skills but also builds the confidence essential for future independent practice.

In recognition of his outstanding commitment to teaching, Dr. Nazarian was honored with the 2025 UNC Emergency Medicine Ectopic Attending Award—an accolade given to a non-EM faculty member who has shown exceptional dedication to resident education. This is a powerful testament to the Division's collaborative spirit and cross-specialty impact.

Beyond clinical care and education, the Emergency Radiology Division continues to advance the field through meaningful scholarly contributions. Faculty members have authored peer-reviewed publications, led research initiatives, and contributed to national discussions on best practices and innovations in Emergency Imaging. Their scholarship is helping to shape the future of Emergency Radiology both regionally and nationally.

This past year also marked a series of outstanding academic accomplishments by faculty that underscore the Division's growing national impact:

Dr. Mariana DeFreitas was selected for the RSNA Introduction to Academic Radiology for Junior Faculty (ITARJF) program—an honor that reflects her rising influence and potential in academic radiology. She was also named a Sheps Research Fellow, a prestigious five-year appointment through the UNC Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, and she received the AAR Clinical Effectiveness in Radiology Research Academic Fellowship (CERRAF) Award, securing \$140,000 in research funding over two years.

This Division's story is one of visionary growth, deep collaboration, and unwavering commitment to excellence. We are proud to recognize their leadership and the transformative role they've played in redefining what Emergency Radiology can accomplish in an academic medical center. As we look ahead, the Emergency Radiology Division stands as a model of what is possible when clinical expertise, academic rigor, and a passion for teaching come together in the service of patient care.

Top to bottom, left to right: Dr. Mariana DeFreitas with her family at the new trainee picnic. Dr. John Nazarian. Dr. Mariana DeFreitas. Dr. Kingsley Asiedu, Assistant Professor starting in August 2025. Drs. Mariana DeFreitas, Jennifer Schroeder, and resident Nisha Pradhan, attending a conference. Drs. Mariana DeFreitas and John Nazarian with residents attending conference. Dr. Bobby Kiani. Dr. Minh-Tri "Tri" Dang, who starts September 2025. Drs. John Nazarian, Jason Pietryga, and Mariana DeFreitas, the original ER team, posing together at a faculty breakfast. Dr. Bradley Spieler.



Celebrating the Next Generation of Radiology Leaders:

A Night of Honor, Gratitude, and New Beginnings

On Saturday, June 14th, 2025, UNC Radiology hosted the 2025 Residency and Fellow graduation at the Governors Club. It was an unforgettable evening filled with pride, emotion, and inspiration as graduates, their loved ones, and faculty gathered for the Department of Radiology's annual Graduation Celebration. Held in a festive atmosphere complete with a cocktail reception, dinner, and a celebratory awards ceremony, the event honored the outstanding achievements of our graduating residents and fellows—individuals who have grown into exceptional clinicians, scholars, and future leaders in the field.

From their very first readout to their final call shift, each graduate has left an indelible mark on our Department. The celebration served as both a joyous send-off and a heartfelt thank you for the passion, resilience, and commitment they brought to their training.

Celebrating Excellence: 2025 Awards

The emotional core of the evening came during the awards ceremony, where we honored those whose contributions and impact elevated our Department:

Resident Teaching Award

Dr. Janet Zhang

Recognized for her passion for education, including engagement

and teaching of junior residents and medical students.

Resident Service Award

Dr. Henry Stiepel

Recognized for consistently going above and beyond his expected responsibilities as a resident role model and Department Ambassador in pursuit of furthering the missions of the Department.

Clinical Excellence Award

Dr. Tyler Glass

Honored for his outstanding clinical knowledge, diagnostic and interventional excellence, and mastery across the field of Radiology.

Honoring Our Faculty Champions

The celebration also spotlighted faculty whose educational leadership and mentorship continue to shape the future of radiology:

Charles Bream Teaching Award

Dr. Ersan Altun

Awarded by the graduating residents in recognition of his exceptional teaching, approachability, and dedication to fostering a rich learning environment, Dr. Altun has contributed significantly to their understanding and knowledge of radiology and consistently demonstrated the superior clinical acumen, teaching excellence, invaluable mentorship, and respectful professionalism exhibited by Dr. Charles Bream.

J. Keith Smith Faculty Mentoring and Development Award

Dr. Lauren Burke

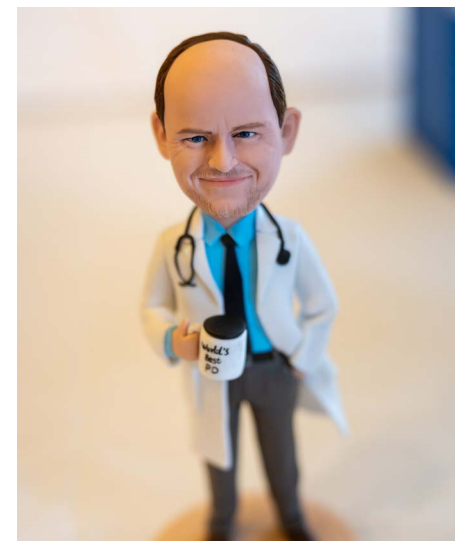
Acknowledged for her transformative mentorship and deep investment in nurturing faculty development, collaboration, and career growth, Dr. Burke was recognized by her peers for providing exemplary guidance and support for our junior faculty.

A Farewell, But Not Goodbye

As the evening drew to a close, hugs were exchanged, toasts were raised, and cameras flashed—capturing not just a moment, but the bonds forged through shared experiences, late nights, and life-changing mentorship.

To our graduates: We are thrilled that many of you have chosen to continue your career with us. Your journey has just begun, and we are endlessly proud to have been part of it. As you step into new roles across the country—and the world—we know you will carry the UNC Radiology spirit with you: a commitment to excellence, to service, and to making a difference.

Congratulations, Class of 2025!



MEET THE GRADUATES

Diagnostic Radiology Residents

We proudly recognize the following residents who completed their rigorous training:

- Dr. Andrew Campbell
- Chief Resident Dr. Tyler Glass
- Dr. Cristina Guzzetti
- Dr. Matthew MacLean
- Chief Resident Dr. Ellen Jones
- Dr. Bhavana Pottabattula
- Chief Resident Dr. Henry Stiepel
- Dr. Jordan Taylor
- Dr. Janet Zhang

Vascular and Interventional Radiology – Integrated

- Dr. Bryan Harris

Vascular and Interventional Radiology – Independent

- Dr. Austin Evans
- Dr. Jared Weinand
- Senior IR Chief Dr. Lawrence “Jack” Wood

Fellows

Neuroradiology

- Dr. Jose Alejandro Bregni Ibarra
- Dr. James “Jimmy” Epps
- Dr. Anthony Dyer
- Dr. Joshua Schoen

Abdominal Imaging

- Dr. Evan Harrison

Advanced Bone & Joint Imaging

- Dr. Shweta Kataria

Neuroimaging

- Dr. Noman Khan
(completion Aug 2025)

Breast Imaging

- Dr. Lauren Hickman
- Dr. Marie Vogel

Cross-Sectional Imaging

- Dr. Selima Siala

Musculoskeletal Imaging

- Dr. Pranav Ajmera
(completion Oct 2025)



New Residents

DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY



GREGGORY ADAMS, MD
University of South
Carolina School of
Medicine Greenville



CHARLOTTE GOINS, MD
The University of North
Carolina at Chapel Hill
School of Medicine



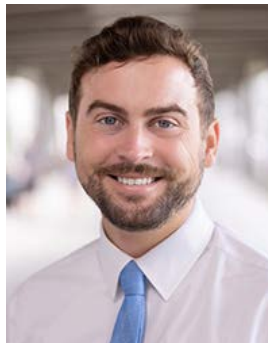
NOEL JEANSONNE, MD
Wake Forest School of
Medicine



WILLIAM JOHNSON, MD
USF Health Morsani
College of Medicine



DAHYUN KANG, MD
University of Florida
College of Medicine



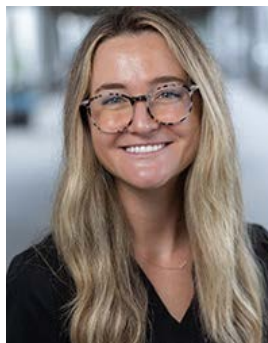
JAMISON KLINE, MD
Indiana University School
of Medicine



DANIEL MOORE, MD
The University of North
Carolina at Chapel Hill
School of Medicine



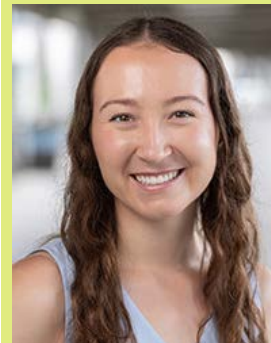
**HANEYEH
SHAHAZIAN, MD**
Shahid Beheshti University
of Medical Sciences



COURTNEY WING, MD
University of Central
Florida College of
Medicine



JACKSON ROSSBOROUGH, MD
University of Miami
Leonard M. Miller School
of Medicine



CARLY TROUPE, MD
University of Missouri-
Columbia School of Medicine



JYOSHITHA TELLA, DO
Lake Erie College of
Osteopathic Medicine



MIKAL RAMON, MD
Texas Tech University
Health Sciences Center



LUCAS SHERIDAN, DO
Alabama College of
Osteopathic Medicine

INTEGRATED VASCULAR & IR

NEW R-3s

New Fellows

ABDOMINAL IMAGING



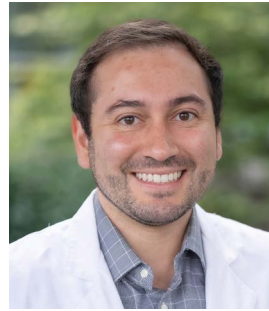
TYLER GLASS, MD



ELLEN JONES, MD



MATTHEW MACLEAN, MD



HENRY STIEPEL, MD



DON TRUONG, MD

BREAST IMAGING



ZACHARY AULGUR, MD



BENJAMIN GREINER, MD



RACHEL ROTH, MD



PRANAV AJMERA, MD



KRISHNA RAUNIYAR, MD

BONE & JOINT IMAGING

CROSS-SECTIONAL NEURORADIOLOGY



NOMAN KHAN, MD



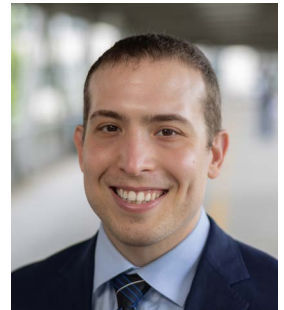
ANDREW CAMPBELL, MD



BHAVANA POTTABATULA, MD



SELIMA SIALA, MD



ANDREW SINESKY, MD

CHEST



POONAM YADAV, MD

CT



SHWETA KATARIA, MD

IR ONCOLOGY

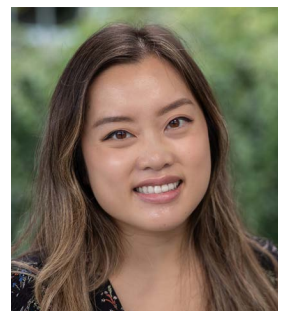


ROSHAN VALENTINE, MD

IR INDEPENDENT



CRISTINA GUZZETTI, MD



XUAN TRAN, MD

Publications | January - June 2024

ABDOMINAL IMAGING

CT/MRI LI-RADS 2024 Update: Treatment Response Assessment.

Aslam A, Chernyak V, Tang A, Miller FH, Bashir M, Do R, Sirlin C, Lewandowski RJ, Kim CY, Kielar AZ, Kambadakone AR, Yarmohammadi H, Kim E, Owen D, Charalel RA, Shenoy-Bhangle A, Burke LM, Mendiratta-Lala M. *Radiology*. 2024 Nov;313(2):e232408. 2025 Feb;314(2):e259002. PMID: 39530896.

A Case of Rapidly Progressive De Novo Metastatic Small-Cell Neuroendocrine Prostate Cancer.

Dalal A, Clark-Garvey S, Gdowski A, Zhang S, Wobker SE, Rowe SP, Altun E, Beltran H, Milowsky MI. *Case Rep Oncol Med*. 2024 Sep 17;2024:7998149. doi: eCollection 2024. PMID: 39318975

A Lexicon for First-Trimester US: Society of Radiologists in Ultrasound Consensus Conference Recommendations.

Rodgers SK, Horrow MM, Doubilet PM, Frates MC, Kennedy A, Andreotti R, Brandi K, Detti L, Horvath SK, Kamaya A, Koyama A, Lema PC, Maturen KE, Morgan T, Običan SG, Olinger K, Sohaey R, Senapati S, Strachowski LM. *Radiology*. 2024 Aug;312(2):e240122. PMID: 39189906

A Lexicon for First-Trimester US: Society of Radiologists in Ultrasound Consensus Conference Recommendations.

Rodgers SK, Horrow MM, Doubilet PM, Frates MC, Kennedy A, Andreotti R, Brandi K, Detti L, Horvath SK, Kamaya A, Koyama A, Lema PC, Maturen KE, Morgan T, Običan SG, Olinger K, Sohaey R, Senapati S, Strachowski LM. *Am J Obstet Gynecol*. 2025 Jan;232(1):1-16. Epub 2024 Aug 27. PMID: 39198135

Utility of tele-guidance for point-of-care ultrasound: a single center prospective diagnostic study.

Cal EM, Gunnell E, Olinger K, Benefield T, Nelson J, Maggioncalda E, McGinty K. *J Ultrasound*. 2024 Sep;27(3):519-525. Epub 2024 Feb 10. PMID: 38340216

Imaging of Iatrogenic Injuries to the Bowel.

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Salamah H, Patel DJ, Chen ME, Hyslop WB, Desai CS. *J Surg Res*. 2024 Sep;301:398-403. Epub 2024 Jul 18. PMID: 39029263.

Biopsy-proven BK virus nephropathy in renal transplant recipients: A multi-central study from Turkey (BK-TURK STUDY).

Gungor O, Dheir H, Islam M, Toz H, Yildiz A, Sinangil A, Tatar E, Asci G, Ulutas O, Altun E, Altunoren O, Apaydin S, Ersoy A, Korucu B, Safak S, Derici U, Yildirim S, Seyahi N, Ozcan SG, Atilgan KG, Ayli MD, Cavdar C, Uzun O, Yilmaz R, Erdut A, Sevinc M, Kasapoğlu U, Kocyigit I, Uysal C, Turkmen K, Ozer H, Velioglu A, Ok E, Kaya B, Yilmaz Z, Ozkan O, Cebeci E, Turgutalp K, Gursu M, Yuksel E, Eren N, Dervisoglu E, Guzel FB, Yildiz G, Bakirdogen S, Inci A, Sevinc C, Turkmen A. *Clin Nephrol*. 2024 Oct;102(4):202-211. PMID: 39037084

A Case of Rapidly Progressive De Novo Metastatic Small-Cell Neuroendocrine Prostate Cancer.

Dalal A, Clark-Garvey S, Gdowski A, Zhang S, Wobker SE, Rowe SP, Altun E, Beltran H, Milowsky MI. *Case Rep Oncol Med*. 2024 Sep 17;2024:7998149. PMID: 39318975

BREAST IMAGING

ACR Appropriateness Criteria® Imaging of Invasive Breast Cancer.

Expert Panel on Breast Imaging; McDonald ES, Scheel JR, Lewin AA, Weinstein SP, Dodelzon K, Dogan BE, Fitzpatrick A, Kuzmiak CM, Newell MS, Paulis LV, Pilewskie M, Salkowski LR, Silva HC, Sharpe RE Jr, Specht JM, Ulaner GA, Slanetz PJ. *J Am Coll Radiol*. 2024 Jun;21(6S):S168-S202. PMID: 38823943.

Unknown Case: Man With a Palpable Retroareolar Mass.

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Meta-analysis: Radial Scar and Breast MRI.

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Posttraumatic Breast Hemorrhage With the Development of Fat Necrosis,

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Johnson W, Kuzmiak CM. *Journal of Breast Imaging*. September/October 2024. 6(5):574-576. PMID: 39433060

Trends in Breast, Colon, Pancreatic, and Uterine Cancers in Women During the COVID-19 Pandemic in North Carolina.

Nyante SJ, Deal AM, Heiling HM, Kim KS, Kuzmiak CM, Calhoun BC, Ray EM. *Cancer Med*. Apr 2024.13(7):e7156. PMID: 38572934.

Paget Disease of the Breast: An Often-Overlooked Malignancy.

Kuzmiak CM, Ferre R. *Breast Disease*. Nov 2024. 44:1-9.

Atypical lobular hyperplasia: what we need to know.

Ferre R, Kuzmiak CM. *J Med Imaging Intervent Radiol* June 12, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s44326-024-00011-4>

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Davis EE, Mark S, Woodard GA, Tang F, Gellatly M, Hayward JH, Ray KM, Joe BN, Lee AY, Chung M. *Journal of Breast Imaging*. Accepted March 2025.

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Minute Pulmonary Meningothelial-Like Nodules: An Incidental Benign Entity in Association With Lung Adenocarcinoma.

Siala S, Rahoui N, Askin F, Gruden JF. *Case Rep Radiol*. 2025 Apr 10;2025:3311702. eCollection 2025.PMID: 40255327

MOLECULAR IMAGING & THERAPEUTICS

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Schroeder J.A., Fair J. Philadelphia: Elsevier, publication summer 2025.

Treatment Response Evaluation in Prostate Cancer Using PSMA PET/CT.

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There is no "I" in team: Implications for academic radiology.

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Evaluation of online teaching modules for PSMA PET interpretation.

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Radiographic Response Assessments and Standardized Imaging Interpretation Criteria in Head and Neck Cancer on FDG PET/CT: A Narrative Review.

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Carolina Mammography Registry Turns 30

Since its founding in 1994 by Dr. Bonnie Yankaskas, the Carolina Mammography Registry (CMR) has played a vital role in improving breast cancer screening, detection, and outcomes across North Carolina. What began as a community-based mammography registry has expanded into a nationally recognized research resource studying the full continuum of breast imaging—including digital mammography, tomosynthesis, ultrasound, and MRI.

Under the leadership of Dr. Louise Henderson (2011–2024) and now Dr. Sarah Nyante, the CMR has received continuous funding from the National Cancer Institute and has served as

a member site of the Breast Cancer Surveillance Consortium. With additional support from PCORI, the American Cancer Society, and UNC Lineberger, the CMR has helped shape national screening guidelines and practice standards.

Over 30 years, the CMR has partnered with 50+ imaging practices, enrolled over 860,000 individuals from all 100 NC counties, and gathered data on millions of breast imaging exams. These efforts have informed key questions about cancer detection, risk, and imaging practices in real-world settings—ultimately helping improve outcomes for women across the state and beyond.

2024 Radiology Departmental Research Symposium

On Thursday, October 24th, 2024 UNC Radiology hosted its annual Research Symposium.

Guest Speakers

The event showcased multiple speakers, all of whom spoke in Kirkland Auditorium. The first speakers centered around the topic of *Perspectives on AI and Research at UNC*, and included Andy Johns, Senior Associate Vice Chancellor of Research; Ram Rimal, Manager of Data Science Engineering at UNC Health Care; and Stephanie Engel, PhD, Associate Director of Imaging based Population Sciences at the BRIC.

The event continued with an update on the *Vision for the Future of Radiology* by BRIC Director and Vice Chair of Basic Science Research Dr. Weili Lin, with additional speakers including Dr. Louise Henderson, focusing on epidemiology research, Dr. Yueh Lee and Dr. Nima Kokabi.

Keynote Speaker Zachary L. Bercu, MD, RPVI, FSIR, took the stage next. He is the Program Director for the Interventional Radiology Integrated (IR-Int) Residency, Co-Director of the Resident Medical Innovation Track, and Associate Professor in the Department of Radiology at Emory University School of Medicine. He provided an engaging presentation entitled *Not Just A Hashtag: Truly Integrating*

#Innovation Concepts in Image-Guided Medicine.

Oral and Poster Presentations

The event also consisted of two oral presentation sessions which included a total of ten oral abstract presenters, including David S. Sailer, MD, R-3; Limei Wang, PhD Candidate; Kevin Wang, MD; Benjamin Gray, BS; He Zhang, PhD; H. Patrick Taylor, BS; Yanyao Du, MD; Yiding Gui, PhD Student; Omar Azrak, MD; Arian Azarang, PhD.

The poster presentations were attended as students, residents, and faculty reviewed the displays. Forty-nine posters lined the lobby ranging in a variety of topics from "Uterine Texture Analysis by Pelvic MRI for Symptomatic Endometriosis" to "Thoracic Duct Embolization with Obsidio, a Shear-Thinning Nanocomposite Hydrogel."

Award Winners

Poster Presentation Winners

Ultrasound Parameter Optimization for Effective Drug Delivery to MRSA Diabetic Wound Biofilms in Mice with Passive Cavitation Detection
Kelly VanTreeck, BSc

Photoredox catalyzed deoxyradiofluorination in the application of SV2A-target molecules labeling in Alzheimer's Disease Imaging
Xinrui Ma, MPH

Oral Presentation Winners

Development of Novel Theranostic Platform Based on Multi-arm Vinyl

Sulfone Functionalized Core
He Zhang, PhD

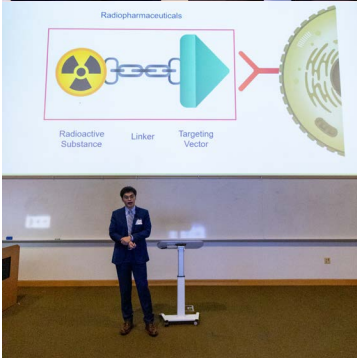
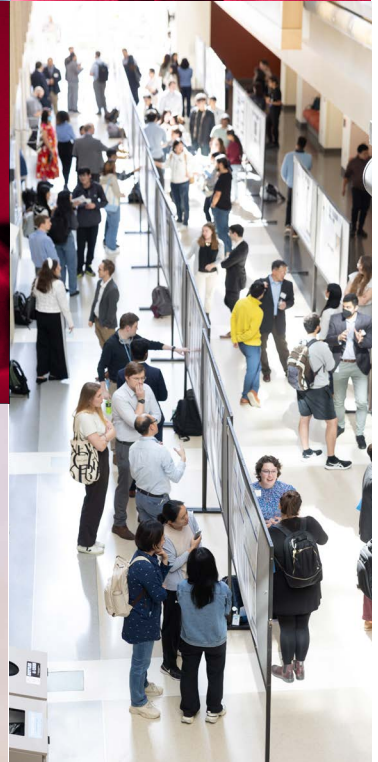
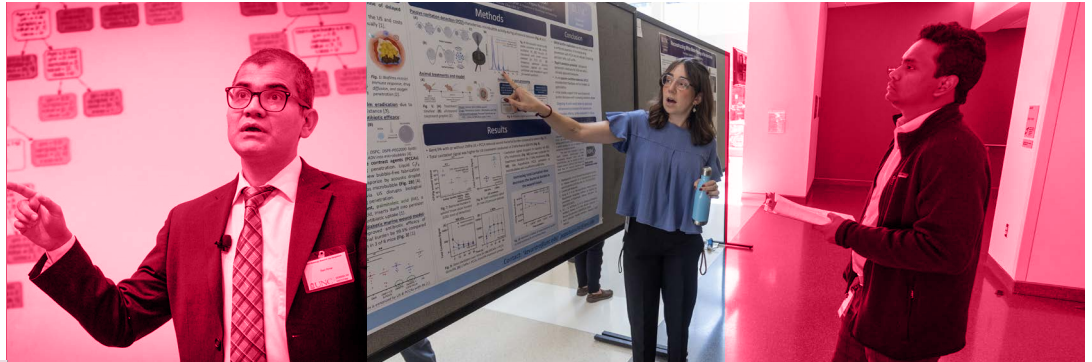
Left Common Iliac Vein Compression is Present in the Majority of Young Patients, Questioning the Need for Routine Treatment with Stents
Kevin Wang, MD

Congratulations to all presenters and winners. Thank you to all the students, faculty and staff of the UNC Department of Radiology and UNC-CH campus for participating and contributing to the 2024 Radiology Departmental Research Symposium.

Thank You

Thanks to the planning committee members: Sheerah Coe, MA; Nicole Clayton; Desma Jones, CCRC; Nima Kokabi, MD; Yueh Lee, MD, PhD, and Sarah Nyante, PhD. We would like to thank the following faculty members for their invaluable help with the poster and oral presentation review process: Wei-Tang Chang; Mariana DeFreitas, MD; Uzay Emir, PhD; William Fenner Griffin III, MD; Li-Ming Hsu, PhD; Goushi Li, PhD; Kassie McCullagh, MD; Eric Muir, PhD; Kristen Olinger, MD; Virginie Papadopoulou, PhD; Will Pryor, MD; Muthu Sakthivel, MD; and Marcelo Takahashi, MD. A very special thanks to Nicole Clayton, Anna Byars, Sarah Edwards, Brittany Winstead, Ashley Paul and Amy Edge for their tremendous administrative support.

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Promotions Staff & Faculty



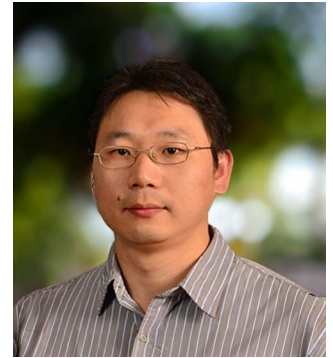
BILAL BATTAL, MD
Assistant Professor,
Neuroradiology



ELLIE LEE, MD
Professor,
Abdominal Imaging



GUOSHI LI, PhD
Assistant Professor,
Radiological Sciences



GANG LI, PhD
Professor,
Radiological Sciences



MARKEELA LIPSCOMB
Associate Administrative
Director for Clinical Research



JORGE OLDAN, MD
Professor, Molecular Imag-
ing and Therapeutics



KRISTEN OLINGER, MD
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Abdominal Imaging



ALLISON SPEAGLE
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Professor,
Pediatric Imaging



Associate Chair of Quality
and Safety

CAROLINA GUIMARAES, MD

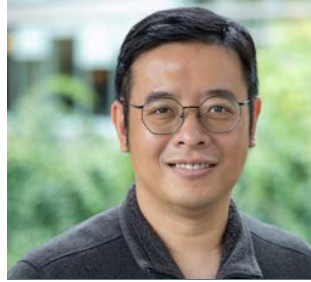
Professor & Chief,
Pediatric Imaging



Vice Chair of Operations

ALEX HUNG, MD, PhD

Associate Professor,
Neuroradiology



Vice Chair of Informatics

NIKKI KEEFE, MD

Assistant Professor,
Interventional Radiology



PD for the Integrated and
Independent IR Residency

JOHN NAZARIAN, MD

Associate Professor,
Emergency Imaging



Chief of Emergency
Radiology Division

**GENEVIEVE WOODARD,
MD, PhD**

Assoc. Professor & Chief,
Breast Imaging



Vice Chair of Operations

PT YAP, PhD

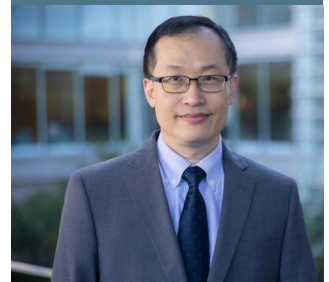
Professor,
Radiological Sciences



Associate Chair of Radio-
logical Sciences Research

HYEON YU, MD

Professor,
Interventional Radiology



Vice Chair of Quality and
Safety



Welcome New Staff & Faculty



KAILA BRUSTKERN
SOCIAL/CLINICAL
RESEARCH ASSISTANT



SARAH DERYCKE
VIR APP
IR CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR



VERONICA HUDSON
VIR APP
IR CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR



ERIN MEDEIROS
VIR APP
IR CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR



KRISTEN TIGNOR
FINANCE MANAGER



Dr. Uzey Emir earned his Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from Boğaziçi University, where he studied BOLD fMRI signal transients across imaging modalities. He completed postdoctoral training at the Center for Magnetic Resonance Research (CMRR), University of Minnesota, focusing on advanced MR spectroscopy (MRS) methods for biomarker discovery in neurodegenerative diseases. At CMRR, he developed 3T and 7T MRS protocols that were later adopted by the Experts' Working Group on Advanced Single Voxel MRS.

Previously, Dr. Emir served as Lead Physicist at the University of Oxford's FMRIB Centre, where he led translational imaging efforts and pioneered simultaneous acquisition of functional MRS and BOLD fMRI using

EPI. His recent work focuses on developing ultrashort echo time (UTE) MRI and MRSI technologies—including PETALUTE and DW-CRT—that overcome core limitations of conventional MRI by improving resolution, reducing artifacts, and enabling multi-contrast imaging.

His contributions have been recognized with numerous awards, including the Bruker MRI Award (1st Place), the AAPM Best in Physics Award, and 2nd Place in the ISMRM Reproducibility Challenge for x-nuclei MRSI and MRI. Dr. Emir's lab continues to innovate in high-resolution, artifact-resistant, and translational MRI techniques for applications in neuroscience and metabolic imaging.

UZAY EMIR, PhD
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, RADIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
JOINT APPOINTMENT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

Welcome New Faculty

BEHROOZ MASUODI, MD
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,
CARDIOTHORACIC
IMAGING



Dr. Masuodi attended medical school at Kashan University of Medical Sciences and Health Services in Iran. He attended Johns Hopkins for a Nuclear Medicine Residency and then completed a Diagnostic Radiology Residency at INTEGRIS Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma. Dr. Masuodi had the pleasure of working at UNC around seven years ago. He was a postdoctoral researcher at the time and participated in an observership in the Department of Radiology. He experienced the culture, the campus, and the atmosphere of UNC. When he saw the opportunity to return, he jumped at the chance, knowing it would be an excellent fit for his career at this stage. "I love North Carolina," says Dr. Masuodi when asked about the area.

ANDREA "ANDI" SENTER, MD
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,
BREAST IMAGING



Dr. Andrea Senter better known to her patients, colleagues, and friends as Andi, has joined UNC Radiology Breast Division as an Associate Professor. Andi is "coming home" to UNC, after spending eight years in private practice with Duke. She completed her Diagnostic Radiology Residency and Breast Imaging Fellowship in our program.

She is a breast imaging physician with expertise in diagnosing, sampling, and surgical planning of benign and malignant diseases of the breast using mammography, MRI, and ultrasound. She also stays current in her skills as a Diagnostic radiologist with expertise in all imaging modalities, including CT, US, MRI, CT, CTA, MRA, and nonvascular interventions.

LOURENS DU PISANIE JR., MD
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,
INTERVENTIONAL
RADIOLOGY



Dr. Lourens du Pisanie Jr. completed his undergraduate studies, medical degree, and interventional radiology residency at the UNC in Chapel Hill. He also completed a prelim year in General Surgery at New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington, NC. Passionate about education, he emphasizes hands-on, inclusive training that builds a strong foundation in core procedural skills, particularly ultrasound-guided techniques, before progressing to more complex interventions. He prioritizes safe patient care, individualized teaching, and empowering residents to develop confidence and autonomy. His research centers on minimally invasive vascular therapies.

ALEX BANATHY, MD
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,
INTERVENTIONAL
RADIOLOGY



Dr. Alexandra "Alex" K. Banathy joins UNC Radiology as an Assistant Professor in the Interventional Radiology Division. She graduated with her bachelor's from Vanderbilt University in 2014 and her Medical Doctorate from Penn State College of Medicine in 2018. She completed her surgical internship in 2019 and her Interventional/Diagnostic Radiology Integrated Residency at the University of Virginia in 2024. Alex believes that IR combines the best of both worlds by incorporating the problem-solving of diagnostic radiology and the solutions that can be offered with interventional procedures. IR procedures can have a significant impact on patients, resulting in a relatively short recovery time.

Welcome New Faculty

MEGHAN CLARK, MD

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,
INTERVENTIONAL
RADIOLOGY



Dr. Meghan R. Clark joins UNC Radiology as an Assistant Professor in the Interventional Radiology Division. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA, in 2013 and with a Medical Doctorate from the West Virginia University School of Medicine in 2018. She completed her surgical internship in 2019 and her Integrated Interventional Radiology Residency at the University of Virginia in 2024. It was really the culture that attracted Meghan to UNC's Interventional Radiology program. Even as a medical student, when she interviewed for residency, the people she met and connected with made UNC stand out as a special place. As she completed her residency at UVA, the idea of coming to Carolina was always at the back of her mind.

MARCELO TAKAHASHI, MD

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,
PEDIATRIC IMAGING



Dr. Marcelo Takahashi is from Brazil, where he completed his education. He received his medical degree from the University of São Paulo. He went on to complete his Diagnostic Residency and his Pediatric Radiology Fellowship at the Clinical Hospital of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of São Paulo. He also completed a PhD program at the Institute of Radiology of the Clinical Hospital, Faculty of Medicine, University of São Paulo. His thesis paper was titled *Vesicoureteral reflux diagnosis, comparison between contrast-enhanced ultrasound and voiding cystourethrography*. He joined our Department as a Clinical Instructor in November 2023 but officially became an Assistant Professor in Pediatrics in 2024.

REBECCA HANSEN, MD

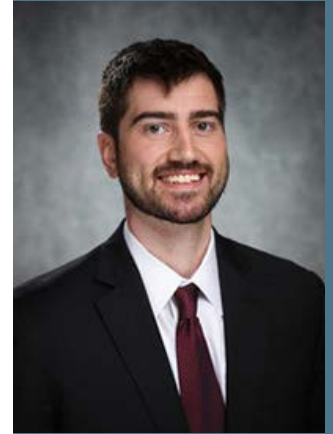
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,
PEDIATRIC IMAGING



Dr. Rebecca Hansen, known to family, friends, and patients alike as "Becca," recently joined the Pediatric Radiology Division at UNC as an Assistant Professor, bringing her passion for patient care and medical education to the Department. Rebecca graduated from Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University in 2018 and completed her internship year at Vidant Medical Center at East Carolina University in Internal Medicine. She completed her Diagnostic Radiology Residency at the Medical University of South Carolina before finishing her education at Duke University Hospital with a Fellowship in Pediatric Radiology. Returning to UNC felt natural for Dr. Hansen. She completed her undergraduate studies at UNC and was familiar with the warm, collegial environment.

SAM OSTRUM, MD

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,
ABDOMINAL IMAGING



Dr. Samuel Ostrum followed a dynamic path to academic medicine. He earned his MD from Ohio State University in 2017, then completed a Diagnostic Radiology residency and Abdominal Imaging Fellowship at Duke University. After a position at Vanderbilt, he returned to North Carolina for family and the region's rich academic environment. Dr. Ostrum discovered radiology in medical school, drawn to its blend of technology and diagnostic reasoning. His passion for abdominal imaging grew from the challenge of diagnosing conditions, which allowed him to apply his problem-solving skills to guide patients and physicians toward effective treatment.

**BAHRAM "BOBBY"
KIANI, MD, MHA**
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,
EMERGENCY
RADIOLOGY



Dr. Bahram Kiani, also known as "Bobby," graduated from Ohio State University with his Medical Doctorate and a master's in health administration in 2005. He completed his Diagnostic Radiology Residency (2010) and Musculoskeletal Imaging Fellowship (2011) from Wake Forest School of Medicine. He joined the faculty of the Wake Forest School of Medicine and spent the last 13 years as an attending physician, training the next generation of radiologists. With a career path that spans from musculoskeletal radiology to academic research on crash investigations, Dr. Kiani's journey is marked by curiosity, a passion for teaching, and an ability to find humor in life.

**ROMUALD "ROM"
FERRE, MD, FRCPC**
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,
BREAST IMAGING



Dr. Romuald Ferre obtained his medical degree from the University of Bordeaux II in Bordeaux, France, and completed a residency in Diagnostic Radiology at the Assistance Publique - Hôpitaux de Paris (AP-HP). He then undertook a fellowship in musculoskeletal imaging (MSK) at Université Paris Cité (formerly Paris Descartes) and AP-HP, followed by two dedicated breast-imaging fellowships: the first at the Royal Victoria Hospital, McGill University Health Centre, Montréal, Canada, and the second at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, USA. Dr. Ferre's love for radiology is not just about images on a screen; it's about evolving technology and patient-centered care.

**FERNANDO
MENDES FILHO, MD**
CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR,
MUSCULOSKELETAL
IMAGING



Dr. Fernando Mendes completed his medical doctorate at The Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE) in Brazil and his DR residency and MSK Fellowship at the Beneficência Portuguesa. Born and raised in northeast Brazil, Fernando grew up in a small town where his father was a local physician and a pillar of the community—the kind of doctor who held consultations in the family garage. From watching his dad care for neighbors to seeing patients drive up to the house for help, Fernando was inspired early by the power of medicine to build trust and serve a community. During the last six years in Brazil working in private practice he also completed an MBA in healthcare management from Fundação Getúlio Vargas.

**EMILY
WERDER, PhD**
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,
RADIOLOGICAL
SCIENCES



Dr. Emily Werder is an environmental epidemiologist who studies how everyday chemical exposures can shape brain development, especially in children. She is part of a growing group of interdisciplinary researchers at UNC who straddle multiple fields. She studies how everyday chemicals—things we all encounter in our air, water, or even in our shampoo—can affect brain development. But it's not just chemistry, imaging, or numbers. It's all the above. Dr. Werder completed her bachelor's at the University of North Carolina and went on to become a teacher in the Durham school system. She returned to the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health to pursue her master's degree in Health Behavior and Health Education and her PhD in Epidemiology.

Spotlight Series: In Their Own Words

Meet our Team Members

Late in 2024 the Department introduced a new monthly feature — the Spotlight Series: In Their Own Words — a chance to highlight the incredible individuals who help keep UNC Radiology running smoothly every day. Each month, we feature one of our staff members, giving them the space to share their story in their own voice. From admins to the reading room, from finance to research staff, this series celebrates the people who make our Department what it is: collaborative, compassionate, and committed.

The Staff Feature is more than just a profile — it's an opportunity for us to pause and recognize the unique backgrounds, talents, and journeys of our team. These stories will offer insights into their roles, what motivates them, and what UNC Radiology means to them. Whether someone has been with us for decades or just a few months, every voice matters. Check out the "Faces that Define Us" section on our website to read the full articles.

MAY 2025



Emily Gardner, CRA
Pre-Award Research Admin

UNC Radiology's Research Wizard (& Closet Broadway Star)

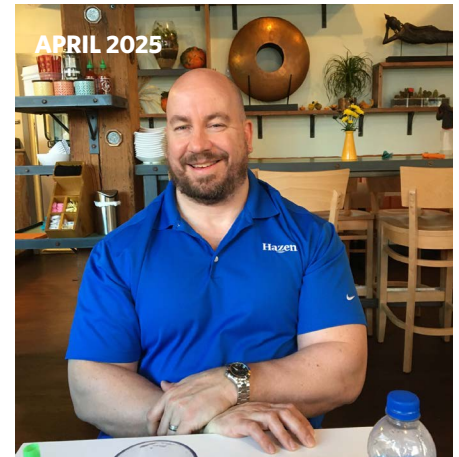
If there were a superpower tailor-made for the world of contracts and grants, Emily Gardner already has it — minus the cape. She's UNC Radiology's unofficial office energy source, known for juggling the chaos of new grant submissions with a smile, a laugh, and maybe a little dance in her step. Emily's journey to UNC Radiology feels like a homecoming in more ways than one. Born in North Carolina and raised as a Tar Heel loyalist, her UNC roots run deep — her grandmother once worked on campus cleaning out mice cages in a research lab. Young Emily would tag along and wander the halls, soaking in the buzz of campus life.

Fen Annarino, MS, RALAT
Faculty Research Staff

Science, Swamps, and Sundews: Fen's Wild Path to Radiology

If you ask Fen Annarino how he ended up as a research specialist for Dr. Muir, his answer is refreshingly honest: he wasn't exactly aiming for it—but we're glad he landed here. "I wasn't specifically looking for something in Radiology," he admits, "but this job popped out at me." It may have started with curiosity, but nearly a year in (almost to the day!), Fen's found his groove—and a fascinating niche—in ocular blood flow research.

APRIL 2025



Thad Benefield
Research Statistician

The Data Sleuth: The Many Facets of Thad Benefield

Thad Benefield is not your average statistician. By day, he meticulously sifts through decades of cancer screening data, endeavoring to make messy data more accurate to advance medical research. By night (or, more accurately, in the early hours of the morning), he is in the gym, pursuing his passion for powerlifting. Somewhere in between, he's chasing after his energetic daughter, savoring spicy foods, and devouring horror novels.

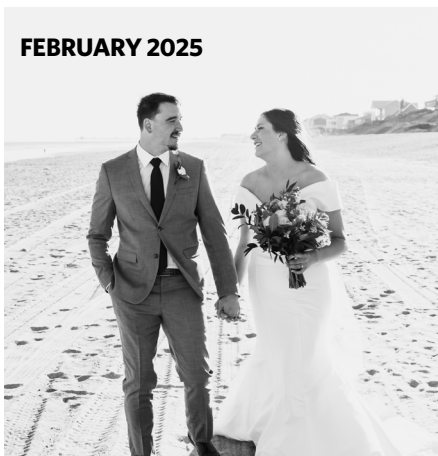
MARCH 2025



JUNE 2025



FEBRUARY 2025



Joanna Newman
Program Coordinator

From Dreams of Sports to a New Vision in Healthcare: Joanna Newman's Journey

Joanna Newman's story is one of evolving dreams, boundless enthusiasm, and a knack for embracing change. From aspiring sports executive to key figure in healthcare administration, her journey reflects her versatility and her commitment to balancing professional growth with personal fulfillment. Whether she's diving into her career, family life, or hobbies, Joanna approaches everything with energy and positivity.

Alexis Evans
HR Consultant

The HR Maven

If you've ever wondered who keeps the gears turning behind the scenes in the Department of Radiology at UNC, meet Alexis Evans—HR Consultant, logistics queen, and a self-proclaimed "runner of a tight ship." With responsibilities stretching across onboarding, hiring, terminations, faculty support, salary changes, promotions, and beyond, Alexis is the master of multitasking. "I like to call this position an octopus role," she says. "I've got many different arms doing different things."

JANUARY 2025



Allison Speagle
Education Manager and Diagnostic Radiology Residency Program Co-Coordinator

The Planner, Traveler, and Radiology Coordinator Extraordinaire

When you meet Allison Speagle, it doesn't take long to realize she's a natural organizer with a knack for connection. Whether she's coordinating major events or fostering relationships with residents, Allison's ability to juggle responsibilities shines in her role. Allison's career began with event management—a field that fit her like a glove. Allison honed her organizational skills across various roles at UNC. Eventually, her path led her to radiology, where she found the perfect balance of structure and connection.

Desma Jones, CCRC

Administrative Director for Clinical Research and Radiology Core Service Center

UNC Radiology's Dependable Director of Research

Desma Marie Jones has been a cornerstone of the UNC Radiology family since January 2019. With her dual roles as Administrative Director for Clinical Research and Radiology Core Service Center, she's a powerhouse of organization, research, and leadership. Her love of research is no accident. While she initially envisioned a career in the medical field, a detour into dental research revealed a fulfilling intersection of science, patient interaction, and meaningful impact.

NOVEMBER 2024



Brittany Winstead
Administrative Assistant

The Dynamic Administrative Force Behind Peds, VIR, and NIR

Brittany Winstead joined the UNC Radiology team in February 2024 as an administrative assistant, bringing a wealth of experience and a positive attitude that has quickly made her an invaluable part of the Pediatric, Vascular, and Neurointerventional Radiology Divisions. Brittany serves as the primary point of contact for the faculty. Whether it's scheduling meetings, arranging travel, or organizing grand rounds, Brittany takes immense pride in her work.

Community Engagement



Residents Passing the "Torch"



Residents and Fellows



Resident Retreat



Painting Fun



Durham Bulls Game



Graduating Residents and Fellows 2024



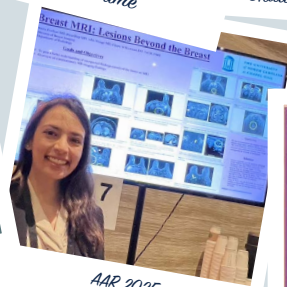
ASER 2024



ASER 2024



AAR 2025



AAR 2025



SIR 2025



Staff outing



Education Staff Event



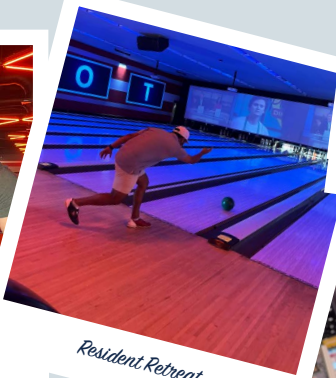
SIR 2025



Residency Bootcamp



Resident Retreat



Resident Retreat



Alumni Society Reception



Holiday Party



Holiday Party



RSNA



Holiday Party



Holiday Party



Holiday Party



Finance Team Retreat



Alumni Society Reception



Holiday Party



Holiday Party



Holiday Party



HALLOWEEN
HIGH JINKS



Christopher Lyu & ERT Team

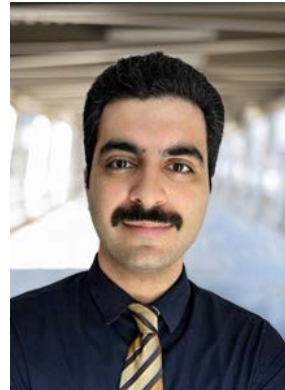
Highlights and Honors



SAHAR AHMAD, PhD

Research Instructor

Has achieved a significant milestone by winning the prestigious Fetal, Infant, and Toddler Neuroimaging Group (FIT'NG) Young Investigator award.



ARIAN AZARANG, PhD

Assistant Professor, Research Faculty ENHANCE Lab

Received the UHMS President's award for Best Overall Poster Presentation at the joint AsMA and UHMS conference.



LAUREN BURKE, MD

Matthew A. Mauro Distinguished Professor, Abdominal Imaging

Named Matthew A. Mauro Distinguished Professor of Radiology.



JIALE CHENG

PhD student, Joint Department of Biomedical Engineering overseen by Gang Li

Awarded Best Poster award, First Place in 2025 IEEE 22nd International Symposium on Biomedical Imaging (ISBI).



CAROLINE CARSWELL

Interventional Radiology Residency Coordinator

Nominated for a Peer Recognition award for new employees (less than 2 years in their position). And accepted into the GME Leadership Academy for this upcoming year.



JOSH CURRENS

PhD student in the ENHANCE Lab

Earned the UHMS President's Award for Best Oral Presentation by a Resident/Trainee at the joint AsMA and UHMS conference.



MARIANA DEFREITAS, MD

Assistant Professor, Emergency Radiology

Selected for RSNA's Introduction to Academic Radiology for Junior Faculty (ITARJF) program. Appointed as a Sheps Research Fellow recognizing her partnership with UNC Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research.



LANE DONNELLY, MD

Professor, Pediatric Imaging

Chief Quality and Safety Officer for Children's. Vice Chair of Quality and Safety for the Department of Pediatrics. Elected active membership, American Pediatric Society (APS).


GINA BESAW

DR Residency Co-Coordinator

Received the Staff Outstanding Performance award
 "consistently goes above and beyond expectations"
 "very easy to get in contact with, has a great attitude, and is intelligent"
 "has especially gone out of her way to help..."


SHEERAH COE, MA

Communications Director

Received Vickie Holland Memorial award
 "...ALWAYS willing to help."
 "...always enthusiastic and inherently motivated."
 "Embodies being an approachable team member and cultivates the positive culture we aim to build in the Department."
 "...a joy to work with and a major asset to the Department."


LYNN FORDHAM, MD

Professor, Pediatric Imaging

Earned a RNSA Quality Essentials Certificate 2024.


DANICA GRANT

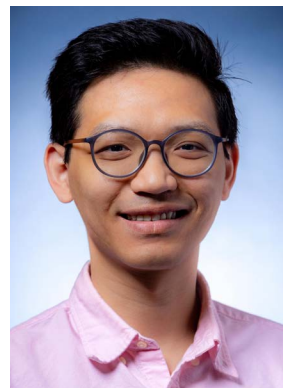
Undergraduate researcher in the ENHANCE Lab

Received the UHMS President's award for Best Overall Resident/Trainee Poster Presentation at the joint AsMA and UHMS conference.


SHENG-CHE "ALEX" HUNG, MD, PhD

Associate Professor, Neuroradiology

Named distinguished reviewer, AJR.


KHOI HUYNH

Postdoctoral research associate in the Pew-Thian Yap lab

His research has earned him a prestigious Summa Cum Laude Merit award from the International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine (ISMRM).

Highlights and Honors



VALERIE JEWELLS, DO

Professor, Neuroradiology

American Journal of Neuroradiology (AJNR) distinguished reviewer.



MAUREEN KOHI, MD

Ernest H. Wood Distinguished Professor and Chair

Honored by SIR as the Women in IR (WIR) Champion award recipient. This prestigious honor is awarded annually to someone who has demonstrated dedication to advancing women in IR.



MUTHU KUMAR SAKTHIVEL, MD

Assistant Professor, Cardiothoracic Imaging

Elected as a fellow of the Society for Cardiovascular MR (FSCMR).



YUEH LEE, MD, PhD

Professor, Neuroradiology

Named inaugural member to National Academy of Inventors Chapter and is named a 2025 senior member of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI). Fellow of the American Society of Functional Neuroradiology.



DAVID MAURO, MD

Chief and Associate Professor, Interventional Radiology

Honored with fellowship in the Society of Interventional Radiology (FSIR).



MATTHEW MAURO, MD

James H. Scatliff Distinguished Professor, Abdominal Imaging

2025 SIR Foundation's Leaders in Innovation award recipient.



JOHN NAZARIAN, MD

Chief and Associate Professor, Emergency Radiology

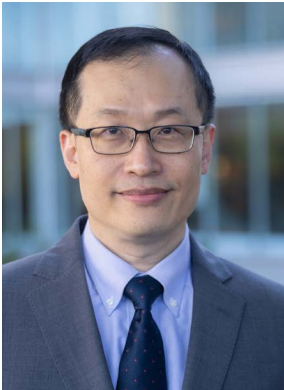
He received the UNC Department of Emergency Medicine Ectopic Attending Award for 2025, awarded to an educator outside of EM for outstanding dedication to teaching residents.



GLORIA SALAZAR, MD

Associate Professor, Interventional Radiology

2025 SIR Annual Meeting Chair.

**HYEON YU, MD***Professor, Interventional Radiology*

Award for outstanding service to the journal for the most reviews carried out in 2023, CVIR. Distinguished Reviewer, AJR (American Journal of Roentgenology). 2024 Radiology Artificial Intelligence Editor's Recognition Award for reviewing with special distinction.

**XINRUI YUAN***Ph.D. Candidate, Biomedical Engineering, overseen by Gang Li*

Awarded the Women in MICCAI (WiM) Best Oral Presentation award, in international conference on Medical Image Computing and Computer-Assisted Intervention (MICCAI) 2024.

**CARLOS ZAMORA, MD***Chief & Professor, Neuroradiology*

RSNA Cum Laude exhibit and ACR CPI Editor's Choice 2025.



Awards & Recognition



**MARIANA
DEFREITAS, MD**

Assistant Professor,
Emergency Radiology

Received the AAR Clinical Effectiveness in Radiology Research Academic Fellowship (CERRAF) award. Recipients receive \$140,000 over two years (\$70,000/year) payable to their institution. This includes up to \$10,000 per year for supporting research staff/materials and another \$10,000 total towards coursework.



**CAROLINA
GUIMARAES MD**

Professor & Chief,
Pediatric Imaging

Co-investigator of the Fetal Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and Congenital Limb Anomalies: Impact on Prenatal Counseling and Understanding Brain Functional Networks. Co-PI on Accuracy of Ultrasound for the Evaluation of Percutaneous Gastrostomy Tube Position and Leakage - Departmental seed grant UNC Radiology.



Received an estimated \$3.2 million award from the National Cancer Institute for her research titled *Lung Cancer Screening: Cumulative Risk and Multilevel Impact of False Positive Findings*.

Awarded an NOA for her new 5-year R01 titled, "OPTimizing surveillance in lung cancer

survivors with novel IMAGing biomarkers and deep-learning (OPTIMAL)" with a start date of 1/1/2025 and year 1 total costs = \$968,999. This is a collaboration with Kaiser Permanente Northern California (MPI: Lori Sakoda), Mass General (MPI: Florian Fintelmann), and MIT (co-I: Regina Barzilay).

LOUISE HENDERSON, PhD, MSPH

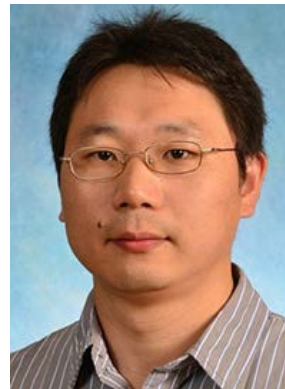
Professor, Radiological Sciences



**YUEH
LEE, MD, PhD**

Professor, Neuroradiology

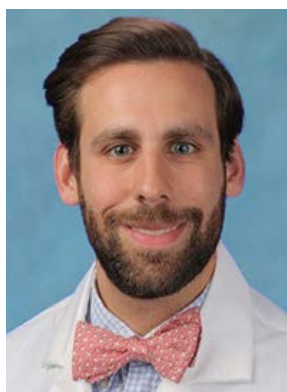
Awarded a Creativity Hubs award from the UNC Office of Vice Chancellor for Research for his project titled *Advanced Medical Screening in Underserved Populations using a Transportable Nanotube Enabled Imaging System - the Carolina CONNECT (CarbON Nanotube Enabled sScreening Tomosynthesis)*. Dr. Lee will receive \$325,000 to pursue this research.



GANG LI, PhD

Professor,
Radiological Sciences

Awarded a \$2.1 Million grant from the National Institutes of Health for his research titled *Continued Development of Infant Neuroimaging Analysis Tools*.



Co-investigator of Accuracy of Ultrasound for the Evaluation of Percutaneous Gastrostomy Tube Position and Leakage – Departmental seed grant UNC Radiology.

WILL PRYOR, MD

Assistant Professor,
Pediatric Imaging



Awarded a UNC Lineberger Development Award for his project, *Characterization of the Hypoxic Tumor Microenvironment with Blood Oxygen Level Dependent Magnetic Resonance Imaging for the Prediction of Hepatocellular Carcinoma Response to Yttrium-90 Selective Internal Radiation Therapy.*

ALEX VILLALOBOS, MD

Assistant Professor, VIR



Awarded a \$2.1 Million grant award from the National Institute of Health for his research titled *Continued Development of Infant Neuroimaging Analysis Tools.*

LI WANG, PhD

Associate Professor,
Radiological Sciences



Received an estimated \$400,000 award from the Tripill Biotechnology, Corp. National Cancer Institute for her research titled, *The Development of Radiolabeled PSMA Agent with Low Salivary Gland Uptake.*

ZHANHONG WU, PhD

Associate Professor,
Radiological Sciences

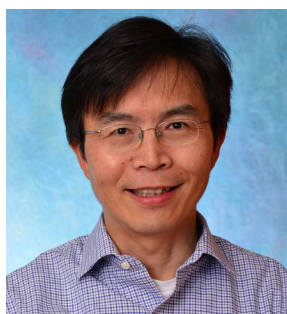


PEW-THIAN YAP, PhD

Professor, Radiological Sciences

UNC Radiology Researchers Secure Prestigious NIH Funding in a Highly Competitive Year

In a highly competitive year for federal research funding, the UNC Department of Radiology has achieved remarkable success: five active R01 grants have been awarded to faculty in fiscal year 2025. These prestigious, multi-year National Institutes of Health (NIH) awards support high-impact research and underscore the Department's growing national leadership in imaging science.



WEILI LIN, PhD

Professor, Radiological Sciences

Two faculty members, Dr. Weili Lin and Dr. Pew-Thian Yap (PT Yap), rank among the Top 5% of NIH-funded principal investigators (PIs) in Radiology nationwide. Dr. Lin holds the 14th position, while Dr. Yap ranks 32nd in total NIH funding among radiology researchers—an impressive distinction reflecting their pioneering contributions and sustained commitment to advancing the field.

Dr. Yap's recent accomplishments are especially noteworthy. In the 2024-2025 fiscal year, he

received two R01 grants totaling more than \$6 million. From the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), he was awarded \$3.1 million to develop optimized high-resolution magnetic resonance fingerprinting with cloud-based reconstruction—an effort poised to revolutionize brain imaging by accelerating MRI acquisition and enabling large-scale computational processing. From the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), he received another \$3.1 million to create advanced imaging and computational tools for studying early brain development. This project will provide critical insights into infancy and early childhood, formative years that shape lifelong cognitive and neurological health.

Together, these accomplishments highlight UNC Radiology's commitment to research excellence and its vital role in shaping the future of medical imaging, neuroscience, and mental health.

Lectureships

Over the past year our lectureships have funded educational opportunities for trainees and faculty by hosting expert speakers for special learning opportunities.



26th ANNUAL SCATLIFF LECTURE

August 6, 2024

Jonathan Dillman, MD, MSc
Associate Chief, Research; Medical Director, Imaging Research Center, William S. Ball Chair of Radiology Research, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

Promoting Translational Research in Radiology: Challenges and Solutions



WOOD LECTURE

November 15, 2024

Laurie A. Loevner, MD
Professor and Chief, Neuroradiology Professor of Radiology in Neurosurgery & Ophthalmology at The University of Pennsylvania

Back to the Future: Creating a Career Fit for You Through Clinical, Research and Patient Collaborations



SCATLIFF LECTURE

May 2, 2025

Sarah D. Bixby, MD, MBA
Paul Kleinman Chair of Musculoskeletal Imaging, Boston Children's Hospital Associate Professor Radiology Harvard Medical School

Leveraging AI for Efficient, Fast, High-Resolution Imaging in Children



JOSEPH K.T. LEE LECTURE

May 30, 2025

Judy Yee, MD, FACR
Professor and University Chair Department of Radiology Albert Einstein College of Medicine Montefiore Health System

CT Colonography: Pearls, Pitfalls and Leadership Tips



6th ANNUAL NEURORADIOLOGY SPRING FELLOW LECTURE

June 6, 2025

Haris Sair, MD
Professor of Radiology and Director, Division of Neuroradiology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Resting-State Functional Mri: Principles And Clinical Applications For Treatment Planning



2025 Castillo Scholars Program



The Mauricio Castillo, MD, Scholars Program continues to open doors and change lives—creating transformative opportunities for medical students who are aspiring to thrive in competitive specialties. Now in its fifth summer, this prestigious program provides a powerful blend of educational enrichment, hands-on research, clinical shadowing, and one-on-one mentorship that equips future physicians with the tools they need to succeed.

This year, sixteen outstanding first-year medical students were selected as 2025 Castillo Scholars. Each received a \$5,000 stipend to support their participation in the intensive eight-week summer experience—an investment in talent, passion, and purpose.

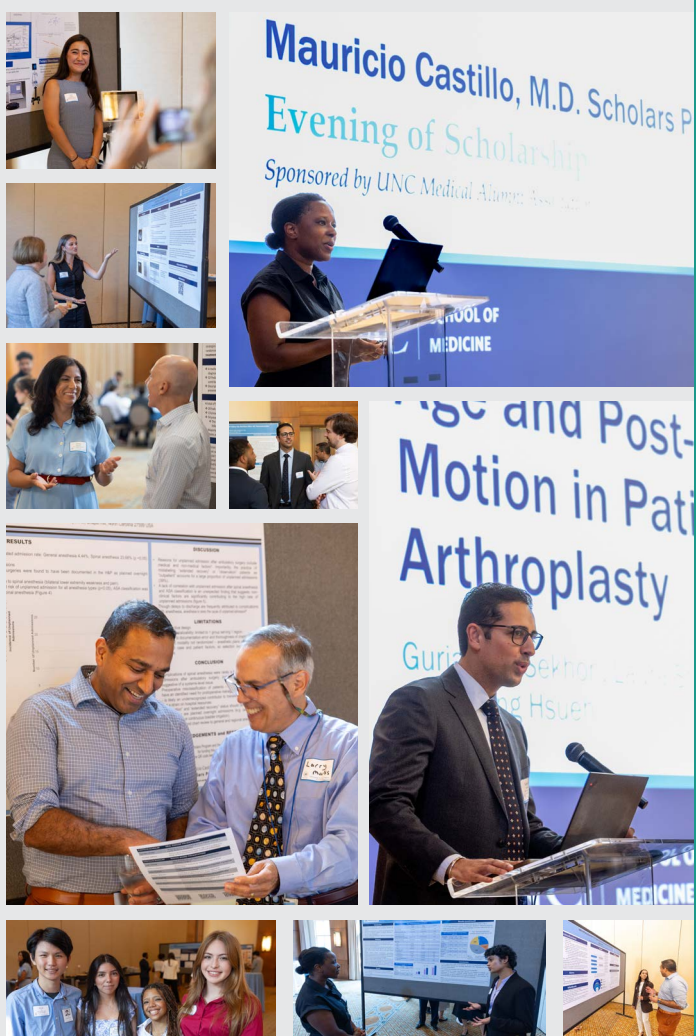
The program launched on May 28th with a warm and inspiring kickoff reception at the Carolina Club, where scholars were welcomed by Dr. Gloria Salazar. The evening offered an invaluable chance for scholars and mentors to connect and lay the foundation for a summer of collaboration and discovery.

Over the next two months, scholars immersed themselves in impactful projects across clinical, academic, and research settings—each forging a clearer path toward a specialty residency.

The summer culminated on July 24th with the highly anticipated Evening of Scholarship, generously sponsored by the UNC Medical Alumni Association. Held once again at the Carolina Club, the celebration spotlighted the Scholars' remarkable achievements. With oral and poster presentations, each student proudly shared their work, highlighting their growth and the depth of their contributions.

This summer marks a bittersweet milestone: it is the final year of the program. We encourage Departments, and specifically their CSP champions/liaisons, to engage with OMSE and OMSR leadership on future opportunities to partner on student research initiatives.

To our 2025 Castillo Scholars: congratulations on an incredible summer, and best of luck as you step into your second year of medical school. We can't wait to see where your talents take you.



Top to bottom, left to right, Castillo Scholars with Drs. Gloria Salazar, Sarah Nyante, school of medicine leadership, and Department liaisons. Emergency Medicine Scholar Julia Godwin posing with her research poster. IR Scholar Jessica Beltrani presents her poster to an attendee. Dr. Sarah Nyante opens up the Evening of Scholarship and introduces the first speaker. Dr. Gloria Salazar speaks with surgery scholar Ryan Sellers during the event. Orthopedic scholars Gurjant Skehon and Joshua Taylor speak with an attendee. Orthopedic scholar Gurjant Skehon presents his oral presentation. Attendees Xinjie Yu, Rosely Resendiz-Alas, Maleiha Vance, and Savannah Stewart. Dr. Sarah Nyante listens to Neurology scholar Ruchi Dudhat as they talk through their presentation. Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation scholar Divya Mehta presents her research to a faculty attendee.

UNC Radiology Shines at RSNA 2024: Innovation, Impact, and a Rooftop Reunion

It was a an incredible year for UNC Radiology at RSNA 2024.

What a year for UNC Radiology! From groundbreaking presentations to unforgettable reunions, RSNA 2024 proved to be a momentous milestone for our Department. Held from November 30 to December 4 at Chicago's iconic McCormick Place, this year's Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) Annual Meeting spotlighted the powerful role of radiology in shaping the future of precision medicine—and UNC Radiology was right at the heart of the action.

The theme was "Building Intelligent Connections," emphasizing the role of AI in radiology and the importance of connections between people and technology. The meeting offered a comprehensive program including plenary sessions, educational courses, scientific presentations, and technical exhibits.

- Some specific program highlights included AI Theater: Daily presentations from companies on cutting-edge AI technologies.
- Radiology Reimagined: Showcased real-world clinical scenarios integrating AI into radiology workflows.
- RSNAI Resource Center:

Offered insights into RSNA's AI initiatives, including the Imaging AI Certificate Program and MIDRC.

- Vendor Workshops: Provided hands-on experience with industry systems.
- Lunch & Learns: Featured talks by company leaders and clinicians on recent innovations.
- RSNA Innovation Theater: Hosted live demonstrations of the latest imaging advancements.
- Virtual Industry Presentations: Enabled remote access to select company presentations.

Our faculty, trainees, and alumni made a bold mark across the conference halls, with major research contributions, leadership roles, and collaborative innovation on full display. Representing a vibrant global community of radiology professionals from over 150 countries, RSNA 2024 was more than a meeting—it was a celebration of what's next in our field.

But the true highlight? The UNC Radiology Alumni Reception.

On Sunday, December 1, we took to Cindy's Rooftop—high above the lights of downtown Chicago—for

our third annual RSNA Alumni Reception. The skyline was dazzling, but nothing outshone the joy of reconnecting with UNC alumni, faculty, and trainees. From hugs and handshakes to shared stories and laughter, it was a heartfelt reminder that our Carolina radiology family stretches far beyond campus.

The evening was a mix of nostalgia and momentum—celebrating where we've been and where we're going. As we looked around the room, we saw leaders shaping the future of medicine, mentors who laid the foundation, and young talent ready to rise.

To everyone who joined us: thank you. You are the heart and soul of UNC Radiology. Your dedication and excellence are what make our Department one of the strongest and most connected in the country.

Looking ahead, we're excited to keep building on this momentum. Please be on the lookout for the rooftop reception at the 2025 RSNA conference.





SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Radiology

Department of Radiology
2000 Old Clinic Bldg
CB #7510
Chapel Hill, NC 27599



@uncradiology

Vision

To be the premier Department of Radiology in the Southeast.

Mission

Our mission is to deliver compassionate clinical care, advance healthcare through innovative research, and train the future generation of radiologists and scientists.

Radiology By the Numbers

65

Clinical
Faculty

23

Radiological
Sciences
Faculty

16

Fellows

44

Residents

10 NIH PUBLIC RANKING
in FY25

Over **\$12 Million** in funding for FY25