Creighton University

Department of Radiology

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2022

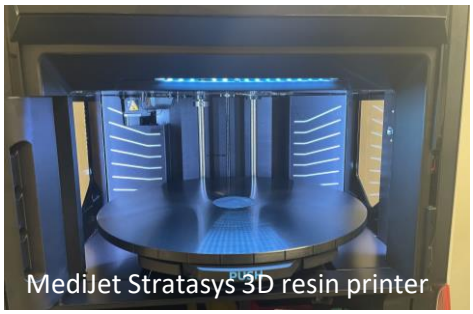
Letter from the Chair

Dr Christian Cox

How quickly 6 months have passed since the last Newsletter! While the time seems short, we have accomplished so much in this half year. We're thankful for the many gifts given to us as a department and looking toward growth in the future.

In our previous Newsletter, I mentioned some departmental efforts deserving of updates. Dr. Tami DenOtter with the assistance of the whole Core Faculty has completed phase II of developing a Radiology Simulation Lab (SimLab) for the medical students, which now includes a collection of 300+ high-yield radiology cases as part of a larger curriculum along with instructional videos and recorded staff read-outs. Now, several non-radiology training programs at Creighton University Medical Center-Bergan Mercy Hospital are considering incorporation of the SimLab into their curricula. Installation of the new State-of-the-Art CT Force scanner is complete and we're now working to fully utilize the power of this machine in our clinical practice. Finally, Nuance mPower brings radiology report search capabilities for education and research along with analytics to track resident case numbers.

In addition to continuing our work moving these efforts forward, we are also looking to further expand academic opportunities. Two major area of interest include development of a Clinical Biomedical Imaging Core and establishing a 3D Printing Lab.



MediJet Stratasys 3D resin printer

From the generous donations of our department benefactors, we have acquired a new MediJet Stratasys 3D resin printer allows our department to create anatomic models for simulation education and enhanced patient care. A couple of our recent prints were displayed at the 2022 RSNA Annual Conference in Chicago, to include a bronchoscopy simulation model of the tracheobronchial tree and arthrography simulation model of a hip joint.

Lucas Betts, M4

Our most recent print of a fetal face, for OB-GYN Dr. John Cote, was created for a pregnant patient who is visually impaired and was featured in the regional and national news (New York Post. Dec 9, 2022) Look for many more 3D printing projects from our department in the years to come!

Residency Applicant Interviews are underway, requiring a Herculean effort by our extraordinary Program Director, Dr. Johanna Schubert. Imagine sifting through 800 outstanding applicants to find just 60 students to interview for our 3 resident spots at Creighton! I have had the chance to participate in a few of the student interviews and let me tell you, these applicants are stellar (which means they'll fit in perfectly with our current residents).

On November 30 of this year, Dr. Subhash Paknikar retired from Radiology. It is with our sincerest gratitude, that we thank him for 26 years of service to our department. I certainly remember in my residency sitting with Dr. Paknikar and working through the imaging of various radiotracers. Dr. Paknikar has witnessed first-hand the evolution of our department, from our early involvement in PET-CT as a new technology at Creighton University to the multisite hybrid practice that we are today. Please join me in thanking Dr. Paknikar.

We're excited to announce the addition of Dr. Luke Nordquist to our department faculty. Dr. Nordquist brings many years of experience in a cutting-edge oncology practice to include incorporation of advance nuclear medicine imaging. With his addition, our residents gain a new rotation site for nuclear medicine.

There are so many more activities in the department that I can't even describe in a single letter, so you'll have to wait for our future Newletters to find out more! If you have an interest in contributing your time, talent or treasure to our department's academic effort, please don't hesitate to contact me at christiancox@creighton.edu.

God bless!

Chris Cox

RESIDENCY PROGRAM NEWS

We'd love to see you back at the Alma Mater as a Grand Rounds lecturer!

VIRTUAL INTERVIEWS

2023 ERAS cycle preliminary ERAS Data:

In comparison to the 2022 cycle the number of applicants in Diagnostic Radiology have increased ~10.7% and in Integrated IR/DR ~8%. The average number of applications per applicant in Diagnostic Radiology increased ~13.7%. The average number of applications per program in Diagnostic Radiology is 921 (!), up 25% from last year. We have received 815 applications for our 3 residency slots in the 2023 cycle, that is 55% more than last year, quite remarkable! While a subset of these increased applicants to Diagnostic Radiology represents reapplicants following last year's highly competitive Match, radiology clearly remains highly desirable amongst medical students. The 25.2% increase in average applications per program reflects the combination of increased applicants AND increased applications per applicant, which continues to increase year after year. The new Supplemental ERAS application and program signaling (6 per applicant) have become important tools to assist programs in their attempt to holistically review applications.

In the 2024 cycle we won't have USMLE Step 1 scores anymore as the exam scoring has changed to pass/fail, adding an additional layer of difficulty sorting through the applications.

We represented radiology at the Creighton – American Medical Women's Association meeting. The percent of female applicants in radiology continues to remain low, 24% of our applicant pool this year.

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Creighton University medical students and residents working at the Magis Clinic, a student run free health clinic, identified a need for improved access to breast cancer screening for their patients. Through a federal program called Every Woman Matters, uninsured women can have free screening mammograms as well as follow-up diagnostic mammograms and biopsies if needed. The main limitation of the program is that patients are not aware of the program's existence or how to utilize it. In collaboration with the medical students at the Magis Clinic and case workers at the Sienna Francis homeless shelter, the word is now being spread and eligible patients are identified. Our student liaison then works with the patients to decrease communication and/or transportation barriers and seeks out solutions to foster follow-through with mammogram appointments. We are in our third PDSA cycle and are seeing improving results!

RADIOLOGY SIMULATION LAB

The radiology department introduced its Radiology Simulation Lab in June 2022. The Simulation course was developed by Dr. Tami DenOtter, MD.

With the help of the Radiology Core Faculty, the Simulation Lab educational content was established to offer students a more hands-on experience while learning radiology. The goal of the Radiology Simulation Lab is for students to learn to see what a radiologist sees by working like a radiologist works.

This radiology simulation course includes short radiology instructional videos, PACS based small group case review where the students get to hold the mouse and be the radiologist, followed by recorded read-out sessions to provide feedback on the cases. The simulation course is broken into 9 subspecialty areas with the goal of learning level-appropriate radiology topics needed in future practice. The Radiology Simulation course is currently being offered to M4 students on their Radiology Elective and Allied Health Science Students.

Approximately 400 imaging studies in 9 subspecialty areas (radiographs, US, CT, MRI, PET imaging and Interventional cases) have been specially chosen for medical student level education.

Current feedback from the M4 students has been extremely favorable. The students have commented that they appreciate the hands on format and mini-educational videos. Viewing the case readouts with immediate feedback on each of the case findings has greatly enhanced the students' learning. Working in a small group of four students has helped facilitated learning and has been enjoyable for the students as opposed to the traditional passive observership in the radiology department.

GLOBAL OUTREACH

Dr. Dena Ferguson, is the second Creighton Global Surgery fellow who finished her training under the leadership of Dr Filipi. She rotated through our program to gain ultrasound scanning and interpretation skills and learn basic US guided procedures. She is currently at the Hospital of Hope in Mango, Togo, working with our team to develop an image sharing system through which we can help with image interpretation and educate the volunteer physicians.

WELLNESS CORNER

Creighton Radiology returned to Habitat for Humanity for the 4th year! Residents are always eager to attend this event not only to serve our community but also because “using power tools is so satisfying”. I watched the residents read each other’s moves to pass the right tool at the right time, they taught each other new skills, and shared laughs at the job site.

Due to the popularity of this event, we are planning another H4H build day for the spring, so perhaps with rotating responsibilities we can learn the basic skills to build an entire house over the span of the 4 yeas of radiology residency. Put that on your resume, radiologist!

DR SUBASH PAKNIKAR RETIRED

Dr Subash Paknikar began his career at Creighton in September 1996, hired by Dr John Terry.

Subhash led the nuclear medicine department through many changes in leadership and location over 26 years. During that time, he was a consummate educator, administrator and unfailingly polite and optimistic physician.

Subhash has had many roles over the years. Through out his career, he carried out the tasks of the radiation safety officer. Serving on the Creighton University Admissions committee, he assisted in selecting medical students at Creighton for over 10 years. Dr. Paknikar served on multiple additional committees to include the Radiation Safety Committee, the Academic Affairs Committee in cardiology, and the Creighton Executive Committee.

It's apparent that Subhash loves Creighton University and enjoyed to teach.

He said that he liked teaching residents to think differently- to appreciate that nuclear medicine, uses physiology and function – not just pattern recognition like the rest of radiology -implying that nuclear medicine is the superior specialty in radiology. Dr. Paknikar was able to instill that appreciation in dozens of residents, nuclear medicine fellows, cardiology fellows, and hundreds of medical students over the years.

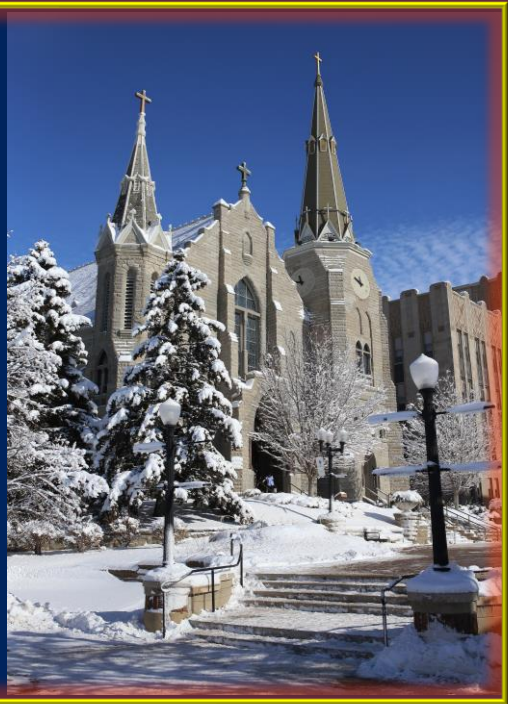
When we asked Dr. Paknikar what he will miss in retirement, he said he will miss the camaraderie. "*Residents are fun to be around,"* he said. "*They keep you young"*.

But Subhash says he has so many things he wants to do in retirement. He has a beautiful 18 month old grand daughter Meenu who calls him Abba, who insists on talking with him every night on the phone. He hopes to spend a lot of time in person with his granddaughter and future grandkids. He will be the best grandfather ever!

Subhash has taught a generation of radiology residents the beauty of nuclear medicine. His teaching and the example of his positive approach to life will have a lasting effect on future generations.

Thank you Subhash! We appreciate all you have done for us and will miss you!

Christmas Dinner with Dr. Jim Phalen



Resident Holiday Party at the Corky Canvas

ALUMNI AND FACULTY PHOTOS

Send us your photos to share!

Jepperson family

The Barons

Dr. Jeffress and son

Zitterkopf family

Wong family

Dr Vonk as volunteer firefighter

The Stibbes

Visit us and give a grand rounds lecture!

Dr Ali became a father

Drs Schubert and Csordas

Aly family