Journey to the Promised Land: Attaining Quality Excellence

Where is the healthcare Promised Land for our patients and for the healthcare provider? Should we not be promising our patients a place in which there is a vision for perfection? As healthcare providers, we need to be aware of the everyday issues surrounding the delivery of healthcare. We need to strive to achieve the highest level of quality in order to mitigate a healthcare disaster. With eyes wide open and an increased awareness of the importance of quality improvement, we can attain quality excellence here in Emory Radiology.

The IOM (Institute of Medicine) reported in 2000 some alarming statistics that drew the nation’s attention to quality and safety. A reported 44,000 to 98,000 deaths occur every year as a result of healthcare errors. When comparing these statistics to other causes of death, it measures out that airplanes are 10,000 times safer than a hospital, and that our roads are 11 times safer to use than our hospitals. If the lower figure is used at 44,000 deaths per year that means that medical errors are the 8th leading cause of death, surpassing motor vehicle accidents, breast cancer and AIDS. The IOM estimates that the price tag on these errors comes to about $36.7 billion per year. Why is it that some of the smartest and most dedicated people in the world work in a place that is the 8th leading cause of death in the United States, and what are we doing about it?

We have seen a comparison to a survey done in 2000, that 55% of Americans are dissatisfied with their healthcare. This could be due to the awareness placed on safety and quality issues within healthcare after the IOM report “To Err Is Human”. Medication errors alone have increased over the 5-year period from 40,000 in 2000 to 90,000 in 2005 (The Joint Commission). This information has provided us the opportunity to gain some conceptual knowledge from industries unrelated to healthcare that have made extraordinary changes in safety and quality due to the standardization of processes. The Joint Commission has established National Patient Safety Goals (NPSGs) in order to try and do just that. We will be sharing some of our work with the NPSGs, other initiatives and goals from the IOM, and other sources in the upcoming Radiology Grand Rounds on September 10th. We have already started and will be continuing this work in quality and patient safety, extending it through all modalities throughout the Emory Healthcare system.

Here at Emory we have the unique ability to work, with not only some of the best doctors, nurses and technologist, but to also collaborate with researchers and others in the fields of engineering, psychology and informatics to help us formulate innovative approaches to attaining quality excellence and creating the promised land for our patients. I sincerely hope that each of you will step up to the challenge of creating and sustaining an extraordinary spirit of needed change in patient safety and quality. You are the one to make the difference in promoting new systems, processes and cultural changes that will make healthcare a safer place for all.

- Starla Longfellow
  Assistant Director, Quality and Strategic Initiatives for Imaging Services
Letter from the Chair

Dear Colleagues,

We are certainly hearing a lot about QUALITY lately. I am proud that this institution, and this department and its members, are increasingly invested in seeking quality excellence in every area of healthcare delivery for our patients. This requires teamwork, motivation, and a clear focus on a common purpose. Mr. John Fox, President of Emory Healthcare, has made this the number one strategic goal for our healthcare system. Of course, quality improvement in radiology is among our five major goals in the five-year department strategic plan. Dr. Torres, in his leadership role in radiology clinical operations and as chair of our department Practice Quality Improvement Committee, has interwoven enhanced quality initiatives into our work practices. There is still a lot of work ahead.

The Woodruff Health Sciences leadership is increasingly using the term QUALITY to apply broadly to all that we do. We strive for our clinical services to be of the highest quality. Yet isn’t that also what we are doing when we work to hone our teaching skills and engage in innovative discovery and research? Indeed, quality is bred through excellence into our culture and throughout our 3 mission areas.

On August 28, the PACS Kick-off Meeting was held at the Emory Conference Center, led by Habib Tannir and Mo Salama. Although there is still a long road ahead, this launch event marked the start of a domino sequence of activities including beginning to archive several terabytes of existing image data and designing custom workflows for our complex, subspecialized, and distributed healthcare network. Present at the Kick-off were several individuals from the seven-member GE Core Team, which will work side-by-side with the Emory Radiology IS team to rollout the GE Centricity 3.0 PACS and associated support programs. I am particularly gratified that so many of our radiologists and staff have been integrally involved in the selection, design, and setup of the new RIS and PACS. Centralized architecture and updated technology will offer substantial advantages for support of our clinical and teaching activities.

I look forward to starting down this next phase of our journey toward a better, stronger Emory Radiology.

Best to all,
Carolyn C. Meltzer, MD, FACR
Chair of Radiology

Awards & Recognition

Lauryn Daniel
Jr. at Cornell University
1st Prize Poster
Lauryn Daniel, a junior at Cornell University and participant as a Fellow in the Brain Behavioral Research Advancements in Neuroscience, summer program sponsored by the Center for Behavioral Neuroscience selected Dr. Mark Goodman’s laboratory for her research. Lauryn was co-mentored by Dr. Goodman and Dr. Jeffrey Stehouwer. She was involved in an ongoing project in Dr. Goodman’s laboratory to develop tropane-based F-18 PET tracers for imaging the dopamine transporter. Lauryn helped to develop an improved synthesis of one of the key intermediate compounds needed for radiolabeling the PET tracer as well as for preparing the non-radiolabeled standard. This new synthetic method allows us to obtain the needed compound by a simplified procedure and in a higher chemical yield. In recognition for her outstanding performance in her research, Lauryn was awarded first prize in the summer program’s poster presentations.

Pia Haynes, MBA
Manager, Radiology Scheduling & Front Desk
Masters of Business Administration (MBA)
Pia has received her MBA with a concentration in Healthcare Management from the American InterContinental University (AIU). Congratulations!

Division of Nuclear Medicine

Triple Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Nuclear Medicine Laboratories (ICANL) Certification

The Emory Division of Nuclear Medicine has received ICANL accreditation in the areas of General Nuclear Medicine, Positron Emission Tomography (PET), and Nuclear Cardiology. These accreditations are evidence of the effectiveness in which Emory Nuclear Medicine utilizes their facilities to diagnose coronary heart disease, evaluate kidney and bladder functions, and detect the presence of cardiovascular disease.

With a long tradition of excellence in Nuclear Cardiology, the Emory University Hospital, Department of Radiology, Division of Nuclear Medicine was one of the first 5 laboratories nationwide to receive ICANL accreditation for Nuclear Cardiology in November of 1998. The standards applied by ICANL for Nuclear Cardiology are based on the Guidelines and Standards published by the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology. Several Emory Radiology names are prominent in the authorship of these guidelines, including Ji Chen, Ph.D.; C. David Cooke, MSEE; Russell Folks, CNMT; James R. Galt, Ph.D.; and Ernest V. Garcia, Ph.D.

EUH Nuclear Medicine achieved comprehensive ICANL accreditation in 2005, expanding the accreditation to include General Nuclear Medicine (including Nuclear Medicine Therapy) and Positron Emission Tomography. The laboratory remains the only one in Georgia with ICANL accreditation in all 3 areas (Nuclear Cardiology, General Nuclear Medicine, and Positron Emission Tomography).
**STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE**

**New Grant**

Automatic Ventricular Boundary Detection From Cardiac CT

**Principal Investigators:**
- Tracy Faber, PhD
- Anthony Yezzi, PhD

**Funding Organization:** Emtech Biotechnology, INC

**Significance:** The overall goal is to improve the care of cardiac patients through automatic functional analysis of cardiac CT studies. As a first step to this, we propose to develop and validate software for detecting LV and RV boundaries from cardiac CT.

**Check It Out**


- Chuck Powell
  The Emory Clinic
  Practice Administrator
GET INVOLVED

Radiology on the Run
Brenda Hall, an Ultrasound Technologist in our department, recently completed her first marathon. She participated in the 2008 San Francisco Marathon after training for 16 weeks. Brenda’s rigorous training included running four days a week around Atlanta, adding miles each week. Before the marathon, she peaked at 22 miles and ran the Peachtree Road Race as part of the Emory Team for more practice. She finished the San Francisco Marathon course of 26.2 miles in only 4 hours and 44 minutes!

Susan G. Komen’s 3-day
Laura Champagne and Cynthia Sutz, both Radiology employees at Emory Crawford Long Hospital, will be participating in this year’s Susan G. Komen’s 3-day Breast Cancer Walk, October 24 - 26. Laura and Cynthia each raised $2,200 to participate in the 60-mile walk. The women have been training after work and every weekend to prepare for the intense physical dedication it takes to walk the 20 miles each day of the event. In addition to training, they invested in some really good walking shoes and fanny packs to carry their rain gear, sunscreen and water.

This will be Laura and Cynthia’s second time contributing to this worthy cause. Laura’s motivation comes from her friends who have been diagnosed with Breast Cancer and her patients who fight this horrific disease on a daily basis. While recalling those that have motivated her, Cynthia explains “I walk for my family, friends and co-workers who have won and those who have lost the fight against breast cancer. But most of all I walk for those who have recently been diagnosed with breast cancer, those currently fighting and those yet to be diagnosed to have one more day with family, friends and co-workers.”

Laura and Cynthia sincerely appreciate the support of the staff at Emory Crawford Long and the entire Radiology Department for their donations and encouragement for this fundraiser.

Call for Speakers
Interested in speaking on a favorite topic for physicians and medical professionals? Emory Healthcare’s Speakers Bureau is an educational and informational service designed to offer Emory medical experts as speakers for medical facilities and physician practices throughout Atlanta and the state of Georgia. Our Speakers Bureau provides these organizations an opportunity to learn about Emory’s latest treatments and techniques available to their patients, particularly services that may not be available at their facility or in their community. If you are interested in being a part of the Speaker’s Bureau, please contact Amy Comeau at amy.comeau@emoryhealthcare.org or 404-778-7697.

Get a Grant!
With four NIH deadlines quickly approaching, now is the perfect time to visit the site of the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP). From this page you can access the Emory subscription to IRIS and COS grant search engines, as well as NIH essentials. Engage in a grant today! http://www.osp.emory.edu/funding.cfm

Contact Mariana Teodorescu with any questions about getting involved: 404-778-4244 or mteodor@emory.edu
GET INVOLVED

Weens Lecture

The 25th Annual Weens Lecture and Resident Alumni Reunion will take place on Friday, September 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the School of Medicine Building. The evening will feature a presentation by C. Douglas Phillips, MD, FACR, a Professor in the departments of Radiology, Neurosurgery and Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Virginia School of Medicine. He will share his explanation of “The Death of George Washington - Which ENT Condition Did It?”

Dr. Phillips attended the US Air Force Academy and subsequently attended Marshall University. He attended medical school at Marshall University in Huntington, WV. Following completion of medical school, Dr. Phillips spent 4 years in diagnostic radiology at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA. Then he spent the next 2 years in a neuroradiology fellowship, also at the University of Virginia. He felt lucky to be recruited on to the faculty and spent the next 12 years working at the University Hospital. He was trained in diagnostic and interventional neuroradiology, but found the most enjoyment in diagnostic neuroradiology and working with the neurosurgery, otolaryngology, and the neurology staff. Dr. Phillips has led the neuroradiology division as Section Chief since 2000.

On an occasion that commemorates the history of the Emory Radiology Department, we are very privileged to host a prestigious member of the Radiology Community who will share how radiology is able to assist in preserving history.

If you would like to attend this event, RSVP by Friday, September 19, 2008 to Laura Padgett at 404-712-5497 or llpadg@emory.edu.

Dr. Heinz Weens, first Radiology Resident and first Chair of Radiology, is honored each year with the Annual Weens lecture.

Department of Radiology Alumni Weekend CME Program

Saturday, September 27, 2008
9 a.m. - Noon
School of Medicine Building
3 Hours of Credit Offered

Adina Alazraki, MD
- Pediatric PET-CT

Bobby Kalb, MD
- Pulmonary Embolism Imaging by MRI

John Payan, MD
- Food Signs in Musculoskeletal Imaging: You Are What You See

Eugene Berkowitz, MD, PhD
- Thoracic Imaging

Hyun S. “Kevin” Kim, MD
- Image-guided Medicine in the Next Century

Amit Saindane, MD
- Advanced MR Imaging of Multiple Sclerosis

If you would like to attend this event, RSVP by Friday, September 19, 2008 to Laura Padgett at 404-712-5497 or llpadg@emory.edu.

Visit www.radiology.emory.edu/events-and-lectures for up-to-date event information.
NEW FACES & APPOINTMENTS

As the Radiology Department continues its growth, new Faculty and Staff are joining the department to accommodate the needs of our education programs and research labs, and provide the highest patient care quality. As mentioned in Dr. Carolyn Meltzer’s Letter from the Chair posted on the radiology website, “Emory has enjoyed a long-standing tradition of excellence in clinical programs, a passion for teaching, and strength in innovative imaging research.” Our Department lives up to these standards and welcomes these individuals who will contribute to our success. Please make the time to greet these new Faculty and Staff members to our thriving team.

Tong Ge, MD, MS
Assistant Professor, Community Radiology

Dr. Ge comes from The Memorial Hospital of Salem County in New Jersey and Chestnut Hill Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where he was an Attending Radiologist. His other previous experience includes a Clinical Fellowship in Body Imaging and Intervention from Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA and was a Locum Tenens Radiologist at two hospital locations in Massachusetts.

Dr. Ge earned his MD from the Medical School of Soochow University in Suzhou, China and his MS in Molecular Genetics from the University of Houston in Texas. He is also an active member in the American Board of Radiology. Dr. Ge has gained previous experience in research and teaching as well as publishing original papers.

David Altman, MD
Instructor - Neuroradiology

Dr. Altman completed his diagnostic radiology residency here at Emory in 2007, and is now continuing his training as a second-year neuroradiology fellow with an appointment as Instructor. He will also be assisting Dr. Mark Mullins this year in organizing the required third year medical student clerkship in radiology.

Dr. Altman has collaborated on various research projects with other Radiology Faculty. He was co-author of the winning paper for the Caffey Award for Best Clinical Science Presentation at the Society for Pediatric Radiology in 2005 regarding CT use in pediatric cervical spine trauma.

Aparna Kakarala, MD
Assistant Professor, Musculoskeletal Imaging

Dr. Kakarala specializes in Diagnostic Radiology with a focus area in musculoskeletal and spine. She joins Emory Radiology after gaining valuable experience from the University of Oklahoma and Diagnostic Imaging Specialists in Atlanta. Her previous experience includes three years in the private sector as well as a teaching tertiary academic facility. Dr. Kakarala has special emphasis on MRI and is well versed with MRI protocols having worked with 0.2 to 3.0 Tesla magnets.

Dr. Kakarala attended medical school at Mahadevappa Rampure Medical College in Gulbarga, India. She did an Internal Medicine Internship at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac, MI. Her Diagnostic Radiology Residency was completed at Michigan State University.

Vitaliy Gavrikov, MD
Sr. Associate, Nuclear Medicine

Dr. Gavrikov received his medical degree from Far Eastern State Medical University in Khabarovsky, Russia. Dr. Gavrikov joins the Emory Radiology Department after finishing his Nuclear Medicine Residency at the University of Iowa. Dr. Gavrikov’s previous experience includes a General Surgery Residency from Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia and an Anesthesiology Residency at Far Eastern State Medical University.

Dr. Gavrikov’s most recent publications and presentations incorporate how “Endothelin and Nerve Growth Factor Both Mediate Upregulation of Heat Shock Proteins in PC 2 Cells” and “Marrow Infusions after Chronic Constriction Injury (CCI) May Decrease Inflammatory Infiltration”.

Peter Harri, MD
Research Associate

Dr. Harri gained previous experience from the Otolaryngology Department at Northwestern University before joining the Emory Radiology Department. Dr. Harri’s current focus is Body Imaging Research. He received his MD from the Emory School of Medicine, where he graduated Magna Cum Laude.

Shadi Saleem, MD
Fellow, Interventional Radiology

Dr. Saleem earned his medical degree from Damascus University Faculty of Medicine in Damascus, Syria. He completed a Rotating Internship and Radiology Residency from Damascus University Faculty of Medicine. Dr. Saleem is fluent in Arabic, his native language.
NEW FACES & APPOINTMENTS

**Christopher Braithwaite**
Computer Support Specialist I

Christopher Braithwaite has joined the Radiology Department with 12 years of Emory experience in information technology. In his previous position he was the Computer Support Specialist for Emory’s Family and Preventive Medicine (FPM) Department.

In this new position, Chris will provide computer support to the department's University employees, offer consulting on hardware or software, and create awareness of un-utilized University technological resources. Christopher earned his BA in Computer Science from The State University of New York (SUNY) in Buffalo, New York. Chris’ other interests include multi-media technology.

**Dan Crawley, MBA**
Associate Clinical Administrator

Dan Crawley comes to Emory with a diverse Radiology Management background, having worked at for-profit hospitals, physician-owned imaging centers, and academic Level-I trauma centers. He also has 7 years as an adjunct faculty position for the Radiologic Technology Program at Raymond Walters Community College.

Dan has extensive training in PACS systems, as well as Six Sigma Green belt training. He has participated and completed multiple Radiology Six Sigma Projects to include Radiology Report turnaround times and CT exam times.

Dan received his MBA with a concentration in Health Administration from Baker College in Michigan. He is transitioning many of the responsibilities currently held by Chuck Powell in the management of the professional practice and assist with all things physician related.

**Ramon Almeida**
Medical Assistant

Ramon has joined TEC Radiology in CT. He graduated from the Medical Assistant program at the Everest Institute in Norcross after completing an internship with TEC. Ramon is contributing to the success of radiology at the Emory Crawford Long location in the MOT.

**Brandon LeGrant**
CT Technologist II

Brandon joined the Emory Radiology Department as a CT Technologist. He plans to graduate in 2009 with his BA in Radiology Sciences, focus area in CT, from Georgia Military College.

Brandon was in the Army Infantry for six years as a Radiology Specialist.

**Arthur “Danny” Bonaparte**
Radiology Technologist I

Danny has 15 years of Radiology experience from Atlanta Medical and will be joining Emory Radiology at the Northlake location. He was accredited as a Radiology Technologist from the School of Radiology in Columbia, South Carolina. In his free time, Danny enjoys playing the bass guitar, drums and keyboard.

**Kathryn Leidy, RT (R)**
Radiology Technologist I

Kathryn will be joining the Radiology Department at its newest location, Emory at Northlake. Her previous experience includes eight years at Gwinnett Medical Center in Lawrenceville where she worked in the ER as a Radiology Technologist. Kathryn is a member of the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT).

**Shjrelle Cline**
Radiology Assistant

Shjrelle is currently training in different areas of the Emory Radiology Department before beginning at Emory Northlake in September. Shjrelle earned her Associate Degree as a Medical Assistant at Mandl College of Allied Health in New York City. Her goal is to become a Physical Therapist who specializes in orthopedics and spine.

**Efrem Sims**
Transportation Attendant

Efrem is excited to be a part of Emory Radiology at EUH. His previous experience at Erlanger Hospital in Tennessee has allowed him to discover his true passion for interacting with hospital patients. Outside of work, Efrem enjoys horseback riding, which he has been doing since the age of 14.

**Brandon LeGrant**
CT Technologist II

Brandon joined the Emory Radiology Department as a CT Technologist. He plans to graduate in 2009 with his BA in Radiology Sciences, focus area in CT, from Georgia Military College.

Brandon was in the Army Infantry for six years as a Radiology Specialist.

**Tanya Jones**
Radiology Assistant

After a short time at Wesley Woods, Tanya has joined the team at Emory University Hospital. Tanya dedicated 13 years to the Navy Reserves as a Medical Corpsman. Outside of work, she enjoys cooking, catering food and fundraising for her twin daughters.

**Rebecca Smith, RT (CT)**
CT Technologist – RN

Rebecca has joined TEC Radiology with a focus in CT. She graduated from the Emory Medical Imaging program this past May with a BMSc degree. She is working in both CT and diagnostic radiology at the ECLH MOT.
The Department of Radiology has designated a Chief of Service for each Emory flagship location to oversee the quality of medical care delivered at each site. Leaders in this position have been selected for their strong clinical experience, ability to work with administration, excellent communication skills and passion for delivering quality service at an Emory standard of excellence.

As a Chief of Service, each of them must have his hand on the pulse of the clinical operations, while ensuring that current policies and procedures are followed. This position also allows for improvements to be made to the existing policies and procedures and consideration of new ones, when needed.

Each Chief of Service strives to open the lines of communication within each location to create an effective and pleasant work environment, as well as an outlet for referring physicians. As a communication advocate, the Chief of Service is not only a resource, but also a means of contributing ideas for improvement. While focused on the quality of clinical service, the chiefs are often the spokesperson for administrative decisions that help to progress the clinical services of radiology.

When taking into consideration the administrative duties of a Chief of Service, the perceivable differences between the role of a Division Director and Chief of Service may become blurred. There is some overlap of these two positions in that Division Directors are attentive to the clinical needs of their division, and Chiefs of Service do contribute administratively to the evolution of policies and procedures. These lines tend to separate when evaluating areas of focus. A Division Director is responsible for ensuring that all aspects of their division operate in a manner that contributes to the department goals. Considerations taken by the directors include fiscal responsibilities, administrative duties, clinical quality of service, Emory wide goals, and global status of our department. The Chief of Service focuses on the clinical policies, procedures, daily operations, and quality of service delivered to patients and referring physicians at a specific clinical site. Only through a relationship built on cooperative politics between the Division Directors and Chiefs of Service, can progress be made. Dr. William Small, who serves as both Chief of Service at Emory Crawford Long Hospital and Director of the Division of Abdominal Imaging, recognizes that without the congenial environment that exists amongst the Division Directors and Chiefs of Service progress would be very difficult. The Chiefs of Service and Divisions Directors ensure open lines of communication through a monthly Clinical Operations meeting.

Serving as a link between the clinical operations of each flagship location, the Chiefs of Service balance their administrative duties with creating a happy work environment, while reaching for the highest level of quality clinical service.

- Monica Salama
Communications Specialist

Look for a new issue of the Rad Report the first full week of October.