

## From the Desk of

## Francis Williams

**DEPARTMENT OF RADIOLOGY** Quarterly Newsletter

**March 2021** 



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#### Dr. Jorge Soto - Department Chair of Radiology

Welcome to the spring issue of our Department's Newsletter! As we turn the page away from the winter months, especially this past snowy February, and with daylight savings time just around the corner, this year's spring does feel like it will mark the beginning of a new chapter with brighter days ahead. The optimism generated by the rapidly expanding deployment of the vaccines and the steady decrease in numbers of infections and hospitalizations is real, and suggests that we should be

able to enjoy the coming months with growing freedom while we still remain vigilant and follow all recommended guidelines.

For our department, this also means that we should expect a gradual transition back to how we used to operate before the pandemic. Some of our practices and ways that we interact with each other may not return to the pre-pandemic state, but I suspect that most will over time. This includes many of our traditional department events that were skipped in 2020 and that we all miss. As we keep our focus on driving forward our missions of delivering the best care for our patients, providing top quality education opportunities and experiences for our trainees, and exploring new avenues for research, it is important that we are diligent in taking the necessary steps to make this return to our prior steady state possible. To this effect, we will follow the instructions received from senior leadership in Boston Medical Center and Boston University School of Medicine.

I encourage all to read through this Newsletter. It highlights the many accomplishments of members of our department, welcomes new members in different areas and provides information and updates about our clinical services and operations. Thank you to all of you who contributed content to this issue and we welcome submissions and ideas for content to be included in our next edition in the summer.





# Kudos

The Radiology Department at Boston University Medical Center has once again significantly contributed to the advancement of radiology both locally, regionnaly, and nationally. Please congratulate the following individuals for their accomplishments:



Dr. Kevin Chang





Dr. Michael Fishman

Dr. Michael Fishman received the 2020 Strategic Alignment Grant from the Association of University Radiologists to create a speed coaching program at the AUR annual meeting to be held in Boston in May 2022.



Dr. Osamu Sakai

Dr. Osamu Sakai has received the 2020 Editor's Recognition Award with Special Distinction in Radiology.



Dr. Akira Murakami

Editor's Recognition Award with Special Distinction from Radiology for 2020.



Dr. Harprit Bedi

Dr. Harprit Bedi was appointed as a new consultant to the editor for RadioGraphics and will be playing a signficant role serving as a senior faculty liaison for the RG Team.



**Dr. Anna Rives** 

Dr. Anna Rives deserves a congratulations for her recent promotion to Assistant Professor of Radiology at BUSM.



Dr. Priscilla Slanetz

Recently recognized as a 2020 Distinguished Reviewer for the American Journal of Roentgenology and the 2020 Editor's Recognition Award for Reviewing with Special Distinction for Radiology. She also was appointed co-Guest Editor of an Education Science focus issue for the Journal of the American College of Radiology.

# Kudos





Dr. Thanh Nguyen

Dr. Thanh Nguyen has had Media Coverage with LINNC TV and Endovascular today and was also awarded two grants (Medtronic & SVIN)



**Dr. Alex Merritt** 

Dr. Alexander Merritt recently published an AI paper in Nature Digital Medicine



Dr. Pedro Staziaki

Dr. Pedro Staziaki has been appointed as a member for the Trainee Editorial Board (TEB) for Radiology: Artificial Intelligence



Dr. Donghoon Shin

Dr. Donghoon Shin was highlighted in the March Issue of RSNA News for his work related to social determinants of health in lung cancer screening compliance.



**Dr. Hailey Chang** 

Dr. Hailey Chang has recieved a partial grant from the BMC Housestaff Quality Improvement Council Grant Committee and has reviewed the QI Grant Proposal, "Improving the Rate of Lung Cancer Screening at a Safety-Net Hospital". Funding amount: \$13,000.

#### Nuclear Medicine Techs

Congratulations goes to Brandon Anderson, Matthew Molloy, Monalisa Santos, Smitha Thomas, and Kevin Vernon for passing their CT Board Exams! We are so lucky to have so many accomplished technologists in our nuclear medicine division.

## **Department News**

As a department, we continue to adapt to the pandemic but fortunately December brought some hope with the arrival of the COVID vaccine. By now, nearly all of us are vaccinated and the numbers of COVID cases at BMC and in the state continue to decline. However, public health recommendations of social distancing and mask wearing remain in place. The recent announcement from the Governor of Massachusetts to open up restaurants and allow larger gatherings brings more hope that by summer, we may all be able to at least gather in smaller groups, resume in-person teaching and be more present in all of the reading rooms. We also would like to thank Dr. Leah Schafer for her continued volunteerism - she is one of many BMC employees who have spent time administering the

vaccine to Massachusetts residents at the Hyde Park YMCA and participating in drop-in Zoom Q & A information sessions and staffing the in-person question booths as part of the employee vaccine education program at BMC.

On another note, we were fortunate to welcome Dr. Donna-Lee Selland to the breast imaging division. Dr. Selland comes to BMC from Newton-Wellesley Hospital and brings 20+ years of experience. We look forward to her clinical expertise and leadership in the department. In addition, we also welcome Emily Louis as a new Physician Assistant to the Department. Please welcome both of them when you see them in the hallways.

We also welcomed Dr. Caitlin Connolly from Mt. Auburn Hospital as the first Ewa Kuligowska Invited Lecturer at Boston Medical Center as part of the New England Women in Radiology (NEWR) Invited Lectureship Program. She shared her expertise in nuclear imaging of infection and inflammatory process with our residents on 3/3/21. We look forward to welcoming Dr. Shruthi Ram from Rhode Island Hospital/Brown in June 2021. For the second year of the NEWR program, we are thrilled to announce Drs. Leah Schafer and Dr. Bindu Setty as BMC's next participants in this regional faculty development program.

Finally, we are excited to begin working on creating a departmental cookbook which will allow us to celebrate our cultural diversity through food. We hope that everyone will contribute 1-2 of their favorite recipes for inclusion. The deadline for submission is April 1, 2021 and we are aiming to have the cookbook available just in time for the summer season. If you have any questions about this initiative, feel free to reach out to Gretchen Sammy, Jude lerardi, Ashley Davidoff or Priscilla Slanetz

Dr. Priscilla Slanetz

## **Cyber Attack**

#### Massachusetts Radiology Quality and Safety Presentation

The January 2021 meeting of the MA Radiology Quality and Safety Council engaged a panel to discuss, in-depth, the vulnerabilities, experiences, and defense strategies around cyberattack in the healthcare setting as it pertains to radiology. We were joined by Dr. Kristin DeStigter, Chair of the Department of Radiology at University of Vermont Medical Center (UVMMC), Dr. Hannah Perry, Medical Director and Co-Chief of Breast Imaging Division at UVMMC, and Dr. Christoph Wald, Chair of the Department of Radiology at Lahey and Chair of the ACR Commission

on Informatic. Drs. DeStigter and Perry recounted in detail their experiences during a massive cyberattack on UVMMC in October of 2020 in which a virus infected and disabled the entire IT infrastructure of their medical center (including the EMR, scheduling systems, PACS system, RIS system, hospital computers, hospital email, on-line printers, everything...) and took the radiology department 39 days to fully recover from. Their informative and rather terrifying account of the extent of the havoc wreaked and damage done by the attack was both enlightening and a call to action to those in attendance. Stemming from the discussions around departmental and institutional preparedness for this

very real and present threat to all of our IT systems, a nascent plan evolved to collaborate across institutions to share knowledge and best practices to prepare for and protect against technology disruption from external forces. If you are interested in learning more or participating in the collaborative efforts in cybersecurity, being spearheaded by the UMass radiology team, please reach out and I will connect you.

Special thanks to Kevin Chang for documenting excellent minutes during this fascinating meeting!

Dr. Leah Schafer

## **Celebrating My Culture**

#### Celebrating my culture is an ongoing program organized by the department starting at the end of 2020 in order to help us understand the many cultures within the department

Contributions have been quite diverse spreading across the continents including, Asia, South America, North America, Africa, and Europe.

Traditional celebrations were explored, through foods, parades, family traditions, sculptures, music, art, dance and poetry.

Dr Siavash Behbani shared his Persian/Iranian culture with Yalda Night, or "Shabeh Yalda", which celebrates the longest and darkest night of the year. It is a feast with a focus on food and poetry

Dr Maryam Vejdani Jahromi submitted videos of music, dance and artwork of her Persian Iranian background. The traditional dance is totally enchanting.

Linda Parker RT shared her Italian roots and personal family story of the feast of the Seven Fishes and how on Christmas eve, as children she and her brother were forced to participate in the eating of "smelly fish" such as sardines, and octopus.

Dr Castro Aragon shared the Costa Rican celebration of Christmas where there is a focus of creating nativity scenes which lasts through January and February (Dia de la Candelaria), when families pray and sing together, offer a rosary and there is a blessing from the Pope. Families cook together making tamales starting with cooking the masa (made of corn) and seasoned pork which are finally wrapped in plantain leaves.

Dr Tkacz shared the foods pertaining to his Ukrainian and Polish background including recipes of Polish pierogies and Ukrainian varenky meaning "boiled little ones"

To top these delicious "boiled little ones" Dr Mercier provided the recipe for the Puerto Rican coquito warning that this eggnog can pack a powerful punch if 150 proof rum is used

Dr Davidoff shared a sculpture of the shofar and a poem on the significance of the sounds that it makes relevant to the holiday of Yom – Kippur – the day of Atonement in the Jewish faith

Dr Jara shared his Chilean culture through the songs, poetry and philosophy of a national heroine

Violeta Parra

Dr Shaffer has adopted Calabria in southern Italy as a second home. She describes her love for the food and people and describes the down to earth lifestyle in the village where she owns a small apartment and spends much time

Dr Soto, shared his country's passion for soccer and the events of the win of the Colombian team over the Argentinians which served to unite the country and possibly changed the direction of the country for the better after the game.

Dr Abdalkader submitted a video of the history geography and culture of his native ancient Lebanon going back to between 8000 aand 7000 BC and continuously inhabited since 5000BC

Dr Setty wrote of ancient and celebrated cultural dances in India and submitted pictures of her daughters in traditional dress and dance postures. Siya her elder daughter shows a move of the Kathak dance and Sonal a move in Bharatanatyam.

Dr Li wrote of the Chinese celebration of the 1t year birthday, where the baby is presented with a variety of gifts, and the most sought after gift by the baby provides a prediction of the baby's interest and future career.

Dr Davidoff shared the "Click song", a wedding song by South African Miriam Makeba who uses the Xhosa's linguistic abilities to create unusual clicking sounds to celebrate the wedding of a Xhosa bride. Dr Janicek described the celebration of his hybrid wedding between himself, a Catholic Czech to his South African Jewess bride Talana. Dr Chang as a Taiwanese groom told of his hybrid wedding to Dr Rohini Nadgir and the Hindu tradition of the Seven Steps around the holy fire

There are many more cultures still to be explored in our department and we hope to renew this very interesting project after the CookBook Project. It has served to bring us together as we explore and enjoy our differences

**Dr. Ashley Davidoff** 

## Residency Update

Hello all,

So the match season has finally ended and we are on the verge of match week. It was an entirely different experience with all interviews being conducted via zoom but we made it! We had some incredible candidates interview with us and now the waiting game begins as we anxiously and eagerly wait to find out who will be the latest members of our radiology family.

On a different note as we approach the one year "anniversary" of when the world went into lockdown due to COVID-19, I just thought it would be important to reflect on all those who have lost their lives, have lost love ones or who have been affected in some way by this terrible pandemic. Our thoughts go out to all these people and makes me appreciate that despite some ups and downs, how fortunate many of us in the BMC and radiology family are that we are healthy and can continue to contribute to the well being of others. I have said this before, but I am and always will be incredibly proud of how everyone has continued to work selflessly through these difficult times...but that is what we do and that is who we are. May we have much happier and healthier years ahead!

Dr. Asim Mian

This fall, the department submitted an application to the residency review committee for radiology of the ACGME for an integrated interventional radiology / diagnostic radiology residency training program. This program involves 3 years of diagnostic radiology followed by 2 years of interventional radiology and would accept 1 resident per year. Residents graduating from this program at BMC will emerge as outstanding diagnostic and interventional radiologists. On January 8th, 2021, the new program underwent its initial accreditation site visit with a number of faculty members participating in the virtual site visit over Zoom. We expect to hear a decision from the review committee on initial accreditation by the end of April.

**Dr. Kevin Daly** 

## Abdominal Imaging

The Abdominal Imaging section at Boston University School of Medicine has always taken pride in our expert clinical work and research in this subspecialty. In particular, we have excelled in the field of Emergency Radiology with a special interest in trauma. With our prolific clinical research in this domain spanning several decades, we have helped lay the foundations for best imaging practices in the care of the patients in the emergent setting. We routinely perform state of the art Dual Energy CT, MRI and Ultrasound examinations.

We have close working relationships with our diverse subspecialty referral base which encompasses virtually all of the medical and surgical subspecialties. To deliver the best clinical care, we hold 7 multidisciplinary conferences including hepatobiliary tumor board, gynecologic oncology tumor board, and trauma acute care surgery radiology rounds to name a few. In this

setting, we are constantly pushing the envelope in terms of clinical care and process improvement.

The full integration of Dual Energy CT into our busy clinical practice circa September 2018 has opened numerous avenues for our division and the care of our patients. Boston Medical Center has the highest usage of GE Revolution DECT in the country which places us in a unique position to harness this modality's potential, both clinically and with respect to research. As such, we pursued and were awarded a 2 year \$100,000 grant to assess the ability of DECT to detect occult fractures in the blunt trauma population.

Since Dr. Kevin Chang arrived at BMC, there have been many changes made in MRI protocols and workflow. In particular, body imaging protocols have seen a significant overhaul. eTHRIVE sequences have largely been replaced by 3D Compressed SENSE mDIXON to improve fat-saturation and signal with fewer phases, added coronal plane post-contrast images, and increased flip angles for hepatobiliary phase imaging. T2 weighted images have been adjusted with longer TEs in rectal MRI and faster sequences with implementation of MultiVane XD and Compressed SENSE. MRCP protocols have also benefited from the addition of an optional 3D GraSE single breath-hold 3D MRCP sequence. Respiratory triggering has improved with replacement of bellows with Navigator diaphragm-based triggers. Prostate MRI protocols have also been completely revised with diffusion weighted and dynamic contrast enhanced images now complying with PI-RADS v2.1 specifications. Numerous other revisions have also been made to the rectal fistula, MR enterography, and various pelvic protocols. We are currently shifting from the use of bolus tracking to bolus triggering for contrast timing. Potential changes to the mediastinal mass protocol are forthcoming as are potential new service lines such as dynamic pelvic floor imaging. In terms of workflow efficiency, other upgrades include AutoVoice with Translator Services contributing multiple prerecorded language instructions to improve our service and image quality for our multicultural patient population. Sara Martin has also assumed the role of MRI Quality Specialist and has been key in optimizing and troubleshooting multiple protocols and studies over the course of the last academic year.

The GE 3.0T magnet in Shapiro is also undergoing changes with expanded study indications improving our scheduling flexibility and service to our outpatients with more breast and body slots adding to our existing MSK and Neuro schedules. Other anticipated future hardware and software upgrades include new multichannel blanket coils, HyperSEN-SE 2.0, deep-learning iterative reconstruction, large and small field of view DWI variants, 3D T2FSE sequences, and free-breathing continuous acquisition multiphase pulse sequences. As we continue to leverage technical advances and computing power upgrades to optimize and shorten our MR exams, we will provide increased access and better service to our vast and varied patient population at BMC.

In addition, over the last year, the department has made significant investments in both hardware and software upgrades in ultrasound. Beyond improved image quality, this investment permits new capabilities within the section to include 3D ultrasound, bedside tablet control and the ability to incorporate photography into an examination, which can assist with the interpretation of superficial ultrasounds, among others.

**Dr. Christina LeBedis** 

## **MSK Research**



The Musculoskeletal Imaging Section has multiple ongoing research projects, many in collaboration with other clinical departments and institutions. With a large data pool and extensive resources, the MSK Imaging fellow and interested residents have had the opportunity to compose a variety of educational exhibits and original research articles.

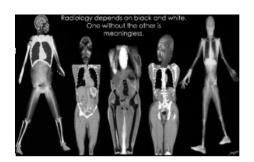
We are most fortunate that the International Olympic Committee has granted us access to all imaging performed at the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. From this cohort, we were able to analyze all shoulder and knee MRI's, resulting in multiple published manuscripts on the epidemiologic data. Given the plethora of findings, many subset analyses are still being described and published at the time of this newsletter. Our next step will be to perform similar and more detailed analyses on the upcoming Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics. We are optimistic that these games are only delayed, and the event will take place in 2021, fingers crossed.

Our other research has sought to combine our expertise in musculoskeletal ultrasound with our role as the largest trauma center and emergency room in New England. We have meticulously compiled all of our ultrasound guided joint aspiration data on suspected infection cases over the last 7 years, working closely with our Orthopaedic Surgery colleagues on the clinical outcomes. Much of this data is in the final analysis phase, with manuscripts in development.

Lastly, our Section was able to garner recognition in the international news cycle. In October 2019, a manuscript by Kompel et al. which detailed the potential adverse joint events (ie rapid destructive osteoarthritis) following intra-articular corticosteroid injections of the hip or knee was published in Radiology. This included a one-year retrospective review of the adverse events observed here at BMC, and it addressed difficult and controversial information. which was met with both praise and criticism. The topic garnered the attention of many in the orthopedic world, and an expert panel was subsequently convened with their recommendations for corticosteroid injections. This work was recently published in a follow-up review (Guermazi et al. Oct 2020 Radiology). Currently, we are working to expand this data set to include 5 years of patients (~ 2000 patients) who have received corticosteroid injections of the hip and knee. This ambitious study will be 5-fold larger than any published literature to-date (for the number of subjects), with the ultimate goal of receiving funding for a prospective clinical trial.

This past academic year has certainly produced a lot of great results in the research world, and we are proud of all of the hard work performed by our staff, to date. We are even more excited about the new directions these projects will take us in the future.

**Dr. Akira Murakami** 



## **ART DAYS**

**Dr. Ashley Davidoff** 

"Art Days is an annual art exhibition started by BU President and BUSM Dean Emeritus Aram Chobanian to support the continued growth of creative arts at BUMC. Now sponsored by the BUMC Provost's Office, it is mounted by the students and faculty of the Creative Arts Society at BUSM. Amid the political and social climate of the US throughout the past year there have been multiple instances where our nation has banded together to fight against the inequities that plague various

groups within our nation. The theme of this 31st annual Art Days is Antiracism. Through various art forms the creative community at BUMC has demonstrated their resolve to oppose racial hatred, bias and the oppression of marginalized groups while promoting allyship, continued education and discourse."

Dr Shaffer and Davidoff represented the Radiology Department with their artistic endeavors scattered across the letter.









## **Faculty Teaching Tips**

Giving a lecture is an essential skill for any academic radiologist. Yet few, if any of us, receive any formal instruction on how to do this effectively. In addition to mastering the key components of Powerpoint, lecturing is an art – a performance that captures the audience and engages them so that they remember the intended message or content. If you think about some of the presentations that you might have attended over the past

few years, I am sure that there are only a few that are truly memorable. It is worth reflecting on what specific aspects made these presentations so effective and then trying to incorporate some of those techniques into your own teaching. Observing master teachers can be enlightening, although it can be challenging to find time to do so. Therefore, given increasing time constraints, consider incorporating the following ten tips into your teaching, if you have not already. It is sure to be a success.

Dr. Priscilla Slanetz

#### Ten Tips On How to Make Your Presentations More Effective

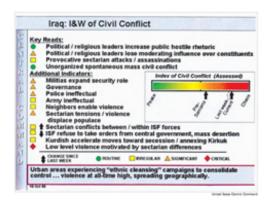
Speak clearly and slowly in a natural conversational tone and convey your enthusiasm and passion for the topic by varying your voice inflection. Engage the audience by making eye contact, using gestures and appearing relaxed and in control. If in-person, walk around the room. Incorporate humor, anecdotes or stories into your teaching in order to help the audience remember important concepts Set learning objectives up front and provide an outline of the presentation so that the audience knows what to expect. Always start and end on time, summarize the key points and provide the audience with additional resources to further their understanding. Face the audience and speak to them not the slides. Reading off of a slide should be to be avoided. Avoid excessive use of the mouse or laser pointer and highlight key findings or points with annotations. Use Arial font of no less than 24-point and ideally 40-point and have no more than 3-5 lines of bulleted text per slide. Present concepts in bite-sized segments and use images rather than words to emphasize key concepts. Most importantly, have fun!

## **Power-Point Overload**

#### **General Rules to AVOID**

- No more than 7 lines of text
- No more than 7 words to a line

Too much information causes the mind to shut down because it is overwhelmed



- Pink letters
- Black letters on a dark background
- DO NOT imitate the rainbow



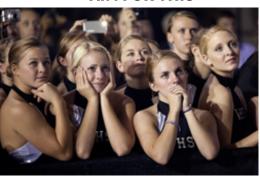
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#### **Employing all these techniques, you can:**

#### **PREVENT THIS**



#### **AIM FOR THIS**



## **Roar Club Newsletter**

**Dr. Ashley Davidoff** 

ISSUE 04 FEBRUARY 2021



The Rookies of Academic Radiology Club

In This Issue

#### Ventricular **Pseudoaneurysm**

Case and approach

#### The Art of **Programming**

Beauty in functions

#### From Art to Medicine

A glimpse into Judy's visual art journey

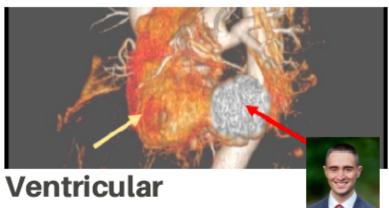
#### My Dear Heart

A poem by Dr. Davidoff

#### The RoaR Club

An enrichment opportunity approved by Boston University School of Medicine. Contact us at busmroarclub@gmail.com with questions and/or feedback!

https://bmcradiology.thecommonvein.net/ radiology-rookies/



## **Pseudoaneurysm**

Michael Romano, Boston University School of Medicine Class of 2021, shared a case of a 69-year-old woman with hypertension and a history of smoking who was brought in by EMS for a syncopal episode. She was tachycardic to the 130s-160s, alert and oriented x 2, and had blood pressures of 99/73 in the left arm, 130/79 in right on arrival. The patient's presentation was concerning for an aortic dissection; however, that was not the case. Her CTA ultimately showed hemopericardium in conjunction with a massive pseudoaneurysm of the left ventricle. Michael then noted the major criteria of pseudoaneurysms:

- Location: 96% of "true" aneurysms are apical or anterolateral; pseudoaneurysms are in general basal and posterior
- Narrow neck separating ventricle from the pseudoaneurysm
- Large sac protruding from the left ventricle with impaired flow

ROAR CLUB | ISSUE 04

## Publications

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