Department of Radiology

In the early days of Radiology, Tulane was a leader locally and nationally. The background history of Tulane Radiology begins with the inception of Tulane University School of Medicine. Dr. Leon Menville was the first Chairman, appointed in 1934 and was recognized nationally for his many accomplishments. He served as president of the Radiology Society of North America. In 1934, Dr. Menville’s leadership was instrumental in establishing the American Board of Radiology. The next chairman was Dr. Charles Nice, serving from 1960 until 1984. He continued teaching residents and students until early 2000. Including Drs. Menville and Nice, there have been only six chairmen of Radiology. The current Chair, Dr. Harold Neitzschman, was appointed Professor and began teaching at Tulane in 2000. He was appointed Chairman in 2004, successfully guiding and rebuilding the program following the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The faculty now consists of fellowship trained radiologists in all department sections. The residency program has been approved for accreditation through 2019. The training program is highly regarded throughout the south and receives over 300 applicants per year.

Highlights for the 2013-2014 academic year

Faculty and residents have an average of thirty publications annually, including poster presentations, papers and book chapters.

Residents and faculty have posters and papers accepted for presentation at major national and sub-specialty meetings annually. The most recent were posters presented at the 2014 Association of University Radiologists (AUR), 2014 American Roentgen Ray Society (ARRS) and 2014 American Society of Neuroradiology (ASNR) Conferences: Diffusion Tensor Imaging and Tractography Made Easy; Rhabdomyolysis – No longer a clinical diagnosis; Pictorial Review of Steady State Imaging and Its application in Body MR imaging.

Drs. Neitzschman, Caridi, and Palacios serve as board examiners for the American Board of Radiology in the subspecialties of Nuclear Medicine, Interventional Radiology and Neuroradiology, respectively.

The first installation of digital tomosynthesis (3D) mammography in Louisiana became available at Tulane Hospital in 2012. The Women’s Imaging Section, led by Dr. Hanemann, is currently involved in several research projects for evaluation of the efficacy of this modality as compared with traditional mammography.

Our faculty members participate in international outreach programs. Dr. Palacios frequently speaks at conferences in Mexico and Central America. Dr. Caridi has collaborated with physicians in Pisa, Milan, and Cuneo, Italy to both teach and learn techniques in Interventional Radiology with a primary focus in the interventional oncology treatment of liver cancer.

Tulane has a well-established musculoskeletal radiology fellowship that allows experience in both advanced diagnostic imaging and collaboration with the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Department to learn interventional pain management procedures. In the future, the radiology department hopes to offer fellowships in interventional radiology and women’s imaging as well.

Highlights continued on back of page...
The Charles Nice endowment annually sponsors the Charles Nice Visiting Professor of Radiology. This year’s Visiting Professor was Vaskin Dilsizian, MD, a leader in the field of nuclear medicine, from University of Maryland.

The Quan Huu & Tuyet Le Ha Endowment sponsors monthly journal clubs meetings for faculty and residents.

Dr. Nguyen is the current residency program director. He is a member of the Educational Working Group of Strategic Planning – Vision 2020 of Tulane University. He is also a member of the Exam Standard Setting Group for development of initial certification and maintenance of certification exams of diagnostic radiology for the American Board of Radiology.

Dr. Neitzschman developed a mentorship program to pair radiology faculty with first and second year medical students interested in Radiology. This allows one-on-one faculty mentoring for medical students to learn more about the field of radiology, become involved in research projects, and take the first steps toward successful residency matches.

Dr. Neitzschman is a member of the American Board of Radiology (ABR) Maintenance of Certification Committee and Society of Nuclear Medicine Task force which create the radiology Core Examination taken during residency and the ABR certifying exam taken after training.

Many residents in recent years have been accepted to the Research Scholars Programs at the annual Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) and Association of University Radiologists (AUR) meetings. Recent participants include Drs. Kuan-Chun Jim Hsieh (2014), David Manning (2013 and 2014), Heather Carpenter (2012), and Jagan Gupta (2011).

The Radiology department is collaborating with Sports Medicine clinicians to provide advanced neurological diagnostic imaging and functional neuroimaging to former professional athletes from the National Football League, focusing on the long term effects of repetitive head trauma and concussions.

Radiology residency graduates go on to competitive fellowships across the country including at Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, Duke University, University of California-San Diego, Baylor University, Washington University, Vanderbilt University and Miami Vascular Institute in recent years. Tulane Radiology alumni practice in private practice and academic settings throughout the country including at Tulane University, Children’s Hospital of New Orleans, University of Texas-Houston, MD Anderson Cancer Center and Emory University.

The Radiology department has ongoing Quality Improvement (QI) projects to optimize patient care, safety, and communication with referring physicians. These include: Standardized Reporting of Computed Tomography (CT) and MR Liver Imaging Through Implementation of The Liver Imaging–Reporting and Data System (LI-RADS); Standardized Reporting of Lumbar Spine MR Findings, in conjunction with the North American Spine Society, American Society of Spine Radiology and American Society of Neuroradiology.