NCI awards Emory $7.5 million for Cancer Imaging

ATLANTA--The Emory Molecular and Translational Imaging Center has earned a five-year, $7.5 million grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) for research on cancer imaging techniques.

The projects funded range from clinical studies on the more accurate diagnosis of prostate cancer to basic research on cancer-seeking magnetic iron nanoparticles. Emory's cancer imaging researchers will join the ranks of eight NCI-funded “in vivo cellular and molecular imaging centers” across the country.

“Our unifying goal for this award is to develop, validate, and apply unique molecular imaging biomarkers that clinicians may use to detect cancer earlier and more accurately,” says Carolyn Cidis Meltzer, MD, William P. Timmie Professor and Chair of Radiology and Associate Dean for Research at Emory University School of Medicine.

Emory’s cancer imaging research makes up part of the larger Center for Systems Imaging, which supports scientists across Emory who use techniques such as MRI and PET in several fields including the neurosciences and cardiology.

The four projects covered by the grant are:

• Clinical studies of an amino acid PET probe being tested with prostate cancer patients. The probe could help doctors identify which tumors require aggressive treatment and which do not. Goodman, an expert in developing PET reagents, calls this project “an example of the bench-to-bedside capabilities of our investigative team.”

• Laboratory studies of tiny iron particles linked to proteins that specifically bind breast cancer cells. The iron particles could be useful because they generate a strong MRI signal, but their small size means they have novel properties that require extensive evaluation before use in humans.

• Generation of PET probes that target squamous cell carcinomas, the most common cancer of the head and neck. The probes will be designed to bind molecules that allow the cancer cells to metastasize and invade lymph nodes, so they could detect cells with the most metastatic potential.

• Laboratory studies of a fluorescent dye that specifically accumulates in cancerous cells, which could lead to better diagnosis and treatment of prostate cancer.

What is CSI?

The Emory Center for Systems Imaging (CSI) is an integrated organizational structure designed to provide synergy for various aspects of imaging research and make imaging resources easily available to the greater university community. Imaging is multi-disciplinary and becoming increasingly important to multiple fields of investigation.

The CSI encompasses complementary resources based at specialized imaging facilities along the Clifton Road corridor. Locations include: Emory University Hospital, the Wesley Woods campus, Yerkes National Primate Research Center, the Winship Cancer Institute, the Whitehead Building and the new Emory Psychology building.

Two years in the making...

May, 2006 - Begin to write the grant proposal
August, 2006 - 1st Submission, equaling 600 pages
August, 2007 - 2nd Submission of grant proposal
September, 2007 - Awarded P20 planning grant
September, 2008 - Awarded P50 grant

Other radiology articles by Eastman include a feature in EMORY Health, Summer 2008.
Dear Colleagues,

There is certainly much to report in our newsletter this month. The new award of $7.5M from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) for translational biomarker development studies is the result of a highly collaborative, multidisciplinary team of physicians and scientists from Radiology, the Winship Cancer Institute (WCI) and several departments including Biomedical Engineering, Urology, Surgery, and Pathology. This award further supports the growing link between initiatives in radiology and WCI aimed at optimizing cancer detection and monitoring. The promise of molecular imaging strategies in this area are enormous and being realized currently. Congratulations to the many who contributed to this success!

Our growth in cancer imaging, coupled with the activities of a campus-wide Neuroscience Initiative, the multi-institutional Atlanta Clinical and Translational Science Institute (ACTSI), and recent WHSC investments in biomedical informatics will comprise important linkages for the new Emory Center for Systems Imaging. The hub of the CSI, in 17,000-sq. ft of newly renovated space in the Wesley Woods Health Center Building, is abuzz lately as CSI Scientific Co-Directors Mark Goodman, PhD, and John Votaw, PhD, relocate the bulk of the Radiopharmaceutical Discovery Lab and Physics and Computing Lab to the Wesley Woods site.

This is the first month of operations for the new Emory University Orthopaedic and Spine (formerly Northlake) Hospital. Congratulations to Jane Goldberg and the rest of the team that worked so hard to get things ready for this opening. EUOSH will expand our department’s services, especially in the arena of advanced musculoskeletal radiology. Our Director of Musculoskeletal Imaging, Micheal Terk, MD, will add to his responsibilities the role of Chief of Imaging Services for EUOSH.

Happy Nuclear Medicine Week!

Best to all,

Carolyn C. Meltzer, MD, FACR
Chair of Radiology

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**Awards & Recognition**

**Fábio Esteves, MD**
Assistant Professor of Radiology
Director of Nuclear Cardiology

On September 13, at the annual American Society of Nuclear Cardiology (ASNC) meeting, Dr. Fábio Esteves presented findings from a multicenter study on myocardial perfusion imaging suggesting images from a novel ultrafast cardiac (UFC) gamma camera are comparable to those from standard dual-detector cameras. The presentation is a result of a collaborative effort of researchers from Emory; the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN; and Rambam University in Haifa, Israel; and has attracted the attention of Aunt Minnie, a community site for radiology professionals. The article can easily be located by searching Dr. Esteves’ name on the Aunt Minnie site.

**Raghuveer K Halkar, MD**
Professor of Radiology,
Division of Nuclear Medicine

**Promotion to Professor**

Through his active participation in all three missions, achievement of national recognition as a speaker and researcher, and dedication to excellence throughout his career, Dr. Halkar has been promoted to Professor of Radiology.

**Mary (Mimi) Newell, MD**
Assistant Professor of Radiology
Assistant Director, Breast Imaging Center
Director, Breast MRI

Woodruff Leadership Academy (WLA)

Dr. Newell has been selected to participate in the WLA class of 2009, where she will take part in classroom sessions, off-site team projects and weekend retreats. Each year a group researchers, physicians, educators and administrators are nominated to participate in this prestigious program that prepares leaders to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing healthcare landscape.

**Rebecca Seidel, MD**
4th Year Radiology Resident

President’s Commission on the Status of Women for the University

Dr. Seidel was elected to the President’s Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) for the University. The PCSW’s mission is to: identify and research issues that pertain to gender equity at the University; convey to the Emory community information about resources, policies, and programs relating to women’s issues; develop and support education and awareness programs on gender issues related to women in general and specifically at Emory University; and advocate recommendations to improve the quality of life for all women in the Emory Community.
Striving for Excellence

Reflecting on FY08, Focusing on FY09

This month we brought to close another great year for Emory Radiology. Our industry has been subjected to significant external stressors that caused market turmoil. Our discipline, however, allowed us to not only weather the storm but to position us well for more success in the coming years. It has been a year of planning and executing several change processes along the five pillars:

People and the Workplace

The backbone of any successful enterprise is its people. Emory Radiology has focused a lot of effort toward listening to and investing in our people and their needs. We believe that an engaged employee is a precursor of any good clinical and service outcome. This year, we have had a record participation in our employee engagement survey and five sections in our department attained 100% participation. We recognize Linda Smith, Trecia Wertz, Pia Haynes, Chrystal Barnes and Marcus Foster for leading those departments.

This year we also launched our Adopt-a-Resident program. The program supports radiology residents by sponsoring activities that enhance their educational experience.

Our workplace is constantly evolving with remodeling and expanding our facilities. We continue our upgrades at EUH to accommodate new and improved clinical space on the first floor while relocating administrative offices to the ground floor. The new Emory University Orthopaedic and Spine Hospital opened its doors with a full service radiology department. We thank everyone who had a hand in starting up this new service particularly Dale Walker, Jane Goldberg and Richard Wright. The Center for Systems Imaging opened its newest location at Wesley Woods. A new cyclotron and a 3T MRI with a PET insert (the fourth of its kind in the world) are the centerpiece of this new location.

Quality

Payers and patients alike are now more than ever focusing on Quality in Radiology Services. Our long-standing record on quality positions us well in this evolved market. We have restructured our senior administrative team to allow for a disciplined organization of all of our quality initiatives and endeavors. The cover story of the last issue of the Rad Report highlights many of our Quality projects and there will be more to come in the near future.

We are also transitioning our professional services at ECLH to an academic subspecialty model. This new approach will bring alignment with service lines that will eventually become centers of excellence at our Midtown campus. This change process is planned to take place over 18-24 months and has begun this past February. Our Community Radiology Division is being retooled and repositioned to serve our broader Atlanta community at our Emory Johns Creek Hospital location, as well as, future sites, including planned outpatient imaging centers around Atlanta. We are very proud of this division and are confident in its future role and contributions to our department and the community we serve.

Knowledge and Information

No discussion on quality is complete without leveraging the power of Informatics. Our department is undertaking one of the boldest and most comprehensive challenges in its recent history that will undoubtedly carry its impact for years to come: the replacement of its informatics infrastructure. Over the last six months, we have planned, designed and tested major components of our new Radiology Information System, Radnet from the Cerner Millennium Suite of applications. The new RIS will replace the old IDXRad v 9.x that we have had for over a decade. This new project will consolidate all of our locations to one database and integrate fully with Emory’s electronic Medical Record (eEMR). We are also replacing our existing PACS with GE’s Centricity Radiology 3.0. The new platform sits on a centralized architecture which lends itself best to our workflow.

Financial Strength

The Deficit Reduction Act has trimmed margins for Radiology providers and the industry is witnessing attrition of entrepreneur-owned imaging centers. While we anticipated a significant impact on collections, we felt that we could make those up on volume. Indeed, our year-end financials for our clinical enterprise bore out our forecast and we ended the year modestly better than last.

On the research front, we continued our growth in NIH grant awards in an environment of shrinking federal funding. This is a commendable outcome as we climb our way in the rankings towards the top-20 funded institutions in Radiology.

Discovery and Innovations

Two major events in the last six months highlight our achievements under this pillar. The first is the launching of the Center for Systems Imaging and the opening of the newest location at Wesley Woods. This new location will house several labs, but focuses primarily on MRI, PET, trader development and computational sciences in imaging. The second achievement is the one you find on the cover of this newsletter which is NICI’s awarding $7.5M to fund a P50 grant on research in cancer imaging. While these two events are major, it is the work that gets accomplished over the entire year that really shows the academic prowess of our department and faculty. In the last twelve months, our faculty published 98 articles in peer-reviewed journals and wrote 11 books and book chapters. It is this kind of productivity that we pride ourselves for in advancing the human condition and transforming health and healing.

To close, this has been a year full of accomplishments. It has also been a year of planning for transformation. Next year will be one in which we undergo many of the changes that we planned for. I am proud to serve this department, its faculty and staff and I look forward to a prosperous and momentous new year.

Habib Tannir, M.S.
Administrative Director, Imaging Services

Check It Out


Operational Performance Optimization

In our continued efforts to optimize our operational performance while maintaining our growth and expansion, I am pleased to announce the following:

Jane Goldberg has accepted the position of Assistant Director, Imaging Services for the Emory University Orthopedic and Spine Hospital (EUOSH) and Wesley Woods Geriatric Hospital (WWGH). EUOSH opened its doors for inspection Monday, September 15th.

Chrysal Barnes has accepted the position of Assistant Director, Imaging Services for Emory University Hospital (Euh). Chrysal has been with Emory for several years where she served in the Radiology Applications Services team and most recently as the manager of our Teleradiology operations.

Willie Arnold has been promoted to Enterprise Solutions Architect III. He has been with department for 8 years, serving as a member of the Radiology Application Systems (RAS) team. Willie will be taking over the responsibility of managing the technical operations of teleradiology.

Dan Crawley, Jr. has joined us in the role of Associate Administrator. He will be taking over Chuck Powell’s responsibilities in the management of the professional practice. Dan comes to us with experience in managing radiology technical operations at a community hospital as well as managing a professional practice in an academic center setting.

As mentioned in a prior memo this year, Dale Walker (right) will be leading the Strategic Initiative Team in Radiology, while Chuck Powell (left) will be transitioning from his current role to directing the Radiology technical operations at EUH, ECLH and TEC.

Finally, Ursula Jean-Baptiste accepted the position of Sr. Administrative Assistant, supporting Dr. Torres and me.

Please join me in congratulating these team members on their new roles.

MRI Body Program

The newly recognized Clinically Applied Research Body MRI Program is a cross-divisional and cross-institutional program dedicated to translational MR research with direct applications to clinical practice, especially in the areas of cancer and organ transplantation. With the Abdominal Division as its home base, the Body MRI Program interfaces with multiple other divisions including Pediatrics, Cardithoracic, Interventional and Breast. In addition, successful partnerships continue to formulate between the core group within Radiology and collaborators from Biomedical Engineering and Georgia Tech. Objectives include earlier detection of treatable disease, treatment monitoring, and to gain further understanding of disease mechanisms. The program also has as a general aim in the development of MR-based technologies that will provide non-invasive, safer, non-xray based diagnostic methods as embodied by the concept of the virtual biopsy. With Dr. Diego Martin as the program director, a team of clinical scientists, physicists, technologists and fellows work to advance MR technology in order to keep Emory on the cutting edge of research, technical development and patient care.

New Fellows

Carol Ann Browning, MD
Breast Imaging
Dr. Browning comes to Emory from the University of California at Irvine Medical Center where she completed her Radiology Residency. Prior to residency, Dr. Browning served on active duty as a Naval flight surgeon stationed in Crete, Greece and Babylon, Iraq. Her latest research includes “Spinal Biopsy: A Review of the Literature”, which was recently published in Acta Radiologica. Dr. Browning enjoys participating in triathlons and recently completed her first Ironman as a fund raiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Ashur Lawand, MD
Musculoskeletal Imaging
Dr. Lawand completed his Radiology Residency at Emory University before deciding to continue his training at Emory with a fellowship in the Musculoskeletal Imaging Division. His research contributions have been published in The Journal of Hand Surgery and Archives of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. Dr. Lawand is active within the radiology community as a member of several professional organizations.

Asad Nasir, MD
Nuclear Medicine
Dr. Nasir comes to Emory from North Shore Long Island Jewish Health System in New Hyde Park, New York after completing his Nuclear Medicine Residency. His research experience has included positions as a research assistant in the Department of Emergency at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and a research assistant at the Kessler Institute of Rehabilitation in New Jersey. Dr. Nasir has publications in “Clinical Nuclear Medicine” and presented some of his research at conferences such as the 2007 Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM) Northeast Regional Meeting, RSNA 2007, and 2008 SNM Annual Meeting.
The Hub of CSI

The Wesley Woods Center (WWC) is the new home of the Radiopharmaceutical Discovery and Physics & Computing Labs. This new location will serve as the hub for the Center for Systems Imaging (CSI) and facilitate cross-departmental collaborations on advanced and unique imaging technologies.

Among the most exciting of the technologies to be located at WWC is a prototype combined MRI-PET scanner, of which Emory will be one of only two U.S. trial sites. Dr. John Votaw is leading Emory’s team in working with Siemens’ scientists on the last design phase. The device will be comprised of a 3T Trio MRI into which a head-only PET insert is fitted. This unique arrangement allows the MRI and the PET to operate concurrently. According to Dr. Votaw, “the most challenging aspect of this project is developing a PET scanner that can operate in the magnetic field of the MRI.” Before bringing the scanner to Emory, Dr. Votaw has chosen to keep the unit at the factory and work directly with the Siemens’ engineers to optimize the reconstruction of images. When the optimization process is completed, the unit will have the capacity for complementary, simultaneous functional brain imaging, albeit fraught with technical challenges. This device promises to allow the evaluation of living human neural processing not previously possible.

Another aspect of the Siemens collaboration is support for the development and testing of new PET molecular imaging agents under the direction of Dr. Mark Goodman. A new cyclotron and radiochemistry laboratory will further support these efforts. The new cyclotron has an improved operating system and the capability to produce greater amounts of radioactive nuclei for the development of radiotracers that are the building blocks of PET imaging.

The relocation to WWC has given the research teams an opportunity to optimize their space and resources. Through basic and translational research, the teams will continue to explore drug addiction, measure proteins in the brain such as amyloid beta deposits in Alzheimer’s patients, and investigate movement disorders such as Huntington’s disease and Parkinson’s disease. A study that has moved into clinical testing is diagnosing prostate cancer with greater sensitivity than previously possible.

CSI spans the Emory campuses and can be utilized by anyone with the desire to incorporate imaging into their research. With the implementation of CSI, there is a “commitment to make imaging simpler and access easier for the broader University community,” explains Dr. Votaw. With one call, researchers from any discipline can make an appointment to discuss their imaging needs and get connected with the vast resources throughout Emory. The newly established research space at WWC will serve as the access point for collaborations that will extend as far as new ideas and innovation will allow.

To take advantage of the resources offered by CSI, contact Dr. John Votaw at John.Votaw@emory.edu or 404.712.7954.

- Monica Salama, Communications Specialist

Emory University Orthopaedic & Spine Hospital

Fulfilling its mission to meet the increasing demand for orthopedics and spine care, Emory Healthcare has the opened the Emory University Orthopaedics & Spine Hospital (EUOSH). This facility has been completely renovated to provide patients with access to the most advanced, sophisticated technology in a patient and family-friendly environment.

EUOSH has been created to provide high-quality care in the delivery of general acute care services while primarily focused on a specific service line. In addition, this hospital is implementing an innovative nursing model in which caregivers partner with patients and their families to collaborate on decisions and care. By primarily concentrating on orthopedic surgical services at one location, Emory physicians and staff will be able to focus on the unique needs of the orthopedic patient population, which translates to quick recovery times, increased safety and greater patient satisfaction.

The facility provides complete MRI and radiology capabilities, as well as, on-site inpatient and outpatient physical therapy. Dr. Michael Terk, Director of Musculoskeletal Imaging, will oversee the quality of medical care as the newly appointed Chief of Radiology Services at EUOSH. The daily clinical services will be lead by Assistant Director, Jane Goldberg.

The facility has a dedicated orthopedics and spine patient floor, as well as general medicine services. Because there is unrestricted visiting hours, families can stay with patients all of the time.

There will be no emergency room located at Emory University Orthopaedics & Spine Hospital. All emergency and trauma traffic will be diverted to the nearest appropriate facility.
STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT

Radiology Roadmap

On Wednesday, September 17, 2008, more than 150 members of the Radiology Department faculty and staff attended the 2nd annual State of the Department Address presented by Dr. Carolyn C. Meltzer, Chair of Radiology. Others joined virtually by video conference from Midtown & Executive Park.

Dean Thomas Lawley, opened the address by informing the audience of important changes in campus construction, research, leadership roles and student development that will occur within the next year here at Emory. After Dean Lawley’s brief speech, Dr. William Torres reflected on the previous Department Chairs, Drs. Weens, Casarella and Saini, by acknowledging their accomplishments and rolls in building the department’s foundation. Dr. Torres introduced Dr. Meltzer, recognizing her as a triple threat and the influence she has had on the progressive direction of the Radiology Department and Emory Community. He went on to express his anticipation of continued successes under the leadership of Dr. Meltzer.

Dr. Meltzer’s presentation began with an overview of the departmental accomplishments during the last fiscal year. She reviewed the roadmap for 2012 and its focus on creating a triple threat department firmly grounded in the three pillars of the Emory Radiology Department. The department’s research, education and clinical excellence are built to provide a trellis for our growth and over-arching mission. While reviewing our Department’s Strategic Plan, Dr. Meltzer addressed the 5 Goal Statements that give us focus to achieve our mission and vision.

Looking at the past fiscal year (FY08) and beyond, Dr. Meltzer revealed how our goals are aligned with the vision of becoming a Destination Radiology Department by covering the following key points to success: People, Quality, Technology, Finances, Clinical Service, Teaching and Research.

This brief description merely scrapes the surface of the information and ideas Dr. Meltzer conveyed during this presentation.

To view Dr. Meltzer’s presentation, visit http://www.radiology.emory.edu, hover over “Faculty & Staff”, and select “Department Resources”, once inside the login area, click on “Policies & Procedures” in the left navigation menu. To access the Department Resources, you will need to contact Monica Salama at 404-712-7912 or majohn9@emory.edu for your username and password.

- Alaina Shapiro, Communications Coordinator

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Transport Attendants

The Transport Attendants exemplify characteristics such as dedication, drive and dependability for the Radiology Department on a daily basis. As a team, every role in the department is important to ensure our many patients receive the highest quality of care. The Transport Attendants play a unique role by escorting inpatients from their rooms to the various areas of radiology for procedural appointments. They are often the first and last person with whom inpatients interact in the Radiology Department.

Dedication and passion for their positions are clearly visible in the attitudes of the transporters throughout the corridors and waiting areas. While escorting inpatients from their rooms to the various modalities, they provide comfort and care.

To better inform the patients, each Transport Attendant actively seeks knowledge about the different divisions to better inform the patients of the procedures they are about to undergo. Since the unknown is often frightening, this extra information from the transporters helps reassure each patient that he/she will be well taken care of and alleviates their fears. The transporters enjoy interacting with patients because they learn something new from everyone.

On average, they carefully transport over 4,000 inpatients throughout the department each month. Transporters display their drive while keeping up with the increasing demand of our growing department. They strive to provide efficiency, comfort and care for our patients to head off any challenges that may arise. Sometimes when a patient is resting or recovering, he/she may not be motivated to be transported for a radiology procedure. Each Transport Attendant must inspire and encourage the patient to make sure the designated appointment is reached on time.

Dependability is a constant goal of the transport attendants as they escort the patients to procedures in a timely manner and make every effort to keep on schedule to reduce the waiting times for others. They are team players and function together in the department by helping each other in various ways such as communicating effectively to avoid getting lost in the hospital and aiding each other in transporting less mobile patients.

The transport attendants work hard to contribute to the Department’s success grounded by dedication, drive and dependability. This team puts the patient first and promptly connects with each of them to deliver the Emory standard of care.

- Alaina Shapiro, Communications Coordinator
Inside Terrorism Exhibit

The exhibit Inside Terrorism: The X-Ray Project will be visiting Emory University the week of November 3, with a featured lecture by the artist Diane Covert on November 3 at 4:30 p.m. This exhibit has traveled the country exposing the realities of terrorism on a civilian population through the use of radiographs and CT.

Ms. Covert uses clinical imaging exams as her medium to make figurative images and portraits. She explains that they represent life, “both the desire to observe and describe reality with the most modern techniques available. All of these images are the by-products of terrorism, which is a war on a civilian population. Terrorists pack their bombs with common objects — hex nuts, bolts, nails, watches — all meant for peaceful, utilitarian purposes. By blasting them into human beings, they create the madness of our times.”

This exhibit will be available in the School of Medicine (SOM) Lobby on Emory campus November 3 – 7. A reception will also take place in the lobby following the artist’s lecture on Monday, November 3rd.

This event is sponsored by the Emory Department of Radiology and the Medical Imaging Program.

Spreading the Health

WCI Radiology Staff participated in the Emory Crawford Long Hospital 100 Days of Service Volunteer Service Opportunities. Callen Hall, Santeria Mercer, Santessa Mercer, Michelle Stringfield, Veena Rajeevan, Trecia Wertz and Nicole Barrett volunteered at MedShare. This organization bridges the gap between surplus and need to improve healthcare and the environment through the efficient recovery and redistribution of surplus medical supplies and equipment to those most in need.

University Benefits Open Enrollment

Watch for the Benefits Packet that will be arriving at your home. Open enrollment will be available October 13 - 31. Meetings are being conducted at various locations for 2009 Annual Open Enrollment.

Week of October 6, 2008

Wed., Oct. 8 —
Grand Rounds
Stephen W. Miller, MD
Elements of Cardiac Imaging: Technology, Turf, and Patient Care

Thurs., Oct. 9 —
Research Conference
No Lecture

Week of October 13, 2008

Wed., Oct. 15 —
Grand Rounds
Michele Brown, MD
MR Imaging of Acute Abdominopelvic Disease in the Pregnant Patient

Thurs., Oct. 16 —
Research Conference
Ioannis Sechopoulos, PhD
X-ray scatter correction in tomosynthesis imaging of the breast

Week of October 20, 2008

Wed., Oct. 22 —
Grand Rounds
Beverly Wood, MD, MSEd, PhD
Lifelong Learning: How we do it and why we do

Thurs., Oct. 23 —
Research Conference
Ji Chen, PhD
Measuring Left Ventricular Dyssynchrony by Phase Analysis of ECG-gated Myocardial Perfusion Imaging

Week of October 27, 2008

Wed., Oct. 29 —
Grand Rounds
Priscilla Slanetz, MD, MPH
Tools for Effective Teaching – The “Wright” Approach

Thurs., Oct. 30 —
Research Conference:
No Lecture

For times & locations visit the website:
www.radology.emory.edu
NEW FACES & APPOINTMENTS

Sonia Parra Zuña, MBA
Financial Analyst - EUH
Sonia Parra Zuña has joined the Radiology Administration Team as a Financial Analyst. Sonia has solid career experience with proven strong analytical, budgeting, communication, organizational skills from establishments such as Bank of America and UCLA. As a Financial Analyst, Sonia will assist with managing the Clinic and University operating budgets, prepare trend analyses and other financial reports.

Adrian Bennett, RT (R)
Radiology Technologist - ECLH
Adrian earned her Associates Degree in Radiologic Science from Greenville Technical College, SC. She aspires to earn her BS in Healthcare Science. Adrian has recently worked with professionals to record her first music single “All Things” to be a part of her gospel CD.

Ellēta Benn
Sonographer - ECLH
Ellēta received her BS in Biology from Spelman College in Atlanta. Her previous experience includes being an environmental compliance inspector. Ellēta was an honor graduate from Grady Health System School of Diagnostic Medical Sonography and is a member of SDMS.

Olivia Bennett, RT (R)
Sonographer - ECLH
At Dekalb Medical Center, Olivia gained experience as an x-ray technologist. She was an honor graduate from Grady Health System School of Diagnostic Medical Sonography. Olivia received her BS in Exercise Physiology from Georgia State University.

Adam Brown, CNMT, ARRT (N)
Nuclear Medicine Technologist I - EUH
Adam joins the Emory Radiology team from Belmont University, where he received his BS in Medical Imaging and a concentration in Nuclear Medicine from Vanderbilt University. His area of focus is PET. He is a member of the Society of Nuclear Medicine.

Arima Bullen, RT (R)
Radiology Technologist - EUH
Arima gained experience at Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn New York. She has an Associates Degree in Radiology from City College in Brooklyn and has pursued additional education, including an MRI class. In her free time, Arima enjoys traveling to Las Vegas.

Darla Edge
Sonographer - ECLH
Darla was an honor graduate from Grady Health System School of Diagnostic Medical Sonography. She received her BS in Health and Exercise Science. Darla is an active member of Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS).

Michelle Harris, RDMS
Sonographer - ECLH
Michelle has previous experience from Summit Medical Center in Hermitage, TN and Smith Northview Hospital in Valdosta, GA. She was awarded Student of the Year from Wallace State College in Hanceville, AL and Employee Star Award at Summit Medical Center.

Ellōt Johnson
Transportation Attendant - ECLH
Ellōt was a patient transportation attendant at Wesley Woods before joining the Radiology Department. He studied basic electronics at Louisiana Technical College before coming to Atlanta. Elliot enjoys volunteering for the “Feed the Hungry” program during the holidays.

Reynaldo Perez
Transportation Attendant - ECLH
Reynaldo Perez came to Emory from Dekalb Medical Center where he was a Patient Transportation Attendant. He is extremely interested in Radiology as his future goals include taking x-ray and CT courses to become a certified Radiologic Technician.

Victor Samuda
Transportation Attendant - ECLH
Victor's previous work experience includes shipping and receiving for the NYC Teachers Union. In the future, he aspires to receive a degree in Business Management. Victor was born in Jamaica and enjoys cooking spicy Caribbean foods.

Linda Synder, RT (R)
Radiology Technologist II - EUOSH
Linda’s experience in radiology will be utilized at Emory’s newest location, EUOSH. She is active as a member of several professional organizations including the GA Society of Radiologic Technologists and as a volunteer for the ARRT reviewing registry questions.

Kim Wages, RT (R), RDMS
Sonographer - ECLH
Kim received her Associates Degree in Radiologic Technology from Emory University and attended the Grady School of Diagnostic Medical Sonography. She has previous experience in Radiology gained while working at Northside Hospital. Kim is a member of SDMS and ARDMS.