**Feature article:**


**Lead Author:** Biswajit Kar, MD (UT Medicine)

**Includes:** Daniel Ocazionez, MD (UT Radiology)

- Twenty-three autopsy cases demonstrate that COVID-19 is a systemic disease with major pulmonary and cardiac manifestations.

- COVID-19 produces an acute interstitial pneumonia, usually with a prominent diffuse alveolar damage (DAD) component, often coupled with a thrombotic microangiopathy.

- The heart frequently shows acute cardiomyocyte injury and, in some cases, pericarditis and/or myocarditis.

- Patients with fatal COVID-19 frequently are obese and have pre-existing cardiac disease, hypertension and/or diabetes mellitus.

**Read More:**

[Pubmed](#)

[Cardiovascular Pathology via Elsevier](#)

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**Department's Response to COVID-19**

As the Stay at Home order was implemented in Houston, the department had to swiftly adapt to follow the mandated order without compromising patient care, education and the safety of our staff, faculty, residents and trainees.

With the assistance of the department's PACs team, home workstations were quickly dispersed.
Minimal staffing schedule was promptly in place to ensure all areas were covered while practicing social distancing. Most of the staff were placed on remote work schedules.

Webex became one of the prime source of communication by either conducting Townhall meetings to provide updates or provide telemedicine to patients.

Faculty also resorted to various educational tools to ensure that training was uninterrupted.

Below were some educational tools used:
- #FOAMrad on Twitter
- APDR National Virtual Noon Conferences
- RSNA’s Online Learning Center
- AUR Core Curriculum Lecture Series
- Society resources such as ACR, ARRS, ASER, SPR, STR, SIR, etc.
- https://www.apdr.org/trainees/online-education-resources

Awards

2020 Dean’s Teaching Excellence Awards
- Charles Beasley, MD
- Nicholas Beckmann, MD
- Ronald Bilow, MD
- Eliana Bonfante-Mejia, MD
- Jeffrey Carlson, MD
- Naga Chinapuvvula, MBBS
- Jeanie Choi, MD
- Miguel Fabrega, MD
- Arash Kamali, MD
- Manickam Kumaravel, MB, BS
- Eduardo Matta, MD
- Daniel Ocazionez-Trujillo, MD
- Latifa Sanhaji, MD
- Venkateswar Surabhi, MB, BS
- Rodrick Zvavanjanja, MB, ChB

The graduating senior class of 2020 has selected Dr. Daniel Ocazionez Trujillo to receive the Teacher of Year award!

The graduating fellow class of 2020 has selected Dr. Daniel Fung to receive the...
**Achievements**

Dr. Larry Kramer:  
ACR Fellow

Dr. Susan John:  
TRS Gold Medal

Dr. Susana Spence:  
TRS Chief Councilor

Dr. Nicholas Beckmann:  
AUR Radiology Management Award  
TRS Council Member

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Arash Kamali, MD, is an Acadamy #Imaginginnovator of the week on May 21, 2020.

The Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research spotlights two members of the Council of Early Career Investigators in Imaging (CECI2) each week. Dr. Arash Kamali and his focus of research were featured on the @Acadrad twitter page for Week 8 on May 21, 2020.

The Academy's 11th Annual Medical Imaging Technology Showcase was cancelled in May. The next meeting has been scheduled for June 20-June 22, 2021.

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**BIG NEWS**

- On May 26, the RSNA announced that its annual 2020 meeting will be completely virtual this year as a result of COVID-19.
- The in-person meeting has only been canceled twice before, in 1943 and 1945, following WWII.
- They received over 11,000 scientific and educational abstract submissions this year.

**ABR COVID Impacts**

- The radiology CORE examination, originally scheduled for in May/June, has again been postponed, now to "2021" with no date set.
- Board eligibility expiration has been extended a year to Dec 31, 2021.
- Medical physics exams have been postponed until Dec (part 1 & 2) and "2021" (part 3/oral).
- DR and IR/DR certifying exams have now been postponed until "2021" as well.
- For more details see: TheABR.org

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**Warm Welcome!**

Please join us in welcoming our new staff and faculty!
My name is Mirna Rodriguez, I'm from Houston TX. I've been married for 19 years. My husband and I have 3 beautiful children and a furry little guy. On our spare time my family and I love to explore new places, I enjoy baking, shopping, helping others when given the opportunity and spending nice quality time with family. I'm thrilled to be part of an outstanding institution and having the opportunity to work next to amazing colleagues. I look forward to building a long time career with the Neuroradiology Department.

I began my nursing career with 20 years in various levels of the NICU's at Texas Children's Hospital. I have spent the past 7 years as a Research nurse. My first two years I independently ran a study for at TCH in the Woman’s pavilion and moved to UTHealth in 2016. My first 4 years I have worked in Pediatrics research department running studies in the NICU. In December of 2019, I made the move to DII and am running multiple studies with the amazing research team of Usha Menon, Karen Swaby, Monica Atta and Janaya Woods.

Rohan Samant, MD
Associate Professor, Neuroradiology

I feel very privileged to get this opportunity to be on team UT Health Radiology at McGovern Medical School. My Radiology training, Neuroradiology Fellowship, and first nine years of academic career have been at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. The experience there has prepared me to take on more significant roles, which I am confident UTH will offer. I have an additional degree in Management (EMBA) from the Walton School of Business. My professional mission is to "Work as a valuable team member to provide the highest quality service and support the group as a family would." I enjoy teaching and look forward to working with residents and fellows. I genuinely believe that working on interdisciplinary teams enhances the value of Radiology, and I like working on such projects.

Roopa, my wife, and I met in medical school 20 years ago and are incredibly thankful for the beautiful life God has given us. She is a caring person and a compassionate primary care physician. We have triplets (Eesha, Arush, and Prisha) who will be 6 yrs old soon. They have definitely added more fun and character to our life.

We look forward to meeting you all and being a part of the UT Radiology family.

Cihan Duran, MD
Associate Professor, Cardiothoracic Imaging

Dr. Cihan Duran received her medical degree from
Hacettepe University, Turkey. She completed her residency at Istanbul University. She worked as a staff radiologist in a well-known, prominent hospital and academic center, Florence Nightingale Hospital/Istanbul Bilim University, for 16 years. She was promoted to and working as an associate professor of radiology at this institution. Her strong desire and curiosity to pursue her academic career further brought her to the United States. She worked as a research fellow in Brigham and Women’s Hospital at Harvard University, Boston for a year, where she had the opportunity to conduct research in cardiovascular imaging. She completed the alternate pathway of radiology by doing a clinical fellowship in the Cardiovascular MRI department in Baylor College of Medicine St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital and Thoracic Radiology, and Musculoskeletal Radiology and Body Imaging fellowships in MD Anderson Cancer Center. She has been a board-certified radiologist since 2016. Dr. Duran has given multiple presentations and lectures at scientific meetings. An accomplished author, she has published more than 65 articles and has authored several book chapters. She has been working as an associated professor in diagnostic radiology, specializing in cardiothoracic and body imaging as a clinical, research, and teaching faculty at University of Texas Medical Branch since 2017. She has special interest in cardiovascular imaging, liver and prostate imaging. She is very excited to join the radiology family in UT Houston and is looking forward to being a part of the perfectly designed clinical and academic activities. With all her past and current educational, research, and academic experiences combined with her strong motivation, she believes that she will be able contribute highly to this prestigious program.

Alexa Levey, MD
Assistant Professor
Interventional Radiology

I am a native Houstonian, am married to a Urologist, have an adorable 14 month old boy, and a cute cockapoo that is 3 years old. I love to run, travel, and cook. Radiology is the best field- you are the physicians’ doctor. It is a privilege to be starting my career at UT Houston in July.

Nikoo Fattahi MD
Assistant Professor MD
Abdominal Imaging

I am a Capricorn! I moved to Houston in July 2019 and really enjoy exploring the city so far. I am not a great cook, so any good food recommendations is greatly appreciated! I also love to paint and bike. It’s a great pleasure to be part of the UT family and I am looking forward to working with you all as a team.

Tianliang Gu, PhD, DABR
Assistant Professor, Medical Physicist

I am a new faculty in the physics group. I graduated with a PhD degree in Medical Physics from the University of Wisconsin where we developed novel MRI techniques. I have worked in research and clinical imaging physics at five institutions before
Shuning Huang, PhD
Instructor Faculty

I grew up in China. My study and research are in Biomedical engineering. After obtaining my Ph.D. degree from Harvard-MIT Division of Health Science and Technology at MIT, I completed a two post-doctorial training in Cardiac MRI at Mass General Hospital. I, then, spent four years in Pharmaceutical industry, where I assumed the responsible for compounds efficacy evaluation using imaging tools. I later went back to academia and worked on applying MRI finger printing technique to Chemical Exchange Saturation Transfer (CEST) imaging to evaluate pH and amide proton changes under pathological conditions such as stroke and cancer. Over the years, I have gained extensive experience on applying MRI techniques on various areas such as stroke, cardiac diseases, neurodegenerative diseases, and cancer, and have peer reviewed publications on these areas. I am thrilled to join the imaging core facility at UTHealth, where I can work with investigators from different research areas to advance our understanding and treatment of major health problems in human. In my free time, I enjoy reading and hiking.

Resident Corner

Graduation 2020

We sadly say goodbye to the wonderful UT Radiology class of 2020. Regretfully, we were unable to honor them with one last department dinner and celebration as a result of the pandemic. However, their many accomplishments and positive impact on UT will not be forgotten. From all of us, we thank you for your years of hard work, the wonderful memories, and the laughs. Best of luck in your future endeavors and success.

Stas grew up in the Houston area but completed his medical school at UTMB before eventually coming to UT Houston. He has spent much of his time working with the neuroradiology departments but also recently got married to Kim, his wife, in February! Stas will be staying to do a neuroradiology fellowship at UT Houston and hopes to stay in the lone star state.
Matt spent his early years in Maryland before transplanting to Texas. Prior to joining UT, he completed his medical school at UT San Antonio. Matt will be part of the group staying in Houston to complete a neuroradiology fellowship at UT. The neuroradiology department is thrilled to have him stay and afterwards he hopes to settle somewhere in Texas, likely in private practice.

What will you miss most about UT?: “I will miss Cookie Time the most. I hope to one day integrate the cultural practice of Cookie Time into my new workplace.”

Andrew Bosserman, MD

Prior to coming to Texas, Andrew grew up in the midwest and eastern US. He completed his medical school at Indiana University before moving to Texas. He, his wife, son, and dog will be staying in Houston for at least another year as part of the sports, orthopedic, and emergency medicine fellowship at UT Houston. Afterwards he may potentially move back to the midwest or east to work in private practice.

What will you miss most about UT?: “The awesome coresidents.”

Tyler is an Oklahoma native. He grew up in Tulsa, OK before taking a detour south to Houston. During his time at UT he dedicated himself to pursuing IR and was accepted as one of the 2019-2020 early specialization in IR (ESIR) residents. This rigorous pathway is not easy but has allowed him to continue his training in Houston after matching in vascular and
Tyler Braaten, MD

interventional radiology at UT/MD Anderson. He and his family currently hope to return to Oklahoma following his fellowship.

What will you miss most about UT?: “My fellow residents.”

Roger Jordan, MD

Roger grew up in the Houston area and has been at UT since completing medical school at McGovern. Not only has he excelled as one of the three chief residents from his class, but he also has been involved in many academic projects, including as the current AJNR twitter editor. He will continue his education in neuroradiology as a fellow at Mayo Clinic in Rochester.

What will you miss most about UT?: “The PEOPLE. Faculty and co-residents I hope to emulate and stay in touch with throughout my life.”

Eric Kebbel, MD

Eric spent most of his life in Alabama, graduating from Auburn and obtaining an MD and MPH from UAB. He moved to Texas and UT with his wife, Kayla, who is now a physician at TCH. Eric will be moving to Atlanta to complete a neuroradiology fellowship at Emory University and is currently considering private practice.

What will you miss most about UT?: “Definitely the People.”

Rahul was born in New Orleans but spent most of his childhood in West Virginia and the Houston area. While at UT he has developed many lasting relationships with his peers and can always be counted on for his hard work and comic relief. He will be staying in Houston and will be a great asset to the Body MRI fellowship at UT. Following fellowship, he
Rahul Khetan, MD

Currently intends to stick around Texas, likely in private practice.

What will you miss most about UT: “My coresidents.”

Andrew Mai, MD

Growing up in the Houston area, Andrew attended UTMB Medical School before coming to UT Houston. He has worked very hard over the last year to pursue his passion of interventional radiology as a member of the first class to do early specialization in IR (ESIR). This paid off and he will be completing a fellowship in vascular and interventional radiology at The University of Virginia but hopes to eventually return to Houston.

What will you miss most about UT?: “All the people at UT.”

Manoj came to UT after growing up and completing medical school in Georgia. During his time at UT he has not only been very active with research but has also found time to serve as one of the three chief residents. He will be moving away to California to complete a body MRI fellowship at Stanford University and looking to pursue an academic career thereafter.

What will you miss most about UT?: “I will miss my co-residents the most.”
Manoj Mathew, MD

Trae completed his medical school at Louisiana State University in New Orleans before joining UT radiology. He will be moving to California to complete an abdominal Imaging fellowship at University of California San Francisco.

Trae Mayeux, MD

Naoki was born and raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He completed his medical school in New Orleans at Louisiana State University and shortly after joined the UT family. Recently, in January, Naoki got married to his wife, Dani! He will be moving back to Louisiana after residency to join a group in Lafayette.

What will you miss most about UT?: “Our wonderful faculty.”

Naoki Murai, MD

Prior to coming to UT, Sagar completed his medical school at Medical College of Wisconsin. He will be leaving Texas to complete a neuroradiology fellowship at University of Southern California and hopes to stay in the area afterwards.
First born in China, Kai spent most of his childhood in New Jersey before completing medical school in Chicago at Northwestern. At UT Kai has been integral in keeping the residency function, serving as one of three chief residents from his class. His hard work will be appreciated next year as a body MRI fellow at UT Houston. He imagines joining a private practice group after his fellowship.

What will you miss most about UT? “How chill most of the residents are and how approachable most of the faculty are.”

Kai Xu, MD

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**CLINICIAN-EDUCATOR TRACK**

Our residency program will be implementing a new 4-year longitudinal Clinician-Educator track in July 2020! This track is open to all residents interested in pursuing an academic career. The goal is to help residents develop skills to become effective educators through small group workshops, personalized teaching sessions, mentoring, and delivery of a capstone project.

We are seeking faculty mentors interested in mentoring residents in this 4-year track. Mentors are expected to provide guidance in the residents’ development of education products, observe and provide feedback on lectures twice a year, and regularly communicate with the residents to review their progress towards their identified goals.

If you are interested in participating or mentoring in this track, please contact Mindy Wang (mindy.x.wang@uth.tmc.edu) for further details.

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**NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP DEADLINES**
ACR E. Stephen Amis, Jr., MD Fellowship in Quality and Safety
- Deadline (extended): 7/31/2020
- Website: https://www.acr.org/Member-Resources/rfs/fellowships/amis-fellowship

ACR Bruce J. Hillman, MD Fellowship in Scholarly Publishing
- Deadline: Winter 2020
- Website: https://www.acr.org/Member-Resources/rfs/fellowships/Hillman-Fellowship

Conferences

RSNA 2019

Awards:
- Cum Laude
  - Susanna C. Spence
  - Making the Key Features of Temporal Bone Fracture Accessible to the Non-Neuroradiologist

Certificate of Merit
- Identified for Radiographies
  - Vahara Tammiiseti
  - The New 2017 World Health Organization (WHO)
  - Classification of Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumors: A Primer for Radiologists

15 Presentations including eight oral and seven poster exhibits
3 Awards by faculty
1 Keynote session by Dr. Ocazionez
1 Hot topic session by Dr. Blwow

SAR 2020: Maui, HI

Awards:
- Best New Frontiers Scientific Presentation Award
  - Venkat Surabhi
  - Comparative effectiveness of advanced cancer longitudinal response evaluation methods: artificial intelligence-assisted vs. standard-of-care

SAR 2020 Trainee Research Award Winner
- SAR Fund Trainee Travel Scholarship
  - Eymen Usick-Kesser (R3)
  - Diagnostic Performance of Magnetic Resonance (MR) Imaging in Predicting Surgical Findings of Morbidly Adherend Placenta (MAP)

Alexander R. Margulis Best Scientific Presentation by a Trainee Award
- Jeff Guccione (R3)
  - Evolutionary Characteristics of v2014 and v2018 LI-RADS 3 Observations Over Time

Wylie J. Dodds Research Award Grant
- Manoj Mathew (R4)
  - Quantitative Diffusion MRI for Evaluating Response to Chemotherapy in Colorectal Liver Metastases

Presentations by UT, including 5 oral and 6 poster exhibits
Awards earned by 3 residents and 1 faculty
5 Workshops lead by UT faculty
EQUIPMENT UPDATES

Bayshore
MH Bayshore Imaging Center construction is underway with the shell scheduled to be completed in September 2020. The expansion to include fluoro, xray, ultrasound, CT, and MRI is set to be finished in March 2021 with the mammography expansion anticipated to be completed by May 2021.

LBJ
LBJ has added two new GE Revolution CT Scanners with 128 detector rows and 80 mm coverage, and neuro perfusion packages. The first scanner, which has dual energy capabilities, was installed and has been active since January. The ER scanner has been up and running since the

OPID
Memorial Herman TMC outpatient center is currently installing a Canon Aquilion One 640 slice CT scanner with dual energy capabilities and advanced imaging for multiple subspecialties. Advanced imaging functions include 4D neuro perfusion package and multifunction subtraction and


Thank you to our editors!

- Dr. Elliott Friedman
- Dr. Mindy Wang
- Dr. Jeffrey Guccione
- Dr. Mamie Gao
- Sally Choi
- Joan Dela Cruz

Do you have content?

If you have content you would like to publish in the next newsletter, please email us:

DII.NEWSUPDATE@UTH.TMC.EDU

Visit our website.