


Outlook so it has access to each individual's daily calendar, and with QGenda, which the department uses to manage staffing at its many locations.

Once the user has identified a colleague who is available, they can use Team's native text, voice and video capabilities to communicate with them. Teams also provides image-sharing features that enable users to view images as they discuss them. "This technology allows us to do something that we used to do effortlessly when we were a small department," states

Dr. Zaragoza. "With these tools, we can have the same level of consultation and collegiality even though we're widely distributed geographically."

Beyond its invaluable use in facilitating collaborations that help ensure that patients get the best care possible, Dr. Zaragoza points out another of RadiologyLive's benefits. "The ability to have a 'water-cooler conversation' with a colleague is very humanizing and helps to improve our sense of wellbeing. It invites us to have a sense of community within our department." 

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS AND UPDATES



In Memoriam: Richard "Rick" Steckel, MD

Our former UCLA Radiology chair and colleague, Richard J. Steckel, MD (Rick), passed away on June 20, 2024, at the age of 88.


Rick graduated *magna cum laude* with a BA in biochemistry from Harvard University in 1957, and went on to earn his MD from Harvard Medical School in 1961. He completed his radiology residency at Massachusetts General Hospital and served in the Public Health Service during the Vietnam War, where he completed a research fellowship at the National Institutes of Health.

He joined the UCLA Radiology faculty in 1967 in the Chest Section, where he became a professor of radiology. Rick served as department chair from 1994 until 2000, when he retired. During his career, he authored over 130 peer-reviewed articles and several books.

Rick had a significant impact on tertiary care at UCLA as the

founding director of the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center at UCLA from 1974 to 1994. Equally important, he was a co-founder of the Venice Family Clinic in Los Angeles, contributing to community health care.

After retirement, he moved to Santa Barbara and volunteered teaching radiology residents at the Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital. Rick was a lifelong violinist who played in youth orchestras, movie studios in Hollywood and chamber music groups, including a trio in his living room on the morning of his last day.


We who knew and worked with Rick offer our sincere condolences to his wife, Julie Raskin Steckel; his daughter, Jan Steckel; and his son, David Steckel. He leaves behind a community of colleagues, students and fellow musicians who were enriched by his generosity, sense of humor, intellect and compassion. His impact on UCLA Health is still felt today. 

Travis Gilchrist, MPH, named CAO of Department of Radiology

Travis Gilchrist, MPH, has been named the new chief administrative officer (CAO) of the Department of Radiology at UCLA. Mr. Gilchrist is an accomplished health care executive with a wealth of experience in health care management, business development and financial operations. He also serves as CAO of the UCLA Department of Radiation Oncology.

With his extensive experience managing clinical and research budgets, Mr. Gilchrist is well qualified to manage the financial and operational functions of the Department of Radiology. He has a proven track record in building and fostering strategic

relationships with team leaders and health care managers, in overseeing lab and space expansion and in handling construction projects on campus.

Mr. Gilchrist has served as the Department of Radiology's interim CAO since May 2022. He has focused on financial and strategic assessments encompassing research, grants administration and purchasing support. His active leadership will help the department achieve its ambitious goals and carry out its missions across the institution and the surrounding community. 



Denise Aberle, MD

National Cancer Institute's Liquid Biopsy Consortium receives \$4.6 million grant from NCI


Computed tomography is the current standard for finding suspicious masses in the lungs. However, imaging can often lead to the detection of small pulmonary nodules, which can present challenges when discerning whether they're cancerous. UCLA and four other institutions — members of the National Cancer Institute's Liquid Biopsy Consortium — have received a \$4.6 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to develop liquid biopsy technology for the early detection of lung cancer.

Liquid biopsy could serve as a noninvasive alternative, allowing physicians to determine the molecular makeup of a tumor without extracting tissue or performing surgery.

"The goal is to create a blood test that can be used in clinics to complement CT imaging assessment of lung nodules for cancer risk, helping doctors decide if and when further testing

is needed," explains Denise Aberle, MD, professor of radiology in the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and one of the principal investigators on the grant.

The grant will support work in developing technology called EFIRM-liquid biopsy, which detects markers indicating the presence and nature of cancer. Aberle and colleagues discovered a type of "ultrashort and single-stranded" DNA associated with the disease. They're hoping that the combination of such DNA, specific genetic changes, detailed imaging and other factors will allow them to detect lung cancer at its earliest stage.

Other members of the Liquid Biopsy Consortium are Massachusetts General Hospital, the University of Miami School of Medicine, Johns Hopkins and Yale. 

Aberle and colleagues discovered a type of "ultrashort and single-stranded" DNA associated with cancer.




Kyung Sung, PhD, receives NCI Award to use AI to identify prostate cancer in Black men

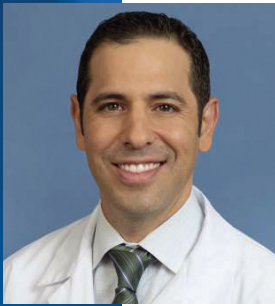
A team of investigators from the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and the University of Alabama at Birmingham was awarded \$2.8 million from the National Cancer Institute to develop an artificial intelligence model capable of improving the identification of prostate cancer in Black men, addressing a critical health care disparity.

Not only are Black men 50% more likely than white men to develop prostate cancer, they're also likely to experience a more aggressive form of the disease, leading to higher death rates when compared to white men.

Led by Kyung Sung, PhD, associate professor of radiology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, a team of scientists

will design AI models using racially associated MRI-based tissue characterization. In 2020, Dr. Sung and Holden H. Wu, PhD, associate professor of radiology, received a \$2.7 million grant from the institute to develop new techniques to improve the quality of prostate magnetic resonance imaging and new artificial intelligence methods that use prostate MRI to assist cancer diagnosis.

Building on that work, Dr. Sung's current team hopes to help reduce the gap in diagnosing prostate cancer among men of different races. "By using MRI analysis specifically designed for each racial group, we hope this could help improve the detection of aggressive prostate cancer for all men, reducing racial disparities," says Dr. Sung. 



**Michael Douek, MD, MBA,
Vice Chair of Clinical Operations**

Dr. Douek joined our faculty in 2007 as an assistant professor and in 2020 was appointed clinical professor of radiology. In 2011, he was appointed medical director of the Beach Imaging & Interventional Center, Santa Monica and in 2015 was also appointed the inaugural section chief of the newly created Oncology Imaging Section. Dr. Douek also served as a co-medical director of the Department of Radiology, Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center & Orthopaedic Hospital. Dr. Douek has recently accepted the position of clinical vice chair.



**Omar Sahagun, MD,
Vice Chair of Community Patient Care**

Dr. Sahagun joined UCLA radiology in 2016 as a member of the Acute Care and Abdominal Imaging Sections, and became the lead radiologist in the then-newly established UCLA Santa Clarita Imaging and Interventional Center. In June 2022, Dr. Sahagun was appointed North Valley regional medical director and was added to the department's Clinical Council. Dr. Sahagun has recently accepted the position of vice chair of community clinical care.



**James Chalfant, MD,
North Valley Regional Breast Imaging Director**

Dr. Chalfant joined UCLA in 2020 as an assistant professor in the Breast Imaging Section. He currently serves as the Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA) lead physician for breast imaging in the North Valley community breast imaging centers and has also assisted with clinical operations in the North Valley since April 2022. Dr. Chalfant has recently accepted the position of North Valley regional breast imaging medical director, overseeing clinical operations to ensure our breast imaging services continue to meet the highest standards of quality and safety.



**Adam Plotnik, MD,
Medical Director of Interventional Radiology at MLKCH**

Dr. Plotnik is an assistant professor in the Interventional Radiology Section and is actively involved in the IVC Filter Clinic and the UCLA Fibroid Treatment Program. He played the pivotal role in establishing the interventional radiology service at Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital (MLKCH) and was appointed lead physician in radiology there in 2016. He is the chair of the Diagnostic Services Committee and

a member of the Medical Executive Committee at MLKCH. Dr. Plotnik has recently accepted the position of medical director of IR at MLKCH. This position and role represent important clinical contributions to our department's EDI program.

Lea Azour, MD, Director of Wellbeing

Dr. Azour served as the director of wellbeing in the Department of Radiology at the NYU Grossman School of Medicine, where she led various initiatives aimed at enhancing faculty wellbeing. She recently joined our department as an associate professor in the Cardiothoracic Section. Her dedication to the wellbeing of clinicians extends to the national stage where she serves as the chair of the Society of Thoracic Radiology Wellness Committee and is an active member of the National Academy of Medicine Action Collaborative on Clinician Well-being and Resilience. Dr. Azur recently accepted the position of director of wellbeing at UCLA Radiology, where her extensive experience, leadership and dedication will drive initiatives that prioritize the wellbeing of our faculty members.

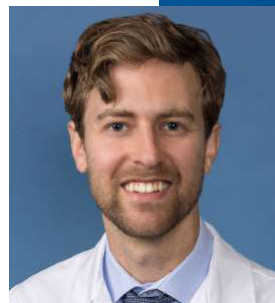


Zachary Haber, MD, Medical Director at UCLA West Valley Medical Center

Zachary Haber, MD, has been named the inaugural medical director in the Department of Digestive Diseases at UCLA West Valley Medical Center.

Dr. Haber earned his bachelor of science in neuropsychology at the University of California, Santa Barbara, graduating Magna Cum Laude. He attended the New York University School of Medicine, where he was selected for the Alpha Omega Alpha National Medical Honor Society and the Gold Humanism Honor Society. After a transitional internship at Scripps Mercy Hospital in San Diego, Dr. Haber completed his diagnostic and interventional radiology residency at UCLA, receiving the Bruce Barack Teaching Excellence Award.

Dr. Haber joined UCLA, as Interventional Radiology Section as a faculty member. His areas of clinical and research focus include Y90 radioembolization for liver cancers, endoscopy for complex biliary pathology and embolization for treating enlarged prostates. Dr. Haber is dedicated to medical education at all levels, serving as the course chair of the interventional radiology medical student rotation at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and assistant program director of the interventional radiology residency independent pathway.





Anthony Christodoulou, PhD, Joins UCLA Radiology

Anthony G. Christodoulou, PhD, joins UCLA Radiology from his previous post at Cedars-Sinai, where he was associate professor of biomedical

sciences and the director of Magnetic Resonance Technology Innovations for the Biomedical Imaging Research Institute.

He received his doctorate in electrical and computer engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and his bachelors and masters degrees in electrical engineering from the University of Southern California.

Dr. Christodoulou's research laboratory develops and translates novel magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) techniques through innovations in MR physics, machine learning and image reconstruction. His group's primary focus is on multidimensional quantitative imaging methods for the diagnosis, risk prediction and treatment monitoring of cardiovascular diseases and cancer.

His work on 4D cardiovascular MR (CMR) received the best-paper award at the 2011 IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Conference. His work on multidimensional quantitative cardiovascular imaging, dubbed MR multitasking, received the 2016 Society for Magnetic Resonance Angiography (SMRA) E. James Potchen Award for Best Oral Presentation, was a finalist for the 2017 Society for Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance (SCMR) Early Career Award and received the 2018 SCMR Clinical Seed Grant Award.

Dr. Christodoulou is an executive board member of the SMRA, a fellow of the SCMR, and a member of the ISMRM, IEEE, and AHA.



Kathleen Brown, MD, Named Interim Vice Dean for Education

Kathleen Brown, MD, FACR, will serve as the interim vice dean for education for the David Geffen School of Medicine

at UCLA (DGSOM) effective April 1, 2024. Reporting to Dr. Steven Dubinett, Dr. Brown will work as a key member of the dean's leadership team to oversee educational programs at the undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate levels in the DGSOM. She will also provide leadership and guidance to the education office of the DGSOM.

Dr. Brown is professor of clinical radiology in the Cardiothoracic Imaging Section in the Department of Radiological Sciences. She holds dual board certification in internal medicine and radiology. She currently serves as vice chair for equity, diversity and inclusion in the Department of Radiological Sciences and assistant dean for justice, equity, diversity and inclusion for the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. Dr. Brown is active in medical student and resident education and has served on numerous medical education committees at DGSOM. She is a past chair of the Applied Anatomy College and co-chair of the College Chairs Committee. She was honored to receive the Excellence in Education Award from the David Geffen School of Medicine in 2010 and the Serge and Yvette Dadone Clinical Teaching Award in 2018 "in recognition of outstanding dedication, innovation and sustained excellence in education."

Dr. Brown's interest in health care disparities has been demonstrated by previous service on the American College of Radiology Imaging Network (ACRIN) Special Populations Committee, composed of ACRIN researchers, research associates and advocates committed to improving diversity in participation in clinical trials in the United States. Her research interests include low-dose CT for lung cancer screening.



Gary Duckwiler, MD, Selected for UCLA Health Innovation Challenge Award

Gary R. Duckwiler, MD, professor and director of interventional neuroradiology, director of the INR Fellowship Program, co-director of the UCLA HHT Center of Excellence, was selected as an awardee of the UCLA Health Innovation Challenge Invent HealthTech Track for his project titled Vonova. Dr. Duckwiler received \$25,000 in project funding with the award.

Vonova is a catheter-based platform to provide a less invasive and more accessible way to map the brain's activity and pinpoint the source of seizures. It can also deliver electrical stimulation to the brain to treat seizures and alter the disease cells.

RESIDENT AWARDS



Tyler Callese, MD

Resident Scholarship, Western Angiographic and Interventional Society Annual Meeting, Oct. 2023

Distinguished Laboratory Investigation Award, Journal of Vascular and Interventional Radiology, Dec. 2023



Savannah Fletcher, MD

UCLA Taylor Choy International Elective Award for Academic Excellence



Logan Hubbard, MD, PhD

RSNA Trainee Research Prize in Cardiac Imaging, 2023 - "Combining Coronary CT Angiography and Coronary Flow Capacity Measurement with a Low-Dose Comprehensive Cardiac CT Technique - Validation Versus Rb-82 PET"



Tracie Kong, MD

UCLA Taylor Choy International Elective Award for Academic Excellence



Shamaita Majumdar, MD

Certificate of Merit for Educational Exhibit - Seize the Day: Image-Guided Interventions in Epilepsy, ASNR, May 2023



Sipan Mathevosian, MD

John R. Bentson Award for Clinical Excellence



Mark McArthur, MD

2023 Stanley Baum Outstanding Poster and Exhibit Award at AUR



Jason Ni, MD

Vascular InterVentional Advances (VIVA) Physicians-In-Training Scholarship, 2023



David Reilly, MD

Bruce Barack Award for Teaching Excellence



Christopher Yu, MD, PhD

Gold Medal Award, Exhibit at ARRS 2023 American Roentgen Ray Society - A Primer on MR Imaging of Meniere's Disease and Endolymphatic Hydrops

UCLA Taylor Choy International Elective Award for Academic Excellence

FELLOW AWARDS



Soheil Kooraki, MD

Recipient of 1st and 2nd place awards in UCLA Radiology research poster competition, Selected as vice chair of Early Career Committee of Society of Advanced Body Imaging (SABI-ECC)

Invited to serve on the Publications & Guidelines Committee of North American Society of Cardiovascular Imaging (NASCI)



Chukwuemeka Kingsley Okoro, MD

California Radiological Society - Presidential Award, Residents/Fellows Section



Puja Shahrouki, MD

UCLA Taylor Choy International Elective Award for Academic Excellence

RSNA Research & Education Foundation Roentgen Resident/Fellow Researcher Award

UCLA Radiology Alumni Connections

Chief Residents 2023-2024



Left to right: Tracie Kong, Phoebe Ann, Christopher Yu, David Reilly, Naomi Walker – Chief Residents 2023-2024

Phoebe Ann, MD

Phoebe is from Irvine, California. She studied at Caltech, where she developed a passion for analytical problem solving, math and physics. She completed medical school at Northwestern University in Chicago, after which she immediately returned back to the warm weather of LA. One of her life’s biggest accomplishments is adopting and loving her dog Toto, who has transformed from a scared abused shadow to the sassy queen of the household. Phoebe hopes to facilitate academic growth and learning within this residency she loves, as well as foster opportunities for social networking and camaraderie.

Tracie Kong, MD

Tracie was born in Beijing, China and grew up in Plainsboro, New Jersey. She studied molecular biology at Princeton University and received the Sigma Xi Book Award. She decided to trade fruit flies (as model organisms, not pets) for a white coat, and attended Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, where she was inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society. Tracie continued her westward migration and completed an internship year at Scripps Mercy Hospital in

San Diego before starting radiology residency at UCLA. Since moving to LA, she has enjoyed the food scene and also fulfilled her dream of getting an adorable puppy. Tracie looks forward to working with her wonderful co-chiefs and supporting the personal and professional growth of UCLA residents. After residency, she plans to pursue a pediatric radiology and pediatric neuroradiology fellowship.

David Reilly, MD

Dave was born and raised in Long Valley, New Jersey. He attended Bucknell University for undergraduate where he majored in neuroscience and studio art followed by a year of research at Columbia University. Dave attended medical school at Thomas Jefferson Medical College, after which he accepted a commission to Lieutenant in the Medical Corps of the US Navy. His internship was spent at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. He was then sent to flight school, where he trained at the Naval Aviation Medical Institute and was a naval flight surgeon. His time in the Navy was served with the 12th Marine Air Group in Iwakuni, Japan, and Carrier Air Group Eleven aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt. It was with great excitement that he joined

Chief Residents 2023-2024

UCLA as an Integrated Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology resident and is honored to be able to serve alongside Tracie, Naomi, Phoebe and Chris as chief. When not working, Dave enjoys painting, tinkering at his workbench or playing with his dog, Toad. Dave is grateful for the hard work of the outgoing chiefs and is excited by the opportunity to work with his co-chiefs to contribute to an already excellent program.

Naomi Walker, MD

Naomi is a Southern California native who grew up basking in the sunny warmth of the Inland Empire. She earned her bachelor of science in biology at the University of California, Irvine. She then earned her medical degree from the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, where she was a recipient of the David Geffen Medical Scholarship. Naomi was overjoyed to continue her training as a radiology resident at UCLA, working alongside inspiring mentors and friends who continue to support her every step of the way. Following residency, she plans to continue her training with a fellowship in neuroradiology. In her free time,

Naomi loves spoiling her two dogs (Tobi & Tessa), practicing yoga, and exploring the diverse culture of Los Angeles. As a chief resident, Naomi is committed to advocating for her peers and enhancing their residency experience at UCLA.

Christopher Yu, MD, PhD

Chris was born in Baltimore, Maryland. Before coming to UCLA, he was at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, where he earned his medical degree and doctoral degree in bioengineering. He does miss the Philly cheesesteaks, roast pork sandwiches and scrapple, but thinks LA street tacos are an adequate replacement. In-N-Out is also adequate. Chris and his wife spend most of their spare time watching YouTube videos suggested by the omniscient algorithm and sending each other Reddit links. He enjoys cooking various types of food and tries to keep his many house plants alive as practice for their future child. He's honored to be a chief alongside Dave, Naomi, Phoebe and Tracie, and aims to support all residents in the program and help maximize their training experience.

Recent Events



Dr. Join Luh (third from left) visited UCLA to present Interventional Radiology Grand Rounds in July of 2023. Pictured here with a group of radiology faculty, fellows and residents.

Recent Events



In August of 2023, the Radiology Department hosted the annual Welcome Reception. This event introduces new faculty, fellows and residents to the department. Pictured here is a group of abdominal imaging faculty and fellows.

Pictured here is a group of neuroradiology faculty and fellows, also at the department's annual Welcome Reception.



UCLA and the American College of Radiology hosted the 6th Annual Radiology Career Symposium in February of 2024. The goal of this event is to help introduce fellows, residents and medical students to a variety of career paths within the field of radiology. This year's event was hosted in a hybrid format at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center.

Radiology Fellows 2023-2024

Abdominal Imaging / Cross Sectional IRg

Nazanin H. Asvadi, MD
Barry Bardia Golestany, MD
Alan D. Huynh, MD
Kevin Young Kim, MD
Christopher Lin, DO
Landon J. Melchior, MD
Samantha C. Phung, DO

Breast Imaging

Iris E. Chen, MD
Cheickna Fofana, MD
Claire A. Lis, MD
Adam E. Sierra, MD
Tiffany T. Yu, MD

Cardiothoracic Imaging

Cato Chan, MD
Joshua K. Sweigert, MD

Diagnostic Neuroradiology

Daniel Adran, MD
Charles B. Davis, MD
Brandon L. Gisi, MD
Joseph D. Saucier, MD
Puja Shahrouki, MD

Interventional Neuroradiology

Charles B. Beaman, MD
Keiko A. Fukuda, MD
Catherine Peterson, MD

Interventional Radiology

Samuel J. LaRussa, MD
Russell A. Reeves, MD, MS
Zhaoying Xian, MD

Musculoskeletal Imaging

Jonathan Lin, MD
Brian K. Ng, MD
Chukwuemeka K. Okoro, MD
Zaid I. Patel, MD

Pediatric Imaging

Soheil Kooraki, MD

Residents: Diagnostic Radiology Class of 2027

Supriya Bhupathy, MD
California University of Science and Medicine

Alexander Boyarko, MD
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine

Sundus Lateef, MD
West Virginia University School of Medicine

Linda Lu, MD
University of South Florida College of Medicine

Sana Malik, MD
Morehouse School of Medicine

Khoi Nguyen, MD
JS Weill Medical College, Cornell University

Wendy Qiu, MD
Creighton University School of Medicine

Megan Quan, MD
Saint Louis University School of Medicine

Hannah Riskin-Jones, MD
University of California, Los Angeles, Geffen School of Medicine

Jeffrey Rosenthal, MD
Emory University School of Medicine

Frank Salamone, MD
F H Netter, M.D. School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University

Mana Shams, MD
Uppsala University

Timothy Suh, MD
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine

Erika Wood, MD
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine

Residents: Interventional Radiology Class of 2028

Lynden Lee, MD
Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva

Christian Nguyen, MD
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

Shanmukha Srinivas, MD
University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine

Stay in Touch!

UCLA MAA

If you have changed your contact information recently, please let us know so we can keep in touch! Are you the recipient of a recent award or distinction? If so, we would like to know about it and post it on our newsletter/alumni web page. Contact Anna O'Shea at avoshea@mednet.ucla.edu or visit us at: radiology.ucla.edu/alumni

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You have the power to make a world of difference in radiological sciences. Join forces with UCLA to advance human health and improve outcomes and quality of life for patients and their loved ones. If you would like information on how you can help, please contact:

Molly Moursi
Executive Director Men's and Women's Health
310-267-1826
emoursi@mednet.ucla.edu
or go to: uclahealth.org/radiology/giving



Our locations

UCLA Radiology is committed to providing outstanding patient care through excellence in clinical imaging at a number of convenient locations.

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Radiology

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