Visiting professors and Saint Luke's Scarpellino Radiology Education Center enhance training.

Kunin leads efforts for first, only radiology research fellowship in Kansas City, Mo.
Throughout the past decade, the field of radiology has become one of the most quickly expanding, technologically demanding medical specialties in the health care industry. These external forces have also spurred many radiology residency programs across the country to change in order to rise to new levels of medical education. The UMKC School of Medicine Radiology Residency program has certainly capitalized on opportunities surrounding these changes in recent years. That’s evident by looking at our current residents’ and graduates’ accomplishments. We’re graduating radiologists who are prepared to practice at the highest levels of radiology subspecialization. Our graduates are matriculating in fellowships at the most renowned teaching and patient care institutions in the country. Johns Hopkins, Harvard, Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology, and M.D. Anderson are just a few of the distinguished medical centers that have accepted our graduates in recent years. These institutions welcome graduates from the UMKC School of Medicine Radiology Residency because they know that resident physicians who come from our program have trained with some of the best radiology subspecialists in their field. For example, two members of our faculty, Melissa Rosado de Christenson, M.D., and Jorge Vidal, M.D., were recently honored by the Radiological Society of North America for their work as educators. Our graduates are highly qualified having been exposed to the most advanced technology and imaging techniques, such as vascular and neurointerventional, 3T magnetic resonance (MR) imaging, MR spectroscopy, perfusion, tractography, diffusion tensor imaging, CT and MR enterography, tumor ablation, sports medicine imaging, fetal and cardiac imaging. And, the experience they gain from working with nationally recognized subspecialists and varied patient populations through rotations at four different hospital affiliates makes our graduates attractive to any radiology practice.

In 2009, the UMKC School of Medicine Radiology Residency program was cited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education for its excellence, honored as the only program during a six-month accreditation period to receive a full five-year accreditation “with commendation.” Today, our program has a reputation for excellence. We don’t take that reputation lightly. It is our mission to continue to build on that, making our residency one of the best in the nation.

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Named as “Advocate of the Year” by the graduating residents this past year, Jeffrey Kunin, M.D., clinical associate professor of radiology at the UMKC School of Medicine, continues to focus on keeping the department on the cutting edge of the industry. “It has been my mission to improve the radiology residency and part of that was teaching. I built the clinical aspect, improved upon the education, and then recruited staff who would have interest in doing research,” said Kunin, chief of the radiology department at Saint Luke’s Hospital.

Kunin graduated from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston in 1987 and completed residency training at the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond, Va., and at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Mich., and a fellowship at the University of Michigan Health System in Ann Arbor. He is board-certified by the American Board of Radiology with a subspecialty interest in thoracic imaging.

Before joining Saint Luke’s, Kunin was in private practice for nearly 15 years and said he appreciates the teaching dynamic of his current position. “It makes work more challenging to teach, stay up with scientific literature and give lectures,” Kunin said. “The residents are very enjoyable. I care about them, want to help them find a job or fellowship and get through the professional part of their life.”

Through his work, the radiology department will launch its first research fellowship in 2013 – the new thoracic radiology research fellowship. Charlene Lava, M.D., senior radiologist resident, will be the first fellow in this program. Kunin secured funding for the research fellow, a part-time study coordinator and the research study from the Kansas Bioscience Authority in conjunction with Oncimmune, Ltd., and the Saint Luke’s Foundation. Lava is working on the study with Kunin, who is the principal investigator.

The study focuses on the evaluation of a blood test and correlating it with imaging studies in the evaluation of potential lung cancer. About 500 patients are planning to enroll in the study, which started in September and will last for a year. “There is a blood test for assisting in the detection of lung cancer, but no one has ever correlated that with the chest CT scans that we read to look for it,” Kunin said. “So, we will be merging the two: looking at the results from the blood test and at the results of the CT scan to see if we can combine them to improve upon current methods to detect lung cancer.”

As a senior resident, Lava has worked with Kunin for the past four years and said she looks forward to working with him as the thoracic residency fellow before she begins a fellowship in pediatric radiology at Children’s Mercy Hospital.

“He’s a really good mentor,” she said. “He’ll give you feedback and tell you what you need to do. If you get in a rut, he helps you find ways to get through it. He also recognizes when someone does a good job and will tell you that. As a resident, it’s nice to have some positive reinforcement.”

Another aspect of Kunin’s teaching that Lava said she appreciates is his ability to find resources and solutions to problems. It is this problem-solving aspect of medicine and radiology, in particular, that attracted Kunin to the profession. “I like the search to solve,” he said. “It’s kind of like a mystery novel. In diagnostic radiology as compared to therapeutic radiology, we’re determining whether things are normal or abnormal. And if they’re abnormal, we have to figure out what that is. I like putting all the pieces together to solve what’s wrong with the patient.”
UMKC RADIOLOGY RESIDENTS AT THE TOP OF THEIR GAME

Myka Veigel, D.O., is a fifth-year resident in the UMKC School of Medicine Radiology Residency program. He has already plans to continue his training with a musculoskeletal fellowship at the University of Iowa after he completes his residency in 2013. The decision to add fellowship training is becoming the norm for radiologists graduating from residency programs. In the past four years, all 21 of the residents who have graduated from UMKC’s radiology program have entered a fellowship. Not just any fellowship program, but some of the top programs in the nation, said Lisa Lowe, M.D., F.A.A.P, residency director, professor and chair of radiology.

“The thing that stands out about our graduates is that they are seeking out and securing fellowships with the best mentors and teachers at some of the best institutions in the country. This is no accident,” Lowe said. Radiology residents in the past few years have landed fellowship positions at places such as Johns Hopkins, Harvard, Mallinckrodt have landed fellowship positions at places in the country. This is no accident,” Lowe said.

and teachers at some of the best institutions securing fellowships with the best mentors and encouraging them to not just complete a fellowship, but to set their sights on completing the nation’s top fellowships, thus allowing them to practice at the highest level of subspecialization possible,” Lowe said. David Saldana, M.D., completed a fellowship in thoracic radiology and breast imaging at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center after graduating from the residency program in 2011. He now works in a private practice in Corpus Christi, Texas, and credits UMKC radiology faculty members Azfal Rizai, M.D., a clinical assistant professor who specializes in breast imaging, and Melissa L. Rosado de Christenson, M.D., F.A.C.R, professor of radiology, specializing in thoracic radiology, with determining his career path.

“They had huge influences on me and my career,” Saldana said. “My residency program gave me the base knowledge that I use every day and accomplished the goal of preparing me to perform at the highest level.” Veigel echoes the point. He said the quality of radiologists and attending physicians who residents work with on a daily basis goes hand-in-hand with the high expectations the program has for its residents.

“Our residency, we have subspecialty-trained radiologists in all facets of radiology and really get a good generalized background and preparation for when we leave here,” he said.

“We have very good musculoskeletal training at UMKC. A new musculoskeletal radiologist who arrived just more than a year ago, Dr. Jessica Sanchez, from George Washington University, has added a lot to our resident education.” In early 2009, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education examined the UMKC radiology residency program and came back with a glowing report, citing it as one of the best it had reviewed. For its efforts, not only did the program receive the ACGME’s longest cycle length of five years, it was accredited “with commendation” a rare honor given to only one program — UMKC — reviewed during that six-month period.

Part of the reason is that residents not only train with some of the top radiologists in their fields, but their experiences are also shaped by the wide range of training environments at four of Kansas City’s leading hospitals — Truman Medical Center, Saint Luke’s Hospital of Kansas City, Children’s Mercy Hospitals and Clinics, and the Kansas City Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center — each with their own individual niche.

“I’d say one of the strengths of our residency program is the various hospitals where we get to train,” Veigel said. “We get a variety of patients at those hospitals and a variety of attendings with different backgrounds and strengths that they share and teach us.” When Veigel prepared to begin residency, he had plenty of options in front of him as he interviewed for a radiology residency position. At the top of his list stood the program at UMKC.

One major reason, and another strength of the program, he said, was its curriculum that integrates the traditional one-year clinical internship throughout the full five-year residency experience.

“That was one of the reasons I ranked this program as number one. I knew that I could start doing radiology my first year,” Veigel said. “In most programs, you have to do a one-year internship and a couple of months of radiology training and start the next year. Here, I was able to do seven months of radiology during the first year. I got more training, and it’s given me a unique experience.”

Left: Radiology Program Director, Lisa Lowe, M.D., discusses cases with resident Kenney Renas, M.D. Right: Radiologist Natasha Acosta, M.D., advises resident Myka Veigel, D.O., in reviewing radiology scans at Truman Medical Center.
Two Radiology Faculty Receive Honored Educator Award

Two radiology department faculty received 2012 Honored Educator Awards from the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA). Melissa Rosado de Christenson, M.D., F.A.C.R., and Jorge Vidal, M.D., were among 44 selected nationwide from more than 60,000 physicians who participate in RSNA.

“I am truly humbled to be recognized by the RSNA in this manner and especially honored to be included with other awardees who represent some of the best educators in radiology,” said Rosado de Christenson. “I am also pleased to be recognized with one of the graduates of our program, Dr. Jorge Vidal.”

In 2008, she came to Kansas City to serve as a professor of radiology and chief of thoracic imaging at Saint Luke’s Hospital. According to Rosado de Christenson, the ability to serve as an educator and practitioner was one of the reasons she came to Saint Luke’s.

“I had the privilege of being trained by outstanding educators and leaders in radiology,” said Rosado de Christenson. “They nurtured in me a love of learning and the desire to become the best radiologist I could be. When I see the impact that those individuals had on my professional life, I feel an obligation to try to do the same for my trainees.”

It is an understatement to say that Rosado de Christenson serves as an outstanding example of a physician educator. According to Lisa Lowe, M.D. F.A.A.P., chair of radiology for the UMKC School of Medicine. Rosado de Christenson is in charge of thoracic imaging education for UMCKC residents. She also works with medical school students during their radiology rotations. In 2009, Rosado de Christenson was instrumental in starting a one-year thoracic imaging fellowship at Saint Luke’s Hospital.

An excellent teacher and mentor, Rosado de Christenson is recognized as a national authority on thoracic imaging. She has co-authored one book and is serving as lead author for her first book, “Diagnostic Imaging Chest.” She holds numerous leadership roles in national and international radiology organizations such as the Society of Thoracic Radiology, and the American Roentgen Ray Society (ARRS), the American Board of Radiology and the American College of Radiology.

Radiology to name a few.

In 1971, she began her educational journey when she left her home in Puerto Rico and accepted a scholarship to attend Johns Hopkins University. She completed her medical degree at the newly created Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. She went directly from the classroom to active military duty with the U.S. Air Force, where she served for the next 25 years.

Vidal shares several things in common with Rosado de Christenson. He is also from Puerto Rico, and a UMCKC faculty member. Vidal, who completed his musculoskeletal fellowship at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (now the American Institute for Radiologic Pathology), now lives and practices in Puerto Rico. He first learned about the School of Medicine when he applied and was accepted for his residency in the UMCKC radiology department.

“UMCKC’s radiology residency is a great program. I found the ability to work with private and public systems very beneficial, and working with Children’s Mercy was magnificent,” Vidal said. He has taught for the past six years with the School of Medicine as a clinical assistant professor. He returns once a year to lecture on musculoskeletal radiology and performs online conferences as well. He serves as an assistant professor at the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine.

Vidal has presented at national conferences and won several awards for his work. “This is a great honor to be among the 44 honored from the RSNA. This is a group of over 60,000. I am honored to be recognized among a group that comprises many of the major authorities in radiology,” he concluded.

Halpin to Attend Introduction to Academic Radiology Program

Jared Halpin, M.D., knew he wanted to be a radiologist before he began medical school. While working with radiologists in a job-shadowing class in high school, he said he could see the excitement and interest they had in their job. And, it was with this enthusiasm that Halpin enrolled in as many radiology electives as possible during his time in the UMCKC School of Medicine’s six-year BA/MD program. After graduation in 2010, he was accepted into the UMCKC radiology residency program.

Lisa Lowe, M.D., F.A.A.P., program director for the radiology residency, nominated Halpin for the Introduction to Academic Radiology program sponsored by the RSNA/AUR and ARRS. Each residency can nominate one resident to apply to the program. Halpin was chosen to attend the seminar at the 2012 RSNA on Nov 25-29 in Chicago.

“I was honored to be chosen and that I was someone Dr. Lowe thought would be a good applicant,” Halpin said. “I’m looking forward to the opportunity I’ll have there to learn more about pursuing a career in academic radiology and to meet other residents and faculty across the country.”

Each resident chosen to attend the seminar receives a grant to cover registration to the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) and travel expenses. The program at the RSNA meeting gathers PGY3 radiology residents and academic radiologists who discuss why they chose an academic career path and its value to the radiology community, Halpin said. Melissa Rosado de Christenson, M.D., F.A.C.R., professor of radiology and chief of thoracic imaging at Saint Luke’s hospital, will give a presentation during the meeting that focuses on developing a successful mentor relationship.

The radiology staff at UMCKC has shown Halpin how satisfying and rewarding radiology can be, he said. “Each case is interesting. This is a group of over 60,000, and to meet other residents and faculty across the country.”

Halpin said he is looking forward to learning more about the profession that he finds so rewarding. “In radiology, we get to see a variety of pathologies, patients, and patient settings,” he said. “Imaging techniques advance and grow, and we continue to learn more every day.”
Residents receive awards for excellence in Radiology

Five residents were recognized for their accomplishments during the 2012 annual graduation dinner.

Chris Keup, M.D., received the “Schottman Germann Outstanding Graduating Resident Award.” Keup is now completing a fellowship in pediatric radiology at Children’s Mercy Hospital. The award was established in 1992 in honor of Gerhard W. Schottman, M.D., and Donald R. Germann. Keup, voted most outstanding resident by fellow residents and faculty, received a $1,000 award.

Kenny Rentas, M.D., Class of 2014, received the “Roentgen Resident Research Award.” This award recognizes a resident, at any level, who has demonstrated outstanding scholarly work. In the last two years, Rentas has published two manuscripts, made two oral presentations, and co-authored seven posters shown at national and international meetings, three of which received awards.

Megan Saettele, M.D., received the “Educator of the Year” award during the radiology annual graduation dinner and socialize and meet the other residents, faculty and family members.

Myka Veigel, D.O., Class of 2013, was named the first recipient of the “Excellence in Chest Imaging Award.” This award, established in 2012 honors the resident with the most outstanding overall chest radiology performance, and includes a $500 cash prize.

Marcus Kater, M.D., Class of 2015, received the “Truman Medical Center/Medical Imaging Gerald Finka Spirit of Excellence Award.” Kater received the award, and $500, by demonstrating the qualities one would most want to have in a radiology partner in practice, such as professionalism, reliability, strong work ethic, and being a team player.

Megan Saettele, M.D., Class of 2014, received the consultant of the Year award from the Emergency Medicine Department. This award is given to the radiology resident who is most helpful in providing excellent patient care to emergency patients.

Congratulations to all of the residents for earning these awards.

Children’s Mercy Hospital appoints Douglas Rivard, D.O., chair of radiology

A graduate of the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in Kirksville, Mo., Rivard has been with Children’s Mercy since 2007. He completed a fellowship in Pediatric Radiology at Children’s Mercy and was chief resident of the Oklahoma State University Medical Center. His specialty interests include pediatric interventional radiology.

Rivard succeeds James Brown, M.D., who had served as radiology section chief since 2008. Brown will continue working at Children’s Mercy on a part-time basis, focusing mainly on the Radiology Department’s outreach program with other hospitals.

Radiology residents honor faculty with awards

Kelli Andresen, M.D., clinical associate professor, was selected as “Educator of the Year” by residents for her consistent excellence in teaching. Residents honored her with a barbeque toast during the dinner. Andresen also serves as the abdomen section chief at Saint Luke’s Hospital, Associate program director for the residency, and lectures at the American Roentgen Ray Society’s (ARRS) Case Based Review.

Graduating residents also honored Jeffrey Kunin, M.D., clinical associate professor, as “Advocate of the Year.” This award recognizes a faculty member for his or her overall support of the resident’s interests. Kunin is the radiology department chief for Saint Luke’s Hospital and served as associate program director from 2007-2012.

Department welcomes new residents, fellows and faculty

Faculty, residents, fellows and alumni welcomed six new residents and two new fellows to the radiology department on August 25 at an event at Indian Hills Country Club.

Ryu Benson, M.D., of Ohio State University, is the new thoracic fellow at Saint Luke’s Hospital. Chris Keup, M.D., began the pediatrics fellowship at Children’s Mercy Hospital/UMKC. Katie Adler, D.O., Zach Bailey, D.O., MEBA, Stephanie Desouches, D.O., Ross Holwerda, M.D., Edward Moellmer, M.D., and Moe Tun, D.O., Ph.D., were welcomed as the new class of residents. Six new UMKC faculty members were welcomed at the event including John Boras, M.D. and Ken Cho, M.D., both of whom joined the Interventional Radiology section at Saint Luke’s Hospital. Children’s Mercy Hospital added two new faculty, Amy Dahil, M.D., and Laura Dineen, M.D., both of whom are former fellows.

Gwen Arnett, M.D. returned to the UMKC faculty, joining the Saint Luke’s Hospital Cancer Center as a Breast Imager. Finally, Dr. Brian Chiu, M.D., joined the neuroradiology section at Saint Luke’s Hospital after completing neuroradiology and research fellowships at the University of Utah.

This event gave those joining the department an opportunity to socialize and meet the other residents, faculty and family members.

Senior Chiefs pass the torch

The radiology department thanks outgoing senior chief residents.

Residents in the radiology department receive top notch training from some of the nation’s experts. An important part of this education is the extensive Visiting Professors Series offered by the Department.

“The Visiting Professors Series offers our residents the latest information in radiology from leaders in various subspecialties of radiology. Allowing residents to hear how things are done at other places is a valuable component to the residency program,” said Lisa Lowe, M.D., chair of the radiology department at the UMKC School of Medicine and residency program director.

More than 20 visiting professors lecture each year in a variety of radiology subspecialties. Speakers come from across the country. Recent and upcoming speakers include Johnny Kruskal, M.D., Ph.D., of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Alex Norbash, M.D., and Kurt Shaffer, M.D., Ph.D., of Boston University Hospital, Don Yoo, M.D., of Dartmouth & Brown Universities, Edith Marmon, M.D., of M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, and Sanjeev Bhalla, M.D. of Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology.

A detailed listing of recent and upcoming visiting professors is listed on the radiology department website at www.med.umkc.edu.

Radiology society recognizes Lowe for dedication to radiology education

The Society for Pediatric Radiology (SPR) will present Lisa Lowe, M.D., with the 2013 Singleton-Taybi Award at the SPR meeting in San Antonio, Texas, in recognition of her lifetime dedication to the education of students, residents, fellows and colleagues in radiology.

The award is given in honor of Edwards Singleton and Hooshang Taybi in recognition of their personal commitment to the educational goals of the SPR. Presented annually since 2006, the award honors a senior member of the SPR whose dedication to education has brought honor to the recipient and the discipline of pediatric radiology.

Visiting professors and Scarpepello Rad Illustration Education Center enhance training

Saint Luke’s Hospital opened new lecture hall in the Scarpepello Radiology Education Center in honor of Dr. Louis Scarpepello (1903-1967 – inset) who donated funds to build the room.

Residents honor Kelli Andresen, M.D., with a barbeque toast in recognition of receiving the Educator of the Year award during the radiology annual graduation dinner.

Executive Director Douglas Rivard, D.O., chair of radiology at Children’s Mercy Hospital, and Sanjeev Bhalla, M.D. of Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology.

Senior Chiefs pass the torch
RESEARCH RECOGNITION

During the 2011-12 academic year, radiology department faculty, fellows, residents and students were recognized for their research, publications and presentations nationally and internationally. This section lists the many accomplishments of the department. UMKC residents are underlined, faculty mentors and students denoted with asterisks.

AWARDS


Certificate of Merit, Radiol Soc N Amer (RSNA) meeting, Chicago, IL. The image of pediatric appendicitis: a retrospective review. Fickenscher KA, Lowe LH.


PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS


ORAL NATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Martin C. Advanced Imaging and ischemic Stroke Intervention. SE Global Stroke Forum. Crotonville NY.

Lowe LH. Modern Head Ultrasound. Radiol Soc N Amer (RSNA) meeting, Chicago, IL.


Rivard DC. Pediatric Klippel-Trenaunay syndrome. Sedona Days: World Conference on Phlebology, Sedona, AZ.

Lowe LH. Clinical education developer program: case Based Teaching. Am Roentgen Ray Soc (ARRS) meeting, Vancouver, BC.

Stull MA. Metabolic Bone Disease: The Basics. Univer of Illinois Med Center, Chicago, IL.


Lowe LH. Comedy Requested, Misunderstood Imaging studies. Am Acad Pediatrics meeting. New Orleans, LA.


Lowe LH. Pediatric Soft tissue masses made simple S:AM activity. American Roentgen Ray Soc (ARRS) meeting, Vancouver, WA.

Thomes TH. Case of the Day: Bronchial to pulmonary artery malformation. Soc for Thoracic Radiol (STR) Huntington Beach, CA.

Lowe LH. Categorical course: MDCTA MRF update on liver diseases. Soc for Pediatric Radiol (SPR), San Francisco, CA.

Martinez-Jimenez S. Acute Arteriovenous Fistula. Sympodium, Society for Thoracic Radiology (STR) meeting, Huntington Beach, CA.

Lowe LH. Teaching the competencies: Systems Based Practice Am Roentgen Ray Soc (ARRS), Vancouver, Canada.

Andresen KJ. Genitourinary Cases. Case Review Course, American Roentgen Ray Soc (ARRS), Chicago, IL.

Lowe LH. Cranial Ultrasound: State of the Art. American Roentgen Ray Society (ARRS) meeting, Honolulu, HI.

Martin CO, Azminudin A, Leira E. Stroke: What you need to know to survive call. American Academy of Neurology (AAN) meeting, Honolulu, HI.

Lowe LH. Teaching Certificate Program: Developing case based review curricula for the new board format. American University of Radiologists (AUR) meeting, Boston, MA.


Lowe LH. Lupus: Doppler use in the acute setting. Am Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM). Phoenix, AZ.

Rivard DC. Pediatric thrombosis: diagnosis and treatment. Venous Assoc of India. Goa, India.

Andresen KJ. Genitourinary Cases. Case Review Course, Am Roentgen Ray Soc (ARRS), Chicago, IL.

BOOKS & CHAPTERS


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