



# Foundation FOCUS

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE RADIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA RESEARCH & EDUCATION FOUNDATION

INSPIRE | INNOVATE | INVEST *The Campaign  
for Funding Radiology's Future®*

## Foundation Names 2015 Grant Recipients

The RSNA Research & Education Foundation's Board of Trustees is thrilled to announce the 2015 grant recipients. As RSNA embarks on its second century, these individuals and their projects have the potential to mark the beginning of exciting new innovations in radiologic research and education.

This year, the R&E Foundation will fund 92 grants totaling \$3.6 million. Support for these projects is made possible by scores of individuals, private practice group partners, and corporate friends who invest in our specialty. The Foundation is grateful for our many donors who have made commitments to the Inspire-Innovate-Invest Campaign for Funding Radiology's Future® for their incredible support of these educators and innovators.

Spanning 47 institutions from the U.S., Canada, and India, the 2015 recipients represent radiology's future. From the medical students, residents, and fellows who are mapping their initial pathway to academic research, to faculty members whose projects provide a



**Burton P. Drayer, M.D.,**  
R&E Foundation Board of Trustees  
Chairman

channel to subsequent funding, and educators who aim to improve how instruction is delivered, it is an honor for the Foundation to support them all.

The commitment of the Foundation's Board of Trustees to a 25% funding rate is a true measure of RSNA's pledge to support our specialty and put radiologists at the center of medical research.

"The RSNA R&E Foundation remains zealously committed to the development and support of radiologists who want to pursue a career in imaging research and education, and this is reflected in the generous grant funding awarded for 2015. The future of our specialty and the success of the entire radiology community is deeply dependent on the innovation and dedication of these young investigators," Burton P. Drayer, M.D., chair, RSNA R&E Foundation Board of Trustees, said.

For a full list of 2015 R&E grant recipients visit [RSNA.org/Grants-and-Awards](http://RSNA.org/Grants-and-Awards).



### THE COMMITMENT CONTINUES.

View full list of  
Centennial Pathfinders at  
[RSNA.org/Campaign](http://RSNA.org/Campaign)

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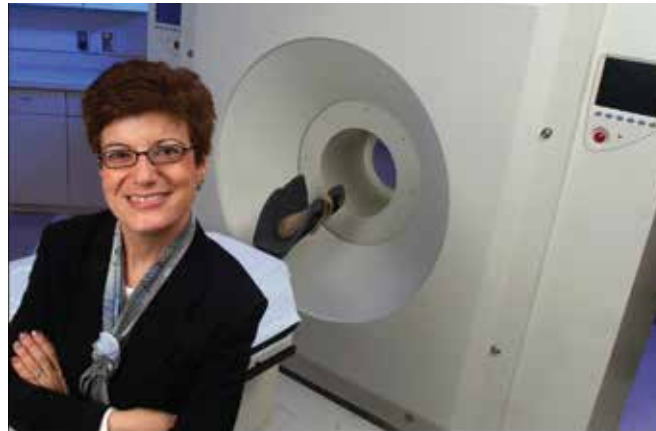


# Culture of Inquiry Strong at Emory

As a 1996 RSNA Research Scholar Grant recipient, **Carolyn C. Meltzer, M.D.**, knows the importance of receiving extramural funding for research. Because of this, she strongly encourages a culture of inquiry at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia.

This year, Emory has four RSNA R&E Foundation grant recipients. These individuals include two medical students, a resident, and a junior faculty member. The Emory researchers are pursuing projects as unique and varied as the future of the specialty.

Canon U.S.A./RSNA Research Medical Student Grant recipient **Alex Chung, B.A.**, will weigh the advantages of adding photographs to radiographs to combat wrong-patient errors. Another Emory medical student, **Yoon-Jin Kim, B.A.**, will compare three view 2D digital mammography to digital breast tomosynthesis to discover how available mammography techniques can be optimized. A project by third-year resident **Gelareh Sadigh, M.D.**, “Breast Cancer Screening in Patients with Newly Diagnosed Cancer: A SEER-Medicare Population Study of Utilization and Potential Appropriateness,” strives to increase understanding of the suitability of screening during cancer survivorship. The deeper awareness of potential



Carolyn C. Meltzer, M.D., William Patterson Timmie Professor and Chair, Department of Radiology and Imaging Sciences; Associate Dean for Research, Emory University School of Medicine; Member, R&E Foundation Board of Trustees.

over-diagnosis and over-treatment will assist in the development of interventions, align clinical practice, and guide Medicare coverage of evidence-based care to reduce cancer care costs without compromising outcome. Using her Hitachi Medical Systems/RSNA Research Seed Grant, **Kelly Lynn Cox, D.O.**, will investigate MRI liver surface nodularity scores as a new noninvasive biomarker for chronic viral hepatitis. The project will lay the groundwork for a large

multi-institutional funded study, progressing toward clinical implementation and commercialization of this technology.

“At Emory Radiology, we have worked to foster both a commitment to faculty development and a culture of inquiry. This has been a powerful formula for enabling radiologist-driven interdisciplinary research projects. With the support of the R&E Foundation, students, trainees, and radiologists can move our field forward in ways that will greatly benefit the patients we serve.”

“The RSNA R&E Research Scholar Grant I was fortunate to receive as a junior faculty member in 1996 launched my own research career and more than 17 years of NIH funding as a principal investigator. It is incredibly rewarding to now see my Emory colleagues starting their own journeys.”

*“At Emory Radiology, we have worked to foster both a commitment to faculty development and a culture of inquiry. This has been a powerful formula for enabling radiologist-driven interdisciplinary research projects.”*

**Carolyn C. Meltzer, M.D.**



(From left to right) Alex Chung, B.A.; Gelareh Sadigh, M.D.; Yoon-Jin Kim, B.A., and Kelly Lynn Cox, D.O.



# Donor Reception in Houston Highlights Inspire-Innovate-Invest Campaign

The R&E Foundation recognized loyal donors and highlighted Foundation success stories during a reception in Houston hosted by **Phan T. Huynh, M.D.**, Individual Giving Subcommittee chairman, and **Martha Munden, M.D.**, and **Reginald "Reggie" F. Munden, M.D., D.M.D.**, Corporate Giving Subcommittee chairman.

Drs. Martha and Reggie Munden welcomed 31 guests for an evening with fellow Foundation supporters. Dr. Reggie Munden announced that the Inspire-Innovate-Invest Campaign has reached the halfway point of its \$17.5 million goal. Dr. Huynh spoke of his personal Campaign commitment as a Gold Centennial Pathfinder, likening it to funding his children's education.

"Like many of you, I contribute to a 529 plan for my children's future education," he explained. "To me, the R&E Foundation is the 529 plan for radiology. We all need to ensure a bright future for the specialty."



Phan T. Huynh, M.D., spoke to guests about the importance of continuing to fund R&E Foundation grants.

Several local grant recipients shared how receiving R&E Foundation grants inspired their careers and paved the way for future success.

**Rivka R. Colen, M.D.**, a two-time R&E Foundation grant recipient, addressed the group that evening. After securing a Research Fellow Grant in 2010, Dr. Colen, a neuroradiologist at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, recently learned she was awarded a two-year Agfa HealthCare/RSNA Research Scholar Grant to continue her research into genomics in brain tumors. Since that first grant, she has secured

more than \$1 million in further funding. "There is a saying, 'You may be only one person in the world, but to one person you may be the world.' That is so true in funding grants," Dr. Colen said. "Giving a few dollars or a million dollars may seem like a small gesture to some, but the grant that money enables means the world to the recipient. That can be the beginning of their research journey and scientific career."

Guests made gifts in support of the Campaign. Visit [RSNA.org/Campaign](http://RSNA.org/Campaign), or contact Shelley Taylor at [staylor@rsna.org](mailto:staylor@rsna.org) or 1-630-590-7773 to learn more.

## DONATE NOW TO BE RECOGNIZED AT RSNA 2015

The RSNA Research & Education Foundation annually recognizes donors at the Scientific Assembly and Annual Meeting. To be listed on the Donor Wall and receive other recognition and benefits at RSNA 2015, please make your gift by September 30, 2015.

ANNUAL GIFT AMOUNT	RECOGNITION/BENEFIT
\$300 and above	Name on the Donor Wall Access to the Donor Lounge
\$5,000, \$2,500, and \$1,500	Recognition as a Presidents Circle Donor Photo on the Donor Wall Invitation to the Distinguished Donor Reception Express boarding pass for taxis and shuttles

Donations received between October 1, 2014, and September 30, 2015, will be acknowledged at RSNA 2015. Visit [RSNA.org/Donate](http://RSNA.org/Donate) or call 1-630-368-7885 to donate and be recognized.

## VIRTUAL AUCTION TO SUPPORT RADIOLOGY'S FUTURE

This year, R&E donors and friends will have the opportunity to contribute to future research and education experiences of R&E grant recipients while bidding on memorable experiences for themselves.

The R&E Foundation will host a virtual auction to celebrate the Inspire-Innovate-Invest Campaign for Funding Radiology's Future®. The virtual auction will open online in mid-November and run through RSNA 2015. Join the fun and spirited competition in bidding for experiential packages while supporting the Foundation.

A full list of experiences and offerings will be available this fall. Don't miss out on this fun and exciting way to support future R&E grant recipients and the future of the specialty!





# Past Grant Recipient Funds Foundation to Support Future Radiologists

Following a fellowship at Yale University School of Medicine, **Christopher G. Filippi, M.D.**, began his career as an attending neuroradiologist at Weill Cornell Medical College with his sights set on a career in research. He quickly learned, however, that there was not a strong tradition of radiologists as principal investigators, and that it was challenging to secure funding.

Dr. Filippi's area of interest was diffusion MR imaging, and he found a core group of physicians at Cornell interested in translating imaging techniques to practice. Together they went to work and began seeking support for their research.

After applying for a Research Scholar Grant through the RSNA R&E Foundation, Dr. Filippi was invited to RSNA headquarters in Oak Brook, Illinois, to defend his proposal. Once the grant was approved, he returned to RSNA headquarters to attend a required grant writing course. Looking back, he realizes those two visits provided networking opportunities that he did not fully appreciate at the time.

"Of the individuals I met on those trips, all are prominent neuro-radiology researchers today," he reflected. "I had no idea at the time, but now I think what an opportunity that truly was."

After completing his initial grant, Dr. Filippi struggled to find precious protected time for research. As often happens, his mentors switched institutions along the way, leaving Dr. Filippi to start over with his career plan. Mentorship was not mandated 20 years



Christopher G. Filippi, M.D., pictured in traditional Japanese dress with his wife Mari Yamashita and son Niko.

ago in the way it is today, he explained, and it was not easy to find advisors for research in his specialty.

For a time he became disillusioned with his research career and forayed briefly into private practice. That experience solidified his dedication to radiology research, as he realized that research was his intended path. Returning to research with renewed dedication, Dr. Filippi secured new funding and has maintained some level of funding consistently from 2005 until today.

A recent personal experience with brain cancer drove Dr. Filippi to shift his research to improving brain tumor detection. He and his wife **Mari Yamashita** are godparents to her young cousin living in Finland. The family lost

both the cousin's father and grandfather to primary glioblastomas.

"That raises concern about the hereditary implications for our 14-year-old cousin," he explained. "So now I am redirecting the focus of my research."

Dr. Filippi's passion for radiology research is clear when he speaks about the future of the specialty.

"In the last five years, I have come to believe that I need to pass the baton," he said. "It is really important to identify new, young investigators who will lead the field forward. That is where mentorship becomes more important."

His current role as professor and vice-chair of research at the Hofstra North Shore Long Island Jewish School of Medicine provides plenty of opportunity to mentor young investigators. It also gives Dr. Filippi a broadened perspective on the state of research funding today. Even seasoned investigators struggle now to compete for National





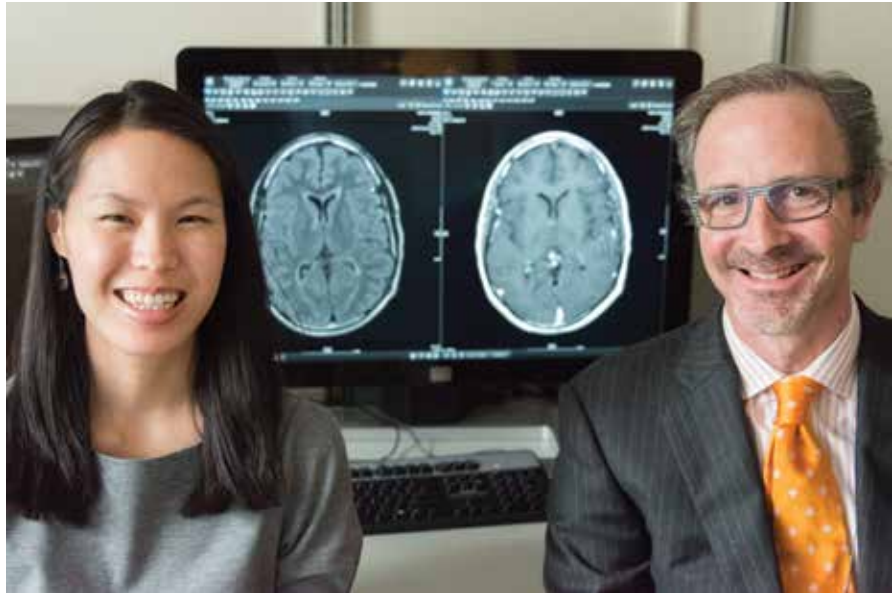
Institutes for Health (NIH) funding, with only the top five percent securing grants. That is why it is critically important to continue creating alternative funding mechanisms, according to Dr. Filippi. All that has driven a renewed interest in R&E Foundation grants as a means to jump-start research careers.

Dr. Filippi backs his passion with financial support. He gives to the R&E Foundation Presidents Circle program to ensure continued grant funding for innovative new projects. He believes it is equally important to support junior faculty as they navigate academic research careers.

“Earning the Research Scholar Grant cemented my career in research,” Dr. Filippi said of the significance of the Foundation to his professional experience. Now he believes it is time to give back.

Dr. Filippi uses his own grant-writing experience to help colleagues secure research funding. He is scientific advisor to **Jennifer Elaine Soun, M.D.**, a 2014 Hitachi Medical Systems/RSNA Research Resident grant recipient, and volunteers his time to review grant applications on the Foundation’s Radiology Research Faculty Grant Study Section and for other professional organizations.

“I learn a lot through the process, and helping others secure funding helps me improve my own writing,” he said.



Christopher G. Filippi, M.D., served as scientific advisor to 2014 Hitachi Medical Systems/RSNA Research Resident Grant recipient Jennifer Elaine Soun, M.D.

Outside the research lab, Dr. Filippi trains 25 hours each week for Ironman Triathlon races. He is a prior national qualifier and hopes to do so again this year with a goal to compete in a world championship competition.

He and Ms. Yamashita contribute to their community by organizing political fundraisers and supporting other causes important to them. Ms. Yamashita’s work with the United Nations Depart-

ment of Political Affairs has led them around the world, living for extended time in Nepal and Japan. Ultimately they hope to retire and split their time between Finland and Japan, where Ms. Yamashita has family.

Visit [RSNA.org/Donate](http://RSNA.org/Donate) or contact Shelley Taylor at 1-630-590-7773 or [sltaylor@rsna.org](mailto:sltaylor@rsna.org) to learn more about the Presidents Circle.

## Roentgen Resident/Fellow Research Award Winners Announced

This year, 190 residents and fellows received the prestigious RSNA Roentgen Resident/Fellow Research Award. This annual award recognizes contributions made by outstanding residents and fellows in radiologic research. Recipients are nominated by their program directors or department chairs based on a variety of research-related accomplishments. Among these recipients is **Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) Bennett L. Davis**, a rising 4th year resident at the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth (NMCP). “NMCP was thrilled to award its first RSNA Roentgen Resident/Fellow Research Award to LCDR Davis and looks forward to presenting this award annually to the most deserving resident or fellow within the radiology department,” said **Commander Chris Kuzniewski**, program director. “NMCP is most appreciative to the RSNA R&E Foundation for awarding LCDR Davis the Roentgen Resident/Fellow Research Award. This plaque will be displayed prominently in the hallways of our department in order to encourage and motivate current and future residents to participate in radiologic research.”

Congratulations LCDR Davis, and to all of these inspiring researchers!



Lieutenant Commander Bennett L. Davis with Commander Chris Kuzniewski



# Centennial Pathfinder's Support Rooted in Life-long Passion for Specialty

**Stamatia Destounis, M.D.**, vividly remembers the day she decided to make radiology her life's work. She was a medical student in a clinical rotation in radiology and reviewing plain films with **Patricia A. Randall, M.D.**, at Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, New York.

"In one afternoon I watched her diagnose pneumonia, cardiac disease, and a systemic arthritis," said Dr. Destounis. "I was so excited to find a specialty that reviewed the entire body and understood disease at such a broad level."

Following her residency, Dr. Destounis began a breast imaging fellowship at Elizabeth Wende Breast Clinic, Rochester, New York, where she continues to practice 20 years later.

Long-time supporters of the R&E Foundation, Dr. Destounis and her husband **Manuel Matos, M.D.**, decided to make a Silver Centennial Pathfinder commitment to the Inspire-Innovate-Invest Campaign. The \$25,000 gift helps ensure the Foundation's ability to keep radiology at the forefront of medicine by



Dr. Destounis with her sons Peter and Paul Matos. The twins will attend Syracuse University together in the fall. Her older son Gregory just finished his third year as a student at the University of Rochester.



Manuel Matos, M.D., and Stamatia V. Destounis, M.D., Silver Centennial Pathfinders

funding innovative research and education. Their support is backed by the belief that research into new modalities and techniques is vital to preventing and fighting devastating diseases that affect many people.

"This is such an important time in the history of our specialty," Dr. Destounis explained. "The Foundation does an outstanding job of training and supporting researchers and investigators, which will promote our specialty and help the public understand the role of a radiologist and how important we are to the patient's team."

Dr. Destounis credits RSNA with educating physicians and health care professionals in the field of radiology. She remembers the first abstract she presented and how impressed she was by every lecture and course she attended at that RSNA meeting. She said volunteering for RSNA committees has further

enhanced her own professional development. "I have learned so much by volunteering and met many wonderful people," she said. Volunteering for RSNA is just one more way she is able to support the specialty and give back to her field. She currently serves on numerous RSNA committees, including the Breast Subcommittee of the Education Exhibits Committee.

Dr. Destounis' commitments and service reach far beyond radiology and deep into her Rochester, New York, community where she serves on the board of Gilda's Club, supports her local chapter of the American Cancer Society, and is a strong supporter of the Rochester Greek Orthodox Church. The mother of three boys, she enjoys spending her free time cheering from the sidelines of their various sports activities and traveling with her family.

Visit [RSNA.org/Campaign](https://www.rsna.org/Campaign) or contact Shelley Taylor at 1-630-590-7773 or [sltaylor@rsna.org](mailto:sltaylor@rsna.org) to learn more.

*"The Foundation does an outstanding job of training and supporting researchers and investigators, which will promote our specialty and help the public understand the role of a radiologist and how important we are to the patient's team."*

**Stamatia Destounis, M.D.**





## GIVING MILESTONE:

# Austin Radiological Association Becomes First Practice Group to Fund Named Grant

Austin Radiological Association (ARA), Austin, Texas, generously committed \$600,000 to fund the Austin Radiological Association Research Resident Grant. ARA's Inspire-Innovate-Invest Campaign commitment will conclude in 2022. The \$75,000 annual payments maintain ARA's position as a Platinum-level Visionaries in Practice (VIP) group.

The first private practice group to fund a named grant award, ARA has always led the way with its support for radiology research and education. When the VIP Program was created in 2005 as an avenue for practice groups to fund Foundation grants, ARA was the first group to donate at the \$75,000 Platinum giving level.

"We have been fortunate in being able to attract into our practice top-notch radiologists who have received their training at many of the best academic institutions across the country. It is important to support those and other programs that perpetuate the quality and viability of radiology into the future. Research dollars have become progressively scarcer at the



same time that other economic pressures on academic radiology programs have become more intense. We believe that there should be a cooperative and supportive relationship between academic and private practice radiology. Funding this grant is one way for ARA to give back to our profession and at the



Gregory C. Karnaze, M.D.

same time help to secure its future," ARA President **Gregory C. Karnaze, M.D.**, said.

With 19 outpatient imaging centers and 20 hospital locations, ARA is one of the largest providers of subspecialty imaging in central Texas. ARA's more than 90 radiologists include

physicians with subspecialty training in interventional radiology, neuroradiology and neurointerventional surgery, body imaging, digital mammography and women's imaging, musculoskeletal

imaging, nuclear medicine, and pediatric radiology.

For over 60 years, ARA has committed itself to investing in the latest technology in order to provide the highest quality of care to referring physicians and patients in central Texas. This investment in the Foundation ensures continued innovation. The Austin Radiological Association Research Resident Grant will allow investigators to bring new techniques and modalities to light, ultimately improving patient care.

"Austin Radiological Association recognizes that the future of radiology depends on the continued commitment and remarkable generosity of the entire radiology community," said

**Burton P. Drayer, M.D.**, chairman, R&E Foundation Board of Trustees. "Thank you ARA for your partnership in supporting research and forwarding the mission of the R&E Foundation."

Visit [RSNA.org/Visionaries-in-Practice](http://RSNA.org/Visionaries-in-Practice) or contact Bob Leigh at 1-630-590-7760 or [leigh@rsna.org](mailto:leigh@rsna.org) to learn more.

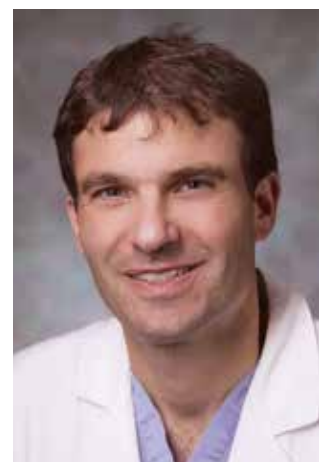
## Grant Recipient Named Chair

Congratulations to 2000 RSNA R&E Foundation Research Seed Grant recipient **Jean-Francois "Jeff" H. Geschwind, M.D.**, for being named chair of the Department of Diagnostic Radiology at Yale School of Medicine and chief of Diagnostic Radiology at Yale-New Haven Hospital.

Dr. Geschwind received a Research Seed Grant for his project titled, "Preoperative Chemoembolization in the Treatment of Patients with Liver Cancer: Assessment of Tumor Response with Diffusion MRI and Correlation with Histopathology." Dr. Geschwind continued

his work in liver cancer as an author, presenter, and researcher. He has served as a scientific advisor for other R&E grant recipients, and has received substantial subsequent funding from both public and private sources. Dr. Geschwind is extremely active in organized radiology and RSNA. He currently serves as the Interventional Oncology Series course director of the RSNA Scientific Program Committee and as consultant to the editor of *Radiology*.

Dr. Geschwind began his chairmanship in April 2015.



Jean-Francois H. Geschwind, M.D.

INVEST

# Canon Supports the Inspire- Innovate-Invest Campaign

The R&E Foundation is proud to announce that Canon U.S.A. has made a new \$50,000 commitment to support the Inspire-Innovate-Invest Campaign. As a Vanguard donor since 1999, Canon has supported a total of 19 grantees, and its dedication continues with this new five-year commitment to the Foundation.

By endowing two Research Medical Student Grants, Canon invests in young researchers in the earliest stage of their career—planting the seeds of innovation for the future.

“We are proud to be a partner with the RSNA Research & Education Foundation in its mission to improve patient care by funding research and education in radiology,” said **Tsuneo Imai**, vice president and general manager, Healthcare Solutions Division, Business Imaging Solutions Group, Canon U.S.A., Inc., and president, Virtual Imaging, Inc. “Canon is committed to helping build a better world for future generations, and we are driven to collaborate with our customers to constantly innovate and challenge convention, as is reflected

Thank You!  
**Canon**

in our ‘Canon See Impossible’ theme. We want to enable our customers to achieve something that was previously unobtainable, and we are pleased to support the RSNA R&E Foundation to help advance radiologic research, education, and practice.”

Canon U.S.A., Inc., and Virtual Imaging, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Canon U.S.A., Inc., offer a full range of digital radiography solutions for general and portable radiographic applications. Canon’s expertise in the application of optical and image-processing technologies has resulted in a wide array of solutions and flat panel detectors for the radiology needs of hospitals, imaging centers, and clinics. Canon is focused on providing the clinician with consistently excellent image quality, utilizing technology breakthroughs to reduce patient dose and to improve the productivity of health care providers.

Thank you Canon for your past and future support.

## Three Easy Ways to Give



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