IMPACT of COVID-19 Pandemic on RADIOLOGY

FINANCIAL FALLOUT
The economic impact of the pandemic reaches every sector, affecting radiology professionals and patients alike.

- Hiring freezes, salary cuts and reduction in force across practice settings
  - Cuts to grant programs, professional development
  - Potential loss of experienced staff
- New protocols may reduce capacity for imaging appointments
- Patients lose jobs, insurance
- Delayed purchase of needed research/imaging equipment

DISRUPTION OF NORMAL OPERATIONS
Personal interactions were severely limited for months. Most research projects were shelved and many trainees and staff transitioned to remote work.

- Shutdown of 3-4 months causes 1-2 years lost productivity
  - Lost data
  - Research protocol deviations
  - Prioritization of COVID-19 research
- Staff redeployed to clinical care
- Delayed ABR Core Exam, tenure, degree completion
- Limited interactions for trainees with faculty/patients

SAFETY CONCERNS
The extended period of shelter in place and social distancing rules make patients hesitant, and physical limitations complicate efforts to return to research activities.

- Hospitals and imaging centers must clearly communicate safety protocols
  - Patients may be slow to reschedule appointments
  - Patients may skip annual screenings
  - Long-term effect could be missed diagnoses and delayed treatment
- Researchers may struggle to recruit human trial participants
- Tight labs make social distancing difficult

POSITIVE CHANGE
Through adversity, a change in mindset and priorities can lead to long-term improvements for radiology.

- More collaboration with referring physicians
- Better team communications
- Increased focus on wellness
- More efficient workflows
- Renewed interest in shared data
- Influx of remote learning
- Increased telehealth use

Sources: Radiology, Radiology:Imaging Cancer