



Foundation FOCUS

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

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for Funding Radiology's Future®

Two-time Grant Recipient Furthers Research with \$1.8 Million in Additional Funding

Habib Rahbar, MD, began his RSNA research journey as a trainee with a 2010 RSNA Research Fellow Grant, "Risk Stratification of Ductal Carcinoma in Situ (DCIS): Development of a Predictive Model Incorporating Dynamic-Contrast-Enhanced and Diffusion Weighted MRI Characteristics at 3T for Discrimination of DCIS Subtypes." Dr. Rahbar then furthered his research with a 2014 RSNA Research Scholar Grant, "Improving Treatment Outcomes of Ductal Carcinoma in Situ with Breast MRI."

Now, associate professor at the University of Washington and clinical director of breast imaging at the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, Dr. Rahbar has secured his first NIH R01 grant of



Habib Rahbar, MD, with mentor and R01 co-investigator, Savannah Partridge, PhD

\$1.8 million over five years to continue his investigations on improving treatment outcomes of ductal carcinoma in situ of the breast with MRI.

"As a senior resident, I applied for and received the Fellow Grant, which jump-started my research career and increased my confidence that I could reach my goal of developing into an independent investigator. I subsequently applied for and received the Research Scholar Grant, which provided me critical protected time as a junior faculty member to develop pilot data that was used to obtain an NIH grant."

Habib Rahbar, MD



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Dr. Rahbar credits RSNA as being integral to his career development. “As a senior resident, I applied for and received the Fellow Grant, which jump-started my research career and increased my confidence that I could reach my goal of developing into an independent investigator. I subsequently applied for and received the Research Scholar Grant, which provided me critical protected time as a junior faculty member to develop pilot data that was used to obtain an NIH grant,” said Dr. Rahbar. “RSNA has incredible resources to help young investigators develop a research protocol and put together a competitive grant proposal. In particular, the RSNA Clinical Trials Methodology Workshop and the RSNA Advanced

Course in Grant Writing gave me the opportunity to refine my research skills and use the data gleaned from the RSNA grants to submit NIH grant applications.”

Dr. Rahbar joined RSNA as a trainee. He has served as a member of the RadLex Breast Subcommittee, Breast Subcommittee of the Education Exhibits Committee and RSNA Scientific Assembly and Annual Meeting Refresher Course faculty.

Dr. Rahbar is keenly aware that with the increasingly competitive funding environment, physician scientists are struggling to find research funding. For this reason, he is proud to support the R&E Foundation as an annual donor.

You Deserve to be Recognized at RSNA 2017



The RSNA Research & Education Foundation recognizes donors at the RSNA Scientific Assembly and Annual Meeting each year. To be listed on the Donor Wall and receive special recognition and additional benefits at RSNA 2017, please make your gift by September 30, 2017. Visit RSNA.org/Donate to support the Foundation.

Annual Gift Amount

\$300 and above

\$5,000, \$2,500 and \$1,500

Recognition/Benefit

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Photo on Donor Wall
Invitation to Distinguished Donor Reception
Express boarding pass for taxis and shuttles

Donor Recognition Year:
October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017



Remembering Cherished Executive Director and Legacy Donor Adele Swenson

Beloved former RSNA Executive Director **Adele Swenson** passed away in March at the age of 95. Ms. Swenson served as RSNA executive director from 1971 to 1985. During her 14-year tenure, Ms. Swenson helped develop RSNA into the global society it is today. She was instrumental in relocating the annual meeting from The Palmer House Hilton to its current location at McCormick Place, she led the RSNA Board of Directors in establishing the Research & Education (R&E) Fund (later renamed the R&E Foundation) and under her leadership, RSNA launched a second journal, *RadioGraphics*.

“RSNA was blessed to have Ms. Swenson as executive director during a critical period of its history,”

Robert E. Campbell, MD, RSNA past president and former R&E Foundation Board of Trustees chair, said.

“Adele approached her many innovative ideas with enthusiasm and skill, always concentrating on an unrelenting attention to details until success was accomplished, and she gracefully demanded a similar approach by her staff.”

As a tribute to her service to RSNA and advocacy on behalf of the R&E Foundation, RSNA awarded the Adele Swenson Research Resident Grant in 2010. Ms. Swenson continued to support radiology’s future as a Sapphire Legacy donor through the Foundation’s planned giving program.



Ms. Adele Swenson

RSNA Roentgen Award Recipient Gives Back, Inspired by Innovation



Lex A. Mitchell, MD

Lex A. Mitchell, MD, is a practicing radiologist who also serves in the United States Army. Dr. Mitchell has been a member of RSNA since 2007 and, in 2011, he received the Roentgen Resident/Fellow Research Award from the RSNA R&E Foundation. Since then, he has been a loyal donor to the Foundation and is now a Presidents Circle donor. He currently practices at the Tripler Army Medical Center in Hawaii.

Why did you choose to enter the field of radiology as a career path?

My initial interest out of medical school was general surgery. During my intern year, several radiology residents and staff members encouraged me to transition to radiology. I loved that radiologists were strong anatomists and trouble shooters, as well as innovators. I think the continuing innovation is what really convinced me to move to radiology.

What did it mean to you to receive the Roentgen Resident/Fellow Research Award?

Receiving the Roentgen Resident/Fellow Research Award was a great sense of accomplishment. After having worked hard through residency on research, it was with awe that I received the award and pride that I could share the award with family and friends.

Can you describe your experience training as a radiologist while serving in the military?

I believe the military training programs, especially in radiology, offer trainees a vast array of cases to learn from as well as the chance to work with staff members with a wide variety of experiences. Additionally, staff rotate through teaching facilities more frequently than in the civilian sector, ensuring that there are new and interesting ideas as well as ways of teaching being brought to the program.

Why is it important to you to give back to the Foundation, especially at this early stage in your career?

The field of radiology still has so much room to experiment and expand. I want to be certain that I do whatever I can to help ensure that those who want to experiment and expand our field have the support and funds needed to do so.

What are your goals for your career in radiology and research?

I hope during the course of my career in radiology and in research that I can provide a spark of excitement and energy to a young trainee who will go on and accomplish amazing things.



Thank you, Dr. Mitchell, for your loyal support of the Foundation and your service to the United States of America.



Grant Recipients Turn Mentors: Making a Difference

Now more than ever, past R&E grant recipients are serving as scientific advisors and mentors to the next wave of investigators.

In this collaborative approach, a hopeful grant applicant enlists an experienced advisor to help formulate the primary scientific question and develop methodology to test the hypothesis. In many cases, the advisor then serves as a mentor to guide the process and facilitate research.

“There are a number of things that go into a successful mentoring relationship, including shared interest, mutual respect and effective communication, said **Mitchell D. Schnall, MD, PhD**, 1992 GE Healthcare/RSNA Research Scholar Grant recipient. “The RSNA R&E grant program plays an important role to solidify mentoring relationships between trainees/junior faculty and mentors by creating an opportunity that promotes the mentor and mentee working together toward a common goal.”

Dr. Schnall served as a scientific advisor to 2012 Cook Medical Cesare Gianturco/RSNA Research Resident Grant recipient, **Terence P. Gade, MD**, and now, Dr. Gade is serving as scientific advisor to 2017 Research Fellow

Grant recipient **Peiman Habibollahi, MD**, at the University of Pennsylvania.

Another 2017 grant recipient, medical student, **Travis R. Hallett, BA**, will conduct a research project ‘Epicardial Adipose Tissue and High-Risk Plaque Features in HIV-Accelerated Coronary Artery Disease’ at Massachusetts General Hospital under the scientific guidance of **Michael T. Lu, MD, MPH**, a 2005 RSNA Research Medical Student Grant recipient.

“As a 2005 recipient of the RSNA Medical Student Research Grant, I have a very good understanding of how important this award will be for Travis,” said Dr. Lu. “Like Travis, I was a medical student with a budding interest in academic radiology. Receiving the R&E grant as a medical student solidified my commitment and was critical for launching my career.”

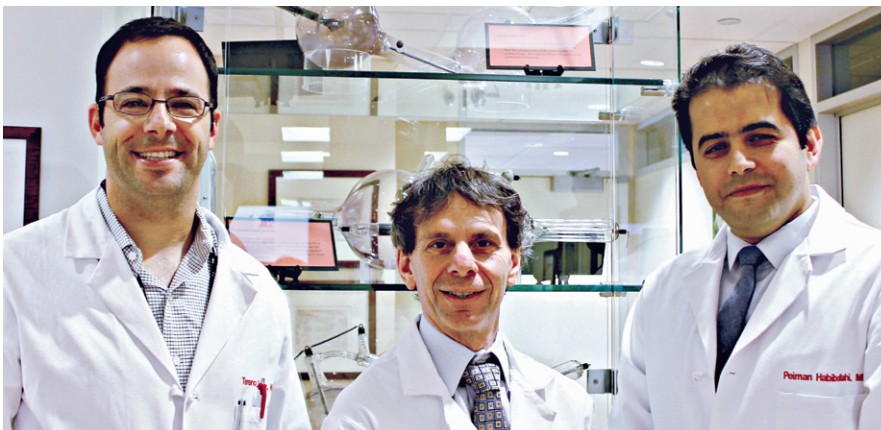
Reflecting on mentoring 2017 Research Fellow Grant recipient **Sweet Ping Ng, MBBS**, two-time R&E grant recipient **Clifton D. Fuller, MD, PhD**, said, “I was thrilled to have Dr. Sweet Ng referred to me by her residency mentor, **Lester Peters, MD**, world-renowned expert in head and neck cancer and former chair here at M.D. Anderson. I feel privileged to continue the legacy of my



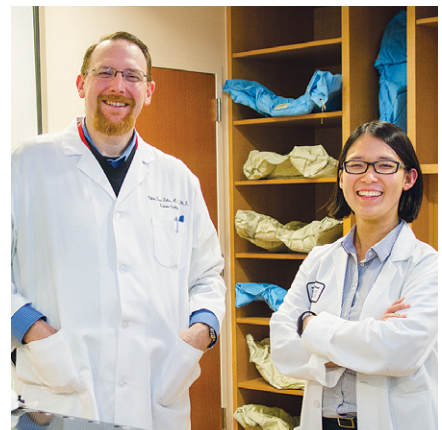
Travis R. Hallett, BA, and Michael T. Lu, MD

own mentors by helping Dr. Ng through the RSNA Research Fellow Grant award.

“By creating a platform for mentors and mentees to execute groundbreaking research protocols, the R&E Foundation helps the imaging community ‘pass it on.’ In a way, every person who contributes to the Foundation is contributing to the mentorship of Dr. Ng — everyone who gives to the Foundation is in some sense a co-mentor. The Foundation’s grant program allows us to continue a legacy of future-facing imaging science by supporting the best and brightest of our trainees, such as Dr. Ng.”



Terence P. Gade, MD, Mitchell D. Schnall, MD, PhD, and Peiman Habibollahi, MD



Clifton D. Fuller, MD, PhD, and Sweet Ping Ng, MD



Start a Conversation about Giving at your Practice Group

A practice group has a profound and direct impact on the community. From simple screenings to more complex diagnostic procedures, the work performed by private practitioners has a positive influence on the lives of their patients. Now, practice groups can extend that influence even further by supporting the RSNA R&E Foundation through the Visionaries in Practice (VIP) Program.

Designed to give private practices the opportunity to support radiologic research and enhance patient care, the VIP Program puts medical imaging specialists on the forefront of the specialty's growth and development. A contribution of \$10,000 or more annually from a practice group will make the group a benefactor of growth and development within the field long into the future.

Because of changes currently taking place in the healthcare sector, it is critical to ensure radiology remains a leader in imaging research. Medical imaging is frequently a crucial first step in patient care and, through an investment in science and technology as a

VIP donor, a practice group can do its part to improve the quality of patient care across all medical subspecialties.

Ready to take the first step in making your practice group VIP? Here are the best ways to advocate for radiology's future at your practice group today:



- ✓ **Start a conversation.** Talk to your practice group leadership about including the VIP Program on an upcoming meeting agenda.
- ✓ **Share promotional materials with your colleagues.** Visit the following website to download materials to share with your practice group members through email: RSNA.org/Foundation-VIP.
- ✓ **Speak with Foundation staff.** We want to help you find the best ways to promote the VIP Program at your practice group. Contact Bob Leigh at 1-630-590-7760 or rleigh@rsna.org.

RSNA Roentgen Award Winners Announced

This year, 185 residents and fellows were the recipients of 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 including presentation of scientific papers at regional or national meetings, publication of their work in peer-reviewed journals, receipt of grant funding or other contributions to the research efforts within their departments.

"It is an honor to receive the RSNA Roentgen Award for the research I have done as a fellow at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. My accomplishments this year would not have been possible without the support of the many pediatric radiology leaders who fill our department. I would also like to thank the patients and families who trust Cincinnati Children's with their care. Moving forward, I plan to continue pursuing research projects in quality improvement and radiation dose reduction. I believe it is crucial for radiologists, and pediatric radiologists in particular, to not only Image Wisely® and Image Gently®, but to continuously strive to image better," **Karyn Ledbetter, MD**, said.

These inspiring innovators are the future of the specialty. Congratulations all!



Eric J. Crotty, MD, and Karyn Ledbetter, MD

Looking Forward to the Future of Radiology

Vijay M. Rao, MD, is a leading advocate of RSNA's commitment to innovative initiatives to deliver high-quality educational materials to the radiology community by leveraging digital technology. A global authority on head and neck imaging, Dr. Rao is also recognized for her health services research in radiology. She is the David C. Levin Professor and Chair of Radiology at Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, where she has remained since her residency.

Following years of volunteer service to RSNA, Dr. Rao was appointed to the Board of Directors as the liaison for information technology and the annual meeting in 2011. She currently serves as president-elect and considers her service to the Board the "pinnacle" of her professional career. "To be able to help steer such a highly respected and influential radiology organization is nothing short of remarkable," she said.



"I find it very rewarding to contribute to the R&E Foundation because it is an investment for a worthy cause and I am confident my contribution will be used wisely."

Vijay M. Rao, MD

Dr. Rao is also a strong advocate for the R&E Foundation, having served on various committees before being appointed to the Board of Trustees in 2008, and again in 2016. "The R&E Foundation is the largest foundation in the field of radiology that supports young investigators and educators to pursue their dreams and passion. I find it extremely rewarding to serve on such a board that is dedicated to the mission of advancing research and education by supporting practicing radiologists, radiologists in training and aspiring medical students," she said.

Her position as a department chair provides a unique perspective to witness the impact of an R&E grant for the recipient as well as the department. "It is remarkable to see the career trajectory of faculty radiologists who have received grant funding from the R&E Foundation," she said. "Several have been able to successfully pursue NIH funding resulting in a substantial return on investment. They have also served as inspirational role models for other faculty and trainees."

Dr. Rao is a loyal supporter of the Foundation and recently became a Silver Centennial Pathfinder with the Inspire-Innovate-Invest Campaign. "I find it very rewarding to contribute



Dr. Rao's family, daughter Gita, son-in-law Rob, son Deepak and daughter-in-law Ashley; front row, Granddaughters Neela, Manali, Kiran and Anya

to the R&E Foundation because it is an investment for a worthy cause and I am confident my contribution will be used wisely," she said.

Dr. Rao looks forward to the innovations that will continue to emerge in health care. "I strongly believe the future of radiology remains very bright. Imaging is front and center for patient care, early diagnosis and treatment," she said. "Radiologists can look forward to being empowered by continuing advances in the digital age such as artificial intelligence, big data, data mining, imaging biomarkers and personalized imaging."

Thank you, Dr. Rao for your future-facing leadership and support of the R&E Foundation!



Family vacation in New Hampshire, with granddaughters, from left to right: Anya, Dr. Rao, Neela, Manali and Kiran



Your Donations Lead to NIH R21 for Research Seed Grant Recipient

Building on his 2012 Toshiba America Medical Systems/RSNA Research Seed Grant, **Sameer A. Ansari, MD, PhD**, recently received an NIH R21 grant, “High Resolution and Functional MRI Assessment of Intracranial Atherosclerotic Plaque.” The R21 grant has allowed Dr. Ansari and his research team at Northwestern University to optimize a novel pulse sequence for the risk stratification of neurovascular diseases. From the RSNA seed grant support, the Northwestern research team developed a dual-venic 4D flow MRI pulse sequence to improve the assessment of 3D in vivo blood flow characteristics compared to standard methods. This exciting new protocol can assess intracranial aneurysm hemodynamics and other neurovascular pathologies such as arteriovenous malformations, intracranial atherosclerotic disease, and venous pathologies in superiority to traditional 4D flow MRI and computational flow dynamic techniques.

high resolution 3D in vivo visualization, velocity and wall shear stress measurements in our intracranial aneurysm patient cohort,” said Dr. Ansari. “This may lead to an improved ability for risk stratification of unruptured intracranial aneurysms using hemodynamic parameters in addition to anatomic or patient-specific risk factors.”

“Despite the increasing clinical demands and near-disappearance of

academic time throughout radiology departments, the support of the R&E Foundation and the confidence it provided to submit other research proposals enabled me to acquire independent funding as principal investigator from the American Heart Association and the NIH,” said Dr. Ansari. “Receiving the RSNA Research Seed Grant has been a highly rewarding and productive experience.”



“We believe this new pulse sequence will enable

Sameer A. Ansari, MD, PhD, and co-investigator, Susanne Schnell, PhD

Make the R&E Foundation Part of Your Life Story

Some of the most meaningful gifts the R&E Foundation receives are those that people give after life. Many of these planned gifts can be altered as circumstances change. There are easy, inexpensive ways you can enjoy the rewarding benefits of charitable giving that also keep your commitment to radiology’s future flexible.

A gift in your will can be given as a set amount or percentage of your estate or made contingent upon certain circumstances. This gift ensures that you and your family have the resources you need now and that the R&E Foundation will have the support it needs in the future. For sample language you can share with your attorney to complete a gift in your will, please contact us.

You can also name the R&E Foundation as a beneficiary of

all or a percentage of your retirement plan assets. All you have to do is fill out the respective

beneficiary designation form, which you can request from your plan or policy administrator. You remain in complete control of these assets during your lifetime and can spend the money as you wish. By naming the R&E Foundation as a beneficiary, you simply allow for any leftover funds or portion of those funds to transfer to the Foundation after your lifetime.

Contact Bob Leigh, manager, fund development, at 1-630-590-7760 or rleigh@rsna.org for more information.



INVEST



FUJIFILM Medical Systems U.S.A., Inc. Continues its support during the Inspire-Innovate-Invest Campaign

The R&E Foundation is pleased to announce that FUJIFILM Medical Systems U.S.A., Inc. has made a new \$50,000 commitment in support of the Inspire-Innovate-Invest Campaign. FUJIFILM Medical Systems U.S.A., Inc. has long been one of the Foundation's steadfast supporters, joining as a Vanguard donor in 1989. Over the years, Fujifilm has enabled 46 grant awards to further radiology research.

"Supporting the Inspire-Innovate-Invest Campaign is a natural fit for Fujifilm as we are known for our long history of innovation as well as our commitment to advancing education in the imaging field," said **Johann Fernando, PhD**, Chief Operating Officer, FUJIFILM Medical Systems U.S.A., Inc. "New breakthroughs in all disciplines of radiology can only happen if the funding is available for promising researchers and educators."

Fujifilm Healthcare is driving change and helping shape the future of modern medicine across the care pathway of

prevention, diagnosis and treatment. The company's innova-

tive solutions are derived from the depth of knowledge and core and fundamental technologies required for the complex design, engineering and manufacturing of photographic film. Fujifilm Healthcare is active in the fields of digital radiography, women's health, endoscopy, ultrasound, medical informatics, CDMO biopharmaceuticals, regenerative medicine and pharmaceuticals.

As technology trailblazers, Fujifilm will continue to push boundaries and make breakthroughs with the overall mission of improving patient outcomes and changing lives. For more information, please visit: www.fujifilmhealthcare.com. With this new commitment, Fujifilm Healthcare will continue to inspire for many years to come.

Thank you, FUJIFILM Medical Systems U.S.A., Inc., for your continued support of the R&E Foundation during the Inspire-Innovate-Invest Campaign.

Thank You!
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Value from Innovation



Johann Fernando, PhD and
Burton P. Drayer, MD, at RSNA 2016

Three Easy Ways to Give



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