Overall Goals for the Diagnostic Radiology Residency Program

The University of Virginia Diagnostic Radiology Residency Program is committed to the integration of high academic and professional competency standards in a comprehensive curriculum of excellence. The program provides residents an education through a core academic curriculum and enhanced professional development through the "General Competencies".

Our core academic curriculum includes experience and education in nine major subspecialties of diagnostic radiology: abdominal radiology, breast imaging, cardiothoracic imaging, musculoskeletal imaging, neuroradiology, nuclear medicine, pediatric radiology, vascular and interventional radiology, and ultrasound. All modalities are available, including conventional radiography, cross sectional imaging (CT, MRI, Ultrasound), nuclear scintigraphy, PET/CT, mammography, and interventional radiology. Imaging modalities are progressively integrated on clinical rotations throughout the four year training program. Clinical experience is supported with case conference, didactic lectures in clinical topics, and through radiologic physics lectures.

Through the residents' participation in supervised clinical rotations, case conferences, didactic lecture programs, and other educational activities, the Department of Radiology at the University of Virginia endeavors to train housestaff in diagnostic radiology in the following competency areas during the course of the residency program. While some competencies may be achieved early in their training, it is expected that individual residents will progressively improve in each of these areas throughout the four year program such that, upon successful completion, they are competent to practice diagnostic radiology independently.

Through the educational training program, residents in diagnostic radiology:

1. **Patient Care**:
    - Are trained to provide compassionate, appropriate, and effective care for health problems and are encouraged to make efforts to promote health
    - Develop the ability to formulate appropriate management plans based on specific radiologic findings and clinical information
    - Develop competency in basic imaging-guided procedural skills through supervised clinical training and instruction
    - Oversee diagnostic imaging to ensure adequacy of studies performed
    - Counsel patients concerning preparation for diagnostic testing including informed consent and conscious sedation
    - Utilize the internet as an educational instrument to expand knowledge
    - Demonstrate knowledge of the effects of ionizing radiation and employ measures to minimize radiation dose to the patient

2. **Medical Knowledge**:
    - Are trained to recognize and appropriately describe relevant radiologic abnormalities
    - Develop the ability to synthesize radiologic and clinical information and form an impression
    - Utilize information technology to investigate clinical questions and for continuous self-learning
    - Demonstrate knowledge of the principles of research design and implementation

3. **Interpersonal and Communication Skills:**
    - Learn to appropriately obtain informed consent and document in the patient record urgent or unexpected radiologic findings
    - Develop the ability to produce accurate, concise, and grammatically correct radiologic reports which include a precise diagnosis whenever possible, a differential diagnosis when appropriate, and recommended follow-up
    - Are encouraged to effectively teach residents, medical students and other health care professionals
    - Develop effective interpersonal with physicians, patients, patient's families and support personnel
    - Demonstrate appropriate telephone communication skills

4. **Practice-Based Learning and Improvement:**
    - Recognize and correct personal errors
    - Analyze practice experience and perform practice-based improvements in cognitive knowledge, including participation in quality improvement and quality assurance activities
    - Demonstrate critical assessment of the scientific literature
    - Demonstrate knowledge of and apply the principles of evidence based medicine in practice
    - Use multiple sources, including information technology to optimize lifelong learning and support patient care decisions
    - Facilitate the learning of students, peers and other health care professionals

5. **Professionalism**:
    - Demonstrate a responsible work ethic and regard to conference attendance and work assignments
    - Demonstrate altruism and compassion; be understanding and respectful of patients, patient families, and staff and physicians caring for patients
    - Demonstrate honor and integrity by avoiding conflicts of interest through honesty with patients and all members of the health care team

- Interact with others without discriminating on the basis of religious, ethnic, sexual or educational differences and without employing sexual or other types of harassment
- Demonstrate knowledge of issues of impairment (physical, mental alcohol or other substance abuse), obligations for impaired physicians reporting and resources and options for care of self impairment or impaired colleagues
- Demonstrate an understanding of brad principles of biomedical ethics
- Demonstrate principles of confidentiality with all information transmitted during a patient encounter

6. **Systems-Based Practice**:
   - Demonstrate progressively increasing understanding of healthcare practice in different environments
   - Demonstrate knowledge of and apply appropriateness criteria and other cost-effective healthcare principles to professional practice
   - Demonstrate the ability to design cost effective care plans based on knowledge of best practices