Amongst all the noise and clamor associated with health care changes, the transient closing of the NIH, and the reductions in research and education resources, I would like to acknowledge our faculty for remaining steadfast to our clinical, educational and research missions. Our faculty has continued to add significant value to our institution by serving on multiple administrative, clinical, research, educational and informatics committees and task forces for the School of Medicine, Medical Center and University Physician Group, while also participating in a plethora of clinical and teaching conferences and tumor boards. With so many areas of positive impact being made by our faculty, I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight a few of the many significant contributions our faculty is making with extra-departmentally funded research endeavors.

In the 1980s, Dr. Keats had the foresight and wisdom to invest in a technology called magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), which led to some breakthrough MRI translational innovations such as the MP-RAGE sequence developed by Drs. James Brookeman and John Mugler. The department has continued to build on that foundation of scientific curiosity and further expand its MRI research footprint. Dr. Mugler and Drs. Talissa Altes, Jaime Mata, Kai Ruppert and Wilson Miller are principal investigators for funded research studies on the application of hyperpolarized gas MRI to study different pathophysiological aspects of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma and cystic fibrosis on regional airways diffusion, ventilation and function, while also employing hyperpolarized gas lung imaging to investigate the potential benefits of various medical therapies in these disease entities.

Dr. Max Wintermark and his colleagues have secured funds to study the vascular effects of infection in pediatric stroke and the MRI assessment of chemotherapy-related cognitive impairment. Dr. Jason Druzgal and his team are studying the MRI features of mild traumatic brain injury (TBI) in student athletes, while Dr. James Stone and his investigative partners are evaluating biomarkers and behavioral changes associated with mild TBI in soldiers, the bio-effects of repeated low-level blast exposure to the brain and the development of a military field deployable imaging device for TBI. Dr. Nic Tustison has worked with these respective teams by developing multidimensional computational algorithms to allow very detailed and meaningful analyses of complex and large data sets.

Dr. Jennifer Harvey and her colleagues are funded by the Department of Defense to look at building a personalized breast cancer risk model incorporating breast density to stratify risk and improve resource utilization. Dr. Mark Williams is the principle investigator looking at integrated three-dimensional anatomic and molecular breast imaging techniques and the evaluation of contrast-enhanced mammography and breast tomosynthesis.

Drs. Christopher Kramer, Weibin Shi and Bijoy Kundu and their respective teams are making great strides as principal investigators using MRI and PET imaging and basic laboratory techniques to study various aspects of cardiovascular disease. Dr. Kramer is investigating novel prognostic markers in hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, the effects of microvascular disease in patients with angina, and the changes in muscle metabolism in patients with peripheral arterial disease. Dr. Kundu is studying the triggering of left ventricular remodeling by metabolic remodeling that occurs with cardiac ischemia, and Dr. Shi is evaluating the genetic link between type 2 diabetes and atherosclerosis.

I am unable to recognize all of the individuals who are involved with these and other research endeavors in this short commentary. However, I do want to acknowledge that many of our faculty, fellows, residents and graduate students who have gone unmentioned are very actively engaged in a variety of research activities, inclusive of industry, ACRIN and NIH-sponsored clinical trials. In addition, Dr. Stuart Berr led our efforts to secure a $2 million large instrumentation grant from the NIH that helped to fund the installation of a cyclotron at our Snyder research facility and better empower our radiochemist scientists, Drs. Jiang He and Dongfeng Pan, as well as others to pursue and potentially secure extramural funding for more advanced molecular imaging research. With more than $11 million of funding, our faculty and our department remain committed to the advancement of knowledge through innovation. I am very proud to have such wonderful thought leaders, scientists, educators and clinicians as colleagues.

In closing, it was wonderful to see so many alumni and friends of UVA at the Keats Society reception at the RSNA this past month and hear about your many successes and the positive changes in your lives. I look forward to the time when our paths once again cross.

Best wishes for the New Year,

Alan
Maurice Harold Lipper, 79, professor emeritus of radiology at the University of Virginia, passed away on November 10, 2013. He was born on November 8, 1934, in Cape Town, South Africa. After attending both college and medical school at the University of Cape Town, Dr. Lipper practiced general medicine for 13 years before deciding to train in radiology. In 1976, he completed a residency in radiology and a fellowship in neuroradiology at Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town. In 1977, Dr. Lipper was presented with the opportunity to practice neuroradiology at the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond whereupon he moved his family halfway around the world to become one of two neuroradiologists in the Department of Radiology in addition to teaching at Hunter Holmes McGuire Veterans Administration Hospital (VAH).

It was at MCV where I, first met Dr. Lipper. In 1982, I was taking a fourth year neuroradiology elective and Maurice was my mentor. He noticed that I had an aptitude for procedures, and as a medical student I quickly went from performing myelograms to cerebral angiograms under his guidance. Over the next two years, he persuaded me to change from neurology to radiology, and I, as do many others, owe my career to Maurice’s tutelage and friendship. Dr. Lipper’s enthusiasm for neuroradiology was boundless as he quickly mastered CT and then MRI. He was also fearless in the angiography suite. I remember dutifully lining up glass spheres in a syringe as he embolized brain AVMs from the internal carotid artery. As neuroradiology exploded on both the diagnostic and interventional fronts, he enjoyed teaching anyone who wanted to learn. His dedication to medical student and resident education was clear to all, and resulted in teaching awards both at MCV and UVA.

Dr. Lipper was persuaded to take on the role of chief of magnetic resonance imaging at the McGuire VAH in 1985. There he developed imaging protocols using unsuspecting residents and staff as his study subjects. Ever the perfectionist, I lay in the scanner for over two hours while he got the protocols for the female pelvis “just right,” but that was Maurice. It was with great sadness that we saw him move to the University of Virginia in 1987, but he worked hard to maintain his friendships in Richmond.

At UVA, Dr. Lipper rose to the rank of clinical professor of radiology, neurosurgery and neuropathology. Over the years, he published 43 papers, gave 88 invited lectures, reviewed for eight journals, and held several committee positions in the American Society of Neuroradiology and the Virginia Chapter of the ACR. He traveled to Saudi Arabia as part of a UVA/King Faisal Hospital program and was the personal physician for a member of the Saudi royal family—no small feat for a man who was intensely proud and demonstrative of his Jewish heritage. He participated in UVA committees dedicated to quality improvement, credentialing and medical student and resident education, and was chairman of the peer review committee at UVA for eight years. His dedication was such that he continued to lead this group even during his subsequent illness.

Maurice was unusual in that he easily let people into his life. He was clearly a favorite among his students, always available and always smiling. He was a citizen of the world, a wine connoisseur, trivia expert, chef, lover of the arts, and humanitarian. He celebrated these qualities, regaling us with stories, inviting us for dinner, advising us on wine and art, and reveling in our achievements. At MCV, Maurice met and fell in love with Bethe, his soul mate and eventually his wife. Together they opened their hearts and home to Kim, Tu and Van Le, and Philip, adopting them and raising them as part of their blended family. It is no wonder that this wise and gentle soul was appreciated and loved by all.

I was fortunate to end up at UVA with Maurice as my colleague. I enjoyed seeing him every day, and admired his positive outlook on life, even as he endured a chronic illness and the sudden death of his beloved wife, Bethe. Maurice remained optimistic about his own health, even in the face of setbacks, and continued to care for his family and about his friends. His door was always open and he was always ready and willing to help. He is truly irreplaceable and will be sorely missed by his family, his friends and the community at large.

He is survived by his children, sons, Norman and Philip Lipper of Charlottesville, and David Lipper of Washington, D.C; daughters, Leslie May of Richmond; Kim, Tu and Van Le of Austin, Texas; daughter-in-law, Courtney Lipper of Charlottesville; his brothers, Stanley Lipper of Great Neck, New York and Sam Lipper of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, and 15 grandchildren. He was laid to rest beside Bethe at the Charlottesville Hebrew Cemetery on November 12, 2013.

Donations in his honor can be made to Chabad House of UVA at 2014 Lewis Mountain Road, Charlottesville, VA 22903 and the American Cancer Society at 1445 Rio Road East, Charlottesville, VA, 22901, or the charity of your choice.

LEE JENSEN, MD
The new ABR exam is officially here. The current fourth year class will not make the traditional pilgrimage to Louisville for oral boards this year. Instead, we traveled to Chicago to be the first class ever to take the CORE exam. Gone is the second year physics exam, the third year writtens, and, of course, the fourth year orals. The first part of the CORE exam will be taken in June of the third year. The computer-based exam tests physics along with basic knowledge across all modalities and specialties. The second part is taken 15 months after graduating residency. This five-section exam allows the test taker to choose three of the sections based on their clinical focus. No longer are residents board certified upon graduating residency.

The ABR offers the exam in Chicago, Illinois and Tucson, Arizona. Instead of awkward hotel rooms, the exam is administered in expansive rooms with library style carrels. The CORE exam was reminiscent of the STEP exams in medical school: six hours, two days in a row, bouncing between topics, incessant mouse clicking and claustrophobic earplugs. With the new exam comes a new curriculum. Upper level night float is now a mix of R3 and R4’s. Fourth years take call throughout the year. Diagnostic pathway residents have two three-month blocks of “focused time” (aka mini-fellowships). In addition, there will be elective time during the fourth year. The flexibility will allow residents to tailor their fourth year of residency towards their future career.

We are excited!! Goodbye Louisville . . . Hello Chicago.

David Mauro, MD
CHIEF RESIDENT

WELCOME TO OUR NEuest FACULTy

JOHN R. GAUGHEN JR., MD is a long time UVA trainee who completed his residency and diagnostic and interventional neuroradiology fellowships with us at UVA. Dr. Gaughen was in private practice in Tampa, Florida for two years. He returns to Virginia to join the interventional neuroradiology team as an assistant professor in the Division of Neuroradiology. His primary position is providing INR services to patients in the Richmond market as part of a partnership with Bon Secours Health System, in addition to pursuing research projects at UVA.

ZIV HASKAL, MD, professor of radiology - Ziv completed his residency and fellowship in interventional radiology at the University of California, San Francisco. We were fortunate to recruit him from the University of Maryland where he served as IR division chief and fellowship director. He continues serving in these same roles at the University of Virginia. Ziv has also been the editor in chief of the Journal of the Society of Gastrointestinal Interventions since 2012.
Elizabeth A. Nalley, 97, of Charlottesville, died Monday January 6, 2014 at the Martha Jefferson House. She was trained in the UVA radiology technology program from 1935 – 1936 as the second staff member to ever complete the program. Ms. Nalley went on to become the first radiology chief and administrative technologist and worked for the department for a total of 45 years. Over the course of her wonderful career, she helped to train more than 300 radiology technology students and officially retired in April 1981.

She was fondly remembered with a few quotes below:

“I remember her as a very polite totally accommodating chief, totally dedicated to providing the best possible service to patients and all techs and residents in the department. A fine southern lady.”
Gary Staples, MD

“As a radiology resident, I remember her as an outstanding person who directed the education of innumerable radiology technologists. She trained literally 100’s if not 1,000’s over the years. She is up there with the Keats types.”
Keith Hellems, M.D.

“I am saddened by the news. I would count myself in the group that both ‘learned from and feared’ her.”
Ray Dyer, MD

“Ms. Nalley’s funeral was very well attended. There were a huge number of technologists who were trained by her or worked under her. Their many expressions of love and respect during testimonials for her were effusive. From the UVA physicians, attendees included Drs. Matsumoto, Shaffer, Riddervold, and Seale. We should all hope to be remembered so well by those we mentor.”
Hu Shaffer, MD

Contributions may be made to the Elizabeth A. Nalley Scholarship Fund for Students in the School of Radiology Technology administered by the University of Virginia Medical School Foundation, Box 800776, Charlottesville, VA 22908; or the First Baptist Church, 735 Park Street “General Endowment Fund”.

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2013 ALUMNI RECEPTION AT THE RSNA

For the ninth consecutive year, alumni and friends gathered at the beautiful Intercontinental Hotel in Chicago during the 2013 RSNA. We switched to the “Camelot” room this year, and it was a little more intimate and welcoming. We will gather there going forward. Dr. Mark Anderson opened the evening with a Keats Society update, followed by Drs. Matsumoto and Gay who spoke about the Spencer Gay, MD Resident International Educational Fund and one of our residents, Jeanette Hemp, thanked the society members for their generous continued support. More pictures of the event can be found on our website. Please plan to join us at this same location on Tuesday, December 2, 2014 when we will gather again.

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ELIZABETH A. NALLEY
(FEBRUARY 12, 1916 – JANUARY 6, 2014)

Elizabeth A. Nalley, 97, of Charlottesville, died Monday January 6, 2014 at the Martha Jefferson House. She was trained in the UVA radiology technology program from 1935 – 1936 as the second staff member to ever complete the program. Ms. Nalley went on to become the first radiology chief and administrative technologist and worked for the department for a total of 45 years. Over the course of her wonderful career, she helped to train more than 300 radiology technology students and officially retired in April 1981.

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