



# CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

## A NEW BEGINNING

by Alan Matsumoto, MD, Chair

When someone says a new beginning, what comes to mind: a new child; a new job; a new relationship; or simply, a new start in life? With the many disruptive forces and legislative headwinds that health care is experiencing - a health care budget that exceeds 17% of the GDP, the implementation of MACRA (the largest health care legislation since Medicare was started), the consolidations in health systems, an increasing physician employment model, and the rising influence of consumerism, in many ways, the profession of medicine is undergoing a new beginning.

Fortunately for us, we have chosen a specialty that is both impactful and important for the lives of so many patients, which places us in the enviable position of being one of the big drivers for the success of a health system and a critical component of many research initiatives. Our conundrum is more related to the fact that most radiologists still remain relatively well fed, and as the saying goes, "fat cats don't feel a need to hunt". So the question is, do we Radiologists have the conviction and are we willing to make the personal investment of time and effort to take advantage of this opportunity to help construct a new beginning for our health care system, practice and specialty?

In the spirit of something T.S. Eliot once said, "Only those who risk going too far can possibly find out how far they can go", the department is taking on the risk of transitioning from a traditional academic department by creating an integrated hybrid practice with community hospitals - a new beginning for UVA Radiology. The intent of this practice paradigm shift is to spread our subspecialty expertise to patients and providers outside the four walls of our medical center, while also increasing the variety and volume of our work. An increase in the volume and variety of work should make us more adaptable and less dependent on the work solely from this campus. It will also result in more finances to support our 24/7 initiative and the hiring of additional faculty. More faculty depth and coverage will lead to more business partnership

capabilities, better distribution of call duties and more flexible work schedules to support the work-life balance desires of the faculty. More variety and volume should also provide more educational and scholarly opportunities.

To help the department navigate this new beginning, we will also have a more inclusive Vice Chair leadership team, effective July 1, 2017. Some of these faculty names may be familiar to many of you.

- Dr. Christopher "Cree" Gaskin - Operations and Informatics
- Dr. Arun Krishnaraj - Quality and Safety
- Dr. Jennifer Harvey - Education and Faculty Development
- Dr. Mary "Lee" Jensen - Finance
- Dr. James Stone - Clinical Research
- Dr. Adam Winick - Community Division

Please know that as the Department moves forward with its "new beginning", we wish to stay connected with all of you.

Best wishes, Alan