



Women in IR News

Winter 2023

WIR: Serving as program directors

Being a woman in IR provides unique perspectives as physicians, educators and leaders. We sat down with two women IR residency program directors (PDs), Mary E. Meek, MD, FSIR, at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) and Kopal Kulkarni, MD, MA, at New York University (NYU) to discuss how these vantage points influence their approach as PDs.

Dr. Meek believes that her experiences have made her more attuned to microaggressions faced by her trainees that are not just related to gender, but also other areas of inequality such as race, religion, sexual orientation and socioeconomic background. Dr. Kulkarni notes that while she never felt affected by gender discrimination during her training, she gained new perspective when she started her family as a young attending. Her experiences with pregnancy and family planning have shaped her approach to valuing and taking care of her residents holistically as people with lives outside of work.

With regards to how challenges in their professional careers have helped navigate difficult situations with residents, Dr. Meek notes that the maternal stereotype of women can be advantageous, as residents seem more comfortable opening up to her about their struggles as compared with her male counterparts. Dr. Kulkarni's experience with balancing her family and professional life during her early career provide insight and empathy into challenges trainees might be facing outside of the IR suite.

The insight and influence of program directors in shaping future interventional radiologists is critical to the advancement of the specialty. When asked what advice they would give other women interested in leadership positions, Dr. Kulkarni recommends not to sell yourself short. She says the key is to find your confidence and avoid getting pigeon-holed into certain areas early on in your career, as there are many opportunities available. Dr. Meek stresses the importance of having both mentors and coaches, with different mentors for each aspect of your career. These individuals can help you identify various weaknesses and challenge you to improve them.

Thank you, Dr. Meek and Dr. Kulkarni, for sharing your insights and advice!

Amina Farooq, MD PGY6, and Sheridan Reed, MD PGY1

Aneesa Majid, MD, MBA, FSIR



Aneesa Majid, MD, MBA, FSIR, earned her medical degree from St. George's University School of Medicine and completed two years of surgical training at Medical College of Virginia before switching to radiology residency at the same institution. She went on to fellowship in vascular and interventional radiology at Rush University Medical Center. During her career, she has held positions in leadership as a partner in a private practice in Dallas; represented that practice as chairwoman of the department of radiology at the Methodist Dallas and Charlton Hospitals in Dallas; co-founded a standalone VIR private practice, MTVIR, in Dallas; and co-founded then became CEO of ZipData, Inc., an interoperability solution on a mission to kill the fax and improve workflow. She is the embodiment of the advice she gives to mentees: "You are never stuck in a situation; you can make a pivot at any point in time."

Her main focus during her clinical career was interventional oncology for both the challenging cases and the satisfaction of working on the cancer treatment team. Her favorite oncologic intervention is portal venous embolization because "It is just a super fun case: the anatomy is so pretty, you get to play with all these tools, and you get to help the patient possibly get to a cancer free state."

After many years of learning from her experiences in clinical practice, she decided to pursue additional training and received her MBA from Northwestern University in 2017. "Leadership and its effect on culture led me to get my MBA. The Kellogg mission is 'to educate, equip and inspire the next generation of leaders' and that is what I want to focus on during the next part of my career." As for future plans, Dr. Majid will be continuing as CEO of ZipData, Inc., and will be starting a new company focused on executive healthcare consulting and coaching, which will be launching in 2023. Stay tuned!

Alex Banathy, MD PGY5, and Amy Crumb, MD PGY2

SIR WIR MSC

The SIR Women in IR Medical Student Council (WIR MSC) has been hard at work in its second year! The group seeks to support women in IR and increase female student recruitment into the field by providing networking and mentorship opportunities as well as featuring the achievements of women in the field. Several highlights include:

Fall meet and greet: In collaboration with the Resident, Fellow and Student Section WIR, the WIR MSC hosted a successful Women in IR Hangout session in September aiming to provide networking opportunities to female medical students. Over Zoom, we discussed diversity in radiology, mentorship and training.

Social media spotlights: Throughout the year we have highlighted women in IR through one-on-one interviews. Check out the spotlights on Oluwatoyin Dada, MD (Mount Sinai), Divya Kumari, MD (University of Chicago), Julie Catherine Bulman, MD (Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center), and Kristina Prachanronarong, MD (Mount Sinai) on our Twitter and Instagram pages (@SIRRFSS).

Women's treatment awareness: In collaboration with attendings, WIR MSC has created a series of infographics on disease states that have a higher prevalence in women. You can find our latest infographic on IR interventions for postpartum hemorrhage, fallopian tube recanalization and pregnancy complications on our social media pages.

Journal club and SIR 2023: WIR MSC will be hosting a journal club with medical students, residents, fellows and attendings discussing AI and radiomics. We are also excited to be meeting in person at the SIR 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting in Phoenix, in March and will be planning WIR programming in the coming months. Follow us on Twitter to stay connected.

Shin Mei Chan, MS4, MSC WIR Chair

Upcoming events

- March 3, 2023: Revenue Cycle Management
- March 4-9, 2023: SIR Annual Scientific Meeting
- March 4, 2023: SIR Business Institute
- March 5, 2023: SIR Foundation Gala
- March 8, 2023: SIR: The Stroke Course

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WIR Section



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