



Women in IR News

Fall 2023

Interview with current WIR Chair Paula Novelli, MD, FSIR

"Innovation is what drives us and that's what drives a career that will never be boring" - Dr. Paula Novelli

Paula Novelli, MD, FSIR, is an interventional radiologist at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and the current chair of the SIR Women in IR section. Her journey into IR was nontraditional: she initially matched into a neurosurgery residency, but her involvement in a neuroradiology project led her to switch into a diagnostic radiology residency at UPMC. While she originally thought she would pursue neuroradiology, after delving into IR rotations in her second year of residency, she fell in love with liver interventions and never looked back. She completed her residency and subsequent IR fellowship at UPMC, then stayed on as an attending, after which she joined the faculty at the University of Michigan from 2007–2015, before returning to UPMC and her hometown. Dr. Novelli's love for the field is contagious as she shares, "I cannot believe I'm getting paid to do this every day."

The tight-knit community, networking, and educational opportunities drew Dr. Novelli into SIR. Being a woman in IR, she feels privileged but understands the complex challenges faced as a minority group in the field. These feelings can often be isolating, and Dr. Novelli ultimately found her way into the WIR community for the support of others going through similar obstacles. Through her involvement in the WIR section, she has promoted inclusivity by helping create the pregnancy toolkit and WIR Speakers Bureau to highlight women leaders. She is looking forward to the upcoming year of programming with special highlights at the SIR 2024 annual meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, which just happens to be the same location as the first SIR meeting she attended in residency. Programming will include an inclusive list of speakers hosting didactics and workshops on Sunday from 1–5 p.m. Additionally, Dr. Novelli is coordinating a categorical course with Maureen P. Kohi, MD, FSIR, emphasizing mentorship, career sustainability, self-advocacy, conflict resolution, prioritizing physical and mental health, and life and career advice.

As WIR chair, Dr. Novelli's goals are to retain a team of governing women to create career-long involvement and mentorship opportunities. Her passion for IR has inspired many and she strives to keep women at all levels of their career enthusiastic to evolve through the challenges faced in the field and show the strength and competency of women in IR.

Lynsey Claus, MD PGY-4, and Anmol Patel, MS4

Gloria M. Salazar, MD, FSIR



Gloria M. Salazar, MD, FSIR, obtained her medical degree and completed her radiology residency in Brazil, followed by an interventional radiology fellowship at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. She spent 15 years on faculty at Massachusetts General Hospital before moving to the University of North Carolina in 2021 where she has served as Division Chief of Vascular and Interventional Radiology and Vice Chair of Diversity and Health Equity. Dr. Salazar emphasized the role of her mentors in different stages of her career, and holds her current department chair, Maureen P. Kohi, MD, FSIR, in high regard for her exceptional leadership qualities and mentorship abilities.

Her advice to her younger self emphasizes seeking help earlier when faced with challenges and seizing opportunities for career advancement. Dr. Salazar is an advocate for work-life balance and shared a piece of insight for aspiring women in IR: "Don't worry about getting pregnant. Just get pregnant!"

Dr. Salazar emphasizes that being valuable and proactive in what you want is essential in achieving goals, even though you may not know what you want from the beginning. "Believe in yourself, know what you want, and look for people who can help you to get there." Dr. Salazar shares, "I love what I do," and that nothing is more important than to have drive, passion, and belief in oneself. Beyond her career, she enjoys art, soccer, and spending time with her family.

Shahrazad Azizaddini, MD PGY5, and Emily Hunt, MS2

SIR RFS WIR updates

The Resident, Fellows and Student section Women in IR group has been quite busy this fall, planning multiple upcoming events!

We are co-hosting several webinars this fall, including a Q&A collaboration with the Medical Student Council regarding interview season preparations slated for early October, as well as a collaboration with the Early Career Section on a post-partum-hemorrhage-focused webinar later in the month.

We are continuing our journal club activities, with a date and topic to be determined aimed for January. We hope to expand on this with at least two journal club sessions per year.

There was wide interest in starting a Financial Literacy workgroup this spring. The aim of this group will be to start conversations regarding financial wellness as it relates specifically to members of our fields. Anyone who is interested in learning more or discussing these topics is highly encouraged to reach out to our group!

Sayeh Bozorghadad, MD PGY-2, and Madeline Leo, MD PGY-6

Upcoming events

- Oct. 24, 2023: PPH Webinar by RFS
- Oct. 30, 2023: WIR Dream Big Book Club
- Nov. 13, 2023: SIR Virtual Angio Club
- March 23–28, 2024: SIR Annual Meeting
- March 24, 2024: SIR Foundation Gala

