Welcome

The Diagnostic Radiology program at Queen's University is a rigorous, five-year residency program focused on achieving a high standard of knowledge, skills, and competency consistent with that of a general radiologist prepared for either a general practice or further sub-specialty training. Our graduates are well prepared for the certification examination of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC). We have maintained a 100% pass rate for the past eleven years, which is a testament to the teaching quality of our program.

Each year, the residents who join us are enthusiastically welcomed into our team. The smaller size of our program has helped us to create an environment that is supportive and collegial. Our residents are keen learners who are supported and mentored by faculty who share a passion for teaching. Faculty members constantly strive to help our residents acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to become outstanding radiologists.

At Queen's, we maximize the opportunities to learn from the abundant clinical material to which we are exposed. We provide an opportunity for residents to be intensively involved in all areas of diagnostic imaging from early in their training program.

Diagnostic Radiology is an exciting and highly rewarding field of medicine with excellent career prospects. Our graduates are highly sought-after specialists and have gone on to practice in a wide variety of academic health science centres, community hospitals, and private clinics. Furthermore, recent studies have indicated that the future demand for radiologists in Canada will continue to rise.

I hope that you take the opportunity to learn more about the Diagnostic Radiology program at Queen's University. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Ben Mussari, MD, FRCPC
Postgraduate Program Director
Overview

The first year of Diagnostic Radiology at Queen’s is a basic clinical year. Residents complete a variety of rotations in Neurology, General Pathology, Emergency Medicine, Medical Oncology, Internal Medicine, General Surgery, Gastroenterology, and Cardiology. There is also an opportunity for an elective rotation.

The remaining four years of the program are specialty-specific, fulfilling the Specialty Training Requirements of the RCPSC in Diagnostic Radiology and the CanMEDS roles as they apply to Diagnostic Radiology. Over the four years, there will be rotations in the following disciplines: Gastrointestinal/Genitourinary, Neuroradiology, Musculoskeletal, Cardiothoracic, Mammography, Nuclear Medicine, Fetal/Obstetrical and Vascular/Interventional Radiology. Residents also spend one month at the American Institute for Radiological Pathology (AIRP) in Washington, DC. There are also dedicated scheduled blocks for electives, research, and a “Junior Staff” role in the final year.
Educational Activities

Residents are excused from clinical responsibilities each week in order to attend the Academic Half-Day. This provides them an opportunity to examine in-depth a wide range of topics which are presented by both residents and faculty. Residents also attend a variety of other weekly educational activities: Radiology Grand Rounds, Departmental Rounds, Senior Rounds, Neuropathology Rounds, Interventional Rounds, Ultrasound Rounds, and a Medical Mortality Conference. The department also supports a Journal Club four times a year to encourage and incorporate critical thinking skills in the evaluation of radiology literature.

Research

Residents who wish to pursue research are strongly supported by the Department. A research project is a mandatory requirement during residency. To facilitate this, all residents attend the Introduction to Research Workshop in their PGY1 year. This full-day workshop introduces PGY1 residents to a basic level of research training as required by the RCPSC. The day features an introduction to study design, basic biostatistics, critical appraisal, the publication process, and effective presentation skills. After the first year, residents are provided a block rotation for research with an opportunity to take 10 additional research-related days during their PGY3 year.
Conferences and Courses

Each year, our residents are allocated seven educational days, which can be used to attend conferences or other educational endeavors. Popular conferences include those of the Canadian Association of Radiologists, the American College of Radiology, the Radiological Society of North America, and the American Roentgen Ray Society. Financial support is available for residents who are presenting at these or other acceptable conferences.

In PGY2, residents complete the Basic Principles of Radiology Course through the Eastern Ontario School of X-Ray Technology. In addition, all residents are given the opportunity and funding to attend off-site physics courses and/or the Advanced CT course in Toronto.

Training Sites

Kingston General Hospital (KGH) is southeastern Ontario’s leading centre for complex-acute and specialty care. KGH serves almost 500,000 people through its Kingston facility and 24 regional and affiliate sites. In 2011, KGH was ranked as one of Canada’s Top Research Hospitals by Research Infosource. KGH is the primary site for General Radiology, Cardiothoracic Radiology, Neuroradiology, Vascular/Interventional Radiology, Musculoskeletal Radiology, Fetal/Obstetrical Imaging and Nuclear Medicine.

Hotel Dieu Hospital (HDH) is the ambulatory care teaching and research hospital for southeastern Ontario, providing medical care and treatment that does not require an overnight stay. HDH is the primary site for Gastrointestinal/Genitourinary Radiology, Breast Imaging and Pediatric Radiology.

Residents also complete a mandatory rotation (3 blocks) in Pediatric Radiology at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto.

Learning Environment

The smaller size of the Queen’s Radiology Program is an asset to residents as we are able to provide an excellent education to service ratio. Our small size, and lack of Fellows, enables our residents to have numerous hands-on experiences making them very comfortable at performing a number of radiological procedures by the end of their training. Residents and faculty get to know each other well in a collegial and positive environment.
Why Diagnostic Radiology at Queen’s?

Size
Our smaller size promotes collegiality and creates a positive work environment in which resident concerns are listened to and addressed.

Education/Service ratio
Residents are here first and foremost to learn and the program maintains a dedicated focus on teaching, education, and research.

Research
Excellent clinical and basic science research opportunities are available for all residents.

Patients
An extremely broad patient base provides ample opportunity for learning.

Teaching
There is a comprehensive teaching program with dedicated academic half-days, visiting professor lectures, and journal clubs.