



Medical Imaging
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Mi Faculty Promotions Special

Announcements

Mi Senior Promotions Special Edition

The Department would like to congratulate our faculty members on their promotions to the rank of Associate Professor and Full Professor. Senior promotion is a tremendous academic accomplishment; recognizing faculty who have demonstrated sustained excellence in creative professional activity, teaching and/or research.

All promotions are effective July 1, 2022.

Please click on the names below to review a brief bio:

Professor

[Ronit Agid](#)

[Govind Chavhan](#)

[Derek Muradali](#)

Associate Professor

[Ferco Berger](#)

[Prakash Muthusami](#)

[Reza Vali](#)

Ronit Agid - Professor

Dr. Agid was awarded his promotion on the basis of Excellence in Creative Professional Activity (CPA).

Dr. Agid received her MD in 1995 from the Medical School of Hadassah and the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel. She completed her residency from 1995-2000 in the Department of Radiology at Hadassah University Hospital, where she was the Chief

Resident from 1998-1999. She then undertook fellowships in Diagnostic Neuroradiology (2001-2003) and Interventional Neuroradiology (2003-2004) at the University of Toronto. In 2004, Dr. Agid received an International Master Degree in Neurovascular Diseases in a combined degree from Paris Sud University – Bicetre Medical School and Mahidol University – Ramithibodi and Siriraj Medical School.



Dr. Agid joined the Department of Medical Imaging as an Assistant Professor in July 2005 and as a Staff Radiologist in the Joint Department of Medical Imaging, University Health Network-Mount Sinai Hospital-Women's College Hospital. She was promoted to Associate Professor on July 1, 2010

Dr. Agid's CPA's are focused on innovation and translation in clinical practice, advocacy, and raising awareness of neurovascular diseases and training in neuro-interventional procedures in underserved communities while promoting gender equality in the rapidly developing field of Interventional Neuroradiology. She had been advocating for increased representation of women in neuro-interventional practice since 2006. In 2019 Ronit was elected to the Federation's Executive committee where she acted as the Chair of the educational committee. To address another of her goals, training in underserved communities, she directed her energies to developing grants for physicians in low-income countries to visit larger neuro-interventional radiology centres. Involvement in the process included not only setting up the grant in the first place but also oversight on a daily basis. For 2021, 6 observerships were approved, and the next round of applicants is currently under review.

On the international stage, Dr. Agid has organized and conducted three INR meetings in Tel Aviv, Israel focusing on neuro-interventional treatments (the Advanced Treatments in Neuro Therapeutics meetings in 2016 and 2017, and the International Collaborative Neuro-Interventional meeting in 2018). Israel at the time was an underserved community regarding neurointervention. Lecturers invited by Dr. Agid included colleagues from the University of Toronto, field leaders from other international centers in Europe, North America, and Asia, and local Israeli experts. The impact of these meetings cannot be underestimated with the Israeli neuro-interventional community now having established its own yearly conference following these initial educational events.

Dr. Agid has been the site supervisor of the University of Toronto Diagnostic Radiology Fellowship Program for the past four years. She is a member of the Area of Focused Competence (AFC) Working Group in Neuro-Intervention of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. She is involved in both daily 'hands-on' neuroradiology teaching and neurovascular education during weekly clinics. She regularly undertakes trainee education with lectures, rounds, and research events. She has been a mentor in the residency mentorship program and has unofficially mentored the gamut of students from undergraduate to post-graduate. She received the 2011 excellence in

teaching award for her work in the residency program and consistently receives excellent teaching evaluations.

Dr. Agid's research is focused on imaging in the natural history and management of cerebrovascular diseases. These studies have been developed through real-world clinical observations as exemplified by her work investigating the overlap between diagnostic vascular imaging and endovascular interventional treatments. She is a collaborative researcher as demonstrated by her willingness to mentor junior faculty and learners and further supported by her increasing success in collaborative studies both nationally and internationally. These studies have changed the approach to the management of acute stroke resulting in real clinical improvements in patient outcomes.

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Govind Chavhan - Professor

Dr. Chavhan was promoted on the basis of Excellence in Creative Professional Activity (CPA)

Dr. Chavhan received his MBBS in 1997 from Seth G.S. Medical College and King Edward VII Memorial Hospital, University of Mumbai and his MD in 2003 while completing a radiology residency at the same institutions. He undertook a fellowship in pediatric radiology at the Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto from 2006-2010. Dr. Chavhan joined the Department of Medical Imaging in 2010 as an Assistant Professor, and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2016.



Dr. Chavhan's CPA is largely focused on improvements in body magnetic resonance scanning in children, largely adopting, adapting, and improving techniques from adult-focused care to develop new best practices specific to pediatric imaging. In addition, his CPA includes the development of new techniques and dissemination of this knowledge locally, nationally, and internationally

Dr. Chavan's research has centred on body MRI in children. He has taken the techniques he has painstakingly refined and investigated their utility in the pediatric age group. He has undertaken work to provide the imaging community with normal reference standards in areas such as blood flow parameters in multiple areas of the body, without which it is not possible to understand or detect abnormality. Within the liver, he has applied MRI measurements to the non-invasive detection and measurement of liver fat and iron so important for the detection and management of pre-obese individuals or those with iron accumulation in conditions such as hemochromatosis.

Govind has used his teaching as an opportunity to improve practices in pediatric body MRIs, fostering learning and dialogue amongst trainees as well as community radiologists.

He is active in providing teaching throughout the educational spectrum from medical students, residents, fellows, faculty, and continuing medical education internationally. His expertise and enthusiasm have been recognized locally with the award for outstanding fellow teaching ten times (2010-2020) and the outstanding faculty mentor award from radiology residents in 2021. His standing as an educator in the international community is reflected in the number of invited lecturers he is asked to deliver. His educational exhibits have also been awarded 4 cum laude and 6 certificates of merit awards at the largest radiology meeting, RSNA.

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Derek Muradali - Professor

Dr. Muradali has been promoted on the basis of Excellence in Creative Professional Activity (CPA).

Dr. Muradali received his MDCM with Honours from McGill University in 1988 and received his FRCP(C) in Diagnostic Imaging in 1994. In 1989, he undertook a year of residency in the General Internal Medicine program at the University of Toronto, and completed a full residency in the Radiology program at this university (1990-1993). Dr. Muradali completed a fellowship in Breast Imaging and Body Imaging at the Toronto Hospital, for which he received funding from the Canadian Association of Radiologists Fellowship Award.



Dr. Muradali was appointed to the Department of Medical Imaging as an Assistant Professor in 1998 and promoted to Associate Professor in 2005; he was the University Division Head of Breast Imaging from 2001-2021. He currently holds a hospital appointment in Medical Imaging at Unity Health Toronto - St. Michael's Hospital.

Dr. Muradali has sought to make systemic changes in breast cancer screening and image-guided breast cancer diagnosis. This has been through policy development at a provincial and national level as well as at the individual physician level. Derek has been a leader in championing equity, diversity, and inclusion since the early 1990's. The outcomes of these activities have been disseminated internationally through scientific meetings, invited lectures, and educational programs.

Dr. Muradali was appointed as Radiologist-in-Chief (RIC) of the Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP) in 2011, a position in which he served until 2019. OBSP is the largest organized breast screening program in North America. While in this position Dr. Muradali was able to undertake a number of significant programs of work to improve breast cancer screening and diagnosis.

Dr. Muradali's research has progressed hand in hand with his CPA. In support of the policy

and process innovation he has developed, he has often been one of the researchers providing the data to stimulate change, or evidence to support it. Breast imaging is central to breast cancer management and Derek has targeted his research at describing new imaging findings reflecting underlying breast tissue pathology; improving cancer detection in those patients with a known elevated risk of cancer, and evaluating cancer treatments and efficiency of cancer diagnosis. His publications reflect success in these areas and his h index demonstrates the importance of these articles.

Derek uses his teaching platform across all training levels to strengthen standards of practice in breast cancer screening and diagnosis. His teaching of learners and peers is done in an environment inclusive of all levels of training and knowledge, in an interactive forum with an emphasis on practical management algorithms, and where applicable, evidence or consensus-based approaches are highlighted. Dr. Muradali has been a mainstay in the teaching of breast imaging within the department and his teaching success is reflected in his many departmental awards within the residency and the fellowship programs.

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Ferco Berger - Associate Professor

Dr. Berger was awarded his promotion on the basis of Excellence in Creative Professional Activity (CPA).

Dr. Ferco Berger obtained his MD from the University of Amsterdam in 2003, and did his residency in Diagnostic Radiology at the same institution from 2004-2008. He undertook clinical fellowships at the University of British Columbia in Emergency & Trauma Radiology (2009-2010) and Musculoskeletal Imaging (2010-2011). He later obtained a European Diploma in Emergency Radiology from the European Society of Emergency Radiology in 2018.



Dr. Berger was appointed to the Department of Medical Imaging in 2016 with the rank of Assistant Professor. He is an Honorary Fellow of both the American Society of Emergency Radiology as well as the European Society of Emergency Radiology, and holds leadership roles in the Radiological Society of North America, the American Society of Emergency Radiology, and the European Society of Emergency Radiology.

Dr. Berger was recruited to Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre (SHSC) to lead the development of a new Emergency and Trauma Radiology division. His CPA focuses on the establishment of an Emergency Radiology imaging infrastructure to support the new division and recruitment of suitably trained faculty. Ferco undertook the development of an in-house 24/7 coverage of emergency radiology, a system that did not exist in any of the hospitals in Toronto. Over a short time, a core of 5 radiologists was recruited as part of the trauma team. An instant impact was the marked reduction in patient call-backs and

reporting turnaround time.

Dr. Berger undertook the development of education focused on emergency medicine within the Department of Medical Imaging, impacting learners at multiple levels. He developed a specific Emergency and Trauma Radiology Division residency that allows residents to embed within the ER especially during overnight coverage, exposing them to significant acute care radiology. Ferco wasted no time in instituting a fellowship program, now with one departmental funded position and a number of self-funded fellows the department is rapidly expanding.

At the Undergraduate level, Dr. Berger was responsible for completely renewing the Trauma Imaging teaching module, which all second-year students took since 2019. Dr. Berger was awarded the "Excellence in Undergraduate Radiology Curriculum Development Award" from the Department of Medical Imaging, University of Toronto.

Dr. Berger's active role in this highly specialized and young discipline has seen him serve nationally and internationally in a variety of association leadership roles. As a result, he has been awarded honorary fellowships in both the European and American Emergency Radiology Societies. On a national platform, Ferco has been integral to the foundation of the Canadian Emergency, Trauma and Acute Care Radiology Society (CETARS) in 2020. The society now has over 80 members and is a full affiliate of the Canadian Association of Radiologists (CAR). Ferco is the co-chair of the multidisciplinary committee tasked with the renewal of the trauma imaging guidelines and is the first Secretary/Treasurer of the society.

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Prakash Muthusami - Associate Professor

Dr. Muthusami was promoted on the basis of Excellence in Creative Professional Activity (CPA).

Dr. Muthusami earned his MBBS in 2006 from the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education & Research, and his MD in Radiology in 2010. He completed clinical fellowships at the University of Toronto/Hospital for Sick Children in Pediatric Neuroradiology (2013-2014), Pediatric Cardiovascular Imaging (2014-2015), and Pediatric Interventional Radiology and Interventional Neuroradiology as a Senior Fellow (2015-2016), the latter which also included work at St. Michael's Hospital and Toronto Western Hospital.

Dr. Muthusami was appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Medical Imaging in 2016 as a neuro-interventional Radiologist at the Hospital for Sick Children (HSC), where he is the Neuro-interventional lead.



Dr. Muthusami has focused his CPA on improving the imaging, treatments and outcomes for children with neurological diseases using advanced imaging and image-guided intervention. This has centred on the development of a paediatric neuro-interventional service at HSC which is multi-professional and allows standardization of processes and procedures, training of team members, improved safety and radiation protection, and act as a referral point both locally and nationally. A number of programs have been launched as a result of instituting the neuro-interventional service, they include:

- Developing and translating pediatric neuro-interventional therapies
- Improving the understanding of treatments for complex pediatric neurovascular diseases
- Eye-Preserving Therapy for Retinoblastoma in Infants
- Spine Interventional Treatments in Children

The extent of the innovations that Dr. Muthusami has introduced at HSC was recognized when he was nominated for and awarded the President's Award at SickKids, for "ensuring quality and accountability, unleashing the talent of our people, driving financial sustainability, and building an academic health sciences centre for the future"

Through Dr. Muthusami's professional goal of improving the outcomes for children with neurological diseases, he educates pediatric neurovascular trainees in research and clinical practices, particularly focusing on combining education with clinical practice and research. Furthermore, he has trained adult and pediatric interventional radiology fellows in pediatric neuro-interventional procedures, who have now established pediatric services in other centres nationally and worldwide.

Dr. Muthusami has realised the vital role that professions allied to medicine such as nurses and technologists play in a successful team. He has designed training modules for technologists involved in neuroangiographic procedures. He is also training interventional radiology nurse practitioners to perform image-guided lumbar punctures and has created training videos for nurses for postprocedural care of transradial angiography.

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Reza Vali - Associate Professor

Dr. Vali was promoted on the basis of Excellence in Creative Professional Activity (CPA).

Dr. Vali received his MD from Ahwaz Medical University, Iran in 1995, earned his specialization in nuclear medicine from Tehran Medical University in 2000, and was awarded his MSc from the Translational Research Program at the University of Toronto in 2018. He completed an internship (PGY1-2) in Ahwaz Medical University from 1993-1995 and his Nuclear Medicine residency from 1997-2000 at the



Tehran University of Medical Sciences and Health Care Service. He also undertook three fellowships: a PET/CT research fellowship at St. Vincent Hospital in Linz, Austria (2007-2008) and research fellowships in nuclear medicine and pediatric nuclear medicine, and PET/CT at the University of Toronto/the Hospital for Sick Children (2011-2014).

Dr. Vali was appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Medical Imaging in 2014. He is also a Staff Radiologist in the Division of Nuclear Medicine, Department of Diagnostic Imaging at the Hospital for Sick Children (HSC). Reza was recently appointed Program Director-Elect for the Nuclear Medicine Residency Program. He will begin his full term as Program Director in January 2023.

Dr. Vali has focused his Creative Professional Activity on transforming and promoting pediatric nuclear medicine locally at the HSC, and more broadly in Canada and internationally. Over the last seven years, Dr. Vali has undertaken a number of significant projects in order to advance the nuclear medicine activities at the HSC with the aim of delivering imaging services with decreased radiation dose and with novel techniques for improved patient outcome

Dr. Vali's teaching covers the broad topic of pediatric nuclear medicine with a particular interest in image acquisition, radiation protection, and patient interactions. He has received excellent feedback throughout his career at the University of Toronto and teaching awards including excellence in teaching for the residents in nuclear medicine and outstanding teacher in the pediatric Fellowship program. He is involved at all levels of learner within the department as well as frequently being an invited speaker at international meetings and CME programs nationally.

In addition to his broad program of work developing and applying new processes and procedures in the clinical realm, Dr. Vali has continuously undertaken research as demonstrated by his publication output and h index. He is a ready mentor to learners and junior faculty alike. His experience in the HSC REB has further provided an outlet for his questioning mind and research drive. When seeking a further means of expanding his research experience, he undertook a translational research Master's degree here at the University of Toronto.

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