

Resident-Led Education Committee: Fostering Leaders and Impactful Change in Radiation Oncology Education

Christina Phuong, MD; Lisa Ni, MD; Horatio R. Thomas, MD, MSc; Benjamin Li, MD, MBA; Jie Jane Chen, MD; Katie E. Lichter, MD; Steve E. Braunstein, MD, PhD; Sumi Sinha, MD*



Dr. Phuong is a PGY4 and chief resident physician, Department of Radiation Oncology, University of California San Francisco.



Dr. Ni is a PGY4 and chief resident physician, Department of Radiation Oncology, University of California San Francisco.



Dr. Thomas is a PGY5 resident physician, Department of Radiation Oncology, University of California San Francisco.

Radiation oncology training follows an apprenticeship model. However, radiation oncologists must eventually lead multidisciplinary teams. Residency programs have focused on incorporating leadership training into their curricula to meet this need, and residents are often involved in peer-to-peer or near-peer teaching.^{1,2} Still, many have expressed interest in more teaching opportunities.³ At our institution, the desire to take a more active role to impact radiation oncology education resonated with a number of our residents.

With the support of departmental leadership, in 2020 we formed a resident-led Education Committee to increase engagement in medical education, scholarship, and leadership. Over the last 2 years of growth and development, we have established dedicated monthly meetings, created a leadership board, and established 4 core goals of the committee:

1. Identify and address gaps in residency education.
2. Implement sustainable educational initiatives across various interprofessional groups.
3. Share ongoing projects within medical education to identify resources and invite collaboration.
4. Cultivate future leaders in medical education.

To meet these goals, we have undertaken a host of interprofessional projects. The committee collaborated with departmental and institutional leadership to implement initiatives that address gaps identified in radiation oncology resident education and to refine existing curricula. For 2 years, the committee has co-hosted medical student summer interns in partnership with the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) and mentored a medical-student-led tumor board seminar series.^{4,6} The Education Committee also leads a monthly medical

Disclosure: The authors declare the following financial interests/personal relationships. Dr. Braunstein reports grants from Blue Earth Diagnostics and Elekta; consulting for icotec and Novocure; honoraria from icotec and the *International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics*; editor fees for RadOncQuestions; and board membership of the Radiation Oncology Education Collaborative Study Group (ROECG). Dr. Li reports grants from Elekta, the American Medical Association, and Silicon Valley Community Foundation; support for attending meetings and/or travel from the American Association of Medical Dosimetrists and American Society of Radiation Oncology; and an unpaid leadership role as president of Rayos Contra Cancer. Dr. Sinha reports editing honoraria for RadOncQuestions. Dr. Chen reports grants from UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center – Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility Award and Harvard Medical School Dean's Innovation Award in Diversity and Inclusion. The remaining authors have no conflicts of interest to disclose. None of the authors received outside funding for the production of this original manuscript and no part of this article has been previously published elsewhere.

Corresponding Author: *Sumi Sinha, MD, 1600 Divisadero St, Suite H1031, San Francisco, CA, 94115 (Sumi.sinha@ucsf.edu).



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assistant radiation oncology curriculum in our department, which is undergoing multi-institutional expansion.⁷ Finally, committee meetings serve as a platform for structured discussion of the growing body of medical education literature during journal clubs and an opportunity to share and collaborate on ongoing education-related projects. The result has been a thriving education community with ever-growing interest in medical education.

The Education Committee has been instrumental in supporting both medical and physics residents with any degree of background in medical education and in turning ideas into structured projects. It has inspired confidence in residents to take on leadership roles, become involved in medical education opportunities outside of our institution, and present our work at conferences to influence the field of radiation oncology globally.

With the growing recognition that teaching and leadership training during residency are integral components of professional development for residents, this Education Committee has provided a unique opportunity to develop these skills.² Taking part in this committee has empowered us to be pioneers of education — to refine, implement, and sustain initiatives across various facets of medical education, as well as to participate in education-related scholarship. The resulting wave of new educators continues to ripple through our

program. We believe members will be empowered and equipped with the skills necessary to engage future generations and lead our field.

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Dr. Li is a PGY5 resident physician, Department of Radiation Oncology, University of California San Francisco.



Dr. Chen is a PGY3 resident physician, Department of Radiation Oncology, University of California San Francisco.



Dr. Lichter is a PGY3 resident physician, Department of Radiation Oncology, University of California San Francisco.



Dr. Braunstein is faculty, Department of Radiation Oncology, University of California San Francisco.



Dr. Sinha is faculty, Department of Radiation Oncology, University of California San Francisco.