

# Chair's Message

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It is no surprise academic radiology departments such as ours are mobilizing to rapidly adapt to clinical changes by scaling up, implementing local/regional growth, increasing productivity, improving quality, and lowering costs. Academic radiology departments are, in fact, scaling up all of their missions to such a level that they may be more accurately termed “academic radiology systems.” Combining our deep expertise in imaging, technology, sophisticated telecommunications, and machine/deep learning, UCLA Radiology seeks to make an even broader, meaningful international impact.

UCLA Radiology has always engaged in international resident education and in international research with other academic programs primarily in Europe and Asia. We have benefitted greatly from these international relationships. We are now broadening our participation in “world health” in conjunction with UCLA Center for World Health by building on initiatives pioneered in the Department by Dr. Maria Ines Boechat. Current “world health” initiatives are now expanding under the leadership of Dr. Kara-Lee Pool to improve basic diagnostic services in some of the poorest regions in the world. For example, our knowledge of diagnostic screening provides a strong foundation to create such services in developing countries. In that endeavor, ultrasound (US) technology offers many advantages including portability, ease of use and rapid adoption. Its increasing “miniaturization” combined with machine/

deep learning can lower the barrier to practical, effective diagnostic use.

Interestingly, the process of modifying technology to make it simpler and easier to use in resource-limited environments can stimulate “reverse innovation” from which we can benefit as we move to lower costs. The features of “simple and less costly” are no less advantageous in our academic environment. Observing how those features accelerate learning and speed up adoption can inform our service delivery. The behavioral lessons learned from technology modifications to enhance ease of use to gain non-academic world effectiveness can be applied in our current, cost conscious environment. UCLA Radiology’s “world health” initiatives, while clearly part of our educational outreach mission can concomitantly form a mutually beneficial clinical relationship to help practical, useful knowledge find its way back to us. 

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