Chair's Note

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Advancing Imaging Science, Strengthening Academic Radiology

It is a pleasure to share an update on the continued academic momentum within UCLA Radiology. This year has highlighted the essential role imaging plays across the clinical, research and educational missions of UCLA Health and the David Geffen School of Medicine. Our faculty, trainees and staff continue to demonstrate exceptional commitment to advancing imaging science while providing outstanding patient care across our diverse sites.

Clinically, we have strengthened integration across inpatient, outpatient and community settings, supporting improved access, consistency and coordination throughout the health system. These efforts not only enhance patient care today, but also create a strong foundation for translational research and academic collaboration. Our work on imaging protocol optimization, report clarity and systemwide alignment reflects our shared commitment to evidence-based, patient-centered imaging.

Our research programs continue to expand in both depth and national impact. Faculty across all sections are leading innovations in quantitative CT and MRI biomarkers, AI-enabled image analysis, spectral and photon-counting imaging, and image-guided therapy. We have begun laying the groundwork for a Center for Computational Imaging — an academic hub that will connect foundational imaging science with real-world clinical implementation, interdisciplinary collaboration and rigorous evaluation of emerging technologies.

Our educational mission remains equally strong. Through innovative curricula, mentorship and active scholarly engagement, our faculty continue to train the next generation of radiologists, imaging scientists and physician-leaders. The accomplishments of our residents and fellows at national meetings underscore the vitality of our academic environment.

As we look ahead, our priorities are clear: delivering exceptional patient care, advancing meaningful discovery, educating future leaders and building the infrastructure that ensures UCLA Radiology remains at the forefront of our field. A central component of this work is our leadership in the clinical validation, translation and implementation of AI. We are committed to deploying AI not as a theoretical exercise, but as a practical tool to improve efficiency across the entire imaging workflow. Recent national coverage of our AI-enabled MRI protocol optimization highlights this potential: By shortening acquisition times and reducing overall scan duration, we have increased daily MRI capacity and improved access for our patients.

I am deeply grateful for the engagement, partnership and support of our colleagues, donors and friends. It is a privilege to work alongside such exceptional individuals, and I look forward to the continued progress and collaboration the coming year will bring. Ⓡ