



In spring 2019, I was extremely honored to be nominated by the Society for Pediatric Radiology (SPR) for the Council of Early Career Investigators in Imaging (CECI<sup>2</sup>), a program organized by the Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research. The Academy was formed to promote institutional collaboration, federal funding, and societal awareness regarding medical imaging research. It is comprised of various leaders from radiology and engineering societies, academic departments, industry partners, government agencies, and patient foundations. This marked the first year that medical imaging societies were approved to send members to the Council, and it was my great privilege to serve as SPR's inaugural representative after having received the 2018 Pilot Award and 2014 Research Fellow Grant.

This year, the Academy converged in Washington, DC, from April 28–30 (just prior to the SPR meeting in San Francisco). Our CECI<sup>2</sup> class included 30 MDs and PhDs from all over the country, hailing from various institutions and branches of radiology and medical physics. As the only pediatric radiologist in attendance, I was excited to contribute my perspectives regarding unique considerations for children's health and key challenges in pediatric research. Having recently started at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, I was also thrilled to interface with fellow clinician-investigators in order to brainstorm strategies for fostering research within my hospital and specialty.

Our first stop was a visit to the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. Our group met with the leadership of the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering and National Cancer Institute to learn more about the NIH's history and organization, strategic priorities and programs, and extramural grant opportunities. We received mentored advice regarding grantsmanship and training opportunities for young investigators. Based on my research interests, I was matched with specific experts in genomics and biomedical engineering who provided valuable insights regarding advanced neuroimaging, radiomics, and artificial intelligence. That evening, we attended the Academy Coalition for Imaging & Bioengineering Research, connecting with senior leaders from academia and industry in preparation for our Congressional meetings.

The following day, we traveled to Capitol Hill for a whirlwind tour of networking and advocacy. In the morning, the Academy organized a Leadership Research Roundtable to discuss the "Diagnostic Cockpit" of the future: a transformative initiative to accelerate development and translation of high-value imaging techniques and approaches including multicenter big data analytics, personalized medicine, and theranostics. Subsequently, our delegation proceeded to both the House and Senate to lobby for increased funding to NIH/NIBIB programs. My team visited the offices of Representative Harley Rouda (California) and Senators Sherrod Brown and Rob Portman (Ohio), where I explained SPR's mission and the importance of children's imaging in medicine. Our evening concluded with the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Medical Imaging and Technology Showcase, highlighting cutting-edge research topics in radiology.

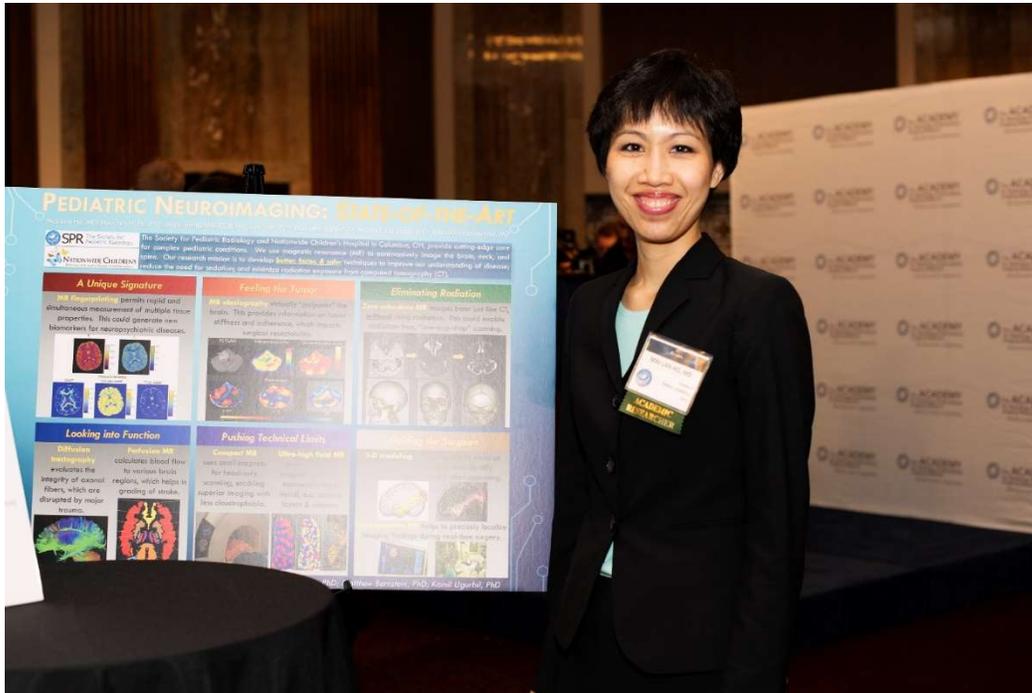
My poster was entitled *Pediatric Neuroimaging: State-of-the-Art* and highlighted the innovative work we are doing at Nationwide Children's Hospital to achieve better, faster, and safer imaging for children. My mentors for the project included Rajesh Krishnamurthy, MD; Houchun Harry Hu, PhD; and Jeremy Jones, MD. We presented impactful examples of several emerging techniques including MR fingerprinting, elastography, zero-echo-time, diffusion, perfusion, compact MRI, ultra-high-field, 3D printing, and intraoperative MRI. The presentation was very well received by the Academy, Congressional members, and patient advocates who attended. The next morning, I caught the first flight out of DC to SF—arriving just in time to present my two lectures at SPR, *Child with Skull Base Trauma* and *Accelerated Neuro MRI*.

Thank you so much to the Academy and SPR leadership for making it possible for me to participate in the CECI<sup>2</sup>, SPR Postgraduate Course, and SPR Annual Meeting—all in the same week! My experience with the Academy has been a groundbreaking opportunity to exchange ideas with a national network of researchers and leaders, collectively advocating for increased research funding and the future of radiology. My special focus on children's health helped in advancing imaging research, informing Congress, and educating the public about our specialty. I will always treasure this unique experience, and am exceptionally grateful to have been able to serve both the Society and Academy in this regard.



Visiting the NIH campus.

## Medical Imaging Technology Showcase.



## Lobbying on Capitol Hill.

