The ACADEMY for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research
Advancing Innovation in Imaging Science

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THE ACADEMY ANNOUNCES 2026 INDUCTEES TO THE COUNCIL OF DISTINGUISHED INVESTIGATORS

The Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research (The Academy) is pleased to announce that 55 investigators have been selected to receive the Academy's 2026 Distinguished Investigator (DI) Award, recognizing outstanding contributions to medical imaging. This class will be welcomed as part of the broader Council, including a network of more than 500 imaging investigators.

Nine of this year's Distinguished Investigators are alum members of the Academy Council of Early Career Investigators in Imaging (CECI^2). We are once again reminded of the importance of recognizing, encouraging, and supporting the accomplishments of early-career investigators.

This year, we welcome Vivek Yedavalli, MD, MS, as the new Academy Board Representative for the Council of Distinguished Investigators. Throughout his career, Dr. Yedavalli has focused on leveraging advanced imaging to improve clinical decision-making and patient outcomes while fostering multidisciplinary partnerships. As an alum of the CECI^2 program, a former CECI^2 Co-Chair, and a Distinguished Investigator, Dr. Yedavalli has experienced firsthand the transformative value of mentorship, collaboration, and leadership development. This robust background will serve him well as he transitions from CECI^2 Co-Chair to Distinguished Investigator Co-Chair.

"I am deeply honored to serve as a Distinguished Investigator Co-Chair and to join a remarkable group of leaders who have advanced radiology and biomedical imaging research," Dr. Yedavalli shared. "I look forward to helping expand opportunities for emerging investigators, strengthening connections across the imaging research community, and advancing the Academy's mission. I am grateful for the Academy's longstanding support and excited to contribute to its next chapter of impact and innovation."

The 2026 cohort of Distinguished Investigators includes investigators from various institutions among the Academy's membership - academia, industry, and societies. The goal of recognizing these imaging investigators is to highlight their accomplishments, not their qualifications.

Each of the honorees nominated by academia or a member society has met the following criteria:

- Primary professional appointment in an academic Department of Radiology.

- Recipient of an MD, DO, and/or PhD degree(s).
- Academic rank of at least Associate Professor or its equivalent.
- Sustained productivity, including at least 25 peer-reviewed scientific research publications in which the awardee is the first author or senior author.
- Demonstrated accomplishments as an independent investigator with a substantial ongoing research program, including at least 6 cumulative years of funding as the Principal Investigator of a significant competitive extramural research grant.

Each of the honorees nominated by Industry has met the following criteria:

- Primary professional role as an employee of one of the Academy's industrial partners.
- PhD, MS, MD, or DO degrees.
- Holds a corporate title of Principal Scientist/ Engineer or higher.
- Significant research and development contributions, demonstrated in either listed or attached patents OR attached vital papers.
- Sustained productivity with at least ten high-impact patents for technologies that have demonstrated impact on patient outcomes or population health in radiology.
- Demonstrated accomplishments in Industry with substantial ongoing research and development programs. (Have spent at least six cumulative years in charge of significant corporate research and development programs for products that have demonstrated an impact on patient outcomes or population health in radiology.)

The class of 2026 will be inducted into the Academy's Council of Distinguished Investigators during the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA). The ceremony and celebration, which will also honor Gold Medal Recipient Dr. Mitchell Schnall, MD, PhD, will take place in Chicago, Illinois, on Tuesday, December 1, 2026, from 3-5 PM CT in room S105BC at the McCormick Place Convention Center.

For more information about the Academy's Distinguished Investigator award, including future nomination information for 2026, click here. If you have any questions regarding the council contact Olivia Nelson at onelson@acadrad.org.

Congratulations to the following 2026 Inductees:
Nominating Society or Institution is reflected in this list.
*Also, a member of the Academy Council of Early Career Investigators in Imaging (CECI^2)

Jason W. Allen, MD, PhD	Indiana University School of Medicine
Matthew R. Amans, MD, MSc	University of California, San Francisco
Mark A. Anastasio, PhD	Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology-Washington University
Chaitra Badve, MD	Case Western Reserve University
Ramon F. Barajas Jr., MD*	Oregon Health & Sciences University
Marta Bianciardi, PhD	Massachusetts General Hospital
Janine D. Bijsterbosch, PhD	Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology-Washington University
Berkin Bilgic, PhD	Massachusetts General Hospital
Sandip Biswal, MD	University of Wisconsin - Madison
Nicholas S. Burris, MD*	University of Wisconsin - Madison
Zhenxin (Jason) Cai, PhD	Yale University

Kai Chen, PhD	University of Southern California
Christopher E. Comstock, MD	The American College of Radiology/Columbia University
Farouk Dako, MD, MPH*	University of Pennsylvania
Yong Du, PhD	University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Aaron S. Field, MD, PhD, FASFNR	University of Wisconsin - Madison
Candace C. Fleischer, PhD	Emory University School of Medicine
Judy Wawira Gichoya, MBChB, FSIIM *	Society for Imaging Informatics in Medicine
Robert C. Gilkeson, MD	Case Western Reserve University
Ajit H. Goenka, MD	Mayo Clinic
Amit Gupta, MD, MRMD, CIIP *	Case Western Reserve University
Quan Jiang, PhD	Michigan State University
Arash Kheradvar, MD, PhD	University of California, Irvine
Harrison Kim, MBA, PhD	The Ohio State University
Shuai Leng, PhD	Mayo Clinic
Lin Z. Li, PhD	University of Pennsylvania
Ai-Ling Lin, PhD	University of Missouri
Yang Lv, PhD	United Imaging Healthcare
Daniel S. Marcus, PhD	Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology-Washington University
Eric A. Mellon, MD, PhD	Henry Ford Health/Michigan State University Health Sciences
Erik Middlebrooks, MD	Mayo Clinic
Satoshi Minoshima, MD, PhD	The Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging
Linda Moy, MD	Society for Imaging Informatics in Medicine
Kambiz Nael, MD	University of California, San Francisco
Lorenzo Nardo, MD, PhD	University of California, Davis
Sridhar Nimmagadda, PhD	Johns Hopkins University
Marc David Normandin, PhD	Yale University
Xiawei Ou, PhD	Society for Pediatric Radiology/University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
Jinsong Ouyang, PhD	Yale University
Ivan Pedrosa, MD, PhD	The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Laleh Golestani Rad, PhD*	Northwestern University
Rebecca Rakow-Penner, MD, PhD*	University of California, San Diego
David A. Reiter, PhD*	Emory University
Gelareh Sadigh, MD	University of California, Irvine
Dustin Scheinost, PhD	Yale University
Nasim Sheikh-Bahaei, MD, PhD*	University of Southern California
Claude B. Sirlin, MD	The American College of Radiology/University of California, San Diego
Ronald M. Summers, MD, PhD	Society of Abdominal Radiology/National Institutes of Health Clinical Center
John J. Sunderland, PhD, MBA	University of Iowa
Leo L. Tsai, MD, PhD, MSc	Massachusetts General Hospital
Pavithra Viswanath, PhD	University of California, San Francisco
Clifford R. Weiss, MD	Johns Hopkins University
Jennifer L. Whitwell, PhD	Mayo Clinic
Lirong Yan, PhD	Northwestern University
Chengcheng Zhu, MPhil, PhD	University of Washington