



# Radiology Associates<sub>LLP</sub>

## NEWSLETTER



PET Team: Karl Fan, M.D., David Wilson, M.D., Everett Gayle, M.D., Charles Gover, M.D

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Combating Cancer...Better & Earlier

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Director Is One Of First In U.S. To Earn  
National Certification

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Diane Martinez  
Radiology Associates Concierge

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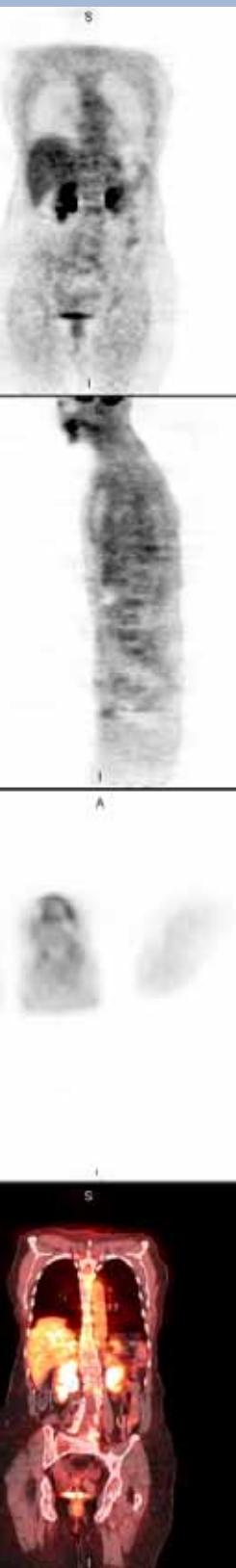
Welcome Dr. McGehee, *Radiologist*

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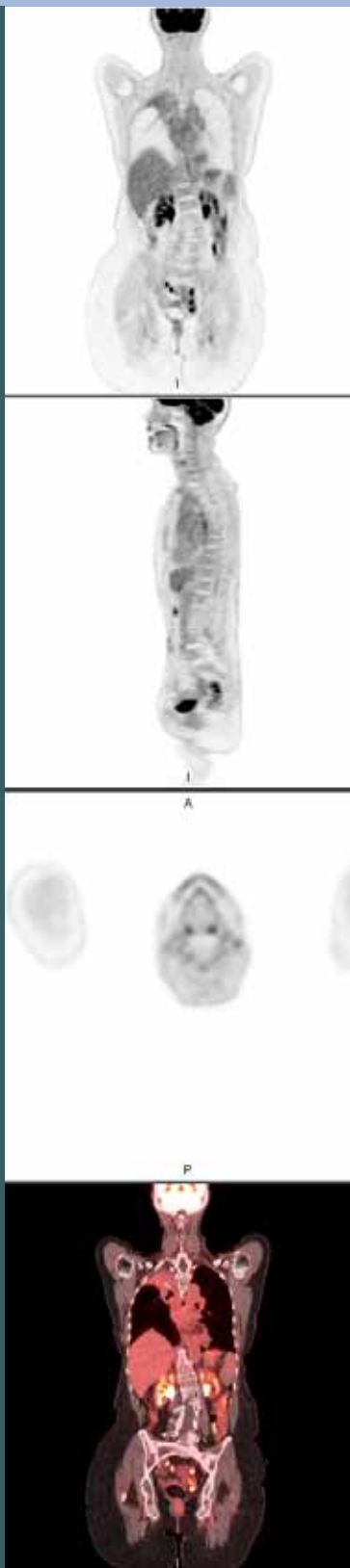
# COMBATING CANCER...

## EARLIER, BETTER & FASTER

OLDER TECHNOLOGY



NEW TECHNOLOGY



Early diagnosis is the key to surviving any cancer. A wide variety of tests help radiologists identify the disease, but uniquely pairing up several state-of-the-art technologies right here in the Coastal Bend is producing earlier and better diagnosis than ever before.

*Radiology Associates is the only local organization using the Siemens time-of-flight Biograph mCT, the most cutting-edge equipment and technology on the market today. It combines ultra high definition positron emission tomography (PET) and 64-slice CT to create the highest quality images in less than 15 minutes using low FDG doses that minimize radiation exposure.*

“The new technology combined our CT and PET departments to create the highest quality images even faster,” says Michael Kroeger, MIS, NMAA, PET, NCT and Director of PET and Nuclear Medicine Services for Radiology Associates.

PET exams produce information about the body and how it functions on a cellular level while CT relays more anatomical data. Simultaneous PET/CT information forms a more specific road map where radiologists can view metabolic changes in cells in the proper anatomical context of the body even before physical ones occur.

Previously, a CT exam would follow a PET, and the two images would be merged with computer software. In addition, older PET/CT systems use older technology requiring longer scan times and produce poorer images.

“Patients are happier...they love one fifteen minute exam versus two separately acquired exams, which took much longer,” adds Kroeger.

In addition to speed, the mCT enhances the overall exam experience and patient safety factors. A shorter tunnel and larger opening— 78 cm—as well as a 500-pound table capacity all improve comfort and accessibility. Patients receive lower doses of radioactive agents due to better technology.

Most importantly, the combination PET/CT technology creates better image resolution for radiologists to interpret and referring physicians to review.

“With the faster exam, we get less patient movement and the fused images are dead-on for locating CT with PET findings down to 4–5 mm lung nodule range. Increased overall image accuracy is the final product,” adds Kroeger.

Local doctors are already taking notice of the new technology, but so will others across the nation in the near future. Siemens USA, the product maker, recently shot a promotional marketing video at Radiology Associates’ Southside Office. It highlights how the company, as the first in the country, is effectively utilizing the combination PET/CT as it was intended. Footage shows how Radiology Associates has increased clinical flexibility and productivity by saving space, time, dose and cost while improving patient care.

“The mCT truly elevates our program – one comprehensive exam, one location, one team, one integrated system. Without question, the new technology offers customized exams, more diagnostic certainty for our patients and their physicians,” concludes Kroeger.

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“THE MCT TECHNOLOGY TRULY ELEVATES OUR PROGRAM – ONE COMPREHENSIVE EXAM, ONE LOCATION, ONE TEAM, ONE INTEGRATED SYSTEM. WITHOUT QUESTION, THE NEW TECHNOLOGY OFFERS CUSTOMIZED EXAMS, MORE DIAGNOSTIC CERTAINTY FOR OUR PATIENTS AND THEIR PHYSICIANS.”

—MICHAEL KROEGER, MIS, NMAA, PET, NCT

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## OUR PET/CT TEAM

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Four of Radiology Associates’ physicians specialize in reading and interpreting images created by the advanced PET/CT combination technology. They offer a half century of healthcare experience and expertise in diagnostic radiology, MRI, interventional, nuclear medicine and neuroradiology.

“Simultaneous PET/CT scans create the fastest and highest quality imaging and we’re excited to be able to offer the best possible diagnostic tools and evaluations to our patients and their physicians,” says Dr. Everett Gayle, Radiology Associates Nuclear Medicine Department Chair.

Dr. Gayle adds, “By trimming our PET/CT interpreting team to four, we ensure the best consistency between radiologists while maintaining flexibility in coverage of the service. All of us have a special interest in the PET/CT service and understand the importance of the exam in the patient’s healthcare. With oncology feedback, we continually improve in providing relevant reports to the referring physician.”

### **Karl Fan, M.D. – Board-Certified Radiologist**

*Performs MRI, Interventional, Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine and PET*

- University of California San Francisco School of Medicine
- University of California Irvine/Long Beach VA Medical Center – Internship
- Massachusetts General Hospital - Diagnostic Radiology Residency
- Massachusetts General Hospital Harvard Medical School Vascular, Interventional Radiology and MRI Fellowships

### **Everett Gayle, M.D. – Board-Certified Radiologist**

*Performs Nuclear Medicine, PET, Diagnostic Radiology and Women’s Imaging*

- University of Texas Health Science Center Medical School
- Brooke Army Medical Center – Residency
- William Beaumont Medical Center Department of Nuclear Medicine
- Tripler Army Medical Center Department of Clinical and Anatomic Pathology

### **Charles Gover, M.D. – Board-Certified Radiologist**

*Performs Diagnostic Radiology, MRI, Neuroradiology, Interventional, Nuclear Medicine and PET*

- University of Puerto Rico Medical School
- San Juan City Hospital–Internship
- Puerto Rico School of Medicine – Radiology Residency
- Medical College of Georgia – Neuroradiology Fellowship

### **David Wilson, M.D. – Board-Certified Radiologist**

*Performs Diagnostic Radiology, Nuclear Medicine, and PET*

- Southwestern Medical School
- University of Texas Health Science Center
- Department of Radiology, University of Texas Medical Branch

## WELCOME DR. MARK MCGEHEE, *Radiologist*



Dr. McGehee has joined Radiology Associates and will be performing diagnostic women's imaging including mammography. He will join the team of specialized radiologists who truly "think pink" day in and day out. Each year, Radiology Associates interprets more than 30,000 mammograms, the most widely used and trusted tool in diagnosing breast cancer. In addition, Dr. McGehee is fellowship trained in body imaging.

### EDUCATION:

University of Texas Southwestern, *Medical School*  
Norwalk Hospital/Yale New Haven Hospital,  
*Radiology Residency*  
Norwalk Hospital, Chief Resident,  
*Department of Radiology*  
Yale New Haven Hospital,  
*Section of Body Imaging Fellowship*

### WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO THE FIELD OF RADIOLOGY?

The ability to touch as many lives as possible, through the practice of medicine is what attracted me to radiology. I love the challenge of the diagnostic work up and the ability to affect patient care utilizing state-of-the-art technology.

### WHAT MADE YOU CHOOSE BODY IMAGING FOR YOUR FELLOWSHIP TRAINING?

I chose body imaging because of my love for oncologic and musculoskeletal imaging as well as the practice of general radiology.

### YOU WILL BE PART OF THE PINK DREAM TEAM READING MAMMOGRAMS AND OTHER WOMEN'S IMAGES. WHAT WOULD YOU TELL WOMEN ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF GETTING REGULAR MAMMOGRAMS?

The media has done a tremendous disservice to the women of America by muddying the water in regard to the need for annual screening mammograms. In 20 years of practicing high-end breast imaging, I have rarely seen a patient do poorly when their diagnosis was made during a screening program. It is the unfortunate exception to see advanced breast cancer in a woman who has faithfully had annual mammograms. However, it is important to state that mammography is only part of the picture. Physical examinations, attention to symptoms, and utilization of procedures like ultra sound significantly improve detection.

### WHAT IS YOUR PHILOSOPHY ON PATIENT CARE?

A radiologist helps a patient by helping their physician. My goal is to assist the physician in any way I can. I feel that I am touching the lives of my patients by helping them get well.

## DIRECTOR IS ONE OF FIRST IN U.S. TO EARN NATIONAL CERTIFICATION

Radiology Associates is proud to announce that Michael Kroeger, MIS, NMAA, PET, NCT, has earned his Masters of Imaging Science, completing the Nuclear Medicine Advanced Associate (NMAA) program from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). Kroeger is currently Director of PET/Nuclear Medicine Services at Radiology Associates and its five facilities.

“We are proud of Michael for being one of the first in the country to earn this. His prestigious certification emphasizes his leadership in the field of nuclear medicine and Radiology Associates’ continued quest to provide outstanding medical care to our patients,” said Ellis Keitt, Administrator.

Kroeger was one of six in the U.S. to be selected to enter the inaugural class, and one of only four to successfully complete the program and pass the first-ever NMAA board exam.



## DIANE MARTINEZ

*Radiology Associates Concierge*

Diane Martinez is part patient advocate and comforter...but she is definitely all heart. This bubbly woman is the first concierge in Radiology Associates’ 67-year history. The new position was created for the company’s Southside location – its largest facility seeing the most patients in all radiological service lines.

“I feel like I am a wedge. I am strictly here for the patient and their family to make their visit the most comfortable and enjoyable it can be,” says Diane of the one-of-a-kind position not found elsewhere.

In addition to keeping patients aware of procedure times and answering questions, Diane is an educator. “I talk to them about what to expect from an exam, and reiterate side effects and things they should be doing afterwards. They may have already received this information, but it’s a lot to take in and always good to hear again,” she says.

Most importantly, Diane comforts. “Patients are often upset, nervous and alone. Sometimes I accompany them to a procedure and we talk about something else. I’ve wiped away many tears and held many hands,” she says.

“I do a little bit of everything so the technologists and physicians



can do what they do best...treat patients,” says Diane.

Diane is also the facility translator – Spanish and a small amount of sign language. “Patients deserve the extra mile. Because of them and their choice to come here, our board-certified radiologists and 180 employees have a job. These wonderful people care and want to deliver results,” she adds.

The impact the concierge position has had on the company has been immeasurable, and really sets Radiology Associates apart when comparing patient experiences.



*a new dimension of*  
**SUPERIOR IMAGE  
QUALITY**

Images can make the difference between life and death for your patients. That's why Radiology Associates is the *first and only* provider in the Coastal Bend to invest in *Siemens 64-slice, time-of-flight Biograph mCT*.

This most advanced, state-of-the-art technology on the market today fuses PET and CT scans to create the highest resolution images even faster. With the use of the mCT, our experienced PET/CT team can identify and diagnose cancer in your patients...earlier and better.



**Radiology Associates** LLP



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Over 65 years of innovative imaging.