

Pediatric Radiology Workforce Committee Diagnostic Radiology Resident Presentation Script

TONE - Conversational but not casual. Professional but with a light joyful cadence.

Slide 1 - Title Slide

Music fade to soft background

Slide 2 - Pediatric Radiology Definition

What is pediatric radiology? Pediatric radiology is a subspecialty of radiology dedicated to the imaging and image-guided care of children, ranging as early as the prenatal period all the way through to young adulthood

Slide 3 - Who we are

Who are pediatric radiologists? We are a diverse and inclusive group of specialized radiologists from all walks of life. In addition, nearly half of us are women! That isn't the case for most other subspecialties. We are dedicated to improving the health of children through imaging that is tailored to a child's unique needs and their growing and developing body. Children aren't little adults, and pediatric radiologists are specially trained in diagnosing disease and normal developmental variants unique to children.

We also have expertise in all types of imaging modalities. In conjunction with the patient care team culture in pediatrics, we focus on appropriate tests and radiation reduction by imaging gently. Imaging gently means using a high level of expertise and dedication to adjust radiation dose based on the size of the child and to assure accurate diagnoses at maximum safety.

Slide 4 - Multiple Modalities

A pediatric radiology practice encompasses all of the imaging modalities and body systems including neuroradiology and musculoskeletal imaging, both of which include image-guided procedures, contrast-enhanced ultrasound, voiding urosonography, cardiovascular imaging, fetal imaging, and further subspecialization in pediatric interventional radiology.

Slide 5 - Our Traits

What makes us unique? Pediatric radiologists are similar to their pediatric colleagues. We exhibit deep caring and empathy when treating our patients. It is disheartening to see children afflicted with acquired, severe, and terminal illnesses at such a young age which requires that we exhibit patience, gentleness, and understanding. We are also excellent communicators. We discuss findings and management with referring providers, families, and the patients themselves in a way that is understandable to each group.

We enjoy the diversity that pediatric radiology affords us, and we enjoy interacting with children and watching them grow (yes, we do watch them grow as many patients come back for follow up imaging for years). We also enjoy the challenges in the cases that we see. This keeps us engaged, and, because of this, we are always learning.

Slide 6 - Myths vs. Facts

Now let's address common myths related to the field of pediatric radiology.

Many people think pediatric radiologists have to work harder for less pay. In fact, we are compensated at the same level as our counterparts in other radiology subspecialties regardless of the practice setting.

Another stereotype is that pediatric radiologists have to practice only in an academic setting or standalone children's hospital. In fact, there are many types of practices, including private practices, that require someone with pediatric expertise. Many private practice jobs also allow for the option to read both adult and pediatric exams.

As shown earlier, pediatric radiology allows for the practice of head-to-toe radiology, using all modalities not just fluoroscopy and ultrasound. There are also ample opportunities for subspecialization.

Currently, there is a severe shortage of pediatric radiologists, both for general practice and in all the subspecialty areas. Numerous jobs are available across the United States and Canada. There is also a high demand for pediatric tele-radiologists, who can literally work from anywhere in the country.

Furthermore, we enjoy that we often get out of the reading room and interact with our patients. Many think that working with children and their parents is difficult, but most interactions with our patients are actually very rewarding and fun. Our teams use distracting techniques to ease our patients' fears and make them comfortable. A children's hospital is also a great place to work where cool designs and features create a very warm and welcoming environment for patients and staff alike.

Lastly, being a pediatric radiologist is a very rewarding career. We play an integral role in the clinical care of pediatric patients and are often sought out for help and offer opinions on cases that are challenging the clinical team. We often see and take part in great success stories. Children are resilient!

Slide 7 - Join Us

Pediatric radiology is fun! The collegiality and interactions with pediatric colleagues in other specialties is personal and engaging. Referring physicians will often consult and visit us regarding their patients' imaging and will ask for advice on management and follow-up. This interaction makes practicing medicine more fulfilling and impactful. Pediatric radiologists are a respected member of the team. You will find yourself thriving in this speciality that promotes work-life harmony!

Slide 8 - Resources

For more information please see the American College of Radiology and Society for Pediatric Radiology websites.

Come and join us in this impactful, rewarding, and fun field that is pediatric radiology.

Slide 9 - Join Us in Imaging the Future

Background music becomes louder, and then fades out.