

## DFP endometriosis roster

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### Active DFP members

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### Look back (most significant science/advances in the field in the last year)

Endometriosis is a chronic, benign disorder defined as the presence of endometrial tissue at extrauterine sites, with up to 10% prevalence in women of reproductive age. Although a relatively common condition, optimal diagnosis and treatment remains a challenge. Advances in awareness of this disease entity are key amongst providers and diagnosticians. To that end, centers internationally are developing “best practice” protocols in both sonography and MRI to increase

sensitivity and specificity of this diagnosis. Ultrasound equipment is becoming more powerful, and transvaginal sonographic techniques are advancing, such that ultrasound examination in patients with symptoms possibly attributed to endometriosis (dyspareunia, chronic pain, infertility, etc.), should include evaluation of the posterior compartment, performance of the ‘sliding sign’ and closer evaluation of the rectum/bowel. MRI has traditionally been more sensitive than ultrasound in the diagnosis of deep endometriosis, adenomyosis and endometriomas, but there are advanced techniques such as susceptibility-weighted imaging (SWI)

and texture analysis which may allowed improved detection and diagnosis. Diffusion-weighted imaging is serving an increasing role in diagnosis of malignant transformation of endometriosis. Extrapelvic involvement by endometriosis remains a challenge to diagnose, and is a focus of multiple recent research studies. Additionally, research in CT for accurate detection of bowel involvement by endometriosis is emerging. Finally, medical understanding of the role of inflammation in endometriosis is improving, and new therapies (such as aromatase inhibitors such as elagolix) are changing the role of radiology in diagnosis and follow-up.

### **Look ahead (DFP priorities/projects in the coming year)**

This year, the Endometriosis DFP has collaborated to produce a special issue in abdominal radiology, Guest Edited by Wendy VanBuren our Endometriosis DFP Co-Chair. Articles have been solicited from the Endometriosis DFP members for this publication. As a part of this initiative, a consensus paper on a Lexicon of imaging has been developed, led by Myles Taffel, Priyanka Jha and Michelle Sakalis. Additionally, a Best Practices paper “How We Do It” for

MRI in Endometriosis Imaging has also been developed, led by Myles Taffel, Angela Tong and Wendy Van Buren, incorporating opinions from the DFP.

Additional surgical, medical and imaging articles from the Endometriosis DFP will be included in this issue, slated for publication in 2020.

The endometriosis DFP is planning to increase visibility and public exposure of endometriosis and the DFP through social media with the goals of educational outreach to the radiology community. The DFP is working with the other female pelvic imaging DFPs to create content in order to post at a weekly frequency on the PelvicImaging twitter (@SARpelvicDFPs) and Instagram handles. Improvement on internal communication within the DFP is also being developed with implementation of other software such as Facebook Workplace to facilitate work on internal projects.

Educational materials with cases and annotated imaging is forthcoming for upload to the website, through the direction of Myra Feldman and Luciana Chamie.

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