Recruiting the Next Generation of Radiologists: A Medical School Radiology Pipeline Template

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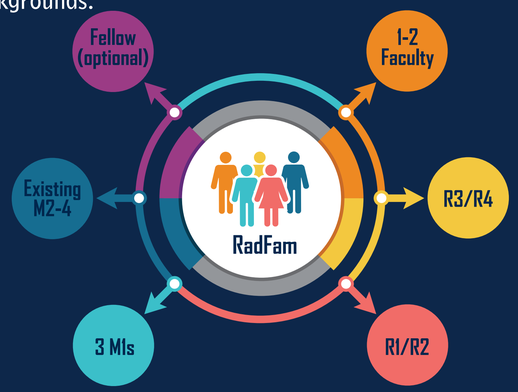
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Purpose

The University of Michigan Radiology Pipeline, now "RadLine," was designed to integrate medical students within the Department of Radiology. Programming includes shadowing, simulation learning, lectures, longitudinal mentorship, networking, and research opportunities. It is targeted towards first-year medical students, including those underrepresented in medicine (URiM). Programs such as this one are desired by medical students.[1] Early, accessible, and affordable exposure with role models in radiology is the first step in recruiting future radiologists who bring new perspectives to the field.[2]

The program is organized into "RadFams," groups composed of 1-2 attending radiologists, 2-3 residents/ fellows, and 3-4 students. We aim to share the template for this program across institutions with the goal of increasing exposure to radiology and helping to recruit the next generation of radiologists from varying regions and backgrounds.



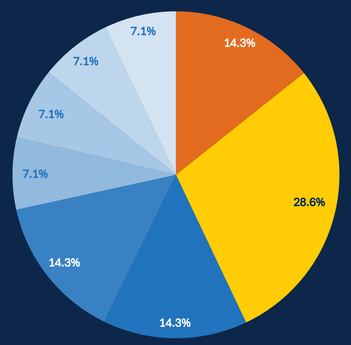
Methods

First-year medical students at the University of Michigan were selected to join RadLine through an electronic application process. Medical student cohort totals included 18 (2023), 20 (2024) and 12 (2025). The first cohort (C1) is now third-years, the second cohort (C2) second-years on clinical clerkships, and the third cohort (C3) first-years. Descriptive statistics were performed on surveys collecting demographic data, perceptions of radiology, and specialty choice post-program.

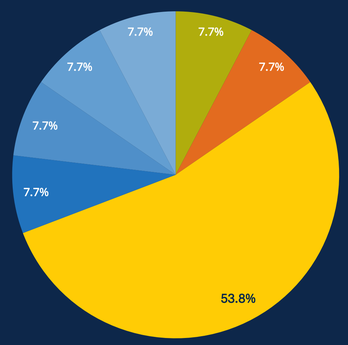
Results

The percentage of students identifying as URiM was 44% in C1, 40% in C2, and 83% in C3. The percentage identifying as female was 53% in C1, 55% in C2, and 67% in C3. Specialty choice response rate was 77% from C1 and 65% from C2. Overall, the top three specialty choices across C1 and C2 were 40.7% undecided, 14.8% Diagnostic/Interventional Radiology, and 11.1% Internal Medicine. Perceptions of radiology were 82% positive, 18% neutral, and 0% negative. Qualitatively, students choosing another specialty expressed that this was still a valuable experience but wanted more intense patient contact (37%) or invasive surgical participation (15%).

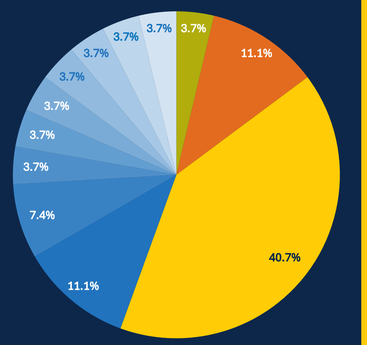
Speciality Choice of Cohort 1



Speciality Choice of Cohort 2

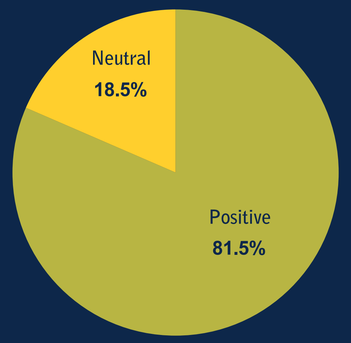


Current Speciality Choice of Cohorts 1 and 2

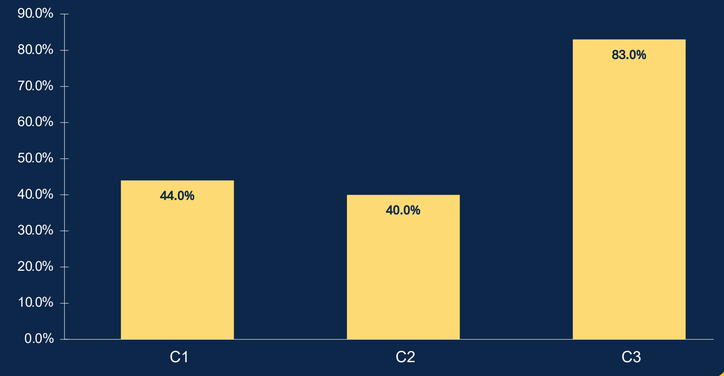


- Interventional Radiology
- Diagnostic Radiology
- Undecided
- Internal Medicine
- Urology
- Neurosurgery
- Neurology
- Emergency Medicine
- Pediatrics
- Ophthalmology
- General Surgery
- Psychiatry

What is your perception of Radiology as a speciality?

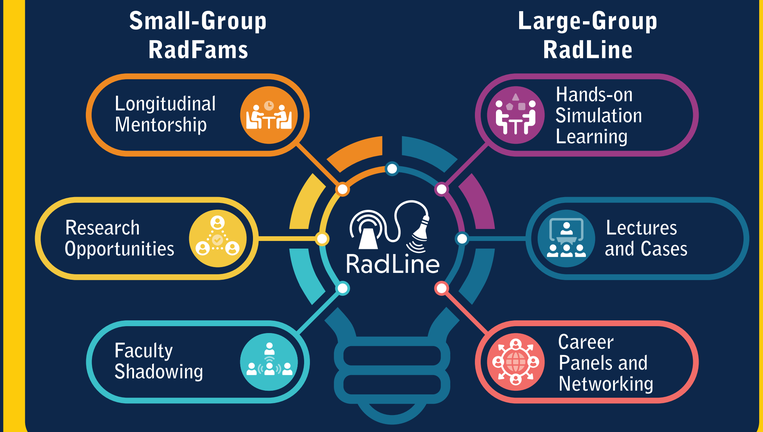


Do you identify as URiM?



Conclusions

The pipeline has increased understanding and interest in radiology for participants. Nearly all students have a positive impression of the field, 14.8% have subsequently declared interventional or diagnostic radiology as their specialty, and 40.7% remain undecided. Although there are existing external pipeline programs and initiatives, the RadLine template provides a more equitable opportunity for medical schools to expose a larger population of students to radiology starting in the preclinical environment and involve them in programing consistently throughout medical school. Students deciding to pursue radiology later in medical school may still benefit from the compiled resources and connections. RadLine aims to expose students to radiology early in medical school, foster longitudinal mentorship and involvement, and recruit the next generation of radiologists from diverse backgrounds.



References

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Disclosures

The authors have no pertinent disclosures.