July 19, 2004

The Department of Radiology announces the acquisition and installation of a Siemens 3T Trio whole body MR scanner. This is the first high-field magnet that is available for human imaging in the state of Iowa. The scanner arrived on July 8, 2004 and is scheduled to be operational on August 3, 2004. Imaging time is to be apportioned between clinical activities (50%) and research projects (50%). The scanner will operate clinically on Mondays and Wednesdays and for research projects on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Friday time slots will alternate between clinical and research operations.

An advisory committee has been established to review applications for use of the dedicated research time on the 3T scanner. The review process is fully outlined on the research page of the MRI web site (http://mri.radiology.uiowa.edu). Applications consist of a short form which emphasizes what MRI resources are required, methods for image acquisition and necessary data analysis. A sample project write-up is provided on the WEB. The advisory committee will evaluate the proposals and allocate time based on their merit, available scanner time, and funding status of the proposal. The current base fee structure is $510/hour for scanner utilization. Other activities and specific scanning procedures (e.g. supplies, gadolinium, image analysis) will incur additional charges. The scanner can be reserved in 30 minute increments. We intend to support a limited number of pilot projects with reduced scanner charges in order to collect feasibility data for extramural funding opportunities.

The advisory committee will meet every other week on Wednesdays. Protocols will be reviewed at this time. Proposals must be submitted by 5 pm the preceding Thursday to provide adequate time for review of the application. Submission of proposals is to be completed on-line and is described in full detail at http://mri.radiology.uiowa.edu/research/outline.html.

Please pass this information on to members of your department who may be interested in taking advantage of this unique resource. If there are questions feel free to contact me directly or any other member of the MR Advisory Committee.

Sincerely,

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Department of Radiology