

CAMRIS Town Hall – December 7, 2022

Re-Introducing Key CAMRIS Personnel

Many new researchers and staff have started using the CAMRIS resources since our last town hall, and with the pandemic interruption to in-person events, we want to ensure the user community knows who is behind CAMRIS' operations.

Co-Directors: John Detre, Ronald Wolf, Dylan Tisdall

Associate Director: Margaret Ryan

Research Technologists: Allison Costa, Jacqui Meeks, Pat O'Donnell, Victoria Siu, Allison Urbaniak

Physicists: Karthik Prabhakaran, Mark Elliott

Director, Research Operations: Kathleen Thomas

Director, Core Facilities: Norman Butler

Director, Fiscal Operations: William D'Arcy

Business Manager: Michael McCandless

Upcoming CAMRIS Meetings

Semi-Annual Town Hall: May 2023 We are re-starting semi-annual town hall meetings to provide updates on CAMRIS resources, operations, and policies. These meetings will be scheduled with the hope that all groups can have at least some representation at the meeting, but recordings will also be made available.

Quarterly Technical Users Meeting: January 2023 Technical users meetings will focus on groups that do MRI methods research, use custom devices in the scanner environment, or are otherwise need to discuss technical operations in greater detail. These meetings have previously occurred sporadically, but we intend to start a regular quarterly schedule.

Who to Contact at CAMRIS

Scanner scheduling and billing issues: Margaret Ryan

Equipment failures or other equipment issues: Technologists and physicists (a ticket system will be coming soon)

Level 1 training: Fill in the form here: <https://redcap.med.upenn.edu/surveys/?s=CAATCREH49>

Level 2 training: We are currently re-evaluating how we offer this training

HUP Orientation for CRCs: Please contact the technologists at HUP (Allison Costa, Allison Urbaniak, and Pat O'Donnell)

Implant and device clearance: Norman Butler, John Detre, and/or Ronald Wolf (a ticket system for this will come online Spring 2023)

New Training for HUP6 Users

The HUP technologist team has asked that all staff who are accompanying research subjects/patients to the scanners contact them to schedule an orientation session. Please email or speak to Allison Costa, Pat O'Donnell, or Allison Urbaniak to schedule an orientation session.

New CAMRIS Statuspage: <https://camris.statuspage.io>

A new webpage is live as of December 8, that contains up-to-date information about the status of CAMRIS-maintained equipment. If you find something that isn't working, and it is not currently listed on the Statuspage, please let the technologists and/or physicists know about the issue.

Rates for FY2023 (Jul 1 2022 – Jun 30 2023)

Rates for FY 2023 are on the CAMRIS website (<https://www.med.upenn.edu/camris/rates.html>). We are asking groups to budget for 3% annual increases to these rates. To facilitate grant budgeting, our goal is to increase these rates gradually each year to keep up with costs, rather than less frequent and larger jumps. Based on Radiology finance office forecasting, we may slightly alter the projected annual increase for future years, and users will be informed of these changes at subsequent town halls.

Update on Scheduling

We recognize that issues with scheduling arise due to both availability of scan time and booking practices. Our current calendar software will be in place until at least 2024, at which point it will likely switch to iLab. This transition will provide an opportunity to review our scheduling practices. In the interim, we will work to collect more granular data on scanner usage.

CAMRIS Protocol Submission and Review

All protocols on CAMRIS scanners should be submitted by following the directions here: <https://www.med.upenn.edu/camris/application-and-faq.html>

Protocols are reviewed the first Monday of each month, and need to be submitted at least 2 weeks in advance in order to ensure sufficient time for all review components.

Improving usability of “techdev” human scanning

Today, we have one IRB protocol that covers both technical and methods research, and qualifying and protocol-evaluation scans. This protocol has become difficult to manage, leading to groups finding it hard to consent lab members for what should be simple protocol testing scan sessions. We are working to split this “monolithic” protocol into several more focused protocols, with the goal of having a new process for doing simple qualification or protocol-test scans in place by late 2023.

Update on UPenn Flywheel

We continue to refine the workflows for UPenn Flywheel, and want to review its uses in four major areas:

Collection: Flywheel is automatically collecting imaging data from CAMRIS scanners. Today, it collects all scans that have an entry in the “Study Comment” DICOM tag (entered when you register the subject). Image files are automatically routed to the correct location on Flywheel if this comment field has the format *subject@group:project*, otherwise they are retained for manual routing. Studies can also be added to Flywheel via manual DICOM transfer, and uploaded via the web or API. Uploaded data is automatically deidentified.

Storage: Images are currently retained for free for 90 days, and then automatically deleted. Groups can register funding sources to pay for long-term data storage.

Retrieval: Data can be accessed via the web interface or a Python API. Flywheel will eventually become the default method for accessing all images acquired on the scanner.

Processing: Flywheel provides access to containerized processing pipelines, called “gears”, for many common image processing tasks. We now have a good handle on the per-run costs for many of these gears.