Meet Siemens Healthineers MReadings: MR in RT

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Varian is part of Siemens Healthineers. Together, we are ideally positioned to push the boundaries of innovation and shape the future of healthcare and cancer care. The team at Varian, a Siemens Healthineers Company, are committed to their work and are passionate about the opportunities ahead for accelerating our global patient impact and transforming oncology. In this section, we introduce you to colleagues from all over the world – people who put their heart and soul into everything they do.

Patrick Kupelian, M.D., FASTRO

Patrick (Pat) Kupelian, M.D., is a Professor of Radiation Oncology at UCLA. He is VP of Medical Affairs at Varian Medical Systems.

Pat graduated with a BS in biology from the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, in 1985. Four years later, he earned his medical degree from the same institution. After an internship at the American University of Beirut Medical Center, Pat completed his residency in radiation oncology at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX, USA, and completed a fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. Following his fellowship, he was the section head of genitourinary malignancies in the Department of Radiation Oncology at the Cleveland Clinic for 8 years. He also served as the Clinical Research Director of the Department of Radiation Oncology at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation.

He is affiliated with several hospitals in the Los Angeles area, including Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and UCLA Santa Monica Medical Center. Although he specializes in genitourinary malignancies, he is an internationally known expert in the development and evaluation of cutting-edge technologies in Radiation Oncology for a variety of anatomic sites. He has pionneered high-dose hypofractionated radiation therapy for prostate cancers. He has also played a significant role in the introduction and implementation of multiple image guidance techniques in radiotherapy. He has authored more than 200 research papers, multiple review papers and book chapters.

Pat is board certified in Radiation Oncology. He is a member of the American Society of Therapeutic Radiation and Oncology (ASTRO), the European Society of Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology, American Society of Clinical Oncology, the American Urological Association and the American Brachytherapy society. He has conducted multiple educational courses at ASTRO and RSNA among others. He also serves as an examiner at the American Board of Radiology.



How did you first come into contact with MRI?

My first experiences with MRI were in the 1980s, during my medical studies in Beirut.

What do you find most motivating about your job – and what are the biggest challenges?

I'm really motivated by the fact my work has such a broad clinical impact on patient care. As for the biggest challenges, I'd have to say compliance restrictions.

What do you think are the most important developments in radiation oncology?

The most important developments we've seen recently are definitely adaptive radiotherapy and the potential to incorporate multimodality imaging information into radiotherapy delivery.

If you could do whatever you wanted for a month, what would you do?

That's easy: I'm a big fan of playing and listening to music, so I'd just spend the whole month doing that.