

Zoom On: Prof. Elizabeth Morris, Breast Imaging Society



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The European Society of Breast Imaging holds its annual scientific meeting in Amsterdam from 26-27 September. Our Zoom On features Professor Elizabeth Morris, Vice President of the U.S. Society of Breast Imaging who will be speaking on 27 September on “Background enhancement on breast MRI: Clinics and research”. In her presentation Prof. Morris will talk about background parenchymal enhancement on breast MRI and how that may impact a woman’s risk of breast cancer. Prof. Morris is Chief of the Breast Imaging Service at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York and a Professor of Radiology at Weill Cornell Medical College.

To find out more, we asked Dr. Morris our 7 questions:

1. What are your key areas of interest and research?

Breast imaging is my main focus. I am particularly interested in early detection of breast cancer using breast MRI and other functional based methods. I believe strongly that early diagnosis of breast cancer saves lives. Modern imaging methods are able to give us a sense of the functionality of the breast tissue and give us information that we previously were unable to see.

2. What are the major challenges in your field?

In radiology we need to demonstrate that what we do positively impacts patient outcome. We can’t be satisfied that our job is done at diagnosis. We need to own and pay attention to the entire chain of events before and after the diagnosis – particularly the patient experience.

3. What is your top management tip?

Nurture talent. Get the right people in place and fantastic stuff will happen.

4. What would you single out as a career highlight?

Working at Memorial Sloan Kettering with the talented staff where every day is a highlight for me. Also, having met so many friends around the world through our mutual breast imaging work is a real honour and highlight.

5. If you had not chosen this career path you would have become a...?

Frankly I can’t imagine anything more wonderful than my current position, but I would have loved to have been a photographer, which is likely not unusual for a radiologist to say. I am visual and like observing, recording and framing interesting parts of life.

6. What are your personal interests outside of work?

Spending time with my family – 2 daughters who are growing too fast. We love to travel and see new things. The family motto is “Have Fun”. Every year we go to Australia to reconnect with family (I am originally from Brisbane).

7. Your favourite quote?

The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science – Einstein
Save a life, save the world - Talmud

Prof. Morris earned her MD at the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine. Following a residency at the New York Hospital/Cornell Medical Center, she joined the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in 1994.

Prof. Morris is a Fellow of the Society of Breast Imaging and of the American College of Radiology (ACR). She is Chair of the ACR MRI BI-RADS Lexicon committee.

Prof. Morris has authored over 100 papers, chapters and books about breast disease with an emphasis on the use of MRI, including studies on the use of MRI for staging breast cancer and for screening women at high risk for cancer.

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