



SHANNON
FARMAKIS, MD, FAAP

WCRG (West County Radiological Group)
at
Mercy Children's Hospital and Mercy Hospital



St. Louis, MO



8 Years in Practice

Practice/National Leadership Activities

- **WCRG:** Staffing Committee, Teleradiology Committee
- **SPR:** Treasurer, member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, Chair of the Finance Committee, member of the Physician Resources Committee, member of the 2020-2022 Taskforce on Emergency Staffing Concerns
- **SPR Research and Education Foundation:** Treasurer
- **ACR:** Chair of the Pediatric Radiology Workforce Committee under the Pediatric Commission, member of the HR Commission and serve on the Executive Committee of the ACR Workforce Survey Workgroup, member of the Pediatric AI Workgroup under the IT Commission, and Councilor-at-large
- **MORADS:** Chair of the Electronics Communications Committee and ACR Medicaid Representative
- **The Society of Chiefs of Radiology at Children's Hospitals:** Designee

If you had to give one piece of advice to trainees considering private practice vs academics what would it be?

Be prepared for both. They're both fantastic and choosing to do one is not mutually exclusive of the other. Things in your lives will change, and your career paths will need to change with them. One practice type might be better for you at some point than the other, so even if you do a fellowship and subspecialize, it's important to keep up your skills in other areas since you may need them again one day. Also, being in private practice does not mean you can't be involved in "academic" work. You can be involved in regional and national organizations, still speak at national meetings, and still publish, if those are things that are important to you.

Why did you decide to join private practice?

I've done academics, teleradiology for a national physician-owned private practice group, and am currently in a traditional multispecialty private practice group. I have liked them all as they each have their own advantages as well as disadvantages. I stayed with the private practice model because I have more autonomy, case diversity, and schedule flexibility while still getting challenging cases and enjoying working with colleagues both in and outside of radiology. More importantly, I still get to interact with patients and families while doing fluoroscopy and ultrasound, something I consider one of the highlights of being a pediatric radiologist.

What is your favorite thing about your work?

I love the challenge that radiology provides. It's like putting together the pieces of a puzzle for the clinical care team. It's not always as simple as connecting the dots but piecing together information from the chart and correlating them with the various imaging exams to form a coherent and encompassing diagnosis. This is especially true in pediatric patients as your diagnosis can offer a solution for the patient and their family. It's very satisfying to know that you've made a meaningful difference in your patients' lives, particularly in those who have their whole lives ahead of them.

Interesting Facts & Hobbies

I'm an avid reader and enjoy historical fiction, science fiction, fantasy, and nonfiction. I workout everyday doing some variation of HIIT, cardio, or weightlifting. I started my career doing 3 years of residency in general surgery before changing to radiology. I'm passionate about pediatric radiology--I believe it is THE best radiology subspecialty out there!