

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNUS

Ernest M. Scalzetti, MD

Class of 1986

Dr. Ernest M. Scalzetti is a Professor of Radiology and Chief of the Thoracic Radiology section in the Department of Radiology, SUNY Upstate Medical University. There he shares in the clinical practice of thoracic imaging and image-guided procedures. He also holds the E. Robert Heitzman Endowed Professorship of Radiology Research. He received his MD degree in 1986 from what was then the SUNY Health Science Center at Syracuse. He stayed in Syracuse for a residency in Diagnostic Radiology, and a fellowship in Cardiopulmonary Radiology. He joined the Upstate faculty in 1991. He lives near Syracuse with his wife of 15 years, and their 6 children.

Dr. Scalzetti's particular area of interest is oncologic imaging, with an emphasis on lung cancer. He is a nationally recognized expert in CT-guided needle biopsy of the lung and mediastinum. He was an early adopter of image-guided radiofrequency ablation for the treatment of primary and secondary lung cancers, and is among the first to show that this modality can be curative in primary lung cancer. He was involved in the ELCAP study, a multicenter clinical trial using CT to screen for lung cancer. He participates in Upstate's Thoracic Oncology Program, a multidisciplinary group that evaluates patients who have thoracic malignancies and recommends evidence-based management. He is a member of the Imaging and Respiratory Committees of the CALGB, a national organization that designs and sponsors multicenter clinical trials in cancer therapy. The National Cancer Institute supports this work. His current research interest is in applying the principles of radiologic-pathologic correlation to lung cancer on a microscopic scale.

The use of CT scanning for diagnosis, patient management and guidance of percutaneous procedures has expanded rapidly. Dr. Scalzetti has been interested in ways of reducing the radiation dose associated with CT while maintaining image quality. He collaborates with Dr. Walter Huda, also of the Department of Radiology at SUNY Upstate Medical University. He has been the author and co-author of several publications on this topic, and is a co-investigator with Dr. Huda on a project funded by an NIH Ro1 grant.

Dr. Scalzetti has been involved in the education of medical students and residents throughout his career. He has twice received the teaching award from the residents in the Department of Radiology. He led the effort to renovate the conference room in the Department. He also has worked with the American Board of Radiology in assembling the Written Board Examination—both as item writer and editor of the Pulmonary section—and as an examiner for the Oral Board Examination.

