

This is my story

Aaron Emfinger, MS, RT (R)(CT)

CT Technologist
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Houston, Texas



He loves those “light bulb moments”

Most people can cite an inspiration that contributed toward their decision to pursue their chosen profession. For Aaron Emfinger, a CT technologist at MD Anderson, his aunt losing her battle with cancer had a significant impact.

Aaron does not come from a family with generations of medical professionals. Yet he was always interested in anatomy and physiology, which led him out of curiosity to take some college X-ray courses to test his interest.

Turns out Aaron and Radiology were a good fit.

After completing his associate’s degree at San Jacinto College, he started the X-ray technology program at MD Anderson’s School of Health Professions and graduated in 2012. For the next six years, Aaron juggled becoming a husband and father to a daughter and twin sons with working toward his master’s in science degree from MD Anderson, which he achieved in 2018.

Aaron’s interest in the role radiology plays in developing the treatment plan for patients never gets old. His favorite part of the job is hearing the stories of patients who come to MD Anderson from around the world. Each story affirms Aaron’s original reason for pursuing a healthcare career, which is doing what he can to make a difference for those he encounters every day.

In addition to administering general radiologic procedures and CT scans, Aaron is a member of the MD Anderson Intraoperative CT (IOCT) team. IOCT uses advanced imaging techniques and specialized equipment allowing for CT guided precision surgery.

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	<p>Aaron’s goal is to become more involved in furthering the radiologic science education process. He is part of his department’s preceptor team and has worked with many MD Anderson students through the years. He particularly enjoys what he calls “the light bulb moment”, which is the point when it is obvious that everything has connected for the student and it suddenly all makes sense. These isolated <i>light bulb moments</i> make for a great day at work for Aaron, as he strives to help students get to where they want their career to take them.</p>
<i>MD Anderson School(s) from which I graduated</i>	MD Anderson School of Health Professions Diagnostic Imaging Program
<i>Graduation Year</i>	BS – 2012 MS – 2018
<i>Current Employer</i>	MD Anderson Cancer Center
<i>Current City</i>	Houston, Texas
<i>Current Position</i>	CT staff radiologic technologist
<i>What is your career motivation?</i>	<p>I was very close to my aunt who lost her battle with cancer in 2002. Although I was too young at the time to make a final decision about my career aspirations, I knew I wanted to be in a profession where I could help others fight their own health-related battles. I also owe a lot of credit to my late grandfather for instilling a sense of hard work, determination, and taking pride in all I do.</p>
<i>Academic area of specialization</i>	Educational Leadership

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<i>Who are your mentors?</i>	<p>Professor Deborah Scoggins' passion for teaching and experiential learning approach was a significant influence in my career choices. Her approachable style and ability to help everyone define the path most suitable for themselves is key to her success in teaching. She continues to be a mentor to me as my career evolves.</p> <p><i>Deborah Scoggins, R.T. (R)(CT)(CV)(M) is an assistant professor at the MD Anderson School of Health Professions.</i></p>
<i>Family Life</i>	Aaron is married with one daughter and twin sons
<i>Graduate school(s) from which I received a degree(s)</i>	MD Anderson School of Health Professions - 2018 Radiologic sciences with an emphasis in Educational Leadership
<i>Undergraduate school(s) from which I received a degree(s).</i>	MD Anderson School of Health Professions - 2012 BS – Diagnostic Imaging Houston, Texas San Jacinto College, 2010 Associates degree in Applied Science Pasadena, Texas
<i>High school from which I received a degree.</i>	Crosby High School, 2007 Crosby, Texas

What's your story?

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