

The business of radiology in Indian context

Dear Sir,

We read with interest the thought-provoking editorial titled, "The business of radiology" by Jankharia in the Oct–Dec 2010 issue of the *Indian Journal of Radiology and Imaging*.^[1] We wish to draw your attention to the fact that the editorial coincides with the completion of a Philips Medical Systems and Radiological Society of North America (RSNA)-funded project entitled, "Developing a Curriculum for Teaching the Business of Radiology" by the Department of Radiology, Johns Hopkins Medical Institution, under the leadership of the acclaimed neuroradiologist Dr. David Yousem.^[2] Therefore, it may not be incorrect to assume that the need for this paradigm shift is being perceived worldwide.

However, inclusion of the curriculum into the 3-year Indian radiology residency training program, we believe, poses unique challenges. First and foremost, radiology faculty in academic institutions may not be in a position to impart this training because their exposure to the *business* of radiology is, by default, minimal. Therefore, academic institutions may have to team up with privately practicing radiologists of good standing to accomplish this task. This may be easier said than done. Secondly, the plate of the current Indian radiology trainee is already overflowing. He is expected to master the physics of imaging, signs of conventional radiology, complexities of cross-sectional imaging, management issues of interventional radiology and the ever elusive world of advances in imaging. Added to it is the mandatory requirement of the research project. The West has responded to this situation by having a 4–5 year radiology residency program. Whether we may follow suit is debatable and in any case beyond the purview of discussion. Nevertheless, inclusion of the curriculum seems to be a daunting task at this moment notwithstanding its

relevance and importance. One of the solutions may be to make lectures on the topic an integral component of the resident review courses.

Incidentally, the aforementioned lectures developed by Dr. David Yousem are freely available for downloads at <http://webcast.jhu.edu/mediasite/Catalog/pages/catalog.aspx?catalogId=7e18b7d5-9c63-487e-aaf1-77a86f83b011>. While not all of them may be relevant to the Indian scheme of things, few such as "I want to make money in radiology", "Strategic Planning" and "Managing Expenses" provide an interesting perspective for young radiologists.

Ajit Harishkumar Goenka

13, Bldg. 3, MHADA Colony, Near SMIT College,
Jalgaon – 425001, India.
E-mail: ajit123goenka@yahoo.com

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