I am delighted to be elected as the new President of The SRT 2018/19, and excited to take things forward with the society. I am responsible for a team of 7 other Committee members, 15 Regional Representatives and our new Medical Student Representative – Emma Watura. The running of the society is a big team effort and I am very grateful to be supported by a hard-working Committee and our invaluable Representatives. We are also backed by the support of Dr John Curtis, our new Consultant Advisor.

There are exciting things in the pipeline for this year, as we continue to modernise the society and develop our member benefits. One of the main projects that we have been working on is a further website update, which will completely renovate our members system. Soon, our website will feature a dedicated members-only area, which members will log in to using their unique username and password. This will enable us to host educational content and resources on the website, which over time will be progressively populated to create a large library for our members. This will include live recordings of the talks that have featured at previous Conferences, educational cases and other videos targeted towards Radiology training, exams, fellowships and careers. Further, we will be streamlining the payment system on our website, so that members (and non-members) can purchase tickets for our Annual Conference and other events with ease. You will also be able to subscribe to our members area using the same system. In summary, the website update and creation of a members area will enable us to focus on maximising the benefits for our members, and we would be open to suggestions from members as to what further content would be of use. In addition to these upgrades, members can also enjoy several other benefits including discounts off other memberships, courses and conferences and a discount off The SRT’s Annual Conference.

I am pleased to announce that The SRT Annual Conference 2020 will be taking place on 11th and 12th May 2020 at the Marriott Renaissance Hotel in Manchester. As we continue to strengthen our ties with the Royal College of Radiologists, we are thrilled to announce that 8 of the Royal College of Radiologists Traveling Professors will be presenting as part of our fantastic programme. We are also excited to welcome Dr Jeanette Dickson (RCR President) to the Conference, who will be delivering her President’s Address. It is our pleasure to welcome back Dr Raman Uberoi (Consultant Interventional Radiologist) to our 2020 Conference as Keynote Speaker, who previously served on The SRT Committee as President. We are also delighted to welcome back another familiar face – Dr Robin Proctor (Consultant Musculoskeletal Radiologist), who also served as previous SRT President from 2007-2009. Our programme is filled with a whole host of highly prestigious speakers and will cover a broad range of specialty topics. Additionally, we will be running several workshops alongside the programme of speakers, which will include a variety of ultrasound-guided and other interventional workshops, FRCR 2B, ‘Becoming a Consultant’ and ‘ST1 Clinical Radiology Application Tips’. As in previous years, we will open applications for abstract submissions in the new year. This provides an excellent opportunity for delegates to present their research as either an oral or poster presentation, and be in with a chance of winning one of many British subspecialty prizes from our sponsors. Delegates will also be able to purchase tickets for our highly popular social event, which will take place on the Monday evening of the Conference. We are all very excited about next year’s Conference and it is certainly one not to miss so make a note in your diary!
The SRT are supporting the Royal College of Radiologists ‘Thoracic Imaging Masterclass’ course which is taking place on Thursday 27th and Friday 28th February 2020. Professor Sujal Desai (Consultant Thoracic Radiologist) is leading the course, which features a special event on Thursday 27th February entitled ‘Society of Radiologists in Training meets Brompton’. This session will provide delegates with the opportunity to submit cases for presentation and review by an expert panel.

Lastly, for those of you that follow us on our Instagram channel (the_official_srt), you will have noticed that we have started posting our new ‘FRCR Cases – What’s Your Diagnosis?’ series. These include a selection of our very own Radiology cases for you to interpret and comment on. If you haven’t subscribed already – what are you waiting for? Our FRCR cases enable you to do a little bit of revision for those all-important examinations whilst browsing your Instagram feed!

This issue of our newsletter features highlights from our 2019 Annual Conference, an article on the fantastic learning resource ‘Radiology Masters’, a short article from Ayesha Jameel on the new ‘Radiology Jam’ FRCR 2B podcast, and more! We are also delighted to publish the winning essay from our 2019 Medical Student Essay Competition, written by Stefan Lam (Barts and The London). Please stay tuned to updates from our social media channels and website for upcoming events and activities. In the mean time, I wish you all the best of luck with upcoming exams and very much look forward to seeing many of you at the 2020 Conference in Manchester!

Become a Member of SRT

It is only £20 a year to join the SRT!

Why become a member of the SRT?

The SRT is a registered charity working to support radiology registrars throughout their training by providing excellent educational resources and organising the Annual Conference which includes a varied programme to suit the needs of radiology trainees from ST1 - 5.

Below is a list of current membership benefits offered:

~ Special discounted rates for members to attend the SRT Annual Conferences
~ Showcase your work as a poster or oral presentation at the well-recognised national SRT Annual Conference and be in with a chance of winning a prize sponsored by the British Sub-Specialty Societies (BSGAR, BMUS, BSUR, BSSR, BSBR, BSIR, BSNR, BSTI, BSHNI, BSER)
~ 20% discount off British Institute of Radiology (BIR) membership
~ Discounts off popular FRCR exam revision courses
~ Up to £100 off the South West FRCR 2b Revision Course
~ £50 discount off the FRCR 2a Aintree Revision Course
~ £50 discount off the BIR Essential Physics Revision Course
~ £99 discount off the London Head & Neck imaging Course
~ Subsidised ticket to our Annual Conference Dinner
~ 20% discount off Radiology Recipes Interview Course for Specialty Training
~ Medical student membership of £10 enables students to enter The SRT Medical student Essay Competition with the prize worth £150 and a mention in The SRT Newsletter
~ You can save up to £200 in the academic year if you take advantage of the special discounts we have negotiated!

You can become a member by registering online at www.thesrt.co.uk

You can save up to £200 in the academic year if you take advantage of the special discounts we have negotiated!
The SRT Regional Representatives

The SRT is a trainee-led society that aims to engage with radiology trainees across the UK. This year, the SRT Committee have rolled out the project of recruiting an SRT Representative from each training scheme in the UK and so far we are delighted to have 12 SRT representatives.

The role of the SRT Representative is to:
- Promote our Annual Conference to trainees
- Organise the SRT Trainer of the Year awards in their training scheme
- Provide the SRT Committee with any news/achievements from their training scheme and trainees to include in the SRT Newsletter
- Inform their trainees of educational opportunities which are advertised through our website (and come with a discount for SRT members!)

Why get involved?

This is an excellent opportunity to develop your leadership and management skills that will be useful when it comes to applying for Consultant jobs.

Only Training Schemes with an SRT Representative are able to nominate Trainers for the SRT Trainer of the Year Awards and have local achievements documented in the SRT Newsletter.

The SRT Representative will get £10 off the SRT Annual Conference fee for each trainee that attends from his or her training scheme.

If you are interested in becoming the SRT Representative for your training scheme please email president@thesrt.co.uk with a 100 word statement on what you will bring to this role.

SRT Representatives 2019/20:

Birmingham
Dr Mert Sirakaya (ST2)

Bristol
Dr Naomi Fenton (ST5)

Cambridge
Dr Flora Daley (ST5)

East Midlands
Dr Charlotte Toh (ST1)

Hull & East Yorkshire
Dr Sandra Ngu (ST3)

Leeds
Dr Karen Lau (ST4)

Liverpool
Dr Nicolas Ellerby (ST3)

North Central & East London
Dr Anisha Bhagwanani (ST4)

Northern Ireland
Dr Aaron Campbell (ST5)

North Wales
Dr Canice O’Mahony (ST2)

Plymouth
Dr Mohammed Babsail (ST3)

Portsmouth
Dr Salma Kamaleddeen (ST4)

Sheffield
Dr Sam Kular (ST3)

Southampton
Dr Simon Wong (ST2)

South Wales
Dr Sarah Anane-Adusei (ST1)
The SRT enjoyed another wonderful Annual Conference this May 2019 in Cardiff, with trainee delegates from across the UK convening in the lovely Hilton Hotel for two days of inspiring and educational lectures and workshops.

We were lucky to host some fantastic presentations from many of the country’s leading Radiologists who did a great job of keeping our trainees engaged over the two days. It is worthwhile to mention that we had five RCR travelling professors on the podium to share their wealth of knowledge and expertise with us!

Throughout both days, our delegates were able to attend innovative and interactive workshops on ultrasound imaging, ultrasound guided breast biopsies and both vascular and non-vascular interventional radiology. These were delivered in small groups so that our trainees could receive one-to-one guidance from some of the most respected interventionists around, including Prof Hans-Ulrich Laasch and Dr Raman Uberoi.

In order to support our trainees at all stages of their training, we delivered targeted seminar workshops with an ‘Interview Tips for ST1’ seminar, FRCR 2b workshops and finally a ‘Becoming a consultant’ seminar.

To start things off on the right foot, Dr Miranda Harvie presented an interactive session on the art of chest x-ray interpretation, providing many interesting cases for our audience. This was followed by talks on discrepancies by Dr James Stephenson, and pearls and pitfalls in head and neck imaging by Dr Steve Connor. Prof. Frank Gaillard, Founder of Radiopedia, was sadly unable to make the Conference in person all the way from Australia, but graciously provided us with an exclusive video presentation on errors in neuroradiology. Dr Declan O’Regan invited us to imagine the future of radiology in his talk on AI in Cardiac Imaging before Prof. Bruno Morgan took us on a journey to explore the past history of forensic imaging – from King Richard III to present day! Lt. Colonel Ian Gibb then presented a sobering, yet very enlightening talk on post-mortem imaging in the military.

Our Keynote Speaker, Dr Vikas Shah, had our delegates interacting with a great presentation on Bowel Ischaemia. The day’s lectures came to a close with our final theme of emergency imaging, comprising of skeletal imaging in trauma, abdominal emergencies, and lastly, an on-call cases quiz to rouse the audience delivered by Dr Peter Mullaney, Dr John Curtis and Prof. Mark Callaway respectively.

Our second day started off with an opportunity for some of our trainees to share their research. Dr Stephanie Owen won the best overall oral presentation with her brilliant talk on ‘Investigating headache in children – are we meeting current NICE guidelines?’ Additionally we had over 50 poster presentations on show in the ballroom for our delegates to peruse through during lunch and coffee breaks. Nine prizes sponsored by each radiology subspecialty were awarded to the best posters.

Day two of the conference was also host to exciting lectures on Adult and Paediatric Interventional Radiology, which were delivered by Dr Raman Uberoi and Dr Samantha Chippington respectively. These were followed by musculoskeletal imaging talks on MRI knee imaging by Dr Eugene McNally and London 2012 Olympics cases by Dr Steven James. We had subspecialty presentations on Cardiac, Paediatric and Breast imaging by Dr Stephen Harding, Prof. Subhasis Chakraborty and Prof Kate Gower-Thomas respectively. Our keynote speaker, Dr Vikas Shah, returned to deliver another interactive session on imaging in the post-operative abdomen before the day’s presentations were brought to a close with an inspiring talk by Dr Andrew Plumb on how to get into radiology research.

Many of our delegates also came along to enjoy our conference dinner, which was a great opportunity for trainees and speakers to socialise over some lovely food and drink!

We look forward to welcoming you all to our Annual Conference 2020 to be held in Manchester. We plan on upping the ante further with more workshops and a whole new line-up of speakers to attend so please keep posted!
Could you explain what Radiology Masters is to our readers who may not have heard of it?

JC: Radiology Masters is a new platform which brings the experience of learning directly from an expert consultant right to the palm of your hand. Our concise video tutorials work through the salient facts of key radiology topics. Whilst there is a strong focus on passing your exams, we’ve got the whole of radiology in our sights with rich content for life long learning. We also host regular live screencasts using a unique technology that allows simultaneous realtime review of DICOM images by participants on a global scale.

Why did you create radiologymasters.com?

JC: We wanted to think of an alternative way of getting radiology teaching across to as many people as possible. I was inspired by looking at YouTube videos for my son to help him with his homework; they were a really good way of getting teaching across and thought it was a method that could work for radiology. I got together with Dr Daniel Fascia and Dr Radhika Prasad and we taught ourselves how to create the videos, which has been fun for us. We’ve tried to make them simple and short, keeping videos around 5 minutes, though where necessary we’ve gone over that a little bit! The way I see it, when you teach, and that person uses that knowledge in their work or passes on that knowledge to another person, you’re ultimately helping to save lives.

What are your aims for the website?

JC: My aims are to allow people to enjoy learning radiology through more than just reading books and in a way that hopefully means they’ll be able to retain information for longer. We currently run webinars designed to get people through the FRCR exam but in the future we’ll do more videos covering other topics.

How do you think teaching in radiology has changed?

JC: It’s changed because we’re now in the digital era where almost everyone has a smartphone. One benefit to that is you can now learn on the go. So if you’re sitting on a bus you can plug your headphones in and watch a Radiology Masters video. Compare that to reading a book - it’s short, simple, very visual and convenient.

Any last words for our readers?

Take a look at www.radiologymasters.com then come and make friends with us at @rad_masters!
A Taster in Radiology by Lara Jehanli (FY2)

Sometimes preparing a radiology application can feel like a tick-box exercise, undergoing various tasks to gain enough points for your application. However, a taster week not only shows commitment to specialty; it provides an invaluable opportunity to explore if the specialty is really suited to you.

I chose to apply for a taster week in a tertiary centre as I wanted to gather experience in a range of departments and meet trainees at all levels. I was able to arrange this through Dr John Curtis after meeting him at the SRTs annual conference in 2019 - an invaluable networking opportunity!

The first thing I noticed is that all the radiology trainees were... happy. Even ST4 trainees revising for their 2B exams seemed (somewhat) relaxed! Everyone was so excited to hear I was interested in Radiology and would almost always say “do it, it’s great”. Trainees always had a lot to say about why they loved the specialty, or were offering to show me interesting scans they’d seen on call. To see doctors so satisfied with their work, especially at a time of under-staffing and increased workload, was a relief. I learned a lot about the pros and cons of radiology training, what trainees do day-to-day, and about the exams process. I was warned that the exams were tough, but the trainees I met seemed to all support each other and share knowledge and resources.

Getting to see a whole unit dedicated to interventional radiology was a highlight for me. I watched a prostate artery embolisation and CT-guided biopsies all done in dedicated IR theatres and with innovative technology. For me, the use of modern technology makes Radiology appealing and way ahead of other specialties.

For Radiology, a taster week is particularly beneficial as exposure to it during medical school and foundation training can be very limited. My exposure during my taster week really showed me a balanced view of Radiology and reaffirmed that my decision to apply for the specialty is the right one.

My Experience of Radiology during Medical School - Curiosity never killed the cat

Stefan Lam (Barts and The London)

Erwin Schrödinger was a physicist renown for his work in quantum theory and was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1933. His famous thought experiment ‘Schrödinger’s cat’ was used to explain the flawed interpretation of quantum superposition (1). The essence of his proposed experiment was to imagine a cat placed in a box alongside a vial of poison that had a 50-50 chance of being released, thus killing the cat. One can only assume that the cat is both dead and alive until the box is opened, and the fate of the cat is discovered. Every specialty has a box as such, with a cat on the inside, and it is only by opening the box that one will discover whether the specialty is dead to them, or alive. It was my curiosity that made me approach the box - that is Radiology - and there has not been a hint of regret ever since.

In retrospect, I had begun developing some of the skills that made me suitable to Radiology during my childhood. I had a keen sense of observation and would notice when things were out of the ordinary, even if it were ever so slightly. I would be able to tell if someone had used a pen on my desk, or if someone were burning a cold. I was very much a visual learner and excelled in tasks relating to spatial reasoning. All of these traits allowed me to indulge in a game of ‘spot the difference’ more than most children would. As I entered into my adult years, I knew that I wanted to pursue a career that not only made a difference to many lives but also one that made an immediate impact. Being a man of few words, I strongly value effective communication - choosing the right words and making them count; a virtue that I have learnt to be of great importance as a radiologist. I have always had an interest in technology, and how apt it was to see that Radiology combined two of my passions - technology and medicine.

I was first introduced to Radiology through the medical school curriculum. I recall having one or two lectures on interpreting chest radiographs during our preclinical years. We were then assessed on common pathologies at the end-of-the-year data interpretation exam. During our clinical years, we were exposed to more imaging as part of the diagnostic process, and throughout our clinical placements. One part of the RCR Undergraduate Radiology curriculum (2) is ‘imaging in common presentations’, which has been adequately covered during lectures and placements, and also assessed during our OSCE exams over the years. ‘Common emergency conditions’ make up another part of the curriculum, and has been taught well, except for misplaced endotracheal tube and central venous catheter on a chest radiograph, and calcification in abdominal radiograph. The curriculum also outlines fundamental principles of radiology required to prepare students for life as a foundation doctor; but the topics of patient safety, patient awareness and experience, and interacting with the radiology department were insufficiently covered. For the most part, the medical school adhered to the curriculum guidelines.

It was when I started clinical placements in my 3rd year of medical school that I began to give serious thought as to my future career. Maintaining a work-life balance is something I prioritise, and with that in consideration, I surveyed the internet for specialties that
matched my expectations accordingly. I stumbled upon a diagram by ‘Messly’ that ranked specialties in the UK according to their overall satisfaction and workload (3). Clinical radiology ranked 3rd on the list behind General Practice and Histopathology. Little did I know, I was about to take the life-changing step of opening Schrödinger’s box. I began to read online about a career in Radiology and training in the UK through websites such as the RCR, SRT and Radiology Cafe, to name a few. The SRT’s medical student essay prize caught my eye as I was intrigued by the essay topic (Radiology & AI) and decided to participate in it. This was an excellent opportunity to read around the field of Radiology and the applications of AI, as my passion for technology piqued my interest in the specialty. I attended the RCR Undergraduate Day later in my 3rd year and also ran to be part of the Radiology Society committee as treasurer. After my final exams, I took the initiative to organise a one week attachment with the Radiology department in order to gain exposure to the specialty and during my short stint, my interest was sealed. I had learnt the fate of the cat in the box - and it could not have been more alive.

I am currently in my penultimate year of medical school and it is shaping up to be a memorable one. For my SSC this year, I am working on an interventional radiology (IR) audit on the use of ViaBahn stents in the treatment of cephalic arch stenosis in haemodialysis patients. This has given me the opportunity to present the outcomes of the audit to the IR department, as well as a poster presentation at CIRSE in September; I am also in the process of publishing the results of the audit. As part of my school’s Radiology Society committee, I helped to organise and host a national undergraduate radiology teaching conference in January. The conference was a highly successful event as we received excellent feedback from attendees. This inspired me to submit an application for the ‘RCR Undergraduate Society of the Year’ award on the basis of this event. I will be attending the SRT Conference 2019 and the RCR Undergraduate Day 2019, as these will be fantastic opportunities to learn more about the ongoing research in Radiology and to network with current trainees and consultants. After having discovered Radiology, I have decided to apply for an intercalated degree commencing next academic year.

Moving forward, I now have a much clearer direction for my future career and intend to continue looking for opportunities to contribute to the field of Imaging and Radiology. I have been accepted to do an intercalated BSc in Imaging Sciences at King’s College London next year. This is especially exciting for me because of the newly opened London Medical Imaging & AI Centre, which would enable me to undertake a research project in AI. The intercalated year will also allow me to continue working on other audits and papers on the side. I will continue to be part of the Radiology Society committee next year, and intend to organise the annual teaching conference once again. I am also working with a radiology trainee to organise a national Radiology discrepancy conference in January next year. I plan to use the opportunities of my final year SSC and elective to look at how different a role Radiology has in a developing country and also attach to a mechanical thrombectomy centre in London. I am keen on applying for one of the imaging-based Academic Foundation Programme posts in Cambridge or London, as this is an opportunity to spend a block of four months dedicated to research.

I believe that it is crucial to raise awareness for a specialty as early as medical school. It is important for Radiology societies to form a closer partnership with undergraduate societies in order to support the organisation of high quality events for a wider promotion amongst the student body; the involvement of trainees in these events are paramount. Furthermore, there is a need for radiologists to work with medical schools to better implement the RCR’s undergraduate curriculum through the delivery of Radiology-related teaching. This will not only ensure that the doctors of tomorrow are competent, but will also allow radiologists to raise awareness and stimulate enthusiasm for their specialty during taught lectures. Radiology should also jump on the bandwagon of social media promotion. Regular posts on social media on common radiological pathologies are helpful for revision, but can also arouse curiosity for the specialty. Informative videos on groundbreaking techniques in Radiology, similar to those on surgical techniques, would be another way to attract interest and put Radiology on the map. Many Radiology trainees that had a surgical interest were drawn to IR, so the promotion of IR could be key to attracting more medical students to the specialty. I strongly believe that many more would be interested in pursuing a career in Radiology if they were better informed.

There has never been a more exciting time for the field of Radiology with the recent advancements in AI technology. The future may appear to be bleak to the uninformed eye, but I beg to differ. Although the role of the radiologist may gradually be augmented (as it has been over the last few decades), there is always something new on the horizon in this ever advancing specialty; this has fueled my passion for Radiology and I look forward to applying for a training number in the near future. While many will leave the box untouched, it is a pity that they will never discover the fate of the cat. For I can most assuredly say that my curiosity did not kill the cat. References


A few words from the newly elected BSIRT Vice-Chair

Jim Zhong (IR Fellow)

We live in an age of medical and technological innovation, in which interventional radiology (IR) has flourished. Interventional radiologists must continue to concentrate on the clinical value of the specialty by seeing patients and engaging with multidisciplinary management.

My current role as chair of the British Institute of Radiology has fostered links with allied healthcare professionals including radiographers, physicists, scientists and industry, which I hope to utilise as vice-chair of the BSIRT to create a more multidisciplinary environment at future BSIR meetings. Medical students are the future of IR and should also benefit from increased exposure to IR, which is why I have supported programs such as the Radiological Imaging and Intervention Symposium Edinburgh (RIISE) over the last two years and will continue to engage with similar schemes to raise awareness of our exciting field.

Since my previous stint on the BSIRT, I have strived to promote IR through work undertaken with the Interventional Oncology UK and Paediatric Interventional Radiology subspecialty groups within BSIR, which have enriched my own learning and development.

I hope to continue building networks with other IR societies, particularly working with the European trainee forum (ETF), the Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR) and Society of Interventional Oncology (SIO) in the USA, to promote international collaborations and set up joint educational initiatives.

It would be a great pleasure and honour to work towards these goals as vice-chair of the BSIRT.

For further information or to request a sponsorship package please contact us:

president@thesrt.co.uk  secretary@thesrt.co.uk  Phone: 07760265919

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