

Deadline: 16th August 2020

Title: Members of the BSIR recently voted in favour of IR becoming a specialty in the UK. Outline how you would envisage the optimal training pathway from medical school to becoming an IR consultant. 500 words.

Introduction.

The recent BSIR vote in favour of Interventional radiology (IR) becoming a UK speciality presents a unique opportunity to develop a radical, innovative and supportive IR training pathway. The optimal pathway will reflect the central IR expertise in diagnostic radiology with a primary focus on trainees as image guided surgeons. The training pathway should be under the umbrella of the Royal College of Radiologists and allow the lateral movement of trainees into diagnostic radiology.

Medical School.

IR currently suffers from a lack of representation in the undergraduate medical curriculum across Europe (Theodoulou *et al.*, 2020). A recent study of medical students in England revealed low levels of knowledge, interest and awareness of IR (Atiiga, Drozd and Veettil, 2017). This lack of representation amongst medical students correlates with the national shortage of IR and diagnostic radiologists. The shortage is estimated to increase by 2023 to 31% (*Clinical radiology UK workforce census report 2018 | The Royal College of Radiologists*). A greater emphasis on IR should be placed at the medical student stage to guide motivated students toward the speciality. This could come in the form of two interventions; practical IR simulations and IR rotations during medical school. In addition, the increasing prevalence of obesity makes US guided cannulation increasingly necessary and would be a new competency for medical students. To enhance IR knowledge, medical finals should include both written and OCSE based IR assessments. Finally, the introduction of a 'Duke-Elder' style competitive exam would raise the profile of IR and provide opportunities for applicants (Figure 1.).

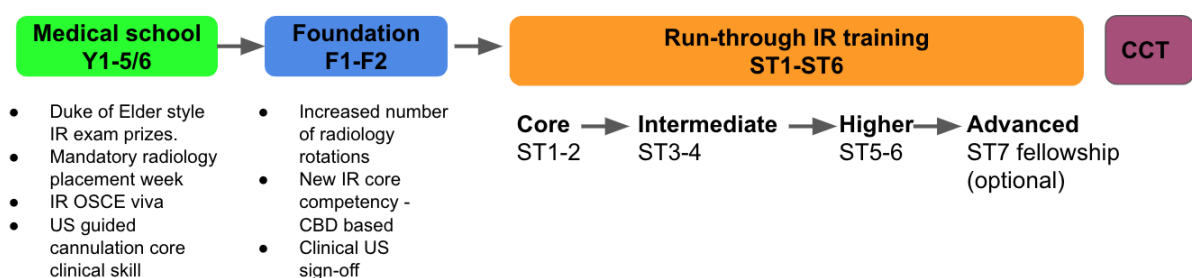


Figure 1. The proposed run-through pathway from medical school to CCT. Entry into the run-through program would be on a competitive basis with attention to commitment to the speciality and evidence of achievement considered.

Foundation training.

The Introduction of an IR core competency during foundation training would raise the profile of the speciality. Given the paucity of foundation year radiology rotations, more

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placements UK wide would enhance clinical experience in radiology and career development opportunities for applicants.

IR speciality training.

Speciality training would centre on competency based modules to reach consultant status. The content of modules and length of training is flexible to allow IR trainees to undertake further specialisation and to allow movement of trainees at ST2 into diagnostic radiology if they wish after completion of relevant core competencies. The ST1-2 years of the pathway would involve the some overlap of core competencies with diagnostic radiology training to. ST3-4 would begin intermediate IR training with significant time spent on an on-call IR rota, with trainees paired with consultants and a 'novice period' akin to that anaesthetics training. This will enhance trainees exposure to emergency cases, increase procedural experience and complete core competencies. ST5-6 would involve completion of final fellowship exams, greater responsibility for lower trainees and preparation for consultant jobs. To facilitate specialist interests and personal development, advanced ST7 fellowship years would finish training with a year of research, training and further development.

Conclusion

IR is on the cutting age of medicine and UK medical training. The development of a new training pathway is an opportunity not only to develop a innovative and desirable training program but can also re-shape medical school education and thus enhance the provision of clinical care across all specialities.

References (25 words in main text)

Atiiga, P. A., Drozd, M. and Veettil, R. (2017) 'Awareness, knowledge, and interest in interventional radiology among final year medical students in England', *Clinical Radiology*. W.B. Saunders Ltd, 72(9), pp. 795.e7-795.e12. doi: 10.1016/j.crad.2017.04.012.

Clinical radiology UK workforce census report 2018 | The Royal College of Radiologists.

Theodoulou, I. *et al.* (2020) 'A prospective study integrating a curriculum of interventional radiology in undergraduate education: a tetra-core simulation model', *CVIR Endovascular*. SpringerOpen, 3(1), p. 12. doi: 10.1186/s42155-020-0104-y.