

## Outline ideas to promote IR in medical school/at workplace

Interventional Radiology (IR) is an innovative specialty which provides minimally invasive, cost-effective, diagnostic and therapeutic procedures across various medical and surgical specialities. In mid-1980s IR had begun its transition from diagnostic management to therapeutic and has been expanding exponentially since<sup>[1]</sup>. However, being an emerging field; it already encounters challenges of personnel shortage and turf-wars<sup>[2]</sup>. Increasing awareness of IR amongst medical students and doctors can resolve these difficulties by promoting recruitment and informing referring clinicians of the realm of procedures IR now offers<sup>[3]</sup>. The following is a proposed programme that endeavours to “Expose, Educate and Enforce” IR in the Medical industry.

### **Expose: Introducing IR**

Creating an IR university society is a popular method of encouraging interest. It is a platform controlled by students, and events are tailored to their needs entirely. Societies can host networking events such as “career days” where individuals can engage with current IR professionals to obtain first-hand knowledge of the specialty.

In the era of social media, mass promotion can be achieved by utilising avenues such as Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, etc. By simply posting statuses, interesting cases, blogging/vlogging - we can reach out and communicate with individuals on a personal level. This is also a great way of advertising upcoming IR conferences/events, extending the invitation to a larger audience.

### **Educate: Learning IR**

Integrating radiology in the medical school curriculum has shown to inspire interest in radiology as a career<sup>[4]</sup>. This can be achieved by delivering teaching sessions in the form of lectures, small group tutorials, case discussions and near-peer programmes.

A series of webinars/videos can be created and made accessible to all healthcare professionals of varying backgrounds to gradually augment their understanding of IR.

Mentoring has proven to be beneficial in giving direction and 1:1 advice tailored to a specific individual. A hierarchal format of mentoring can engage, and motivate, individuals of all capabilities to learn about IR and gain vital CV enhancing tips.

One of the most effective methods of education would be in the form of workshops, during which attendees would be able to familiarise themselves with imaging modalities and specialised equipment utilised in IR. Common procedures can also be demonstrated allowing recipients to gain insight in to the methods by which they are performed.

### **Enforce: Performing IR**

The final step is to enforce the previous steps in practice which can be achieved by creating placements for medical students in IR, and designing taster weeks for doctors. By observing how an IR department works in reality, individuals will be able to appreciate that IR is no longer an addendum to other specialties. Interested individuals can also be invited to shadow IR on calls to gain insight in emergencies encountered by this speciality.

In the future, there is a possibility of introducing simulation in IR, through use of mannequins to practice specific techniques. This has proven to be immensely valuable across other areas of training<sup>[5]</sup>.

This programme highlights measures that can be taken promote IR and support individuals aspiring to pursue a career in it.

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**Words 499**

## **References**

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