



A CAREER IN RADIOLOGY

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Clinical Radiology Trainee

What first attracted you to radiology?

I trained in Medicine before changing specialties to clinical radiology. I was attracted by the position of the specialty at the forefront of technological advances in medicine. The landscape is changing rapidly and imaging led decision making is increasing pivotal in patient care from how we manage acute stroke to follow up of chronic disease.

What do you enjoy most about the job?

The breadth and the variety. We see the sickest, most interesting patients from every specialty in the hospital. We are regularly surprised by things we have never seen before and we are often the first to make the diagnosis. Intervention is rapidly expanding, especially in the field of cancer management, and can sometimes provide the cure.

What do you find most challenging?

The exponential increase in demand for ever more complex studies, resulting in heavier workloads on understaffed departments, is difficult to manage. On a personal level, I miss the direct patient contact and continuity of care that I had as a medic.

Has anything surprised you about the specialty?

There are a myriad of opportunities to advance your career in different directions from the outset; from research, to teaching, to management. There is ever increasing subspecialisation, so the day-to-day variety for a radiologist is incredible.

What do you consider the most important attributes of a good radiologist?

An eye for detail is obviously important; but more so the ability to integrate basic scientific knowledge of anatomy, physiology and pathology with the clinical details and the available imaging to identify the cause of a patient's problems. The radiologist is central to many MDTs and excellent communication skills are required to convey the findings with the correct emphasis.

Is there any advice you could give to a final year or FY trainee considering radiology?

Get involved as early as possible in your career. Radiology applications outstrip the training places available yearly and are very competitive. Radiology lends itself to easy data gathering for audit and most departments will have monthly audit meetings. Get in touch with your local registrars for help and advice.