

TRAINING IN RADIOLOGY:

Radiology is one of the fastest growing specialities in medical care. The growth is in all aspects, ranging from introduction of new modalities and procedures to increased numbers of exams and a growing demand of these services. This has seen an unprecedented growth in the number of aspirants to this speciality. With this growth there has come a pressure on the trainers to increase the training options available.

In addition to this there has been an increasing body of knowledge that the trainees need to learn and an increasing number of competencies for them to acquire. Unfortunately the training and assessment systems in Pakistan have not kept pace with the increased expectations. A number of bodies are offering qualifications in radiology and related sciences. The quality and rigor of these qualifications varies greatly. These include diplomas (DMRD) and degrees (MD, PhD) by various universities and certificate courses (usually in ultrasound) from many regulated and unregulated centres. There is no standardisation even among the qualifications bearing the same name e.g. DMRD. The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan which is the largest institute in Pakistan offering post graduate qualifications has long been the bastion of maintenance of quality in its programs. However the quality initiatives have largely been targeted at the examinations and other assessment systems, with very little heed being paid to standardisation of the training leading up to the exams. This variability extends to all aspects of training.; ranging from the physical facilities to the educational opportunities to the commitment and quality of the trainers available. This variability is evident in the examination results and performance of the trainees in the certifying examinations and in the practical life.

As we move forward it is important that quality of training not be compromised in a pursuit of pushing an increasing number of trainees through the system. The profession is not doing it self any favour by encouraging mediocrity among its practioners.

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