**What you have learnt from NIRS23 and how do you feel it has impacted your view of IR as a career?**

As an aspiring radiologist, NIRS23 was a fantastic opportunity to learn about the broad range of procedures Interventional Radiologists perform.

It was insightful to hear Dr Krishnan’s talk on the IR procedures performed to treat conditions such as fibroids and pelvic congestion syndrome. As an FY1 who’s debating whether to pursue diagnostic or interventional radiology, it was amazing to see the impact IR can have on women’s health through minimally invasive procedures to alleviate chronic pain and increase the chance of a successful pregnancy. Recent studies and media coverage have highlighted how women in chronic pain are sometimes taken less seriously in healthcare. (1) There is a huge potential in IR for patients with gynaecological conditions to be offered minimally invasive options in the future as the field grows and thus begin to address some of the health inequalities women face.(2)

Foundation doctors have minimal exposure to IR compared to other specialties.(3) Furthermore, it is rare get the opportunity to assist in IR procedures, so the workshops were a fantastic opportunity to perform simulated IR procedures, something difficult to get a feel for through observing. The workshops featured the latest technology in guided procedures and worked in tandem with Dr Haslam’s talk on the future of IR and gave me an indication of how medical devices in IR may evolve during our training.

Dr Nayak’s talk on the strengths and limitations of AI in stroke neuroradiology was very topical and gave us an insight into how AI can aid radiologists in streamlining the thrombectomy pathway in stroke patients.(4) As an FY1 part of the SFP I was unsure on what I should focus on for my research project next year, however Dr Nayak’s talk has inspired me to get involved in an AI CT Imaging project run by my Neurology department to learn more about AI algorithms.

It was great to learn about IR’s role in anaesthetics and major trauma . The talks from anaesthetists demonstrated how the scope of IR can grow in the future with local sedation being used safely in patients. Furthermore, Dr Tingerides’ talk on IR in major trauma gave an insight into where IR can play a role when surgery may be too risky in paediatric patients. It was useful to learn about the growing scope of IR and how more sub specialisations may come about in the future.

The innovation workshop exposed us to skills like pitching and brainstorming business ideas which was particularly useful as more doctors are pursuing fields such as tech and consulting alongside their clinical practise.(5) Developing a wider skill set can allow future radiologists to successfully take up opportunities in other fields.

To conclude, NIRS23 was a conference well targeted for the tech focussed aspiring radiologists of today and gave us a great insight into how technology can guide the future scope of the specialty. Future conferences may benefit with more doctors from other specialties discussing how IR procedures can benefit their patient cohorts.

Words: 495

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