

## Launching the R-ITI case race!



Here Professor Adrian K Dixon - Warden of the Faculty of Clinical Radiology – makes the case

for getting involved in the R-ITI project by contributing cases to the growing validated case archive (VCA), while Phil Cook (below) tells of the significance of this part of the project to the training of radiologists.



First year trainee Luisa Disini pictured with the validated case archive to be made available to all trainee schemes in the near future.

Now that the academies at Leeds, Norwich and Plymouth are operational and working very well and the electronic learning database modules (eLD) that also forms part of the R-ITI project is coming along, our attention now falls on filling the VCA as quickly as possible.

In the very near future it will be easy for trainees in all training centres to benefit from the electronic resources made available by R-ITI – the eLD and the VCA. However for the latter to realise its potential we need to create more - and more ! - cases for our unique archive.

Cases in the VCA will be used for local training, examinations, assessment of competency for on-call and probably revalidation purposes, etc.

In the future the case archive will be used for self-assessment for more senior

colleagues and possible revalidation. This is a good time to get involved in a development that will help shape all of our futures – for the best.

We will soon be writing to all the heads of training schemes as well as the regional post graduate education advisors to get them involved in what we are calling the R-ITI case race. The aim is to encourage all our radiology colleagues to submit as many cases as possible to the dedicated VCA team (see box for details). With staff on hand to take potential case ‘harvesters’ through the easy stages of setting up, we are trying to make the process as ‘friction free’ as possible.

To date we have found that trainees are very keen to get involved and this activity can be cited as a bona fide educational activity on their CV.

We now want to hear from consultant colleagues who can even gain some CPD points for accepted cases! The R-ITI team and those involved from the RCR are attending a number of radiology events over the next few months, so if you would like to know more or arrange a conversation then let us know.

**My hope is that if one in two consultants submitted five cases each we would rapidly hit our target. The race is on . . .**

To find out more or get involved in either harvesting or validating cases for the VCA, contact: [vca.support@riti.org.uk](mailto:vca.support@riti.org.uk) or call the team on 01752 764411

The R-ITI website has more details on the process involved – [www.riti.org.uk](http://www.riti.org.uk)

Phil Cook, consultant radiologist from Truro who has been working on the R-ITI project for the last four years, describes the significance of the validated case archive (VCA) part of the R-ITI project . . .



to learn on in various ways. With the VCA they can learn about the variation of abnormal appearances in patients and the various strategies that radiologists have for interrogating and interpreting a range of investigations.

What the VCA offers is access to a range of normal and abnormal cases in an image bank that is structured, robust and has very specific detailed findings and diagnoses. The trainee can now search for very precise information. Previously other image archives have not been able to do this. This is a breakthrough in the training of radiologists as every trainee will have access – from anywhere they like at any time they like - to a rich resource validated by experts within the UK.

Currently trainees learn ‘apprentice style’ in that they sit with the radiologist and see how they report. What they don’t see is what goes on beyond the initial impression – the thought processes a radiologist uses to make interpretations that produce realistic and relevant diagnosis.

This is where the VCA comes into its own. It is a bank of quality assured real life cases which have been anonymised for trainees

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“I think it is one of the major achievements that our college has ever been involved in and this is because it provides a fantastic educational facility across the whole of radiology and indeed across the whole of medicine. It provides a basis on which you can build continually for the future – a textbook for example quickly becomes out of date but this can be built on and updated. It is really a living educational programme rather than a static piece of learning”.

R-ITI Project Director, Alan Ryan thought that the considerable efforts of all those involved in the R-ITI project had paid off and the CMO’s comments were evidence of this. He added that the help of the whole radiology profession was still needed in populating the unique validated case archive being developed for training and possible future revalidation uses (see story page 5).

Commenting on one of the themes of the visit - the significance of the R-ITI approach for other specialties and healthcare professionals - Erika Denton, national clinical lead for diagnostic imaging for the Department of Health and consultant radiologist at the Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital Trust, said ‘the e-learning process together with the curriculum mapping and development we have done helps us develop an objective skills base. Some need the whole gamut of skills, such as a consultant radiologist while others – a urologist for example - may just need a sub set of those skills. This approach gives us the ability to train different people to the same standards. This is vitally important for governance and patient safety.’



Pras Perera takes CMO through R-ITI's validated case archive (VCA).




CMO looks on while Darren Klass and Matthew Tam use the new vascular simulator.

**Radiology - Integrated Training Initiative.** (R-ITI) is a collaboration between





**R-ITI people . . .**



Barbara Greggains and Donald Videlo have both been involved as patient representatives on the clinical radiology group set up by the RCR. Since then they have, in turn, represented the patient interest within the R-ITI project by sitting on the executive team that oversees the project. Their work has been particularly valuable in ensuring vigilance on the issue of confidentiality which is so vital to the relationship between patient and professional. Their involvement has given real depth to the partnership that lies at the heart of R-ITI.

# Imagine

The bulletin for the **Radiology - Integrated Training Initiative (R-ITI)** June 2006

## For Radiologists

### ‘Most positive development in medical education in 20 years’

This is how Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Professor Sir Liam Donaldson, described the R-ITI project during a recent visit to the Norfolk and Norwich Radiology Academy.



Trainee Sarah Yanny (centre) in the Norfolk and Norwich skills lab - watched by Erika Denton and CMO Professor Sir Liam Donaldson.

“My job as CMO is to make sure that quality of care for patients is very high, that care is as safe as possible and for that we need competent, well trained highly skilled doctors and this is one of the most positive developments in medical education that I have seen in 20 years. It creates an environment where doctors can practice their skills on simulators, offline and then go back to treat real patients with those skills honed to a very high level.”

“It is an enormously powerful development, not just for training and education but possibly in the future for giving doctors the regular checks that

they and their patients want to make sure that they are competent and up to date” he added.

His comments came as he toured the Norfolk facilities (see story – centre pages) and talked to the trainees at the academy. He saw the access to a validated case archive and supporting e-learning resources as vital in building the confidence of radiologists in training. This in turn would have a big impact on the quality of care and patient safety he added.

Summing up on his visit, the CMO said “This is one of the great success stories for a professional body like the Royal College of Radiologists, the NHS and the Department of Health working together.

Also touring the skills lab and teaching areas within the academy was Janet Husband, Professor of Radiology at the Royal Marsden Hospital and President of the Royal College of Radiologists. She continued the theme of partnership that had brought the R-ITI project to where it is today.



Trainee Davina Pawaroo and CMO discuss the unique e-learning resource developed through the RITI project.

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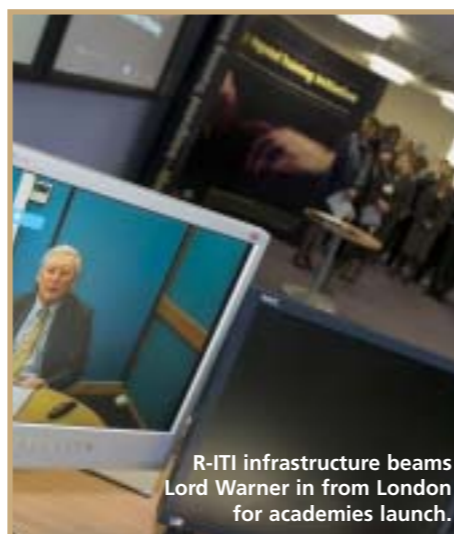
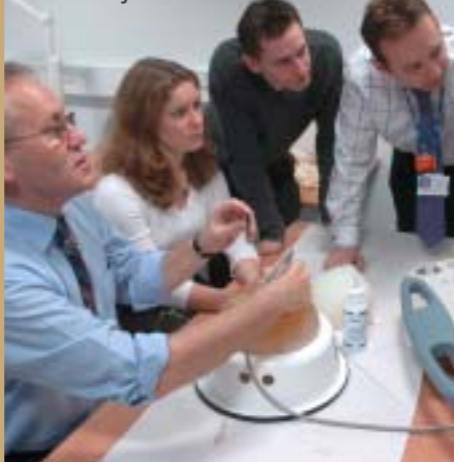
## ...by Radiologists

# Fantastic facilities - open for business

Peninsula Academy is a purpose built facility designed to have wider use for the local health community.



Ultrasound demonstration in academy skills lab.



R-ITI infrastructure beams Lord Warner in from London for academies launch.

The academy itself has its own audio-visual links to the nearby Norfolk and Norwich hospital. As a result it can integrate PACS and web-based technologies with traditional apprentice-style training. Working with new technology is nothing new in Norfolk and Norwich as the existing training scheme – which has an excellent academic record - has a history of working with digital imaging. This combined with R-ITI's e-learning resource and varied timetable has combined to create a stimulating and innovative learning environment for the first 10 trainees who have started their five-year training programme.



Erika Denton - national clinical lead for diagnostics & consultant radiologist at Norfolk & Norwich Hospital.

Erika Denton (pictured), said 'The academies mark a new era in the training of doctors. Patients will benefit too from the R-ITI approach as details of rare conditions can be shared across the country and vital knowledge can be pooled.'

## Leeds

Leeds and West Yorkshire Radiology Academy, based at Leeds General Infirmary, was officially launched in April. The facility was developed by converting the existing Radiology Teaching Centre during the Spring and Summer of 2005.

The academy lies in close proximity to the large teaching trust's main department of clinical radiology and this allows for close integration of trainees' academy and clinically based learning. The academy has two 'lead' radiologists - Dr. Phil O'Connor and Dr. William Ramsden (pictured below right) and is managed day to day by Lesley Challenor. Skills lab and interventional training is led by Dr. David Kessel.

The academy admitted its first intake of sixteen specialist registrars (SpRs) in the autumn of 2005, though the facilities are designed to accommodate 20 SpRs per year. This is based on half of the trainees being in the academy at any one time. This has the potential to double the number of training places in the region.



Trainee Tony Goldstone demonstrates interactive teaching technology.



President of the Royal College of Radiologists, Professor Janet Husband officially opens Leeds & West Yorkshire Radiology Academy.

Commenting on the facilities, Trainee Tony Goldstone (pictured below left) said 'the infrastructure is fantastic as are the e-learning resources that have been given to us. The quality of training in some medical specialties is poor but it is excellent in radiology, both within and outside academies.' Dr Phil O'Connor added: 'We are building on our traditional methods of learning - helping to improve patient safety as well as quality and standards of care.'

Facilities provided include a lecture theatre, 'projected' teaching room,

computer workroom and a flexible teaching area. There are both electronic and conventional libraries as well as two skills labs for training in practical procedures.

Trainees also have access to both of the unique R-ITI developments - the e-learning database and validated case archive (VCA). For the future, a link up with the trust's PACS system is planned and this will further integrate trainees into 'live' work of the local radiology department.



Pictured (left to right) Phil O'Connor - joint academy lead, Professor Janet Husband - RCR, William Ramsden - joint academy lead, Julia Moore - Department of Health, Neil McKay - Chief Executive, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

The Leeds & West Yorkshire Academy's website can be found at - [www.yorkshiredeanery.com/radiology/index.htm](http://www.yorkshiredeanery.com/radiology/index.htm)

## Peninsula

The Peninsula Radiology Academy uses intranet, internet and video conferencing facilities to make it a focal resource for clinical education amongst radiologists across Devon and Cornwall. State of the art audio-visual equipment allows live links to the Peninsula Medical School lecture theatre in Plymouth, the other radiology academies in Leeds and Norwich, other hospitals within the region, and (with patient consent) to clinical procedures being undertaken at nearby Derriford Hospital. The infrastructure, educational and audio-visual facilities at this academy are at the cutting edge of technology and benefit a wide range of healthcare professionals in addition to the radiology trainees.

Chris Cousens, one of the first intake of trainees to the academy (pictured in the ultrasound demonstration above right) said, 'The academy is an excellent idea and seems to be working very well in practice. The teaching is excellent and the facilities are very good'. Academy manager, Anthony Martin (pictured with staff & students, front row second

right) commented that the academy had happened with the speed it had as a result of great teamwork locally and with the active involvement and direction from the R-ITI coordinating team.

The Peninsula Radiology Academy's website can be found at - [www.pentra.org.uk](http://www.pentra.org.uk)



Peninsula trainees with academy manager - Anthony Martin, office manager as well as academy lead and head of training.

Trainee Maria Klusman (seated) academy lead - Carl Roobottom and Professor Janet Husband, RCR.

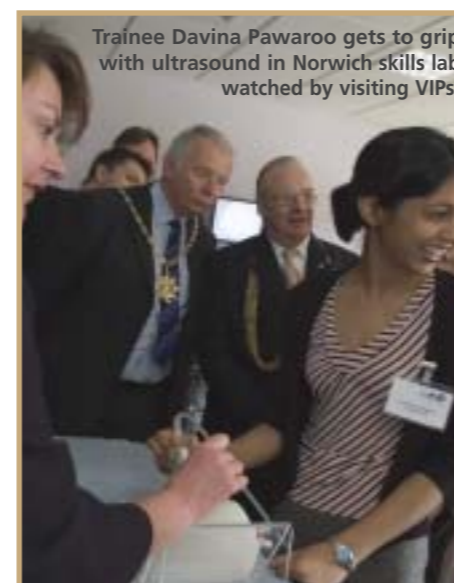


## Norwich

### 'Live from London - Lord Warner officially launches academies'

The leading edge technology which lies at the heart of the R-ITI project was put into action during the official national launch of the three academies. Health minister Lord Warner officiated from Whitehall (see picture above) using the links created to connect the academies for teaching purposes. Commenting on R-ITI's achievements to date, he said, "at a time when there are not enough radiologists in training in the UK to meet the clinical need, this new innovative approach is vital. It will allow more trainees than ever before to enter the profession while maintaining the quality of training and patient safety."

The president of the RCR, Professor Janet Husband, was among other local dignitaries who attended the ceremony within the Cotman Centre on the Norwich Research Park.



Trainee Davina Pawaroo gets to grip with ultrasound in Norwich skills lab watched by visiting VIPs.



Consultant Radiologist, John Cockburn takes a trainee through VIST simulation.

The Norfolk & Norwich Radiology Academy's website can be found at - [www.nnuh.nhs.uk/Dept.asp?ID=266](http://www.nnuh.nhs.uk/Dept.asp?ID=266)