



Clinical Radiology

The Royal College of Radiologists

My typical working day as a clinical radiology trainee

Dr Noor Jawad; Trainee in clinical radiology

Today the day starts relatively early – 8am for a consultant-led trainee tutorial. This morning it's led by a consultant neuroradiologist - the cases are challenging and varied, but it's a great opportunity to learn from the best in a relaxed environment. It's even OK to make a mistake and name the wrong MR sequence (!)

After absorbing as much as possible on the causes of T1 shortening, it's off to ultrasound – a mixture of booked outpatients, walk-in patients and urgent inpatients. The scans range from abdomens, to lumps, to kidneys, to testes. I see a funny looking lump which I'm not quite sure about (not uncommon as a registrar), so I enrol the help of a willing consultant from the reporting room to come and have a look and decide what it is, and more importantly, what to do about it. I enjoy ultrasound as this is where I get to engage with patients and see how I am having a direct impact on their treatment.

Over lunch there is a trauma MDT held in the emergency department – a presentation of recent complex trauma cases. Radiology features heavily within the meeting, with one of our trauma consultants present to explain the imaging findings. For the radiologists it's a chance to see the impact of our reporting on immediate patient management, and to gain a broader understanding of the clinical aspect of trauma work. For the clinicians they always seem interested in the radiology and want to learn from us what to look out for, and this helps to build strong relationships between departments.

The afternoon consists of consultant-supervised CT reporting, and I'm secretly pleased for the opportunity to sit down with my cup of tea. Consultants give us free reign on what we would like to report, and we often get called over to go through the salient imaging findings (i.e. things we have missed) or to discuss the differential diagnosis (do you think that lymph node is cancer or lymphoma or TB?). The feedback is personalised and constructive, and can vary from being a reminder, checking review areas, or wording of the report itself.

I've rarely met a clinical radiologist who doesn't enjoy their work, and the sense of teamwork within the reporting room is a positive learning environment for everyone. The radiology timetable is structured and varied and every day I see something new and interesting, which I'm not sure many other people can say about their own specialties.