

Diverse and united - this was the tagline for this years' European Congress of Radiology. A statement which truly reflected the broad diversity of person, ideas and innovation at this iteration of the yearly gathering . This event brought together a new record of 28,474 total participants from all corners of the globe - a true testament to its ethos of culture, education and innovation.

The experience was undoubtedly one which I would recommend to any radiologist in training. It is the opportunity to expand horizons and acquire newfound knowledge which can subsequently be disseminated in our base institutions. The five-day event was held at the *Austria Centre Vienna*, an ideal venue for a conference of this scale. Multiple synchronous lectures and sessions meant a broad range of topics to appease all tastes. Everything from hot topics, to interesting cases and latest practice. The event was also an opportunity to experience the cutting-edge developments the tech industry had on show. A well-designed mobile app meant being able to efficiently highlight and organise attendance at selected sessions. This detail mirrored the overall level of quality organisation. A luxurious bonus was undoubtedly the opportunity to enjoy Vienna's fine architecture and restaurants.

Below are some of my personal highlights and favourite sessions:

1) *Response to the Paris disaster* - This session explored the aftermath of the Paris attacks of 2015. It reflected on the medical response from an imaging point of view with a specific focus on victim identification. It highlighted the lessons learnt including the improvement in subsequent psychological care and hospital trauma team optimisation. It also highlighted the value of military knowledge transfer.

2) *Innovations in medical education* - This session delved into new and original techniques in boosting student engagement with clinical imaging. The concept of the flipped classroom along with utilisation of advanced software technologies were all ideas which resonated with an audience that contributed and added value to the discussion.

3) *The importance of perseverance* - One of the valuable lessons I learnt was the importance of perseverance. We were told the story of a device pioneered for use as an implantable contraceptive under fluoroscopic guidance in the early 1990's. The idea at the time was innovative and held promise. It was however rejected by WHO who deemed it to be "too expensive, too complex and not suitable for third world countries". The idea was dead in the water and the inventor did not pursue this further. It was only in 2013 that same idea was purchased and developed by a large pharmaceutical company for the value of €1.1Bn, much to the original pioneer's dismay and frustration. The lesson learnt was that if you think you have a good idea, stick with it and persist. It doesn't necessary have to be a tangible device. It could be a service to deliver, a clinical technique to modify or any small idea which could bring about positive change. It's value or worth might not be immediately perceivable, but could pay off in the long run.

Overall I'm grateful for the opportunity the Scottish Radiological Society has given me in supporting my attendance by means of the Paul Allan Bursary and I would encourage all Scottish trainees to seek similar opportunities in future.

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