

Final Journal Entry

2011, Radiographic Practice 1V(D), a journey of learning and self discovery:

On remembering the beginning of the year, Initially I was filled with a sense of apprehension as I felt unsure how to tackle the course. At first when I was introduced to Web CT and the computer interactive classroom, I was wary and found Web CT to be daunting as I felt I did not understand how to approach it's use. Later with regular use it has become an interesting and important user friendly tool. I also appreciate it as a readily available notification system. Most importantly, the ability to complete set task with Blackboard was a key element on my road to self learning. I feel the interactive approach of Blackboard Learning allowed myself and my colleagues a way of providing our input, making Rad Prac IV more approachable and engaging. It was important to me the internet was almost available on most week end lectures as this greatly assisted myself in research work. I also appreciated the diagnostic websites provided in Blackboard and felt the information provided was extremely valuable. At the time I used to be overwhelmed by the information available on the internet, but I learnt to analyze and evaluate crucial information required. I feel the clinical logbook provided was a guide to myself of a record and analysis of procedures performed.

I appreciated that tasks and sections were subdivided. To me it allowed me time to evaluate and understand each section properly. I was able to reflect on the information obtained. For me it was extremely relevant that the tasks provided were well structured and had a ricochet effect .I view the subdivision of tasks as puzzle pieces in finally understanding the whole picture of (advances in radiography, developments of radiography equipment, quality assurance in radiography and new developments in radiographic procedures). I found it extremely interesting how information on different sections actually follow up and integrate. For me, it was meaningful the lecturer was able to facilitate my learning by providing articles and important websites. I noticed how reading articles prompted me to read and understand more articles which revealed to me the effect of continuous learning. I feel it had an impactive effect on my individual learning and self development. I had mixed emotions in completing case studies, oral presentations, poster presentations and a group project. I felt satisfactory about my case study but was disappointed with

myself for my poster presentation, I was extremely angry with myself that I has misinterpreted the poster requirements, but on reflecting I think I should have asked for assistance when I was not sure and in future will follow up on this principle. Initially I found oral presentations made me feel extremely nervous, and now understand the reinforced need for doing oral presentations throughout the year.

Initially I felt the group project was challenging as each member had different approaches but my understanding and knowledge was increased as all members shared ideas and information. The group project significantly raised my awareness in keeping abreast with the current and future trends in MSCT imaging which prompted me to investigate other imaging modalities. The tasks on image evaluation generated enthusiasm for myself as I have greater knowledge and understanding of anatomy and pathological processes. I identify with my significant role in aiding correct patient diagnosis and providing effective patient care. I am certain the group project and image evaluation tasks has developed my ability to keep abreast with my profession as a whole.

To me the most interesting element was learning various aspects surrounding MSCT. Since MSCT imaging is an important imaging modality used in our X/ department, I know I was making connotations between what I knew and what I was learning through my practical approaches. Initially I used to read the patient request form, set patient protocol and scan. I feel I had a very 'robotic' approach to my work practices but now with a greater learning and understanding of MSCT principles, appropriate protocol adjustments for clinical examinations, dose optimisation techniques, the importance of MSCT in clinical applications, the essential use of contrast media and appropriate timing, image manipulation and post processing techniques, I now evaluate the clinical indication of the request, modulate protocol parameters,(such as reducing kV or mA where appropriate, use fine slice collimation only when required, scan to what is essentially required , provide lead protection where appropriate, choose the most appropriate scan time and scan type in instances of trauma and restless patients, maintain an awareness of reduced or no breathing artefacts on CT images, image with manoeuvre techniques to improve image diagnosis and take increased notice of CT anatomy and ensure that structures are adequately displayed with appropriate contrast enhancement. When performing postprocessing techniques such as Multiplanar Reformations and

Volume Rendering, I evaluate the best technique that will demonstrate the required anatomy. I respect that limitations of MSCT were also demonstrated although the advantages are significantly greater. Initially I never questioned the use of MSCT technology over conventional studies. I used to feel it was due to the advancement in technology so subsequently had to challenge my thinking when I had to think about Why MSCT is seeming replacing some conventional studies? and does conventional Studies still have a significant role? Because I was not certain about the answers, I knew as a learner I would research these questions and have them answered. I have a greater understanding and appreciation working with MSCT technology. Previously I viewed quality assurance and quality control with much complexity, but now I realise of that I am personally responsible for quality assurance and quality control. I realise that at times I may be feel demotivated but I must always ensure that I provide the best patient care and service standards to patients. I must ensure and be ensured of safe and hygienic working conditions. I now understand the importance of QA and QC of a hospital, department and equipment with regard to proper functioning and maintenance.

Initially as radiographer, I used to be busy running around with an internal dialogue of too much chatter. Initially as learner I used to gather information, I now feel with an improved ability in questioning, analyzing, evaluating and maintaining a sense of awareness of past approaches, present systems and future trends has significantly improved my academic learning which has a positive impact on my academic and professional development. Previously I used to think in a linear fashion but now I realise the homework tasks and constant review of information throughout the year has assisted me greatly in questioning and analyzing data, learning to think laterally, increasing my knowledge, understanding and skills, improving my ability to reflect and questioning situations with greater resolve and clarity. At the beginning of the year, I was filled with apprehension but now I feel I can tackle matters with the new found knowledge and understanding that I have gained and will continue to gain. The internal chatter has been replaced by a mature and great understanding that learning is a continuous process on my journey to self improvement.

