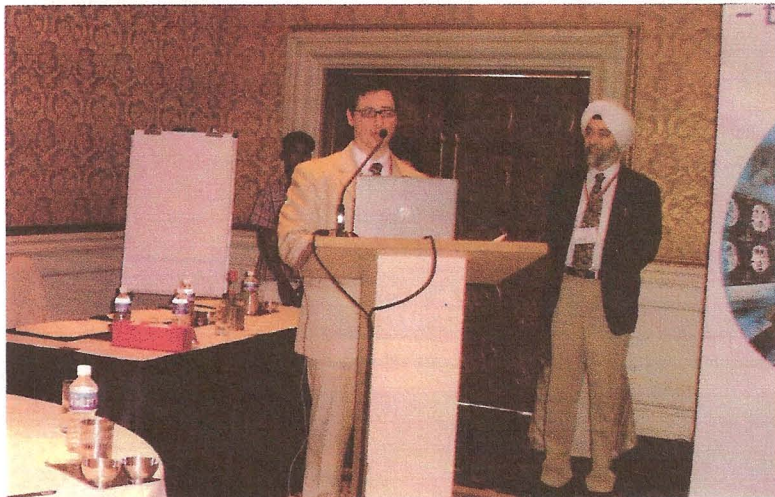


IPTS 2007-Future is here

Deepali Vichare gives an insight of first International PACS/Teleradiology Symposium organised to create awareness about future digital radiology



■ Dr. John Carrino, Visiting Professor of Radiology, Johns Hopkins University presenting lecture at IPTS

Developments and investments are happening in the healthcare industry on several levels and investments are largely taking place in technology, especially in radiology. Radiology is becoming a huge productivity issue as the technology in this field is evolving speedily with faster scans and higher resolution images. Picture Archiving Communication System (PACS) along with teleradiology are the two powerful tools that can help radiology departments consistently cut costs and increase productivity. Thus, realising the potential in the subject, the First International PACS/Teleradiology Symposium 2007 (IPTS 2007) was organised on April 20-21, 2007 at Bangalore by Teleradiology Solutions, India's pioneer teleradiology outsourcing company and OTech Inc., a US based PACS training and consultancy company. This well attended and absolute interactive symposium was sponsored by GE Healthcare.

Dr. Arjun Kalyanpur, CEO and Chief Radiologist, Teleradiology Solutions opined, "Today with PACS/teleradiology patients are getting benefitted for reasons like reduced diagnosis time and hospital stay. Physicians' workload is reduced thereby increasing hospital revenues. Thus with IPTS we intend to educate radiologists, hospital administrators, senior management and other staff involved in PACS/teleradiology about the future of this technology."

The speakers for this symposium were Herman

Oosterwijk, President, OTech; Dr. John Carrino, Visiting Professor of Radiology, Johns Hopkins University; Jasbir Singh, Vice President, Teleradiology Solutions; Navin Govind Rao, Senior IT Manager, Teleradiology Solutions; Dr. Aditya Daftry, Consultant Radiologist, Teleradiology Solutions and Dr. Kalyanpur himself. The range of topics covered by these speakers under PACS were, what can PACS do; enterprising and implementation and quality assurance and security. Under teleradiology, the topics covered were infrastructure and implementation; medico-legal issues; HIPAA and security. Peripheral subjects like reading room design ergonomics, models of 3D lab, workstations and monitors, RIS, HL7 and DICOM, Integration and IHE and various case studies were also discussed. Towards the end, GE made an effective demonstration on PACS implementations.

Acceptance of both PACS/teleradiology in India is increasing; however the concept still being in the nascent stage, providing an experienced and futuristic view became a priority for the symposium. Thus international speakers were invited so as to demonstrate and highlight their experience. Moreover, learning and understanding from others' experience gives in-depth knowledge of the subject to some extent. Dr. Carrino commented, "Teleradiology is very important in India to reach the rural areas. Though issues, policies, drivers, etc. are different in India, compared to other countries, the futuristic technology is the same."

People who attended, were definitely receptive towards the symposium and appreciated the initiative by Teleradiology Solutions of disseminating information about PACS/Teleradiology. Oosterwijk was satisfied with the interactive audience and said, "Teleradiology is definitely booming and today its operation is efficient, can figure out problems and is very beneficial in emergency". He further added that India will create opportunity in teleradiology to attract foreign patients and many organisations will implement PACS.

As a debut, the symposium did make some noise and exchanged thoughts and ideas; in the years ahead it plans to get more informative to introduce future of PACS/teleradiology in India. **MM**

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