

A report on Sharing my experiences of the 20th International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologist (ISRRT) World Congress

12-15 April 2018

Trinidad and Tobago



Figure 1 A picture of me with my Medical Imaging Technology students in National Academy of Medical Sciences, Kathmandu, Nepal



**Nepal Radiological
Society**
affiliated with ISRRT



**NATIONAL ACADEMY OF
MEDICAL SCIENCES**

Submitted by:

Ganesh Bahadur Pokharel
Professor, Department of Radiology,
National Academy of Medical Sciences,
Kathmandu, Nepal

I, Prof. Ganesh Bahadur Pokharel, was awarded the travel support fund for visiting 20th ISRRRT world congress that was held from 12th to 15th of April 2018 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. The ISRRRT world congress is a unique conference where people Radiographers and Radiological Technologist from all over the world meet in one geographical location to share their ideas, views and news on radiology related topics (figure 1). It was an immense privilege to receive the travel support fund for me to attend the congress. Otherwise, I am certain that I would have been devoid of this inspiring opportunity. I also was able to present in the congress on "Image quality and patient radiation dose in mammography at a major Nepali Hospital". This was also a great opportunity for me to share some research finding to everyone present. The thought-provoking discussions that followed the presentation was the highlight of the time spent in the congress. Other important revelation to me was how the research and development in the field of radiology/ radiography has evolved all over the world. I had attended the 18th ISRRRT world congress in 2012 held in Montreal, Canada. I could find some significant developments that were evident through the presentations of the participants from developed parts of the world. The thought of how much the research in Nepal is lagging just because of the lack of technologically advanced facilities is overwhelming. Since I am associated with several academies as a Professor, there is not a single day I do not find a student full of fervour and enthusiasm to embark on his journey in the field of radiology. However, unless there is a change in the facilities provided to give hands on training to these young students, Nepal will always remaining a developing country in the field of radiology. All these factors combined, I was willing to share my experiences in Trinidad and Tobago to my colleagues, to the members of Nepal Radiological Society (NRS) and to my hopeful students.



Figure 2 Picture taken with a few other participants of 20th ISRRRT world congress

I held an informal interactive discussion with my colleagues who were interested to learn about my experiences in ISRRRT. I was intrigued by the research findings that were presented by Dr. Timmeri Cohen on 'Implementing the Flipped Classroom in Radiation Safety ED1-3'. Simple methods were implemented to make learning more enjoyable and the retention of taught knowledge also the critical thinking abilities of the students was increased. As teachers, this is one of the problems we struggle with. My colleagues were also excited to learn about flipped classroom. Even though we sometimes already hold classes which are quite flexible and only focussed on grasping of concepts by the students,

we still do not emphasize as much on critical thinking abilities. Me along with few of the teaching staff from the academy are interested in practising this method if it is approved by higher authorities.

Other than this, I also had a meeting with the active members of NRS to share with them my experiences and the new inspiration I have collected from Trinidad and Tobago. I expressed to them how attending and holding conference is of an enormous because we find out of the latest happenings in the field we are dedicated to. This is helpful because the problems we are facing might be similar even though we are not physically at the same location and we might be able to help other and receive help from others. I also talked with them about the improvement of our field in Nepal. We concluded that procurement of new and advanced tools might not be feasible yet because of financials hurdles, however, NRS is highly interested in organizing a 3-5 days long conference at least regional (South Asian) level. This could be of great value to us because people working in the field will be able to assess and compare the status of radiological service and education in different regions.

Moreover, my students were themselves eager to know about my experience in ISRRT world congress. I was happily surprised by how much they already knew about ISRRT and the importance of a conference I attended. Apart from talking about the new research findings and the advancement of this field in other parts of the world, I also discussed with them about having flipped classroom. The response that I received from them was tremendous. This help us, the teachers, also persuade the higher authority to approve our request.

Most importantly, on 11th August 2018, we held a Symposium of MRI in National Academy of Medical Sciences (NAMS), National Trauma Centre, Kathmandu, Nepal (figure 2). There were total 175 participants in the symposium which included Radiologist, Medical Physicist, Radiological & Radiotherapy Technologist, Radiographers & students who shared knowledge in the evolving magnetic resonance imaging field and presented their quality work. I was the chairperson of this symposium and I gave a keynote speech where I also mentioned my participation in 20th world congress of ISRRT and my views on it.



Figure 3 Group picture from the Symposium on MRI with the participating members.

To conclude, my experience in 20th ISRRT world congress was of great value to me, my colleagues and my students. Apart from the scheduled presentations, I was delighted by the social interaction I had with other participants and the warm hospitality during the cultural evening. I also want to take this opportunity to thank the committee responsible for selecting me for the award. I would like to personally thank CEO of ISRRT, Dimitris Katsifarakis, for the patience and support he offered me to make my participation possible. I hope to be able to attend future conferences in the field of radiology and/ or radiography to advance my knowledge and moreover to share my experiences.