

Dear Colleagues

**Let Us Join Forces and MAKE A DIFFERENCE for Malaysia**

For any service that we receive as consumers, we expect that these services meet a certain standard, be it ISO or otherwise. We expect that the services provided are being carried out by well trained personnel with equipment that has been well maintained to ensure that the products or services being provided are safe. We also expect that these standards are being constantly upgraded as the scenario around us changes. We expect this from our food outlets, from our airlines and even from our hospitals.

To this end it has always been the focus of the College of Radiology (COR) to ensure that all the services being provided by the radiologists, clinical oncologists, medical physicists and other allied professional are of high quality and excellence and not just the minimum required by law. We have to take the leadership role in this aspect rather than wait for the government to impose their rules on the radiology and clinical oncology fraternity. We hope to do this by providing guidelines to our members, assist them with upgrading their expertise as well as that of their support staff and work closely with the legislating bodies to ensure standards of practice are high and are of international standing. Since imaging plays such a crucial role in the diagnosis and management of most diseases we should have input in the formulation of guidelines of other specialties. The importance of clinical oncology is increasingly felt with an ever increasing burden of cancer in the country. As in diagnostic imaging, there is increasing networking between clinical oncology and other disciplines in the multidisciplinary care of patient. The only way we can protect the public is to ensure that the services provided by our members are of high standard and is safe. We also feel that it is our responsibility to educate the public about the latest imaging and treatment techniques that are being offered as well the diseases that affect their lives.

This needs to be done in an environment where there is greater emphasis on image based screening, diagnosis and therapy plus the fusion of the different aspects of imaging and therapy. The borders of all these areas are increasingly blurred not to mention the traditional defined borders of the "old" specialties. There is also the need to show that biomedical imaging and intervention improve outcome and saves cost despite the greater complexity, sophistication and cost of the imaging and treatment modalities. To achieve this we must all work together to pool our expertise in the different areas to enhance the role of our specialties and then improve outcome for the patients.

The COR strives to provide the leadership and avenue for discussions to help exploit the synergies between us. We also hope that with the need for credentialing of the specialties, the allied medical professions can also be included. That is why it very important for all of us to be part of this dialogue and interaction that is going to determine the face of biomedical imaging and intervention in this country for years to come. Join the COR and make a difference for our community!

Please send in your membership application form to our secretariat and please do not hesitate to contact us if you need clarifications.

## **WE ARE THE CORE OF QUALITY**

***BJJ Abdullah***

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