

## THE INCEPTION OF PRE-EXAM VOLUNTARY TEACHING COURSES IN PAKISTAN: ARE WE READY FOR THE CHANGE?

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Being a recent CPSP fellow, via the platform of PJR, I want to share a unique and beautiful experience of learning from Voluntary Teaching Courses, which were conducted by faculty of Dr. Ziauddin University (ZU) Hospital, Karachi.

As regard as their first course is concerned, the organizer had rented a big hall at Research Center. We were a batch of 12 students, belonging to different radiology institutes of Karachi. The hall had a nice arrangement of around a dozen of interconnected LCD monitors, displayed on round table with synchronized slide change. The main operating switch was being primarily controlled by the facilitator. Candidates were provided with wireless optical mouse for effective communication. They have the IT personnel in the hall all the time to tackle with any device failure, fortunately it wasn't! Their second course was conducted on Multimedia presentation in a seminar hall with class room type seating arrangement.

These full day sessions remained continued in a systematic manner for five days and we were shown around 300 cases. The two TOACS practice sessions were also carried out. We had maximal and thorough learning as well as rapid revision through all units. Each candidate was given individual attention, an equal chance to speak on his/her turn, and questions were asked about the case simulating exam. The classes were pre-planned, programmed and well organized; the course advertisement was announced on electronic media viz. whatsapp. The teaching style of all the mentors, and nondiscriminatory efforts towards all students of Karachi was in no doubt, exquisitely impressive.

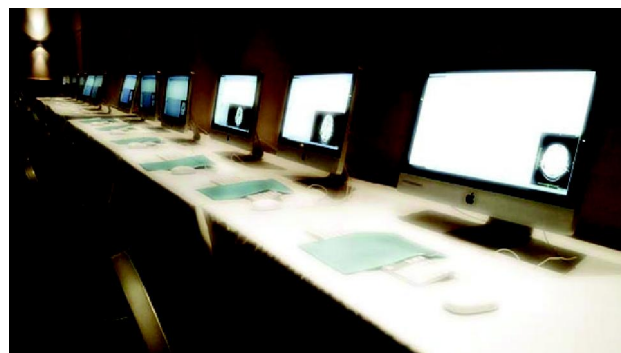
I got to know from my senior radiology colleagues

that ZU has been conducting these pre-exam courses periodically in Karachi before the final TOACS, viva of CPSP exams

### Why should the faculty should practice conducting sessions?

It's so simple, because we want to reach the international standards. It's the demand of present time. The FRCR degree holders are currently conducting innumerable voluntary courses for their FRCR 2B candidates in UK, including Aunt Minnies FRCR Course, King's Course, Basildon FRCR 2B 'A to Zee' Courses, the Peninsula Revision Courses etc. etc. (The comprehensive list is available on their official site -[www.radiologycafe.com](http://www.radiologycafe.com))

And you know it for sure, yourself that Revision courses are a good way to help prepare for the exam. Simulating these courses and sessions at our academic institutes, in no doubt, needs a lot of effort and motivation! I believe that in future, many institutes of Pakistan will be simulating this pre-exam practice for residents.



**Figure 1:** The image from an International Radiology Course. I also experienced a near similar atmosphere at mock course in Karachi.

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## **Controversy**

There has been a criticism on the extensive fee charges of such courses in our setup, but on exuberant search, I found that the international courses are actually charging 10-15 times more for FRCR 2B preparation in UK. In my opinion, such expenses are a must part of professionalism and residents should not hesitate on spending for their professional grooming.

## **Conclusion**

Personally, it was a great experience to attend these courses. It helped me in rapid revision and built my confidence to speak in front of examiners. Since CPSP had been playing a promising role for residents practice via conducting Pre-Exam Mock Courses for years, ZU faculty has led the show in innovation of academic activity of pre-exam voluntary teaching in a unique and nondiscriminatory manner. It's high time to recognize the value of technology and ensure our maximal participation in such activities to the best of our capacity, for the betterment of our residents and to enhance our own professional excellence, meeting international standards.

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