A Radiologist’s Art in CT Images

Piyu Deo Mahant, Department of Radio-diagnosis, Peoples College of Medical Sciences, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India

ABSTRACT

The story of medical imaging starts on 8 Nov, 1895, when Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen accidentally discovered X rays. Since then it has undergone great technological advancements helping physicians create images of the human body to reveal, diagnose, or examine disease (X-ray, n.d). CT scans combine the use of computers and x-rays to create virtual ‘slices’ of what is inside our body without cutting it open. Earlier many diseases could only be confirmed at autopsy. In 2010, more than 5 billion medical imaging studies were completed done worldwide (X-ray computed tomography, n.d).

Technology has made us better scientist-doctors but it has widened the divide between the art and science of medicine both at the personal and professional levels. Humanities bring us closer to illness, allows us to reflect on it and in the process help in healing both our patients and ourselves. We become better phsycians. At the same time our medical experiences inspire creativity. The visual arts have been used to accentuate our powers of observation, change our perspectives and develop better clinical sense (Glatter, 2013).

“Training the Eye,” is an elective course taught at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, to bring students to the Museum of Fine Arts and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum to practice observation and clinical reasoning skills (Campbell, 2013).

Physician and artist Satre Stuelke of the Radiology Art project has used radiology in a creative way to make it easier for patients to relate to the radiology procedures they undergo through a deeper visualization of everyday objects (Schaffer, 2009)

Radiologist Kai-hung Fung makes beautiful and informative art from the CT scans of his patients, digitally manipulating them to look more appealing (Window on the body, 2009). While Judith K. McMillan and many others, use an X-ray machine as camera to photograph the internal structures of inanimate objects to reveal their inner beauty (McMillan, n.d.; Poh, n.d.)

These beautiful images show us that the boundaries between art and science are illusory and medical graduates with a background of humanities or humanities as electives in the medical school can do much to bring back the art in the practice of medicine (Smith, 1994).

Talking of humanities in medicine we would also like to share a Haiku written in response to these images by one of our reviewers Dr Priyank Jain which has the distinction of being s one of our shortest IJUDH reviews:

DOI: 10.4018/ijudh.2013100109
See Thee in CT
Eyes find what mind knows. Just tell me what you see, And I can see your mind.

Haiku (Haiku, n.d.) is one of the most important form of traditional Japanese poetry. Haiku is a 17-syllable verse form consisting of three metrical units of 5, 7, and 5 syllables. They have been used for training medical students to be reflective and develop empathy. More medical haikus can be enjoyed at http://www.pulsemagazine.org/archive/haiku and http://www.pallimed.org/2012/09/hospice-and-palliative-haiku.html

A computed tomography (CT) scan is an imaging method that uses x-rays to create pictures of cross-sections of the body with few complications like allergic reaction to contrast dye or exposure to radiation (shaw A S, 2008). Vision is the art of seeing things invisible. Here, Dr Piyudev, a radiologist, looks at discarded CT images (Figure 1 through Figure 6) with a new perspective and attempts to create new meaning from them.

Figure 1. A lady in Burka (lungs)
4 more pages are available in the full version of this document, which may be purchased using the "Add to Cart" button on the product's webpage:

www.igi-global.com/article/a-radiologists-art-in-ct-images/103919?camid=4v1

This title is available in InfoSci-Journals, InfoSci-Journal Disciplines Medicine, Healthcare, and Life Science, InfoSci-Healthcare Administration, Clinical Practice, and Bioinformatics eJournal Collection. Recommend this product to your librarian:

www.igi-global.com/e-resources/library-recommendation/?id=2

Related Content

CoSeMed: Cooperative and Secure Medical Device Sharing
www.igi-global.com/chapter/cosemed/138464?camid=4v1a

Regulations Initiatives in France for the Interoperability of Communicating Medical Devices
Norbert Noury, Karima Bourquard, Didier Bergognon and Jean-Bernard Schroeder (2013). International Journal of E-Health and Medical Communications (pp. 50-64).
www.igi-global.com/article/regulations-initiatives-in-france-for-the-interoperability-of-communicating-medical-devices/78742?camid=4v1a

Mapping Information of Operating Theatre Waiting List Process
www.igi-global.com/chapter/mapping-information-operating-theatre-waiting/13020?camid=4v1a
Combining Artificial Intelligence and NetMedicine for Ambient Assisted Living: A Distributed BDI-based Expert System
www.igi-global.com/article/combining-artificial-intelligence-and-netmedicine-for-ambient-assisted-living/134011?camid=4v1a