

MEDICAL EDUCATION

Post-graduate Medical Training

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Residency is a period of intense emotions. A new graduate is transformed over night from a "parasite" on patients care (learning and training) to a supposedly fully fledged care-provider, trainer and still a learner. He/she has still long path to cover. Has to work, do full work like everybody else, take after hours duties *and* study for the next examination; and once this is over with, the next examination and so on. Some have to look after a family as well. Many have to work in an environment that they see "hostile" and are often frightened.

Junior residents are doctors in the true sense of the word, but lack the confidence that often comes with experience or just being on the job long enough. In some departments, the work load is heavy and the feeling of loss is real, and no wonder some crack under pressure. Yet "residency" can be a pleasant rewarding experience. In fact, it is full of anecdotes that others would like to know about. The stories may be full of imagination. After all

what is residency but a journey through a series of dreams, some pleasant, others nightmares and bang... there you are, at the end of it, a fully fledged consultant with a new look to "life in the hospital", and responsibilities of a different nature.

In this issue, (Reference: Al-Hashimi H. Personal Communication: Experience of a Radiology Resident) a resident shares with the readers her experiences as she had done similarly before with the staff of the Radiology Department at Salmaniya Medical Centre. This reflection is interesting but not totally a novel idea. The credit goes to the journal of the American Medical Association for their column, "A Piece of My Mind"¹.

REFERENCE

1. Dan BB, Young RK. A Piece of My Mind. In: Dan BB, Young RK, (eds). A Collection of Essays from the Journal of the American Medical Association. New York: Ballantine Books, 1990.

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