RadDiscord's Role in Shaping the Radiologist Pipeline for Medical Students

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What is RadDiscord?

RadDiscord was established in October 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, with the goal of creating a global online community for radiology residents for board exam preparation. The platform has since expanded to include medical students interested in radiology, providing them with unique opportunities to learn and engage with faculty and residents in the field.

Background

Radiology rotation requirements vary widely across institutions, leaving some students with minimal or no exposure to radiology. RadDiscord could be beneficial for medical students by providing accessible opportunities to explore the field and address gaps in traditional radiology education.

Methods

Medical student engagement was assessed by tracking the growth of pre-radiology ("pre-rad") members from RadDiscord's inception to December 2024, the percentage who served as moderators for case review sessions, and geographic distribution. Pre-rad members include medical students, international medical graduates (IMGs), and others interested in radiology.

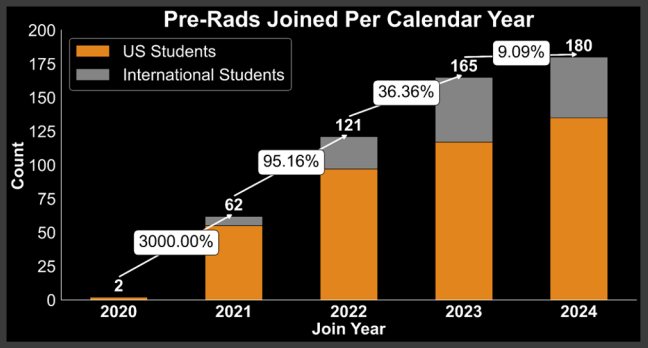


Figure 1. Growth of pre-rad membership in RadDiscord from 2020 to 2024. A total of 530 pre-rads joined during this period, comprising 8.06% of all members, with consistent year-over-year growth.

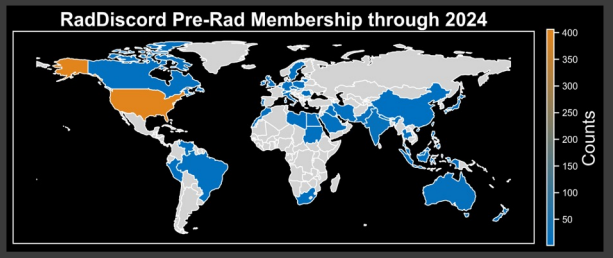


Figure 2. Map showcasing distribution of pre-rad members, spanning 44 countries. Blue to orange denotes low to high # of members, with the highest membership from the USA.

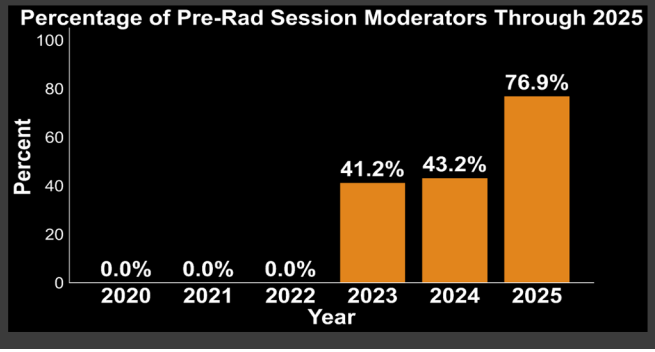


Figure 3. Increasing involvement of pre-rad members as moderators in case review sessions. Over 75% of moderators in the current academic year are pre-rads!

Discussion

RadDiscord has grown significantly in pre-rad membership (Figure 1) and moderator involvement in case review sessions (Figure 3). Its global reach has expanded substantially, with pre-rad members increasing from 2 to 530 pre-rads over the four years, now spanning 44 countries (Figure 2). This highlights the unique advantages of RadDiscord's virtual platform, allowing global participation, leadership opportunities, and engagement in the radiology education community. Pre-rad members also benefit from RadDiscord's collaborative community, with a dedicated "Pre-Rad" channel (not shown), facilitating connections for networking and mentorship opportunities.

Conclusion

RadDiscord is transforming the radiology experience for pre-radiology students by offering early and meaningful exposure to the field. As demand for radiologists increases, there remains potential to evolve RadDiscord into a formalized virtual rotation accessible across all medical schools. By continuing to provide mentorship, educational resources, and leadership opportunities, **RadDiscord** is inspiring and supporting the next generation of radiologists.

References

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3.) Payne D., Zhu G.G. RadDiscord Annual Introductory Update. 2022