

Presenter: Aarti Sekhar, MD

Title of Reading Room Design in an Academic Institution: Minimizing Distraction and Understanding the Abstract: Myth of Multi-tasking

Institution: Emory University Hospital

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Modality: Multi

Organ System: Multi

Purpose: To demonstrate how cost sensitive reading room design choices affect job satisfaction, augment the power of concentration, facilitate didactics, and minimize the distractions and stresses inherent in the traditional reading room.

Content 1. Review literature about how multi-tasking and distractions decrease productivity.

Organization: 2. Illustrate cost effective reading room design options including: partitioned modular workstations, strategies for altering traffic flow, individually controlled dimmable incandescent lighting, acoustic buffers including sound-masking systems and carpeted floors, dedicated consultation areas, use of a reading room coordinator, routine maintenance and cleaning, workstation accessories, and ergonomic options such as standing and treadmill workstations.
3. Show our budget-conscious experience re-designing two academic abdominal imaging reading rooms.
4. Review survey data on the end-user experience, including impact on faculty and resident job satisfaction, productivity and learning environment.

Major Teaching Points Our physical environment deeply affects our thoughts, emotions and behaviors. Traditional reading room design promotes distraction and multi-tasking, thereby degrading image interpretation and contributing to stress.

Discussion: The importance of reading room design is often overlooked by radiologists, until it is implemented. As Steve Jobs famously stated, "People don't know what they want until you show it to them."

Small investments in reading room design can yield prodigious returns in job satisfaction and foster an environment of learning, productivity, and creativity.