

Global Radiology - how to be truly international and keep the national identity.



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ESPR

European Society of
Paediatric Radiology



Disclosures

- No financial conflicts
- I give this presentation as a middle aged, white, male brought up in a first-world country with an English speaking background
- My observations about different societies and cultures are presented for consideration without assumption that any one is better than others; my intent is to be respectful of differences not judgemental
- Examples presented are anecdotal, generalizations and for illustrative purposes only

Outline

- What is “National identity”
- Need for common international platform
- Benefits of maintaining national identity
- Concept of mutual responsibility

What is National identity?

- Language
- Flag
- Government leader
- National sport
- National animal
- Traditional foods
- Beliefs



What is National identity?

Influenced by

- History, culture, religion....
- Financial resources, national wealth
- Political priorities
- Regional influences

The way you do things.....

How do we share information in an international society if we are all different?

Need for common international platform

When we meet together, common practices are adopted.....“Rules of engagement”

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 - Facilitates communication
 - Increases chance of information transfer
 - Simpler to learn common standard rather than multiple regional languages

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**Thank you to those who have learnt English
to share their knowledge**

Need for common international platform

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- Nominating a meeting format
 - Lectures, or hands on sessions with “educator” and moderators to keep presenter “on track”

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 - Questions to be asked respectfully
 - Differences of opinion to be expected, accepted and discussed for mutual benefit.

Reasons to keep national identity

- Diversity encourages innovation
- Everyone approaches problems differently
- Avoids group think or “folie à deux”
- It is interesting to experience different cultures
 - Socially and intellectually stimulating
 - Opens you mind to different ways of doing things

International societies benefit from diversity of input

Barriers to preservation of National Identity

- Language
- Prejudice, racism, bigotry.....
- Politics, religion, history.....
- Ignorance
- A dominant culture can “overpower” less widespread traditions
 - Superiority complex
 - Inferiority complex

What happens when we do not show respect?

What happens when we do not show respect?

We all loose.....

Ignacio Ponseti - (1914-2009)

- Spanish physician, specializing in orthopaedics
- Fled Spain during the Spanish Civil war
- Became member of faculty and physician at the University of Iowa
- Developed non-operative casting method for treatment of Talipes equino varus



Ponseti casting models



Ponseti Method

- Ponseti first described technique in 1963
- 1995 published 30 year review of 71 club feet in 45 children
 - 35 of 45 (78%) had excellent or good outcome compared to 82 of 97 (85%) aged matched controls **without** foot pathology
 - Operative treatments had less than 50% success

It took over 30 years for a vastly superior treatment to be accepted

Things we can do to preserve national identity

- Respect “rules of engagement”
 - Make effort to comply
 - Discuss rules to ensure suitability
 - Be understanding of minor transgressions
- Do not automatically dismiss novel ideas

Things we can do to preserve national identity

- Consider important National/religious dates when planning meetings
- Be aware that meeting cost, food, venue will impact on participation of others
- Be proud of your national traditions and share them in a conservative manner

Concept of mutual responsibility

- Members of international societies must be sympathetic to the cultural norms of other societies
- National societies must not compromise all their values when presenting ideas or challenging international “norms”.

How to encourage preservation of identity

Be respectful of others

Thank you for your attention



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