



EDiMSK Diploma Holder Spotlight

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Why I Took the EDiMSK

Continuing my study in Radiology has always been an ambition of mine; it's just a matter of time and budget. For me, it's a new challenge I need for myself, and I need a solid, well-recognized platform to start. Attending few European courses later has led me to ESSR.

Back in 2023, I searched for a structured programme to help navigate the pathway of deepening my knowledge in Musculoskeletal imaging, without having me to move half across the world for months, to study. It's self-directed learning but full of resources can be found from their website. The examination fee is affordable, with few extensions allowed. I thought then that this was perfect for me.

Like many radiologists with an interest in musculoskeletal imaging, I initially saw the examination as a way to validate my knowledge. However, as I progressed through the preparation, I realized it was much more than just another exam. It's a journey to re-defined yourself as a radiologist and set the bar on yourself on things you need to know to be an expert in this field.

How I Prepared

Preparing for the ESSR Diploma Examination has been one of the most challenging yet rewarding experiences. It became a journey of revisiting the fundamentals, refining my diagnostic approach, and recognizing areas where I still had room to grow. Over time, I noticed that my reporting became more structured, my differentials became more focused, and I was approaching cases with greater confidence.



Firstly, I need to fulfill the pre-requisite requirement for the written paper, examples such as having minimum 50 CME/CPD points, a complete logbook, and head of department's recommendation letter.

The big hurdle is to pass the written paper, which is very comprehensive and all-rounder as it will cover from the bread-and-butter MSK stuff to subspecialty ones including pediatric MSK cases as well as interventional related cases. There were moments when I questioned whether I was making progress but going through the teaching materials in the ESSR website and attending ESSR congress/workshops, helped a lot. I would also like to thank Dr Christoph Agten, for guiding me all these years through online coaching sessions (at Virtual MSK Fellowship) primarily to strengthen back by radiological anatomy (ie knowing where each component in posterolateral and posteromedial knee truly are!) and to learn going through images faster and more systematically. I would not be able to make it, otherwise.

Continue to learn from day-to-day cases in my workplace at Sultan Abdul Aziz Syah Hospital as well as having discussions with my study buddy (Dr Idris Ibrahim) and other clinical teams really help to improve communication skills and confidence, hence is a good way to prepare for the oral examinations. It is intimidating, knowing that experienced MSK radiologists would be assessing not only my diagnosis but also my reasoning. You need to be well organized with your thoughts and differentials and convey them nicely to the examiner, which is exactly what we do in real clinical practice.

Financial wise, as I come from East Asean country, of course the currency difference is slightly against us candidates from the other side of the continent. However, it's certainly doable.

Most importantly, you need to have strong family support in order to have the best in both worlds. My life would not be the same without my family's support and my partner in crime, Mr Syazlan bin Hisyam.

Why It Matters for My Career

If someone were to ask me whether the ESSR Diploma is worth pursuing, my answer would be yes. Not because of the certificate itself, but because of everything I learned along the way - certainly pushes me outside my comfort zone and that there is always more to learn!

Passing the exam will qualify you to be a member of the ESSR committee, which is a good platform for visibility and networking in this fraternity. There is also an additional affiliation to your name, which is always a plus point in your resume!

The journey certainly wasn't easy, but it has been one of the most valuable educational experiences of my career.