

History of radiology in Guyana



▾  School of Allied Health

 Message from The
Head of
Department

>  Medical
Technology

>  Medical Imaging

 Our Staff

A Brief History

The University of Guyana started its Associate degree in Radiography from 1966 to 2006. Later in 2013 this program underwent a complete revision of its curriculum by the Pan American Health Organisation, RAD-AID International with endorsement from Ms. Cynthia Cowling, Director of Education, International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologist (ISSRT). The revised curriculum was upgraded to a B.Sc. Medical Imaging, with students completing all degree requirements within Four (4) years.

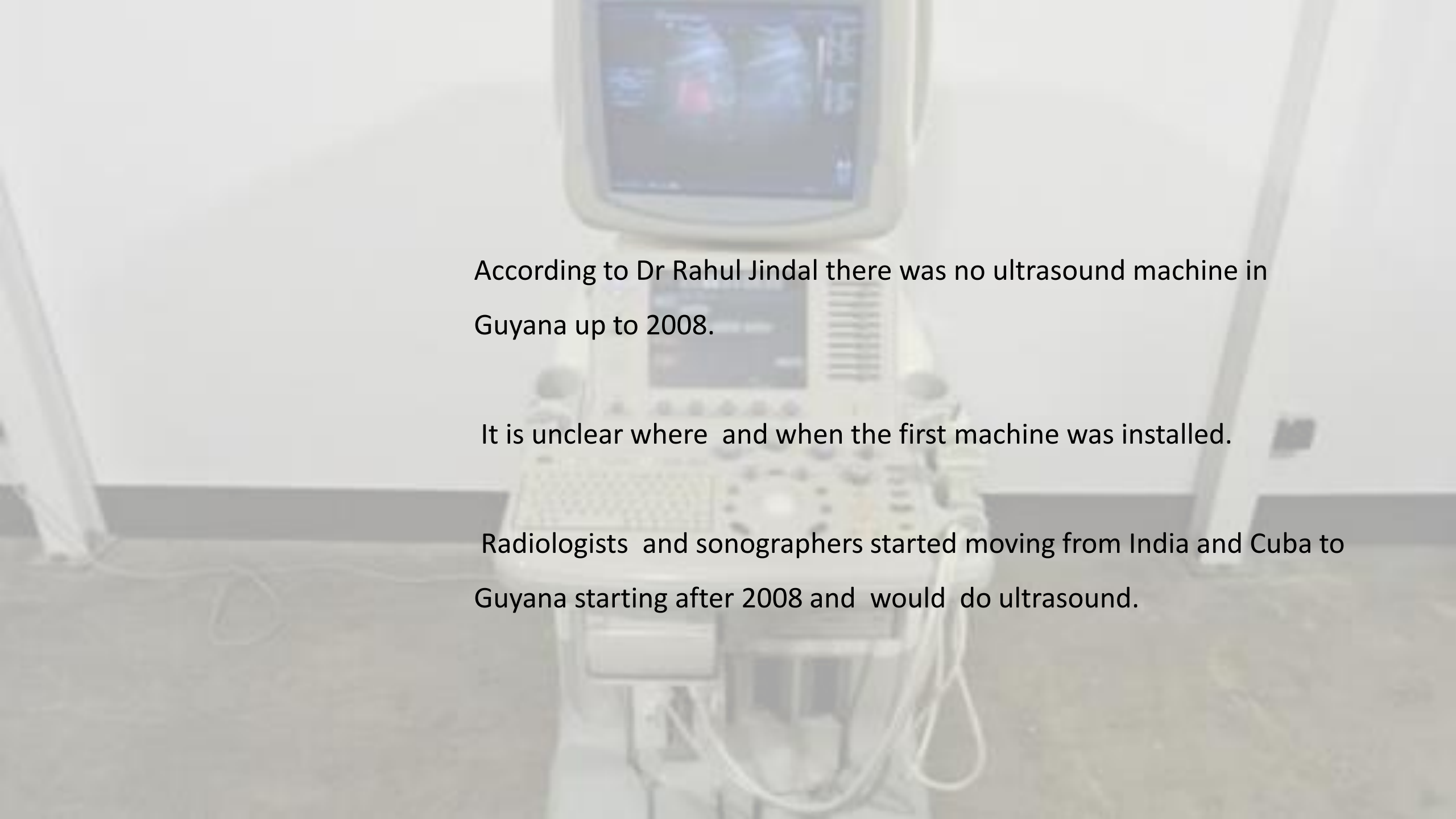


*Ms. Petal Surujpaul
Programme Coordinator- Medical Imaging*

Doctors would generally read their patients' x-ray films and reports were not an expectation.

Fluoroscopy was substituted by plain films taken after patients were given contrast and called as **special x-ray examinations.**

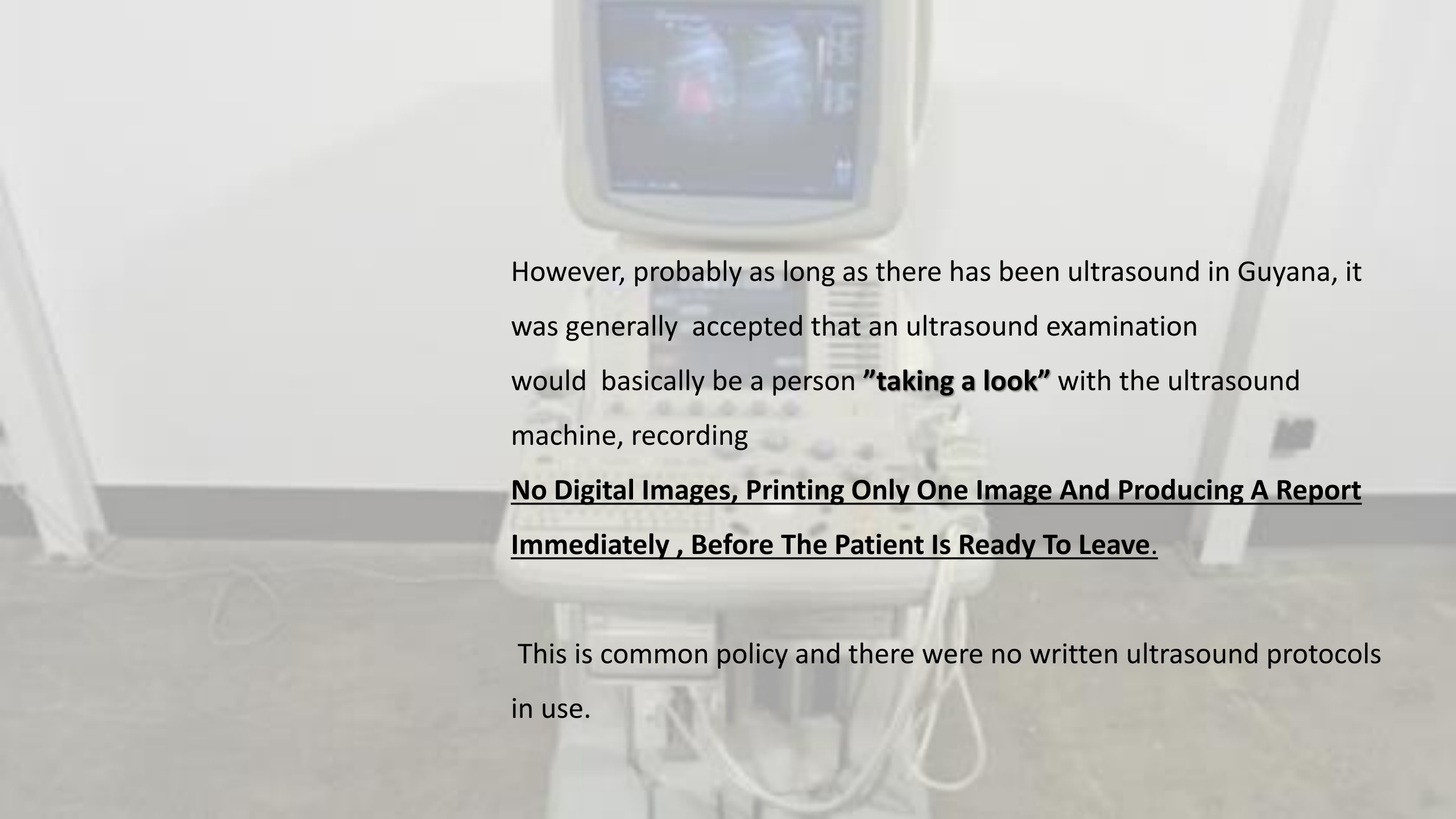
These would sometimes have reports if there was a visiting radiologist.



According to Dr Rahul Jindal there was no ultrasound machine in Guyana up to 2008.

It is unclear where and when the first machine was installed.

Radiologists and sonographers started moving from India and Cuba to Guyana starting after 2008 and would do ultrasound.



However, probably as long as there has been ultrasound in Guyana, it was generally accepted that an ultrasound examination would basically be a person **“taking a look”** with the ultrasound machine, recording

No Digital Images, Printing Only One Image And Producing A Report Immediately , Before The Patient Is Ready To Leave.

This is common policy and there were no written ultrasound protocols in use.

Cancer Institute Guyana

- “Our vision is to be a one stop center for diagnosis, treatment and follow up of all types of cancer prevalent in Guyana.”



George Nellamattathil

The other professional staff includes a Registered Nurse, Radiation Therapists, Radiographers, Medical Physicist, Radiologist, Associated Physicians and Ancillary staff.

Unfortunately,

- Radiologists mostly just read remotely from overseas.
- It could be expected that CT scans performed for stroke and road casualties would have a radiologists report up to 4 days after it was performed.
- Technicians performed tests with simplistic protocols and without supervision.
- And the radiation oncologist has lived in India the whole time, not Guyana.

C-arms have been in use in Guyana for orthopedic surgery at least since the late 2000s



Interventional cardiology

Stabroek News

GUYANA NEWS

Local heart institute makes history with angioplasties

By Stabroek News February 3, 2007



The Caribbean Heart Institute (CHI) located in the Georgetown Public Hospital made medical history in Guyana yesterday by completing three angioplasties with the assistance of a team from the US.



Dr Gary Stephens (extreme right) gives a tour of the Cath Lab.

Echocardiography

Dr Ramsundar Doobay, then Head of Internal Medicine at GPHC, used a portable ultrasound machine to perform informal echocardiograms in his clinic at least from 2010 and up to 2013



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Reliable information on the prevalence/classification of heart disease, essential to national prevention and management policies, is lacking in Guyana, as is expertise in diagnosis and management of children and adults with heart disease. The Guyana Echocardiography Education Program was started by Dr. Debra Isaac in 2012 with donated equipment, volunteer medical specialists and technologist instructors in 2012. Partial financial support of the Libin Cardiovascular Institute in Calgary has also helped to further identify the high burden of cardiac disease in that country.

Key contacts:

Dr. Debra Isaac

Dr. Wayne Warnica

RAD-AID

- Initially the idea was to train doctors "for Guyana's setting" which would focus on ultrasound and the donated CT scanner.
- However, once the program started it was obvious that the community's needs and the learning opportunities were much more.
- Cancelled for 2 weeks in 2020 as was at a point deemed unnecessary during the COVID 19 response.



Three-year Radiology Residency programme set for September

📅 Jun 08, 2016 📰 News

A three-year Radiology Residency programme is slated to commence in September.

Information about this development was yesterday released by the

Ministry of Public Health.

The venture will be fast-tracked with support from United States-based charitable organization – RAD-AID International.

RAD-AID is an international aid organization focused on increasing and improving radiology for poor and developing countries.

The organization has committed to working with the Public Health Ministry to develop radiology services in Guyana with the first major step being the introduction of the aforementioned programme.

On Monday, team members of the charitable organization met with Public Health Minister, Dr. George Norton, to discuss the way forward.



Dr Zulfikar Bux (extreme left) and Public Health Minister Dr. George Norton (second from right) in the company of representatives of RAD-AID International.



Currently residents train in all standard modalities alongside residents in well-established institutions via online case discussions and lectures.



Lahey Hospital
& Medical Center



In December 2021 regulations were finally updated to stipulate that patient information must be recorded together with mandatory image sets for each patient but the struggle continues to get all ultrasound practitioners to keep up these standards.

