

3041

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Peter Corr deserves hearty congratulations for midwifing our new journal through its first year. Also, a big round of applause to all the contributors, especially those in busy practices who took the time and energy to share their information and insights with the rest of the South African Radiological community. As a one-year old, we now have a kicking, hungry infant crying out for sustenance- please keep it happy by contributing. Articles, case reports, personal opinions, letters, communications and even the odd touch of controversy are all welcome. A Southern African flavour and perspective are especially desirable, hopefully making the content unique and useful. This is your journal - please help make it work for you!

I have to confess to never really having understood the meaning of the supposedly Chinese curse: "May you live in interesting times"¹; that is, until South Africa 1996! The year we have all survived has perhaps given a glimmer of insight into the sentiment behind the aphorism. Our specialty is in the midstream of the change flooding through the country - private practice has the looming threat (challenge?) of managed health care; those of us in provincial employment confront ever-diminishing resources threatening to exhaust tertiary services. For many, it has simply become a case of "Adapt or Fly"!

We can derive a little consolation from the fact that change is endemic worldwide, even in the USA and Canada. We've all heard that change brings opportunities. In his presidential address at December's RSNA Congress, Ernest Ferris encouraged radiologists to expand their role to be imaging consultants rather than purely service delivery technicians and image interpreters. He felt that we need to become the information technology experts and public relations specialists in the medical fraternity. He warned of the dangers of radiologists not reacting effectively to managed health care, and of the need to recast ourselves to include a primary health care approach. We should be emphasizing the importance of the cost savings resulting from the information produced by imaging.

New alliances and new ways of seeing old problems could potentially strengthen us all in the future. Let's hope that things don't become too interesting before the eagerly anticipated upswing and the true New South Africans reveal themselves.

¹ There is little if any evidence that this phrase is actually Chinese in origin. One of the earliest documented uses is attributed to Robert F Kennedy during his visit to Cape Town in June 1966, while speaking of the South African situation. The complete text is supposedly "May you live in interesting times and come to the attention of important people". The second half of the quote seems to me to be the more unsettling! (Source: The Internet)