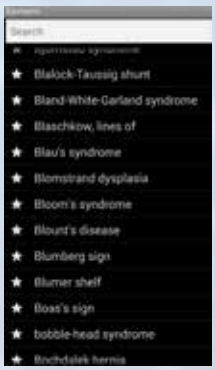
Apps for Docs 2

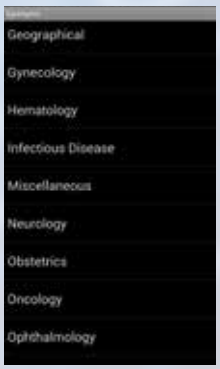
By Dr Jipson Quah, Editorial Board Member

HAVING DELVED deeper into the world of medical mobile apps, I discovered many more weird and wonderful ones. Thus a sequel was inevitable – with a potential trilogy. Like those recommended in the previous edition (*SMA News* November 2014 or http://goo.gl/3cgd3Y), I do hope that these apps will go a long way to delight and educate fellow colleagues. After receiving some feedback, I have suggested generally free apps in this instalment to encourage users in embracing them. The first three are available on both iTunes and Google Play, while the last two are exclusive to iTunes. (Apologies to Windows Phone and Blackberry users: there is a severe lack of apps catering to your operating platforms.)

1. Read by QxMD (QxMD Medical Software Inc)

A fantastic app for all clinicians who practise evidence-based medicine and also attend journal club meetings regularly. In this age of Kindle and mobile reading devices, a dazzling collection of medical journals is made available anywhere and anytime, via Read by QxMD. This app collates the latest articles from over 6,000 journals and can be personalised based on one's specialty interests. It has a beautifully simple layout with clear presentation. While some research texts require institutional or individual subscriptions, many journals offer full texts in PDF format – very handy for journal club meetings. Best of all, the app is free with few advertisements!





2. Eponyms (srcHG/Ossus GmbH)

Having facies Hippocratica while on your fourth call in a week? Having trouble recalling the clinical features of Van Wyk-Grumbach syndrome? This app holds all the answers in a concise manner. It also organises eponymous signs and syndromes according to specialties for easier reference. Having doubts about downloading it? Well, if you can describe all of the following eponyms, then you can consider leaving this essential app out. Try Carey Coombs murmur, Foix-Alajouanine syndrome and Vogt's triad. At the very least, this app makes for good toilet entertainment.

3. ReachMD MedicalRadio (ReachMD)

This app is "designed exclusively for medical professionals and delivers world class medical education". Using radio broadcasts as an excellent form of knowledge delivery, ReachMD allows medical professionals to stay in touch with latest medical developments and opinions. The radio programmes cater to all levels and specialties of medical practice and can be downloaded. This app is particularly good for listening during the morning commute or just before bedtime. Feature series include Grand Rounds Nation CME, Oncology Power Hour and GI Insights. Android users will have to access the station via TuneIn Radio, available on Google Play.

4. Brain MRI Atlas (Taboom)

An extremely simple yet effective app for all clinicians, especially junior residents. It identifies significant structures within the brain (such as the globus pallidus, corona radiata and splenium of corpus callosum), and assists clinicians in drawing links between radiological and clinical findings. Presented in 31 well-labelled transverse slices, the MRI atlas is a superb tool for junior residents who depend heavily on radiologist reports and may require guidance in reading brain MRIs.

5. Radiology 2.0: One Night in the ED (Daniel Cornfeld)

A great interactive teaching tool. It presents many common surgical emergencies, with accompanying diagnostic CT scans, and is best suited for non-radiology residents or interns. In each case, the user is tasked with scrutinising the relevant scan before reading the case findings. An excellent feature of this app is the variety of pathologies found on CT scan for the same diagnosis. For example, an inflamed appendix may be complicated by a periappendiceal abscess; while a case of pancreatitis with heterogenous enhancement suggests pancreatic necrosis, a complication with high morbidity, thus indicating the need for urgent surgical intervention. This app allows users to better understand the radiological findings and pathology, and to scout for potential complications. ■

Dr Jipson Quah is currently a Singapore Armed Forces medical officer serving his National Service. He enjoys music making and fitness-related activities in his spare time.