

BY GUY FRIJA AND LORENZO BONOMO

EuroSafe Imaging Stars: be a star for your patients



EuroSafe Imaging is the European Society of Radiology's (ESR) flagship initiative to promote quality and safety in medical imaging for the benefit of patients by strengthening medical radiation protection across Europe following a holistic and inclusive approach.

EuroSafe Imaging is committed to supporting the Bonn Call for Action published by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and co-sponsored by the World Health Organisation (WHO). Based on this it has issued the 'EuroSafe Imaging Call for Action', a 12-point action plan to achieve EuroSafe Imaging's objectives of promoting appropriateness in radiological imaging, maintaining radiation doses within diagnostic reference levels, encouraging the use of the ALARA principle, promoting the use of up-to-date equipment, empowering patients and joining forces with various stakeholders.

The EuroSafe Imaging Stars initiative was launched under the umbrella of EuroSafe Imaging in early 2016 to support the Call for Action. It has been designed to identify and recognise imaging facilities that embody best practice in radiation protection and that are committed to putting the principles advocated and concepts developed by the European Society of Radiology into practice.

The Stars initiative enables the European Society of Radiology to collect dose data for analysing trends in medical imaging. In addition, the Stars network can use the data for benchmarking and comparing their results with those of their peers.

The EuroSafe Imaging Stars initiative provides imaging departments with an incentive to embrace a holistic approach to quality and safety in radiology, and thus the Stars network takes efforts to give radiation protection greater visibility while having a positive impact on clinical practice at the same time.

To participate in the EuroSafe Imaging Stars initiative, imaging departments have to perform a self-assessment on their level of radiation protection. Therefore, an applicant department has to complete an online application form. The list of criteria of the self-assessment is divided into five sections and imaging facilities will be awarded up to five stars depending on how many criteria of a certain level

they fulfil. However, some criteria are mandatory, for example participation in the survey series to collect CT dose data entitled 'Is your Imaging EuroSafe?'. In addition, the self-assessment also includes questions on the use of CT protocols and automatic dose recording, dose optimisation, justification, equipment quality, clinical audit, or the use of a clinical decision support for imaging referral guidelines. After successful evaluation, the participating imaging departments are awarded the respective number of stars from one to five and listed on the 'Wall of Stars' according to the level attained. Participating facilities have to undergo the self-assessment biannually to renew their star status.

EuroSafe Imaging aims to promote quality and safety in medical imaging well beyond Europe and to encourage other regions to follow suit. Thus, imaging departments worldwide can apply to become a EuroSafe Imaging Star, provided that the department's head is an ESR member in good standing. EuroSafe Imaging serves as a role model for radiation protection campaigns on other continents, where initiatives like Latin Safe (LAC countries), the pan-African AFROSAFE initiative, Canada Safe Imaging and Japan Safe Imaging have recently been established.

As of January 2017, 44 facilities from 17 countries worldwide have joined the EuroSafe Imaging Stars network, with another 25

applications currently in the process of evaluation.

If your department is not a EuroSafe Imaging Star yet, don't miss the chance to apply online or at the **EuroSafe Imaging booth**, located in the EuroSafe Imaging Café.

You can also attend the dedicated **session on the EuroSafe Imaging Stars today, 16:00-17:30, Room M1**. This session will present the EuroSafe Imaging Stars initiative in detail while also focusing on limitations and how to improve the concept.

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Prof. Guy Frija from Paris, France, is a member of the ESR Radiation Protection Subcommittee and chair of the EuroSafe Imaging Steering Committee.

Lorenzo Bonomo from Rome, Italy, is professor of radiology at the Radiology Catholic University Rome. He is the chair of the EuroSafe Imaging Stars initiative.

EuroSafe Imaging Session

Friday, March 3, 16:00-17:30, Room M 1

EU 5 EuroSafe imaging stars

Moderators: L. Bonomo; Rome/IT

S. Ebdon-Jackson; Didcot/UK

- » **Value and limitations of the 'Is your Imaging EuroSafe' surveys**
L. Bonomo; Rome/IT
- » **Integration of the 'EuroSafe Imaging Clinical Audit Pack' in imaging departments**
B.E. Kelly; Belfast/UK
- » **Benchmarking: why, how and when?**
J. Hakumaki; Kuopio/FI
- » **The value of achieving star status**
D. Akata; Ankara/TR
- » **How to improve the EuroSafe imaging stars concept?**
L. Donoso; Barcelona/ES
- » **Improving the integration of radiation protection in the clinical setting**
G. Frija; Paris/FR

This session is part of the EuroSafe Imaging campaign.

EuroSafe Imaging Stars: Innsbruck Medical University in Austria

EuroSafe Imaging Stars is EuroSafe Imaging's latest initiative to promote quality and safety in medical imaging. By recruiting a network of imaging departments committed to best practice in radiation protection, the Stars initiative will give radiation protection efforts greater visibility, have a direct impact on clinical practice and enable the European Society of Radiology to collect data for analysis and benchmarking.



Prof. Werner Jaschke is director of the department of radiology at Innsbruck Medical University, Austria. He is a certified interventional radiologist and chairs a department with more than 60 radiologists.

One of the EuroSafe Imaging Stars institutions is the department of radiology at Innsbruck Medical University, Austria. The department of radiology has approximately 300,000 patient visits per year, operates fully digital and provides imaging services and interventional procedures for the Austrian federal state of Tyrol, with approximately 48 million overnight tourists per year.

Please read below an interview with Prof. Werner Jaschke, director of the department of radiology at Innsbruck Medical University, which is a five-star facility.

ECR Today: Your radiology department joined the EuroSafe Imaging Stars network. Why did you apply and what are your thoughts on this initiative?

Werner Jaschke: We felt that join-

ing the campaign would enhance our own mission to be a leader in the field of dose management and radiation safety.

ECRT: One important contribution EuroSafe Imaging Stars are expected to make is to participate in the data collection initiatives through the 'Is your Imaging EuroSafe?' surveys on CT dose. What is your opinion on these surveys and how useful do you think the EuroSafe Imaging survey findings will be for your daily clinical activity?

WJ: Benchmarks in CT dose are very important for optimisation. We can meet diagnostic reference levels in Austria without problems. But, of course, we want to reach CT dose levels which compare favourably with other European leaders in radiation safety.

ECRT: What are your suggestions for improving the EuroSafe Imaging Stars initiative?

WJ: The programme will probably require clinical audits at some point. This is, however, expensive and a lot of work for everybody involved. Mentoring of institutions which have problems establishing an effective radiation safety culture also has to be considered.

ECRT: Which future cooperation and activities within the network of Stars would you like to see?

WJ: Hot topics in radiation safety are paediatric radiology, CT and interventional radiology. I think interventional radiology should be in the focus of future activities. Interventional radiology is probably the only field of radiology in which you can encounter deterministic effects of radiation.

ECRT: Would you recommend other facilities to become EuroSafe Imaging Stars? If so, what arguments would you use to convince them?

WJ: I would encourage in particular every high-volume centre to join the initiative. The EuroSafe Imaging Stars initiative can stimulate new activities and improvements that reach beyond the requirements of national radiation protection laws.

