EuroSafe Imaging Stars: be a star for your patients

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 are committed to radiation protection and that are committed to putting the principles advocated and concepts developed by the European Society of Radiology into practice.

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 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.

One of the EuroSafe Imaging Stars institutions is the department of radiology at Innsbruck Medical University Austria. The department of radiology has approximately 200 patient visits per year, operates fully digital and provides imaging services and interventional procedures for the Austrian federal state of Tyrol, with approximately at 30 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.

ECRT: Why is EuroSafe Imaging Stars network important for medical imaging departments?

Prof. Werner Jaschke: We felt that joining the campaign would enhance our own mission to be a leader in the field of dose management and radiation safety.

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

Prof. Jaschke: I would encourage in particular every high-volume centre to join the initiative. The EuroSafe Imaging Stars initiative can stimulate new 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 Medical Imaging area.

You can also attend the dedicated session on the EuroSafe Imaging Stars today, 18:00–17:30, Room M1. This session will present the EuroSafe Imaging Stars initiative in detail while also focusing on limitations and how to improve the concept.

EuroSafe Imaging Session
Friday, March 3, 16:00–17:30, Room M1
EU 5 EuroSafe Imaging stars
Moderators: L. Bonomo; Rome/IT
S. Eldohn-Jackson; Didcot/UK

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?

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.

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

Prof. Jaschke: 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.

ECRT: What are the challenges that EuroSafe Imaging Stars face?

Prof. Jaschke: The challenge is to convince the centres that have problems establishing the initiative. The EuroSafe Imaging Stars initiative can stimulate new activities and improvements that reach beyond the requirements of national radiation protection laws.

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