

# EuroSafe Imaging Stars: Affidea Diagnostic Center in Budapest

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.



The team of the Affidea Diagnostic Center within the Péterfy Hospital and Trauma Center in Budapest was proud to receive the EuroSafe Imaging Stars certificate.

One of the EuroSafe Imaging Stars institutions is the Affidea Diagnostic Center within the Péterfy Hospital and Trauma Center, which is the biggest public-private partnership in Budapest, Hungary. The centre has two CT scanners and performs more than 40,000 examinations annually. Affidea has operated in Hungary for 25 years and currently directly employs around 10% of the Hungarian radiology workforce.

Please read below an interview with Dr. Eva Papp, chief radiologist at the Affidea Diagnostic Center, 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?**

**Eva Papp:** We joined the EuroSafe Imaging Stars initiative, as we are part of the Affidea Dose Excellence Programme (DEP). Through this

international collaboration, we have unified our practice together with centres across 12 countries, and so are in an excellent position to both optimise our practice and dose levels and undertake collaborative research in this field. The EuroSafe Imaging Stars initiative is a fantastic way for those centres engaging in CT dose optimisation to be recognised by their peers and also to demonstrate to patients that we take exposure to radiation seriously by embedding a culture of dose awareness into everything we do.

**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?**

**EP:** Data collection is the necessary first step to benchmarking a department's own practice against a group of peers. Such surveys are vital, but they can only provide a snapshot view of clinical practice. How useful the findings are is dependent upon the amount of

granularity in the way the data are presented.

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

**EP:** The EuroSafe Imaging Stars initiative is an excellent project, and taking part is both a privilege and a pleasure. Interviews such as this are a very important way to increase the exposure of the wider radiological community to this project. The more the initiative can be promoted through the official channels of the ESR the better.

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

**EP:** International cooperation is tremendously important. We are fortunate enough to be part of a dose optimisation project that includes 67 centres, and it is clear that by comparing the way we all operate allows development of best practice. There are many areas around dose optimisation that require further work – for instance the integration of clinical decision support and the correct method of image quality analysis. These are questions that we are looking into, and the more sites that work on



these together, the faster we can reach meaningful answers.

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

**EP:** We would definitely recommend other facilities to become EuroSafe Imaging Stars! It is a challenging process to obtain the necessary evidence to support the application, but it highlights strengths and weaknesses that are key drivers for service improvement. It allows everyone to come together to focus on quality. The final result is a huge badge of honour, and one that patients can recognise as being important to them.

BY HENRIETTE STÅHLBRANDT

# Swedish Society to improve standards for protocols and reports



The new board of the Swedish Society of Radiology met in Gränna, Sweden, in January 2017.

The Swedish Society of Radiology continues to be the main society for radiologists in Sweden, representing a vast majority of Swedish radiologists. The Society handles matters of significance to Swedish radiology, aiming to facilitate, develop and improve the field of Swedish radiology through knowledge and research.

A current issue includes easing the implementation of the Standardised Cancer Pathways Directive, as directed by the Swedish government. The Directive aims to shorten the timeframe from when clinical suspicion of cancer arises to confirmation or exclusion of cancer. The Directive offers certain benefits for the Swedish diagnostic system as

it gives us an opportunity to gain insight into our current situation of insufficient levels of equipment and personnel. We could now obtain the means to drastically improve our response time from referral to examination to finished evaluation, but perhaps with the risk of increasing waiting times in radiology for patients not included in the pre-defined cancer pathways. Imaging diagnostics are an important step in most of the cancer pathways, and thus we are struggling to adequately meet the demands. The cancer pathways are specifically designed not to take current lack of resources into consideration, and are not always designed with the latest knowledge in mind. The Swedish Society of Radiology works to facilitate the introduction of the Cancer Pathways Directive to the nation's radiology departments by offering standardised recommendations of protocols, standardised reporting structure and other forms of support. The Swedish Society of Gastrointestinal and Abdominal Radiology has taken the lead in this field,

and we hope our efforts will be of national value.

The Swedish Society of Radiology also facilitates the spread of knowledge by endorsing the Swedish iGuide pilots, as well as supporting a newly founded Quality Register in Interventional Radiology. We are also discussing an update to the Swedish radiology textbook and creating a Swedish radiology Wiki website. We continue to give courses in radiology, which are appreciated throughout the country, as well as organise the annual national radiology meeting, including the European Diploma in Radiology (EDiR) examination, and to award research stipends each year.

We are proud to announce that in December 2016 we received approval of our first subspecialty certification in interventional radiology. Sweden previously had only one other official subspecialty (neuroradiology). This certification follows our determination to offer more official subspecialties.

Challenges include finding ways to inform and involve our mem-

bers in our work. Our quarterly members' journal is well appreciated, as is our website, but these ways of communication do not sufficiently promote dialogue with our members. In 2017, we will pay more attention to creating a more diverse communications platform, possibly embracing Twitter, Facebook and a radiology Wiki to further support and facilitate seamless interaction with our members, as well as the public.

However, we continue to make sure that the different regions in Sweden and the different levels of healthcare are represented on the board of our Society, and we know from local discussions that the Society is highly thought of and appreciated. As always, we continue our work with enthusiasm!

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