

BY CHRISTOPH HOESCHEN

Medical societies establish European Alliance for Medical Radiation Protection Research (EURAMED)

For the first time, five medical societies within Europe, the European Society of Radiology together with the European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM), the European Federation of Organisations for Medical Physics (EFOMP), the European Federation of Radiographer Societies (EFRS) and the European Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology (ESTRO), have joined forces and agreed on a collaboration to improve the safe application of ionising radiation in medical care by developing and exploring common research strategies and by actively promoting the translation of results into clinical practice.



This has resulted in the establishment of the European Alliance for Medical Radiation Protection Research (EURAMED), under the umbrella of the European Institute for Biomedical Imaging Research (EIBIR), which was officially launched at the Oxford Radiation Protection Week in September 2016.

This European platform represents a consortium of associations involved in the application of ionising radiation in medicine, with the goal of jointly improving medical care and its radiation protection issues through sustainable research efforts.

EURAMED complements existing and established European platforms in several other fields of radiation protection and will create visibility for the medical field in this context. The other platforms are:

- Multidisciplinary European Low Dose Initiative (MELODI)
- European Radiation Dosimetry Group (EURADOS)
- European Platform for Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Response and Recovery (NERIS)
- European Radioecology Alliance (ALLIANCE)

The first major step to overcoming the fragmentation and lack of visibility for radiation protection in the medical field was the development of a common strategic research agenda (SRA). For this, a group of representatives named by the medical associations dealing with ionising radiation has worked together



The EURAMED launch event took place during the European Radiation Protection Week in September 2016 in Oxford, UK.

to identify the most important topics in radiation protection research in medical applications.

The research topics considered necessary and most urgent for effective medical care and efficient in terms of radiation protection are summarised in five main themes:

1. Measurement and quantification in the field of medical applications of ionising radiation
2. Normal tissue reactions, radiation-induced morbidity and long-term health problems
3. Optimisation of radiation exposure and harmonisation of practices
4. Justification of the use of ionising radiation in medical practice
5. Infrastructures for quality assurance

This SRA is considered a living document, and hence any comments and suggestions by stakeholders or facilitators of medical radiation protection are most welcome.

The current version was approved by the boards of the five societies in November 2015, and has been

available since July 2016 at www.euramed.eu. In addition, it has been submitted for publication to *Insights into Imaging*.

The long-term goal of EURAMED is to establish an independent and sustainable platform in order to increase its visibility and become eligible for participation in European and international projects. Establishing EURAMED as a legal entity is considered important in order to facilitate and coordinate European research activities in the area of medical radiation protection. This will allow it to assume an umbrella function for the harmonisation of practice, ensuring an improvement in the European radiation protection safety culture within medicine.

- The mission of EURAMED is to
- Jointly improve medical care through sustainable research efforts in medical radiation protection
 - Identify common research areas and define a common strategic research agenda
 - Serve as a platform for medical

radiation protection research, linking researchers and clinicians, adopting a harmonised approach to lobbying at European level to impact the European research funding landscape

- Develop an aligned approach and response to European research calls. The EURAMED Working Group (as of December 2016) comprises: Christoph Hoeschen (Uni Magdeburg/DE, Chair), John Damlakis (EFOMP), Wolfgang Dörr (ESTRO), Guy Frija (ESR), Gerhard Glatting (EANM), Johann Langendijk (ESTRO), Kristoff Muylle (EANM), Graciano Paulo (EFRS), Wolfram Stiller (ESR), Virginia Tsapaki (EFOMP), Jonathan McNulty (EFRS) and Monika Hierath (EIBIR, Support).

Prof. Christoph Hoeschen is professor of physics at the institute of medical technology and vice dean at the Otto-von-Guericke University Magdeburg, Germany, and EURAMED Steering Committee Chair.

EuroSafe Imaging Session

Thursday, March 2, 16:00–17:30, Room L 8
EU 3 European Alliance for Medical Radiation Protection Research (EURAMED)

Moderators: G. Frija; Paris/FR
C. Hoeschen; Magdeburg/DE

- » Introduction of EURAMED
C. Hoeschen; Magdeburg/DE
- » Cardiovascular effects of radiotherapy in breast cancer patients: potential mechanisms
W. Dörr; Vienna/AT
- » Circulating biomarkers reflecting dose exposure
R. Tamarat; Fontenay-aux-Roses/FR
- » General physical principles used for optimisation
G. Paulo; Coimbra/PT
- » Dose distribution in interventional radiology
H. Schlattl; Munich/DE

This session is part of the EuroSafe Imaging campaign.

