

EuroSafe Imaging Stars: Kuopio University Hospital in Finland

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.



One of the EuroSafe Imaging Stars institutions is the Kuopio University Hospital (KUH) Diagnostic Imaging Center in Finland. The KUH Imaging Center provides primary to tertiary level diagnostics for 850,000 inhabitants in eastern Finland and with approximately 180,000 annual studies, encompasses all fields of diagnostic and interventional radiology.

Please read below an interview with Dr. Juhana Hakumäki from the KUH Diagnostic Imaging 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?

Juhana Hakumäki: We applied because the initiative's cause is important and deserves far more public attention. We also wanted to see where our facility stands in terms of 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?



Dr. Juhana Hakumäki is physician-in-chief and director of the Kuopio University Hospital (KUH) Diagnostic Imaging Center. He is also an adjunct professor at the University of Eastern Finland.

JH: The surveys are increasingly important for operating comparisons as more data is being acquired by participants. We know that our CT doses are generally speaking

very low, but if someone is able to push the limits we are happy to show that but also hear from others on how to keep doing it.

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

JH: It would be beneficial if public awareness information material and templates were provided by the initiative for local use. That would be helpful for our work. Incorporation of the initiative as an ECR session is a great step forward.

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

JH: The possible activities are manifold. Among others, we could imagine dedicated EuroSafe Imaging workshops, database building and best practice manuals.



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

JH: Absolutely! If radiation safety processes are in good shape, it is relatively easy to become a four, even five-star facility. This provides the patients and stakeholders an important signal. I would also say that it is a very visible and rewarding way to empower and thank the employees for their skills and efforts.

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