

**ESR News December 2013 issue**

## **Radiation protection orientation session**

### **Radiation protection orientation session for senior radiologists in an academic setting**

By Madan M. Rehani, Director of Radiation Protection, European Society of Radiology

A common myth among radiologists is that radiation protection means talking about radiation units, rules, European BSS, regulations, dose limits etc. So, the question arises why should chairpersons and senior radiologists spend time on something they have heard about so many times before? This myth was challenged by providing [20 statements](#) under the title: 'If you are comfortable handling at least 10 of following situations, you do not need to participate in this orientation programme. If not, then this orientation programme is for you.' For example the first two statements were:

1. A resident heard in a conference that there has never been a human case of radiation-induced hereditary effect, even among survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, so he/she asks why there is an emphasis on gonadal radiation protection. Are you able to explain effectively to him/her?
2. A staff member heard from someone that he/she should not perform more than 10 fluoroscopic examinations per week and so he/she is unwilling to carry out a full workload. Can you deal with the situation in a manner that is in line with ICRP recommendations?

This gave prospective participants an idea of what the session was about, which was motivation in decision-making.

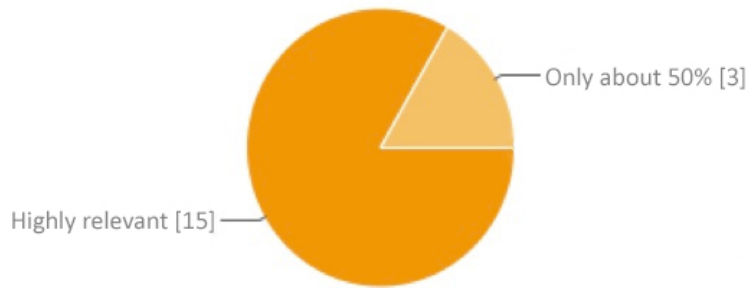
Besides Dr. Madan Rehani, course director; Prof Peter Vock and Prof. Franz Kainberger were presenters and facilitators. The programme was a pre-MIR event on October 9 at Barcelona from 13:30 to 18:00.

There were 23 participants from the following countries: Belgium (2), Canada (1), Croatia (1), Estonia (1), Germany (1), Italy (1), Mexico (1), Netherlands (1), Russia (2), Spain (10) and Turkey (2).

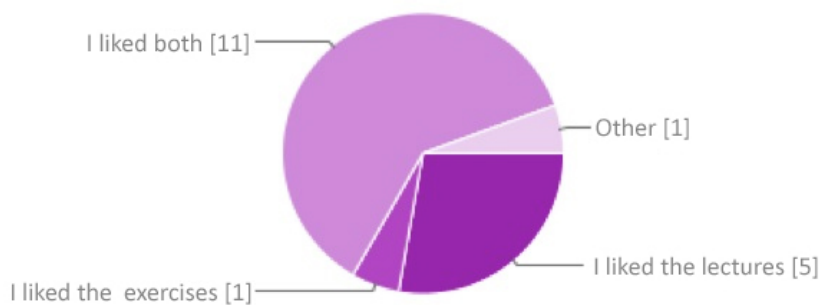
The feedback provided by participants was as follows:

Eighty-three percent indicated that the programme was of suitable duration, 17% said that it was too short and no one thought that it was too long. Thirty-nine percent indicated that one full day would be better, although the current programme was of suitable duration.

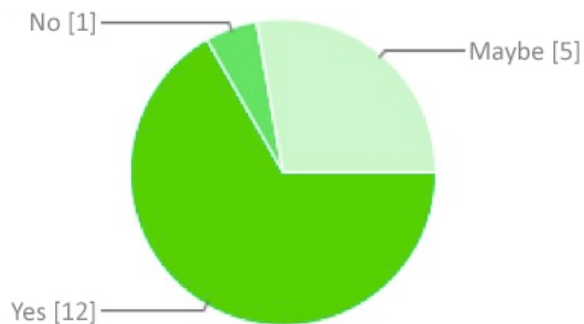
How relevant were the issues discussed in this programme to radiology practice? The responses were: Highly relevant (83%), only about 50% issues were relevant (17%) and only a small fraction was relevant (zero).



When asked whether they liked the presentation and interactive exercises the participants answered as follows: I liked the lectures more than the exercises (28%), I liked the exercises more than the lectures (6%), I liked both almost equally (61%), other (6%).



Would you like us to help you conduct a similar programme in your country? Yes (67%), Maybe (28%) and No thanks, we can do it ourselves (6%)



#### Other feedback included

- Providing handouts/material of the course
- European regulations
- Information about JCI or other accreditation
- How to handle machines and manage dose
- Consensus on how they can commit themselves
- Justification techniques