ESR and partners put medical radiation protection onto Europe’s research agenda

An important part of EuroSafe Imaging’s mission is to promote research in medical radiation protection and contribute to shaping the European research agenda. The European Society of Radiology (ESR) recently achieved a milestone in this regard by becoming a member of the Multidisciplinary European Low-Dose Initiative (MELODI), an organisation promoting radiation protection research.

Previously the cooperation with MELODI had been governed by a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2014, but the ESR’s acceptance as a MELODI member by its representative and fragmented to date. In addition to giving greater visibility to medical radiation protection in the research community, the aim is also to influence the EU research programme Horizon 2020 by proposing research priorities within its area of expertise.

The first version of the SRA for medical radiation protection has been reviewed and approved by all medical societies involved. The final draft version, which will be circulated soon, will be the first time that the medical community has reached a consensus on a joint approach. This unity will help to ensure greater visibility in radiation protection research and opportunities for funding in future research programmes, which represent a major success for the medical community.

The logical next step following the publication of the Horizon 2020 call NFRP9 – Impacts of low-dose radiation exposure which comes at a very opportune moment for the intensifying cooperation between the medical societies, as several topics lobbied for by the ESR, such as a coding system for medical imaging, a repository for dosimetry data, and biobanking infrastructure, are expected to be allocated funding. A high level of interest and bid competition is expected, with only one project likely to be accepted, as a coding system for medical imaging can be highly competitive, which is why the ESR has taken the initiative and suggested the five medical societies join forces and submit a single application under EIBIR’s management.

2015 was a very encouraging year for medical radiation protection research as the medical community came together, joined forces with the influential MELODI platform, and agreed on a joint strategic approach. Having laid the groundwork, all involved stakeholders now have to build on this foundation and continue to intensify their cooperation to reap the benefits and take medical radiation protection research to the next level.