

BY DAVID KOFF

EuroSafe Imaging meets Canada Safe Imaging



Canada Safe Imaging (CSI) has been invited to the ECR 2019 by EuroSafe Imaging to present the specificities of the Canadian healthcare system and explain how the fact that healthcare is a provincial responsibility may impact the standardisation of radiation protection strategies across the provinces, as evidenced by a recent pan-Canadian survey conducted by CSI.

CSI was created in November 2015, with the support of EuroSafe Imaging, to respond to the need for a focused national strategy aligned with the recommendations of the Bonn Call-for-Action and the need for a unified effort to ensure radiation safety in medical imaging for all Canadians. CSI's vision is to strengthen medical radiation protection of patients and foster a culture of radiation safety in healthcare in Canada. Ultimately, CSI's role is to provide guidelines and tools for patient radiation safety that are adapted to the context of the Canadian healthcare system.

CSI is a joint initiative between the Canadian Association of Radiologists, the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists, and the Canadian Organization of Medical Physicists. It also includes a number of other Canadian associations, universities and healthcare institutions and organisations. More recently, CSI joined forces with the Radiation Safety Institute of Canada (RSIC), a national non-profit organisation dedicated to the promotion of occupational radiation safety, in order to leverage resources and effect positive change in the national radiation protection agenda in medical imaging.

CSI's mission is to:

- Promote knowledge translation and adoption of and adherence to good radiation safety practices and standards as they relate to the Canadian healthcare environment;
- Adopt potential strategies and initiatives to enhance medical imaging radiation safety and care;
- Shape and promote a strategic research agenda for radiation protection of patients in Canada

Achievements:

- The CSI website, available in both English and French, can be accessed at: <http://canadasafeimaging.ca/en/homepage/>

- CSI has partnered with the RSIC to implement a new service: the Free Information Service in Radiation Safety offers medical imaging professionals answers to patient and workplace safety questions, as well as answers to direct patient enquiries about imaging procedures' exposures and their associated risks.
- A voluntary stakeholder registration portal has been created and CSI is inviting all interested parties to register in order to receive updates, invitations to roundtable discussions and free awareness sessions.

Activities:

In order to better understand the Canadian and international landscape, CSI has conducted a number of studies:

- A review of the different organisations involved in medical radiation safety at the national and provincial levels
- A review of patient and physician knowledge and dialogue about low dose radiation exposure
- A review of national diagnostic reference levels (DRLs) and how they compare with other countries
- A review of different medical radiation safety initiatives worldwide

Coffee & Talk Session

Friday, March 1, 12:15–13:15, Coffee & Talk 2

C 15 EuroSafe Imaging meets Canada Safe Imaging

- » Chairperson's introduction
G. Frija; Paris/FR
- » Introduction of Canada Safe Imaging Call for Action
D. Wormald; Guelph, ON/CA
- » Current challenges and obstacles
N. Neuheimer; Ottawa, ON/CA
- » The pan-Canadian survey: strategy moving forward
D.A. Koff; Hamilton, ON/CA
- » Open forum discussion: Suggestions for the implementation of a national strategy for radiation protection

This session is part of the EuroSafe Imaging campaign.

In 2017, CSI, in collaboration with the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technology in Health (CADTH), conducted a pan-Canadian survey to determine awareness and implementation of the Bonn Call for Action recommendations amongst the radiation safety community. A twelve-question survey asked Canadian health professionals working in radiation safety to report on the extent to which the 10 Bonn Call for Action priorities have been implemented in their jurisdictions. As well, for each priority, survey responders were invited to provide feedback on initiatives that promote compliance, policy and practice issues that impact the application of the priorities, actions to help harmonise radiation protection activities across Canada, and ideas to support the priorities in the future.

The survey concluded that, while there are numerous initiatives aimed at radiation protection and safety at the federal, provincial, and local level, it is still a challenge

in Canada. Not all initiatives are implemented, and adherence may vary from province to province, facility to facility, and, in some instances, from department to department.

The full report is available at <https://cadth.ca/radiation-protection-and-safety-awareness-and-implementation-bonn-call-action-priorities-canada>

Moving forward, CSI is working with its partners to implement a Canadian version of the EuroSafe Imaging Stars initiative. Stay tuned for further information on this project.

David Koff, MD, FRCPC is Professor of Radiology at McMaster University, in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada and has been Chair of the Department of Radiology for the past eleven years. He is the Chair of Canada Safe Imaging and the Director of the Medical Imaging Informatics Research Centre at McMaster.



ISRQSA members

EuroSafe Imaging is a role model for other safe imaging campaigns worldwide. They are coordinated by the International Society of Radiology Quality & Safety Alliance (ISRQSA). Current members of ISRQSA are: AFROSAFE (E-Afrosafe and F-Afrosafe), ArabSafe, Canada Safe Imaging, EuroSafe Imaging, Image Gently, Image Wisely, Japan Safe Imaging, and LatinSafe.

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