IAEA’s actions to make radiology safer for patients around the world

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) leads the development of international standards for radiation protection and safety and the actions on implementation of these standards in its 170 Member States. The International Action Plan for the Radiological Protection of Patients, approved soon after the first Strategic International Conference in 2001 in Malaga, Spain, initiated an international collaboration to strengthen radiation protection of patients in medical uses of ionising radiation.

In response to the Bonn Call for Action, many international organisations launched their own specific actions, including the EuroSafe Imaging Call for Action by the European Society of Radiology (ESR). Developments around the world since the Bonn conference were reviewed in the International Conference – Achieving Change in Practice, held in 2017 in Vienna. Representatives of 79 countries and 11 international organisations agreed that intensified work be conducted in response to the Bonn Call for Action, highlighting the importance of partnerships between national governments, civil society, international agencies, researchers, educators, institutions and professional associations.

An outcome from the 2017 conference was the decision to produce an ‘Implementation Toolkit’ for the Bonn Call for Action that is under development by the IAEA. This will be a specialised webpage organised around the 30 actions and will provide links to useful tools and material developed by different organisations; training material; and many other resources that will help in implementing each specific call. This will be a living document, updated with the latest available approaches. International organisations and professional societies have an important role to play in the development and promotion of the Bonn Call for Action Implementation Toolkit.

A Coffee & Talk session on March 1, 13:30-14:30. Room Coffee & Talk 2, will discuss the importance of taking a team approach and developing a safety culture in the imaging department. The session will involve three radiology teams from Croatia, Bulgaria and Latvia, who will present their good practices in building effective teams for achieving optimum results in medical imaging. The team from Croatia will focus on justification based on shared decision-making by a referring medical practitioner and a radiologist, who use referral guidelines for imaging to select the most appropriate exam for the patient. Patients also need to be informed about the expected benefits, risks and limitations of the proposed radiological procedure, as well as the consequences of not undergoing the procedure. Once the procedure has been deemed necessary, the next step is to perform it with the lowest possible dose to obtain the required diagnostic information.

Optimisation includes selection of equipment and associated software, setting a robust maintenance and quality assurance programme, and performing regular patient dose assessment using diagnostic reference levels (DRLs). Imaging protocols need to be optimised: the team from Bulgaria will describe how the radiologists, radiographers and medical physicists work as a team, each making a unique contribution towards optimised imaging. Finally, the paediatric hospital team from Latvia will explain how they make use of the departmental incident reporting system for learning from errors and improving safety culture and patient care.

The IAEA supports the development of team culture by providing training to teams in the framework of the IAEA Technical cooperation programme, with the aim of making justification and optimisation an integral part of daily medical practice. The cooperation between IAEA, WHO and the professional societies is a good model to be followed at national level. By joining efforts and combining their competence, different stakeholders can improve quality and safety in medical imaging for the benefit of patients.

Coffee & Talk Session
Friday, March 1, 13:30-14:30, Coffee & Talk 2
C 17 Team approach and safety culture in the imaging department

Keynote Lecture:
K. D. Lovblad, Geneva/CH
Chairpersons introduction
J. N. Vassileva, Vienna/AT
Performing the appropriate procedure: whose role is it?
B. Bikić-Pal, Zagreb/HR
Performing procedure appropriately: whose role is it?
D. Kostova-Leferova, Sofia/BG
Improving patient safety through learning from errors
L. Semble, Riga/LV
Open forum discussion: How to build an effective team to achieve best results?

This session is part of the EuroSafe Imaging campaign.

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Ola Holmberg, PhD, is the Head of Radiation Protection of Patients Unit of the IAEA. He was the scientific secretary for the International Conferences on Radiation Protection in Medicine 2012 in Bonn and in 2017 in Vienna.

AI & ANALYTICS THEATER – Booth 303 - X3

Today’s topics: February 28th 2019
10:15 am Pneumothorax detection and localization in X-Ray images: why annotation matters
11:30 am AI presentation delivered by Intel
12:15 pm Lunch and team presentation: annotation & AI in imaging
01:00 pm AI presentation delivered by Amazon Web Services
01:30 pm Ins and outs of doing annotations so AI works
02:30 pm AI automated plan, scan, and diagnose to provide exam consistency in MRI
03:30 pm Preventative for no-shows enabled by AI

Plus more topics! To get a complete list of today’s talks in the theater, please go to gehcarenhcare.com/ai-theater

This theater is made possible thanks to collaborations with our partners

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