

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF RADIOLOGY (ISR)

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Abstract — This article briefly presents the role, activities and objectives of the International Society of Radiology

I. INTRODUCTION TO ISR

The foundation for the ISR was laid 94 years ago, when a series of international radiology congresses took place in London, England, in 1925. Although the official establishment of the ISR took place only in 1995, the idea behind it is still the same, namely, to assemble national radiology societies for them to speak with a common voice for advancing our specialty.

Thanks to its status of Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in the World Health Organization (WHO) and as primary advisor of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the ISR has a powerful role in representing the global radiological community with a focus on quality and safety as well as education.

II. QUALITY AND SAFETY IN RADIOLOGY

To promote global radiological quality and safety, the ISR cooperates not only with WHO and IAEA, but also with stakeholders such as the International Council for Radiation Protection (ICRP), the International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists (ISRRT) and the International Organization of Medical Physicists (IOMP). The ISR was one of the international bodies that launched specific measures to support 10 proposed actions in the IAEA's and WHO's 2012 Bonn Call for Action, which identifies responsibilities and proposes priorities for stakeholders regarding radiation protection in medicine.

In 2016 the ISR set up the ISR Quality and Safety Alliance (ISRQSA) to gather and facilitate regional, national and international quality and safety campaigns in radiation protection. ISRQSA is co-chaired by Guy Frija (Chair of EuroSafe Imaging) and Donald Frush (Chair of Image Gently) and aims to establish a strategic plan for global efforts related to quality and safety, embracing contributions towards justification and optimisation, education, equipment performance, regulatory guidance,

effective communication, as well as research related to medical radiation protection. Along with EuroSafe Imaging and Image Gently, the following radiology-led, mostly multi-stakeholder professional organisations are ISRQSA members: AFROSAFE (E-Afrosafe and F-Afrosafe), Arab Safe, Canada Safe Imaging, Image Wisely, Japan Safe Imaging, and LatinSafe.

The ISRQSA represented the ISR at the 2017 IAEA “International Conference on Radiation Protection in Medicine: Achieving Change in Practice”, whose main aim was to review progress and developments in response to the Bonn Call for Action. The ISRQSA will have additional responsibilities as a result of this conference.

III. RADIOLOGICAL EDUCATION

The ISR collaborates with international organisations to bring radiology education from manifold resources to underprivileged areas in the world. In the WHO symposium “Imaging for Saving Kids – The Inside Story About Patient Safety In Pediatric Radiology” that was held in the framework of a recent World Health Assembly, the ISR presented strategies for radiation protection in pediatric imaging that are available to the international community.

The ISR also provides technical advice to the WHO for the implementation of the project on Radiation Safety Culture in Medicine, which is jointly organized by WHO, IOMP and the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA) with the goal to develop a framework supporting the establishment and maintenance of a radiation safety culture in healthcare facilities. The ISRQSA recently published a series of lectures on the “Radiation Protection Training Program for Patients/Public” to inform patients and the public about the safe use of ionising radiation.

The ISR also advised the WHO regarding the “WHO List of Priority Medical Devices for Cancer Management” and collaborates with it in the promotion of tuberculosis detection in less affluent areas through its ISR GOED project, which provides online educational material for free.

Through its global outreach program GoRAD, the ISR provides up to date practical radiology literature to

underserved regions. Thanks to agreements with major radiological journals, the GoRAD platform offers open access to a limited amount of otherwise restricted content at the time of first publication. The ISR Resource Center offers educational content, media case conferences, lectures and teaching files, imaging informatics resources and content for radiologic technologists and radiology educators. In terms of face to face education, the ISR organises the International Congress of Radiology (ICR), whose upcoming 30th edition, ICR 2020, will take place in Muscat/Oman, from October 1-4, 2020. Organised in collaboration with the Oman Radiology and Molecular Imaging Society (ORMIS), ICR 2020 will offer an exciting programme around the theme of “Building Bridges”, including the full range of current and future practice of radiology. For more information, please see ICR 2020 website icr2020-oman.org. Aside from its own congress, the ISR also brings representatives to meetings of its member societies in the framework of the “Meet the ISR” programme.

IV. ISR MEMBERSHIP

By being part of the International Society of Radiology, member societies have an input into how the radiology community interacts with the international governmental organizations such as the WHO and the IAEA. No other national or regional radiology organization has the same input and level of interaction with these agencies as the ISR. Through the ISR, member societies can express the needs of their local communities to the WHO and the IAEA, and impact the regulatory decisions being made by these governmental agencies. By participating in the ISR, member societies can also provide input regarding the educational needs of their communities and assist the ISR and its partner societies in providing education content tailored to their specific needs. The ISR is the sum of the endeavours of all member societies to work together to boost the practice of radiology for radiologists to benefit our patients and global population health.

Sources:

http://www.isradiology.org/2017/isr/about_whitepaper.php
<http://www.isradiology.org/2017/isr/quality.php>

http://www.isradiology.org/2017/isr/about_01.php

Appendix: The ISR Executive Council 2018 – 2020

President: Luis Donoso (Spain)
 Past President: Ricardo Garcia-Monaco (Argentina)
 President-Elect: Renato Mendonca (Brazil)
 Secretary-General: Bibb Allen (USA)
 Treasurer: Sudhir Vinayak (Kenya)
 American College of Radiology (ACR): Geraldine McGinty (USA)
 European Society of Radiology (ESR): Paul M. Parizel (Australia)
 Radiological Society of North America (RSNA): Umar Mahmood (USA)
 Asian Oceanian Society of Radiology (AOSR): Dinesh Varma (Australia)
 African Society of Radiology (ASR): Tarek El Diasty (Egypt)
 Interamerican College of Radiology (CIR): Henrique Carrete (Brazil)
 National delegate: Antonio Carlos Matteoni de Athayde (Brazil)
 National delegate: Eman Naguib (Egypt)
 National delegate: Hubert Ducou-le-Pointe (France)
 National delegate: Leon Janse Van Rensburg (South Africa)
 National delegate: Yi-Hong Chou (Taiwan)
 ISRQSA Co-Chair: Guy Frija (France)
 ISRQSA Co-Chair: Don Frush (USA)
 International Commission on Radiology Education (ICRE) Chair: Eric Stern (USA)
 Communications Working Group Chair: José Luis del Cura (Spain)

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