

B. Aspirations – that we hope to realize

1. Publication
2. Virtual education courses
3. Research
4. Information harbor

1. Publications

1. Papers

WFPI produced its own Mini-Symposium published in Pediatric Radiology in May 2014 and in 2015 its TB Group began producing open access papers for TB Corner every two months. We aim to continue **promoting (free, online whenever possible) publications of relevance to global health and/or international outreach** while **channeling and supporting** the educational work of our national and regional member societies through its social media, website and newsletters.

2. Practical guidelines

While guidelines on pediatric topics of global concern and interest would have value, international consensus on guidelines that will have an impact is virtually impossible due to local practice conditions and realities. However, **practical guidelines** on imaging methods and applications are an area that WFPI and its members can positively impact. For example, in 2015 a group of WFPI-recruited authors partnered with Médecins Sans Frontières in the production of a pediatric point-of-care ultrasound manual for use in the field (projects in 60 countries in 2014), and hope to be involved as the manual moves into further editions.

2. Virtual education courses

Through its network and external alliances, WFPI aims to **facilitate course and meeting attendance**. But this will generate major costs if physical presence is required. Virtual meetings are therefore key to affordable international education, despite the infrastructure, interactive capacity, international times lines and intellectual property challenges they entail. Yet just as Brazil's extensive land mass has compelled it to offer virtual educational and scientific platforms, so worldwide webinar use is on the rise.

Contributing content when invited, WFPI also aims to **promote virtual initiatives already underway** (for example, RADPED in Brazil and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), USA, series of webinars in South Africa, offered in collaboration with the Radiological Society of South Africa and the South Africa Society of Pediatric Imaging, among others), and **encourage and promote the inclusion of pediatric content** in any other courses that come to WFPI's attention.

3. Research

Pediatric radiology research poses far more challenges than adult or even pediatric medical research in general: low patient numbers, high ethical demands, little industry and pharmaceutical support due to low equipment sales and low drug use, lack of research personnel (radiologists, physicists, statistical experts etc.) and increasing demands in justification, optimization and, in particular, radiation protection and safety. Yet there is an urgent need for multidisciplinary, multi-institutional, multinational and prospective research on highly relevant topics impacting cost effectiveness, life quality and society. Existing pediatric radiology “guidelines” are more opinions or results drawn from consensus meetings rather than evidence-based.

Although WFPI has yet not moved ahead in this domain, it still **aims to foster efforts to narrow the ‘10/90 gap’ in health research**, in which less than 10% of funds spent on health research target the health problems of low- and middle-income countries, which account for 90% of the global disease burden¹⁸. A simple and successful future avenue might be **mentoring colleagues in low resource settings** to implement focused and regionally relevant research projects. Such partnerships might also help change the current paradigm whereby research questions and protocols are written, analyzed and published in high- income centers while the data are collected by those at low- and middle-income centers¹⁹. **National academic leaders and institutions need to be involved** if research is to be translated into clinical practice²⁰.

These aims could

- ⇒ **optimise the WFPI network for research** - members will be encouraged to use the WFPI network to identify research opportunities and multi-center collaboration; the WFPI will act as a mediator between institutions, and
- ⇒ **harness the WFPI network to propose research** on agreed upon general and specific topics (TB, AIDS, etc.) steered by experts within the WFPI to the benefit of children worldwide.

4. Information harbor

When appropriate and feasible, the WFPI website aims to **compile information on other imaging initiatives, grants, scholarships, meetings and diverse useful information and links**.

¹⁸ Nuyens Y (2007) Setting priorities for health research: lessons from low- and middle-income countries. Bull World Health Organ 85:319–321

¹⁹ Zar HJ (2014) Partnering with centers of excellence in high- and low-middle-income countries: a strategy to strengthen child health globally. Pediatr Radiol 44:709-710

²⁰ Andronikou S, Mngomezulu V (2011) Paediatric radiology seen from Africa. Part II: recognising research advantages in a developing country. Pediatr Radiol 41:826-31