

ISRQSA Meeting with international organizations and international professional organizations (ICRP, ISRRT, IOMP, WFPI, WFUMB, IAEA, WHO)

MINUTES

Participants

Co-Chair / EuroSafe Imaging	Guy	Frija
Co-Chair / Image Gently	Donald	Frush
Safety Campaigns		
AFROSAFE RAD-EN	Michael	Kawooya
AFROSAFE RAD-FR	Dina	Husseiny (for B. Mansouri)
AsiaSafe	Kwan-Hoong	Ng
Canada Safe Imaging	David	Koff
Image Wisely	Beth	Schueler
Image Wisely	Diana	Litmanovich
Image Wisely	Dustin	Gress
Japan Safe	Makoto	Hosono
ISR ExCom rep	Boris	Brkljačić
ISR ExCom rep	Hubert	Ducou le Pointe
ISR ExCom rep	Emad	Naguib
Int. Organisations		
IAEA RPOP	Ola	Holmberg
IAEA RPOP	Jenia	Vassileva
IAEA NMDI	Diana	Paez
WHO	Maria	Perez
IOMP	Madan	Rehani
ISRRT	Donna	Newman
WFPI	Joanna	Kaszniak-Brown
WFUMB	Seung	Hyup Kim
WFUMB	Jacques	Abramowicz
ISR Office	Monika	Hierath
ISR Office	Martina	Szucsich

1. Welcome, summary of RSNA 2019 meeting (G. Frija, D. Frush)

D. Frush welcomed the stakeholder organizations to the meeting, which was held online due to the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic. He invited the representatives to present their updates.

2. Interaction and collaboration with international organizations (2-3 slides per organization, max. 3 minutes)

a. IAEA

O. Holmberg, IAEA Radiation Protection of Patients (RROP), presented some recent examples of interaction and collaboration on quality and safety matters in medical imaging, such as ISR participation in IAEA Technical Meetings 2017, 2019, 2020 and 2021 as well as the endorsement of the Joint position statement and Call for Action for strengthening radiation protection of patients undergoing recurrent radiological imaging procedures.

Upcoming opportunities include the IAEA Technical Meeting on Radiation Protection in Fluoroscopy Guided Interventional Procedures, which has been scheduled tentatively for 7-9 March 2022, Vienna. Another opportunity would be to include more ISR tools and also “Campaign tools” in the Bonn Call for Action Implementation Toolkit. ISR guidance would be welcome. Further, more ISR experts could be included for national and regional projects and IAEA would be more than happy to participate in any future ICR initiatives.

D. Paez, IAEA Nuclear Medicine and Diagnostic Imaging (NMDI) Section, explained the main goals of the Practical Arrangements with the ISR that are in the process of being signed and which comprise also clinical applications, including education around the world such as mutual conference support by speakers. D. Paez mentioned the nuclear medicine quality management program (QUANUM) and the Quality Assurance Audit for Diagnostic Radiology Improvement and Learning (QUAADRIL). Another area of potential increased collaboration is applied clinical research. ISR can identify areas of interest. The PA include all IAEA areas: radiation safety, clinical applications, dosimetry, quality control/assurance, and production of radiopharmaceuticals.

G. Frija mentioned D. Paez’ role in the launch of the Lancet Oncology group and also mentioned cooperation with the IAEA Division for Africa (Director: S. Abdulrazak) on providing the ESR iGuide in Africa. He mentioned this as ESR’s EuroSafe Imaging is member of the ISRQSA.

Regarding the Lancet Oncology Commission on Medical Imaging and Nuclear Medicine, D. Paez highlighted the importance of upscaling access to medical imaging and NM for cancer patients, through which a substantial number of cancer deaths can be prevented by 2030 and a return on investment of USD 12 per 1 USD invested.

b. WHO

M. Perez focused her update on the past year, starting with the ISR’s assistance to WHO’s response to Covid-19, above all the Rapid Advice Guide on chest imaging in COVID 19 including chest radiography, lung ultrasound (LUS) and chest CT (1st Ed June 2020, 2nd Edition in press) and its annex on Infection prevention and control (IPC) in chest imaging during the COVID 19 pandemic (together with ISRRT and WFUMB). She also mentioned the following:

- ISR support of the inclusion of imaging findings in the definition of probable COVID 19 cases
- ISR support to develop training modules on chest imaging in COVID 19 as part of a WHO course on clinical management of COVID 19 in WHO Academy & OpenWHO

- Support for the development of technical specifications for procurement of imaging equipment (portable radiography units, ultrasound scanners and CT scanners).
- ISR technical input on role of medical imaging in post COVID 19 condition – ongoing project.
- Related manuscripts for peer reviewed journals, one of them having received ECRI recognition.

Other areas of successful ISR WHO collaboration include ISR support to the Global TB program (the WHO Guideline was launched at the joint webinar organized by ISR and WHO on World TB Day 2021) and support to the WHO Global Action Plan on Patient Safety including the Joint ISR WFUMB WHO webinar on World Patient Safety Day 2021.

The ISR is an NGO in official relation with the WHO. The joint WHO-ISR workplan for 2022-2024 comprises 1) technical support for enhancing radiation safety and quality in radiology, 2) technical assistance and inputs on the identification and rational use of medical imaging technologies and medical devices, and 3) support for the implementation of the WHO's 'Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030', with special focus on radiology, including both diagnostic radiology and image-guided interventions.

M. Perez also mentioned the pilot training course through the Geneva learning Foundation on radiation risk communication in pediatric imaging together with Image Gently. A follow-up pilot with the champions is now planned, focusing on Africa, for which she invited the ISR to join.

c. ICRP

As K. Applegate, Chair of ICRP Committee 3, was not present due to a misunderstanding regarding the time zone, M. Hosono as a member of ICRP Committee 3 provided a short update. He pointed out that ICRP is starting to revise its System of RP (Pub103), the collection of ICRP recommendations, summarised in the General Recommendations, that forms the basis of radiological protection worldwide. The slides K. Applegate had sent also mention ICRP future medical RP research trends, including

- Guidance for radiosensitive populations (pregnancy, neonate, infant)
- Strengthening RP education and training
- Application of social sciences research in understanding perception and use of radiation, and risk communication
- TG109 ethics of RP in medicine
- Implications of AI in radiation technologies and RP
- Potential of new radiotherapies and mechanisms of action, e.g. FLASH, alpha theranostics, heavy ions
- Categorization of risk, DDREF, RBE, and uncertainty

3. Updates on / avenues for collaboration on quality and safety with international professional organizations (2-3 slides per organization, 3 min)

a. IOMP

M. Rehani mentioned the MoU between the ISR and the IOMP, which was set up in 2019. The IOMP, an international organization for medical physics societies, has 89 National members (NMOs), 6 regional organization (ROs) and around 29,000 members. He mentioned the official journals of IOMP, ROs and NMOs, conferences, webinars of IOMP, ROs, NMOs (Quality & Safety forms a major part) and collaboration with IAEA, WHO, ICRP with joint webinars and meetings.

As avenues for collaboration with ISR he suggested:

- Research projects*
- Sessions in conferences of each*
- Joint papers & position statements*
- Working groups for specific tasks*
- Sharing information on actions**
- Joint surveys and assist each other in surveys**
- Meetings in conferences**

* Scientific; ** Scientific & or organizational

b. ISRRT

D. Newman presented some proposals for collaboration with the ISRQSA, such as a joint session on the successful ISRRT Facebook Live Platform, which reached up to 79,860 people in a two-week period. Another collaboration opportunity would be Joint E-learning on Quality and Safety in Medical Imaging on the ISRRT free E-learning Platform at www.isrrt.org. She mentioned collaboration with the WHO in an FTCT campaign, which reached over 100,000 individuals in 2021, and suggested a similar Collaborative Campaign Promoting Quality and Safety in Medical Imaging.

c. WFPI

J. Kasznia-Brown said that WFPI had realized the need to provide relevant training not only to pediatric radiologists but to everyone. She mentioned the renewal of the MoU with the ISR in October. She thanked D. Frush for having facilitated initial discussions with ICRE Chair G. McGinty on cooperation in education and training in pediatric radiology. As a consequence of the COVID 19 pandemic, WFPI created the free webinar series Pediatric Radiology for the World, with approx. 2000 radiologists attending. Moreover, WFPI created a YouTube Pediatric Radiology Academy. J. Kasznia-Brown also mentioned educational collaboration with the Latin American pediatric radiology society SLARP as well as a Masterclass with the ISPTI on the Clinico-Radiologic Approach to Thoracic Disorders in Children and Adults. Finally, J. Kasznia-Brown proposed organizing a Pediatric TB symposium following the successful ISR-WHO TB symposium held in 2021.

d. WFUMB

J. Abramowicz briefly introduced WFUMB, which has over 54,000 members from 89 countries and 20 centers of education across the world. Regarding quality and safety, WFUMB disseminates information, provides education to its members as well as trainees, cooperates with ultrasound manufacturers, participates in national and international groups (such as WHO, ISR). WFUMB's Safety Committee periodically releases statements and recommendations on various internationally relevant safety issues, reviews Ultrasound Bioeffects and Safety Literature and responds to lay press articles. J. Abramowicz also mentioned a number of publications, including

- WFUMB/ISUOG statement on the safe use of Doppler Ultrasound
- WFUMB/ISUOG policy statement on souvenir imaging of the fetus
- WFUMB recommendations on non-medical use of ultrasound
- Scanning at commercial exhibitions document
- Clinical safety statement for diagnostic ultrasound: an overview
- Guidelines for cleaning transvaginal ultrasound transducers between patients
- WFUMB Statement on ultrasound exposure in the first trimester and autism spectrum disorders

- WFUMB Position Statement: How to perform a safe ultrasound examination and clean equipment in the context of COVID19

4. Wrap up and closing

D. Frush said that he was glad and proud about the valuable talks with the high-level representatives of the ISRQSA safety alliances and collaborating stakeholders and impressed with their productivity. He spoke of tremendous success since the ISRQSA started. He thanked the representatives for providing the ISRQSA the opportunity to learn about their activities and potential avenues of future collaboration. G. Frija echoed his words of thanks to the attendees and the ISR office and expressed himself very optimistic for the future of ISRQSA.

D. Frush gave the floor to the attendees for comments.

Mentioning the WHO's excellent collaboration with ISR, M. Perez suggested more collaboration with individual organisations. G. Frija mentioned the WFUMB webinar as an example.

D. Newman stated that it is highly important for radiographers to hear the perspective of radiologists. She suggested considering joint invitations for presentations followed by panel discussions, which would benefit the radiographer profession and elevate quality and safety.

D. Frush considered this an excellent suggestion, adding that ISRQSA can act as a convenor, and invited her and the other organizations to contact G. Frija and him with relevant suggestions. He added that for radiologists/imagers it is equally important to hear the opinion of technologists/radiographers.

J. Abramowicz reminded that imagers not only refer to radiologists and that all imagers must be included.

D. Frush thanked everyone, also on G. Frija's behalf, and said he looks forward to future collaboration.

5. Next meeting

The next meeting will be announced in due time.

