

# Society of Medical Radiographers

*Support Your Society: Renew or Join Us Today! ...Founded Since 1990*

## Message from Manager Medical Imaging Services, Mater Dei Hospital. Mr Joseph Castillo

Dear colleagues and friends,

In the past years, digital radiography and advanced imaging modalities has revolutionized medicine by providing clear anatomical detail and sharp contrast between normal and diseased tissue. The increase in the range and capability of imaging modalities which resulted in greater demands for radiology services has affected the role requirements and role extensions of radiographers. As a result the education and learning needs of radiographers changed to address these requirements.

A lot has been achieved since December 1985 when I stepped in as an entry level student radiographer getting to grips with the large black equipment in Room 5 (Fluoroscopy), X-ray Department, St. Luke's Hospital. Work practices have changed, a Society was established in November 1990, participation in CPD activities have increased and above all the profession has effortlessly taken the challenge of digital imaging. This is certainly the result of a dynamic profession which is by no means at the end of its professional development.

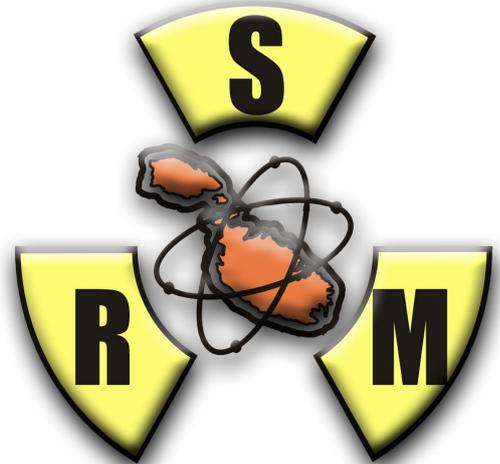
Innovations in imaging devices, merging of established imaging modalities with molecular imaging and hybrid scanners will in the future shape diagnosis and therapy. The medical need for an earlier and more precise diagnosis and therapy monitoring is of critical importance to improve patient care in Malta. Essential to all this is a flexible and competent workforce that is expected to work autonomously, share clinical responsibility with the radiologist, technical responsibility with the medical physicist, and be responsible for the management and execution of the entire radiological examination. From a management perspective this is expected to be practiced in a safe manner, in the shortest possible time and least employment of resources.

Against this background, the professional society, the radiography division within the Faculty of Health Science, and Medical Imaging Management at Mater Dei Hospital as the largest employer of radiographers are now at a crossroad to either develop a strategy to recognize new developments in time, address possible role extensions and prepare for the challenges of the future or leave everything as a status quo. This decision lies with the radiography profession.

Whilst I wish you success in all your endeavors, I invite you to reflect upon this quotation which sums up the above process:

***'It is very agreeable to have a broad knowledge, and it is sometimes useful, but it is only activity that brings real satisfaction'*** (Conrad Wilhem Roentgen)

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## FUJIFILM 3D Digital Mammography The Next Dimension in Breast Imaging Ms Daniella Zammit

*Last June, Daniella Zammit visited the UK Radiological Congress in Manchester. Among the exhibitors she was given an interesting demonstration on FUJIFILM 3D Digital Mammography. Following is an article by Sangeeta Gupte, Clinical Marketing Manager, USA.*

Over the last decade, there has been a progressive shift in breast imaging. 2-Dimensional full-field digital mammography (FFDM) took over film-screen mammography (FSM) in this digital era. However, FFDM diagnostic outcomes were limited by overlapping tissues, especially in dense breasts, due to the two-dimensional nature of the projection images. FUJIFILM 3Dimensional



Digital Mammography (3DM)<sup>1</sup> is expected to help radiologists overcome this limitation, leading to reduced false readings and thereby further improving diagnoses of breast cancer.

In humans, the two eyes are separated horizontally by about 65mm. Each eye has a slightly different view of the objects it sees. The brain co-relates the images and gives humans depth perception. The exclusive patented Fujifilm 3DM technology is developed using this simple natural concept of stereo vision.

A 3DM screening exam is comprised of the two traditional views of each breast (CC and MLO), using the recently introduced Fujifilm Amulet<sup>2</sup> DR System for mammography. Each view set consists of two sequential x-ray images (0-degree plus an offset angle image) taken under the same compression. Displayed on a customized stereo 3D workstation and using dedicated glasses, the viewer's visual system fuses the two images into a single instant, in-depth, 3D image of the breast. The 0-degree image is same as the conventional 2D FFDM exam and is officially approved as such in Germany.

A recent US clinical trials at Emory University compared Stereoscopic Digital Mammography (SDM is the prior name to what we are now referencing as 3DM)

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to standard (non-stereo 2D) digital mammography for detection of true breast lesions in a screening population.

Each of 1458 enrolled patients received both a standard screening examination and a stereoscopic screening examination, which were read independently by different radiologists. Compared to standard digital mammography, stereo mammography significantly reduced false positive lesion detections by 46% ( $p < 0.0001$ ), and significantly increased true positive lesion detections by 23% ( $p < 0.05$ ).

*SRM has no affiliations with FUJIFILM and the above information was included since it provided an insight into new developments occurring in medical imaging.*

**The Professional Card: an EU initiative to be recognised as a Professional.** Ms Marija Cachia

In the last few years, countries of the European Union have been trying to find innovative ways to facilitate professional recognition across the EU. In this regard, the European Council of the Liberal Professions (CEPLIS) was set up to study and promote information and data related to the exercise and policies of the liberal professions. CEPLIS has also embarked on an EU project to evaluate the implementation of professional cards for the recognition of European professional qualifications, particularly as it is being seen as a way that can enhance mobility of professionals across Europe. In fact, the Professional Card is a concept that is mentioned in the EU Directive 2005/36/EC on Professional Recognition. The Directive recognises the introduction of Professional Cards issued by professional associations or organisations, which would facilitate the monitoring of the career development of professionals and support mobility and professional recognition across Europe. The Professional Card is intended to provide a simple tool to guarantee to whoever is concerned that the Professional Card holder is qualified to provide the specific services. It reflects that, the holder is an active member of the respective professional body, thereby ensuring adherence to a code of ethics and the provision of a quality service. An important aspect was that the Professional Cards will be accepted across Europe while recognizing that the possession of the Card in itself cannot replace or overrule national legislation related to recognition of qualifications and the regulation of professions by their individual national competent authorities.

Recently, the Malta Federation of Professional Associations (MFPA) together with member associations and societies have issued and launched the professional card locally. In fact, the SRM has recently distributed this Professional Card to the majority of member radiographers who had provided the necessary information. This Professional Card will be issued to paid-up SRM members every year - we will inform you accordingly when the new batch of professional cards is to be issued.

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All work and no play makes  
Jack a dull boy!

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## Upcoming Conferences



4 emcR  
EURO-MED CONGRESS FOR RADIOGRAPHERS  
Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey

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SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS  
SOCIAL EVENTS  
POSTER EXHIBITION  
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[WWW.E-MCR.ORG](http://WWW.E-MCR.ORG)

ADRIATIC VASCULAR SUMMIT  
SAVE THE DATE  
September 8-10, 2011  
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-Didactic Lectures and Panel Discussions  
-Debates in Vascular, Endovascular and Cardiovascular Medicine  
-Renowned Multidisciplinary International Faculty  
-Practical Workshops on the Latest Techniques in Endovascular Medicine  
-Interesting and Challenging Case Presentations  
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SRM is a proud member of:

Malta Federation of Professional Associations (MFPA)  
European Federation of Radiographer Societies (EFRS)