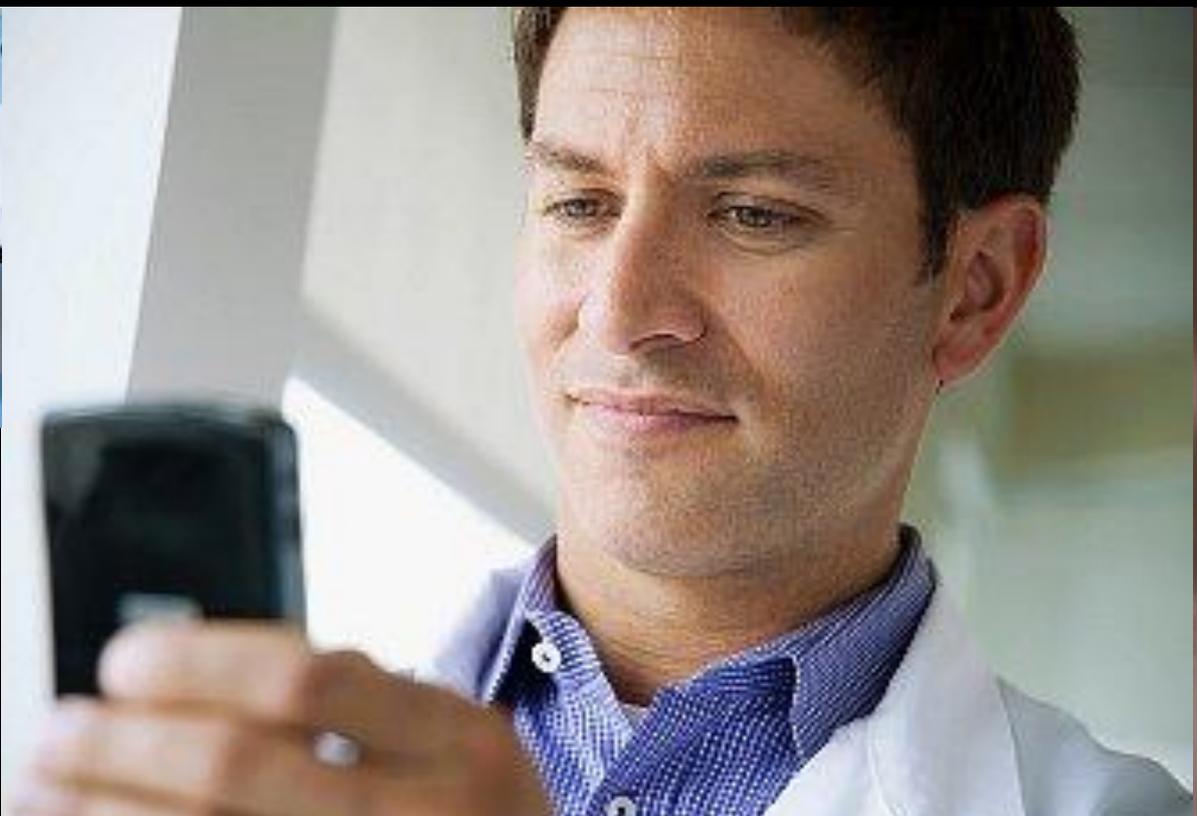


Society of Medical
Radiographers Malta
Newsletter

March,
2012



radiographersmalta.com



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radiography and radiotherapy profession in Malta through continuous specializations, educations, specialization and networking.

Open Discussion, AGM and election of the new SRM Executive Committee 2011-2013

On the 27th of November 2011, the SRM organized an open discussion session titled 'Radiographer = Practitioner, are we ready for the challenge?' Following a UK perspective about this topic, an overview of the revised draft of the local ionizing radiation medical exposure regulations was provided and this was followed by an interesting open discussion about the potential effect such proposed changes would have on our profession.

The open discussion session was followed by the AGM, whereby attending members were provided with a detailed account of what the committee had worked on during its 2 year term.

The final item on the agenda was the election of the new SRM Executive Committee for 2011-2013.

Nine members were elected and their respective roles were assigned in the first SRM meeting held a few weeks later, as outlined by the SRM statute. These are:

Jonathan Portelli: SRM President

Marija Cachia: SRM secretary

Malcolm Mallia: SRM Treasurer

Terence Cesare: Public Relations

Daniella Zammit: Public Relations, Graphic & Web Designer

Maria Said Pullicino: MFPA Representative

Christopher Gauci: Newsletter Editor & EFRS Representative

Sharon Bonnici & Sarah Chetcuti: Professional Issues & CPD

The SRM committee is committed to promote and advance the

SRM Fund Raising

As you are aware, the SRM started an SRM charity fund raising in 2011.

It was decided that half of the profits earned in the activities that were organized would go to a charity of choice.

Thanks to all of our members support we are proud to say that the SRM donated 200 Euros to the Malta Muscular Dystrophy organization. The Muscular Dystrophy Group sent a representative to collect the money on the 27th of November 2011 at the MFPA premises.

The executive committee thanks all of their members for their support and help in this fund raiser.

More information on the MDG Malta organization may be found at the following link:
<http://www.mdgmalta.com/>

Donation

To emphasise the SRM's focus in helping Radiographers continue their professional development, two books were donated to the new Medical Imaging Department Library. These are:

Comprehensive Radiographic Pathology by *Ronald Eisenberg & Nancy Johnson*

Radiographic Pathology of Technologists by *Nina Kowalczyk & James Mace*

All MID Radiographers can now make use of these books to further their knowledge in our profession.

Revamped look to newsletter

As you may have noted we have totally changed the design and look of the SRM newsletter – we hope you like it.

As in the past year, we intend to issue the newsletter periodically to keep you informed about SRM actions, discussions and/or events as well as updates relating to MFPA or EFRS activities.

Also, following several suggestions we have received from members, we intend to include brief news articles about latest innovations and interesting research findings that are occurring in the medical imaging and radiotherapy world.

In addition, we would like to point out that we are always open to receiving your contributions for the SRM newsletter – simply contact us by email.

EFRS Magnetic field Review

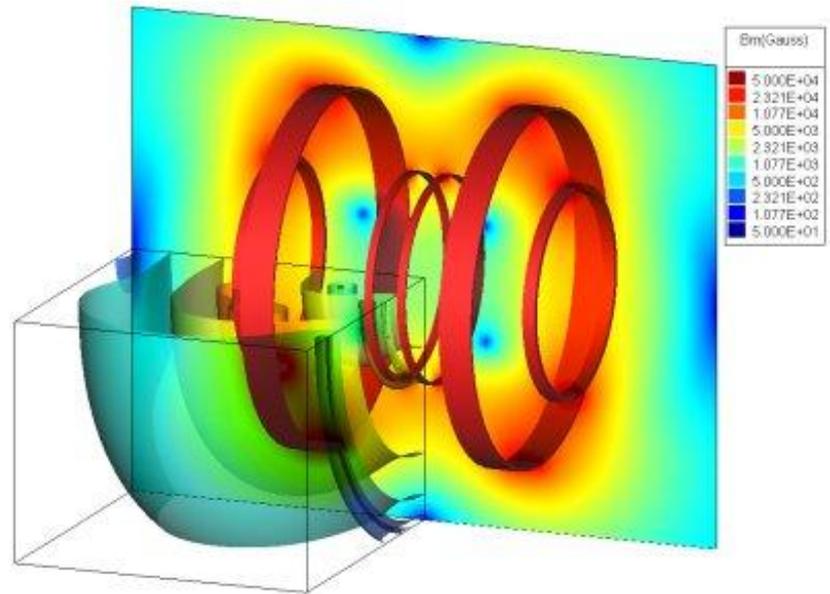
In April 2008, there was the implementation of the EU Physical Agents 2004/40/EC (EMF).

This caused a great deal of commotion as this directive set about implementing limit values set in Directive 2004/40/EC to protect workers from electromagnetic fields (EMF Directive) in MRI. If this directive is to take effect as from April 2012, there would be quite a substantial number of repercussions regarding clinical use, research, cleaning and maintenance.

The Alliance of MRI have set in motion a proposal in order for MRI to be exempted from the above mentioned directive.

The Alliance of MRI proposed these counter arguments.

- *This derogation is necessary to ensure the unimpeded use of MRI so that patients have access to the highest standard of care across Europe.*
- *The safe use of this technology is highly regulated. Criteria have been set to eliminate any danger to workers and patients.*
- *MRI has been used for over 25 years, imaging up to 500 million*



patients without evidence of harm to workers due to exposure to electromagnetic fields.

- *The Alliance supports the adoption of guidelines to ensure that working practices are in line with the latest technological developments.*

Alliance for MRI position paper EMF, 2011

The Alliance of MRI has worked with several communities, representatives and institutional members in order to come up with the mentioned proposal. One of

these representative groups is the EFRS which the SRM is affiliated to. Therefore, as part of our affiliation commitment, the SRM presented its own concerns and position in the matter. The SRM agreed but also suggested issues in the EFRS's counter argument against the 2004/40/EC to protect workers from electromagnetic fields (EMF Directive) in MRI.

The EFRS presented these counter arguments and recommendations:

The EFRS strongly supports the derogation for MRI for the following reasons:

- *MRI has been used for over 25 years, imaging up to 500 million patients without scientific evidence of harm to workers due to EMF exposure.*
- *MRI examinations are undertaken in highly controlled environments and there are stringent safety standards to ensure the safety of patients and workers.*
- *Radiographers are professionals who have the highest competency and responsibility in applying and maintaining safety measures in all imaging modalities using*



ionizing radiation and electromagnetic fields.

- MRI does not bring about any known health risks as there are associated with examinations with ionizing radiation, which modalities would be the alternative to MRI in case no derogation is given.

The EFRS recommends:

- To develop a European Guideline to underpin MR safety standards in all applications.
- To extend the European Commission Guidelines on Clinical Audit for Medical radiological practices (diagnostic, nuclear medicine and radiotherapy) with assessment criteria specifically related to MRI safety

From the radiographer perspective, the EFRS will develop European minimum requirements:

- MRI education of radiographers
- CPD in MRI for radiographers

EFRS Position paper – January 2012

As one can see the SRM is working in conjunction with EFRS in order for MRI to be exempted from the 2001/40/EC Directive.

Meeting with a Member of Parliament

Following an official invite, members from the SRM Executive Committee attended an informal meeting with the Leader of the Labour Party, Dr. Joseph Muscat on the 13th of January 2012.

Dr. Muscat explained that he was holding these informal meetings periodically with different professional associations and societies as he personally wanted to learn more about the different healthcare professions.

While it is pertinent to mention that the SRM does not support any particular political party, the Executive Committee saw this as a valuable opportunity to discuss certain issues pertaining to our profession.

During the 30 minute meeting, the main points discussed included:

- The important role of the radiographer within the healthcare service
- The meaning and recognition of the warrant / license to practice provided to health care professions, particularly given that this is not mandatory to practice a particular profession.
- The possibility of investing in

more medical imaging services in the primary health care setting so as to lessen the burden on the local general hospital (particularly A&E).

- New developments such as PET/CT imaging and the prospect of providing such a service within the local general hospital
- How a considerable number of radiographers are pursuing their studies beyond a Bachelor Degree allowing the profession to develop and extend its role in different and new branches of medical imaging.
- The importance of continuous support and investment from the government in the medical



imaging sector, be it in terms of study leave, CPD grants, DOH funding for training programs etc. which will not only allow the radiography profession to develop further but, more importantly, will be of benefit to the thousands of patients we care for every day.

Interesting Articles

CT not cost-effective to investigate dizziness

By AuntMinnie.com staff writers

January 26, 2012 -- Performing head CT scans in the emergency room isn't cost-effective for patients complaining of dizziness, according to a study presented on January 26 at the Triological Society's Combined Sections Meeting in Miami Beach, FL.

hemorrhage or stroke in less than 1% of patients, according to researchers from Henry Ford Hospital.

Many physicians use imaging as a first-line modality to quickly rule out more serious causes, Dr. Syed Ahsan and colleagues reported. However, a look at CT scans ordered on patients with dizziness and vertigo in the emergency room yields a low predictive value for significant pathology.

Nearly half of the patients presenting between January 2008 and January 2011 (n = 810) received a CT scan of the brain and head, but only 0.74% had clinically significant results that required intervention. And the cost of those scans was \$988,200.

The results highlight a great potential for cost savings by implementing stricter guidelines for ordering emergency department CT

healthcare systems, they concluded.

Upcoming Events:

March 2012

17th: St. Patrick's Day Party

20th: CPD Lecture

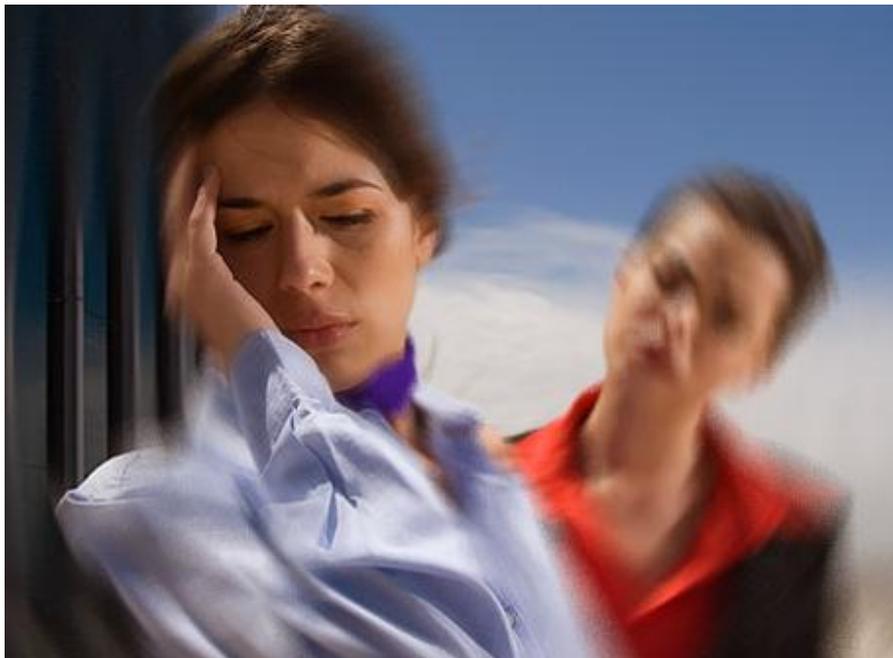
Ohio practice debuts imaging ordering app

By AuntMinnie.com staff writers

January 18, 2012 -- Ohio radiology group Columbus Radiology has created a new mobile application that allows physicians to review ordering guidelines and make imaging procedure decisions from their Smartphone.

The website, which acts as a mobile application, offers a graphic interface that matches patient indication with the pros and cons of each procedure, according to the group. Users can also search for a specific term or browse indications by body part. The website also provides one-click calling to a live radiologist for report discussion or imaging procedure consultation.

Columbus Radiology said it is partnering with hospitals and other organizations to implement licensed versions of the application.



The retrospective review of 1,681 patients presenting to the emergency department with dizziness and vertigo led to intervention for intracranial

scans for these patients, the group wrote in an accompanying abstract. They hope the results will shed light on effective ways to cut unnecessary expenditures and serve as a model for other

CPD LECTURE

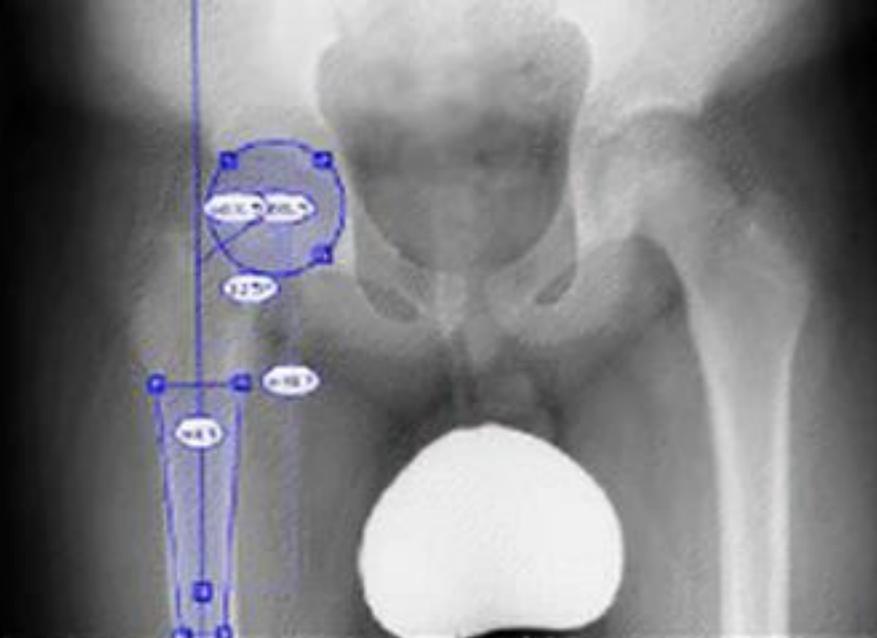
Mr Pierre Demicoli

Tuesday 20th

MARCH 2012

14:15

M.I.D. Conference room



DIGITAL PLANNING & TEMPLATING OF ORTHOPAEDIC PROSTHESES



€5 for non-members
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www.radiographersmalta.com

SRM Carnival Party 11.02.2012



Gilbert & Liza
Best Couple Costume



Lara & Lyn
Most Liked Costume

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