EUROPEAN CONGRESS OF RADIOLOGY

ECR 2022

BUILDING BRIDGES

JULY 13–17 | VIENNA

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Purpose or Learning Objective: EURAMED rocc-n-roll (EuRnR) involves broad stakeholder input and consultation to develop a coordinated European approach for research and innovation in medical applications of ionising radiation and related radiation protection (RP). SWOT/TOWS analysis was performed to understand the status quo of education and training (E&T) in radiation protection in Europe.
Methods or Background: The project work package team (n=14) included representatives from six European professional societies, namely: CIRSE; EANM; EFOMP; EFRS; ESR; ESTRO; and from HERCA, the WHO and IAEA; and five clinical experts representing: medical physics; nuclear medicine physicians; radiologists; radiation oncologists and radiographers. Four subgroups performed SWOT/TOWS analysis related to E&T in RP developed under previous EU programmes and on the guidelines on radiation protection education and training of medical professionals in the European Union.
Results or Findings: Consensus agreement identified four main themes for strengths and opportunities, namely: (1) existing structures and training recommendations; (2) RP training needs assessment and E&T model(s) development; (3) E&T dissemination, harmonisation, and accreditation; (4) financial supports. Weaknesses and threats analysis resulted in two themes: (1) awareness and prioritisation at a national/global level and (2) awareness and prioritisation by healthcare professional groups and researchers.
Conclusion: EuRnR strategic planning needs to consider processes at European, national and local levels and incorporate the multiple factors identified. Clear, efficient governance structures and expert leadership are required, as are finances to facilitate a pan-European radiation protection training network which is sustainable and accredited across multiple national domains.
Limitations: Future consideration does need to incorporate the expertise of E&T scientists as the EuRnR framework documentation is progressed.
Ethics committee approval: Institutional confirmation of exemption from full ethical approval across all participating partners.
Funding for this study: Funding was received for this study: EURAMED rocc-n-roll project is funded by the European Commission, grant nº 899995, under the call NFRP-2019-2020.

RPS 614-7 - Advanced practice roles amongst therapeutic radiographers: a European survey (8 min)

Celeste Oliveira; Porto / Portugal

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Purpose or Learning Objective: This study aimed to assess advanced practice (AP) roles amongst therapeutic radiographers (TRs) and to identify educational gaps for this level across Europe.
Methods or Background: A self-designed mix-method cross-sectional online survey (English) was validated by 5 external experts and by 5 TRs from different countries. It was distributed to TRs practicing AP roles across Europe irrespective of recognition as "advanced practitioners" (between December 2021 and March 2022). Practitioners were asked about current AP roles and opinions regarding current and future education needs to underpin these roles. Convenience sampling was used to recruit the qualified TRs working in AP using multiple strategies to disseminate the survey including snowballing. Quantitative data (using SPSS) and qualitative data (thematic analysis using NVivo12) were analysed separately, triangulated and interpreted.
Results or Findings: 271 participants responded with 189 valid participants from 21 European countries. Inconsistency was found in role titles, scope of practice, educational backgrounds, and AP roles implementation across countries. These practitioners have a trend to work more in clinical practice domain with a low percentage of time allocated to research. Education needs regarding knowledge about image-guided and adaptive Radiotherapy (RT), multimodal imaging and technologies, and advanced treatment planning were found. Training needs on leadership and management skills, and clinical site-specific expertise were identified.
Conclusion: There is an urgent need to standardise AP in RT to uniformise educational and training at the national and European levels.
Limitations: The language bias of the survey may have excluded some participants from non-English speaking countries.
Ethics committee approval: This research was approved by the Institute of Nursing and Health Research Ethics Committee at Ulster University, Belfast (Project Number: FCNUR-21-080).
Funding for this study: This work was co-funded by the SAFE EUROPE project under the Erasmus Sector Skill Alliances programme [grant agreement 2018-2993/001-001].

RPS 614-8 - Current benefit-risk communication in Irish medical imaging. Is practice adhering to legislation? (8 min)

Cliodhna Murphy; Dublin / Ireland