

BULLETIN

April 2023



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Cover Image: Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of his death in Munich (Creative Commons).

Letter from the Editors



Dear colleagues

This is for us a special issue of the Bulletin, because it's the first one that we have prepared in our new role as editors. Volunteering for this task is our way to get a bit more engaged in the activities of our society, and of course it also means getting a bit out of our comfort zone. We are happy that we manage to deliver it to you!

From the previous editorial team we have inherited a well organized structure and therefore, at the cost of sounding boring, you will not find any major restructuring in this issue; we are considering some small changes though, the first of which you will find at page 20: we hope that it will provide you some fun and that you will like it! We will try to vary these little games according to our inspirations, your ideas, or the season.

In this April issue we invite you to read about the new composition of the SSRMP executive board. Indeed, during the last Annual Meeting in October the society held the biennial elections to renovate the Board; therefore in the

next page you'll find the greetings of our new president, Marta Sans Merce, followed by the presentation of the new board members and committee chairs. Thank you all for your involvement, energy and time that you accept to give to make our society live!

Regarding the upcoming events, in this issue you will also find the announcements of the next Swiss Congress of Radiology in Davos, and of the SSRMP Annual Meeting, which will take place in Lucerne.

In the news, the FOPH published an update on the means of patient radiation protection, a topic that was also discussed at the ECR 2023 held in Vienna in early March. The Issues of Interest section offers you a detailed report of this event, and also a few words about the recent meeting of the physicists of French speaking Switzerland which took place in March after a long break. At the end of March, a seminar was also held with the title "Are we prepared for radiological emergencies?" A title that might have sounded like science fiction a few years ago, but is nowadays sadly echoed in

the international news. Many thanks to the various authors of these detailed reports!

The Hirslanden Radiotherapy Department is pleased to present their service in the Spotlight on section, (page 16) and we are also happy to give two new colleagues the opportunity to present themselves in the Personalia section (page 18).

To conclude this first editorial, we would like to invite you not to hesitate to send us your remarks and suggestions. Thank you in advance for all your contributions, which will undoubtedly be numerous as we put together the August issue!

We hope that you will enjoy reading the Bulletin as much as we enjoy editing it. We wish you a healthy spring season and a happy reading!

Davide & Marie

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear colleagues,

It's a pleasure for me to be able to communicate with you for this first time via this Bulletin. I have to say that I'm not very good at writing, but better at talking... those who know me already know that.

I was thinking about what I could tell you in this letter. Since it is our first contact, I thought it interesting to introduce myself.

I studied Physics in Barcelona, Spain. I came in 1996 to Geneva for a training at CERN. My training was supposed to last 5 weeks, but I must say that I liked the region, probably you can imagine that since I'm still here. I did my PhD and a fellowship at CERN in particle physics. It was a nice and interesting environment where I learned many things concerning experimental particle physics, hardware as well as Monte Carlo simulations. There, I realized the importance of working in collaboration with other colleagues. Then I moved to the "Institut de Radiophysique" (IRA)

where I worked as a radiation protection expert at the University Hospital of Geneva (HUG) and where I had the opportunity to get my training as a medical physicist. In 2012, I've got my certificate as Medical Physicist in the field of Medical Imaging.

After this first experience within the SSRMP I decided to get myself more involved in the society by participating in different working groups and even managing one of them. I must confess that I really enjoyed working with all these colleagues in interesting and useful working groups. Then I decided to move forward and get even more involved by being your President, the position that I occupy since our last Annual Meeting in Thun where you elected me as your SSRMP President.

I have to say that I'm very positively impressed about the number of things that are going on in our Society. Many things are dealt with by our internal committees (professional affairs, education and scientific) and by the board,

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

internal matters but also contact with other societies at national and international level. Our place among these societies is well assured thanks to the work of our former presidents, boards, committees and delegates.

As an example, I would like to mention that as President of the SSRMP I'm part of the scientific committee of the Swiss Congress of Radiology (SCR). In my first meeting, the president of the scientific committee of the SCR reiterated the importance of our presence there. It is for me obvious that our former President as well as board members, committees and delegates in the different societies did a great job, thank you! Today, new members have joined our committees and board, meaning new ideas and different perspectives are expected, and this is also very interesting.

But our society is not only the board, committees and delegates, it is all the members of the society, it is you. This was corroborated during our last annual meeting, where many

and interesting subjects were presented and where our young colleagues were also very participative. Moreover, the interest of our society is also our working groups. There is much work produced in these groups and the resulting recommendations and reports are very useful to all our members but also to persons outside our society. So, I do encourage you to get involved in these working groups or even to propose new ones. For having made the experience it is worth it.

Last but not least, I would like to thank you all for the confidence that you have deposited on me by electing me as the President of our Society. I will do my best to keep the place of our society among all other international and national societies and to make our society to move forward; for this I hope I can rely on your help. Thank you in advance!

Marta Sans Merce
SSRMP president

PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS

SSRMP executive board and permanent committees compositions

The SSRMP general assembly 2022 was held on October 27th during the last Annual Meeting in Thun; during the assembly the executive board was renewed:

- **Marta Sans Merce** was elected for President
- **Maud Jaccard** was elected as new chair of the committee for Scientific Affairs
- **Jerôme Krayenbühl** was confirmed as chair of the committee for Educational Affairs
- **Yvonne Käser** was elected as new chair of the committee for Professional Affairs
- **Michael Fix** was confirmed as board member
- **Stefano Gianolini** was confirmed as board member
- **Roman Menz** was confirmed as board member
- **Markus Notter** was confirmed as board member
- **Regina Seiler** was confirmed as board member
- **Thiago Lima** was elected as new board member
- **Margherita Casiraghi** was elected as new board member
- **Veronique Vallet** was elected as new board member

On December 16th, 2022 the executive board decided the following appointments:

- **Michael Fix** was appointed as Vice-President
- **Veronique Vallet** was appointed as Secretary
- **Regina Seiler** was confirmed as Treasurer

The composition of the permanent committees was confirmed by the board on December 16th, 2022:

Educational Affairs

Jerôme Krayenbühl (chair)

Frédéric Corminboeuf, Stephan Klöck, Götz Kohler, Angelika Pfäfflin, Regina Seiler, Valéry Zilio

Scientific Affairs

Maud Jaccard (chair)

Raphaël Moeckli, Thomas Buchsbaum, Stephanie Tanadini-Lang, Peter Manser, Mania Aspradakis, Margherita Casiraghi, Sarah Ghandour, Anaïs Viry

Professional Affairs

Yvonne Käser (chair)

Stefano Gianolini, Roman Menz

Editorial board: Davide Cester, Marie Fargier-Voiron, Anisoara Socoliuc Toquant, Lotte Wilke

On behalf of the SSRMP board,
Yvonne Käser

SCIENCE

56th SSRMP Annual Meeting Announcement



Lucerne, 30 November - 01 December 2023

After exactly 25 years, the SSRMP annual meeting is returning to Lucerne. Needless to say, a lot of things happened and changed in those 25 years. Many new technologies were introduced and a whole new generation of medical physicists came along. We are happy to welcome everyone to Lucerne, whether you were here already in 1998 or whether you are about to take your first steps in the field of medical physics.

We are looking forward to the contributions from the community and hope that they will be as numerous and diverse as they were back then. Abstract submission will be open from 1 April 2023 until 4 September 2023. As it becomes available, further information can be found on the website:

<https://indico.psi.ch/event/14191/>

We are looking forward to seeing you in Lucerne!

On behalf of the Organizing and Scientific Committees
Regina Seiler & Thiago Lima

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

You are kindly invited to submit your abstracts by **September 4th, 2023.**

SCIENCE

SCR '23 Announcement



Congress venue

Davos Congress Centre
Talstrasse 49a
CH-7270 Davos Platz
Tel. +41 81 415 21 60
info@davoscongress.ch

Registration

<https://congress.sgr-ssr.ch/registration/>

Organisation

Congress presidents

Prof. Dr. Dr. Johannes Heverhagen, SGR-SSR
Dr. Stefan Kneifel, SGNM-SSMN
Mr. Martin Hinnen, SVMTR-ASTRM

Scientific committee president

Prof. Dr. Hatem Alkadhi, SGR-SSR



Will you attend the next SCR? We are looking forward to read your comments! Get in touch with us at

bulletin@ssrpm.ch

FOPH update on patient protection means

Last February the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) has officially issued an update regarding the use of patient protection means; we report here an excerpt of the communication (the English translation is ours).



Patientenschutzmittel

Die Beurteilung der Anwendung von Patientenschutzmitteln in der Röntgendiagnostik hat sich stark verändert. So werden heute nur noch in Ausnahmefällen Schutzmittel empfohlen.

Based on a bibliographic analysis, the Report n. 21 of the Swiss Society of Radiobiology and Medical Physics (SSRMP) concludes that, if correctly used, patient protection means hardly result in dose reductions, but if improperly used they can cause an increase of the patient dose.

Therefore their usage is not recommended anymore. In order to reduce the patient dose, the focus has now shifted to technical means [...]

The Federal Commission on Radiation Protection (CPR-KSR) had recommended that the FOPH updates its guidelines on the usage of patient protection means according to the SSRMP Report n. 21.

The FOPH has created a working group involving the representatives of different specialistic and professional associations. Its members [...] will guide the users in realizing the discontinuation of the patient protection means, they will also help in the area of communication.

The FOPH guideline on the usage of patient protection means has already been removed from the web, since it does not match anymore the current state of the scientific knowledge.

[...]

The FOPH will create a website regarding the radiation safety of the patients with the patients themselves as main designated audience. Moreover, together with the working group a new communication strategy will be developed in order to support the professionals and inform the patients on this paradigm shift on the matter of radiation protection.

The Article 24, 2nd paragraph and the Attachment 2 of the Ordinance on X-Rays will be updated during the next revision of the Ordinance.

The SSRMP Report n. 21 was published in December 2020 after two years of work; [the full version](#) is available on the SSRMP website under *Publication & Communication > Recommendations and Reports*.

Issues Of Interest

ECR2023 - European Congress of Radiology Vienna, 1st-5th of March 2023

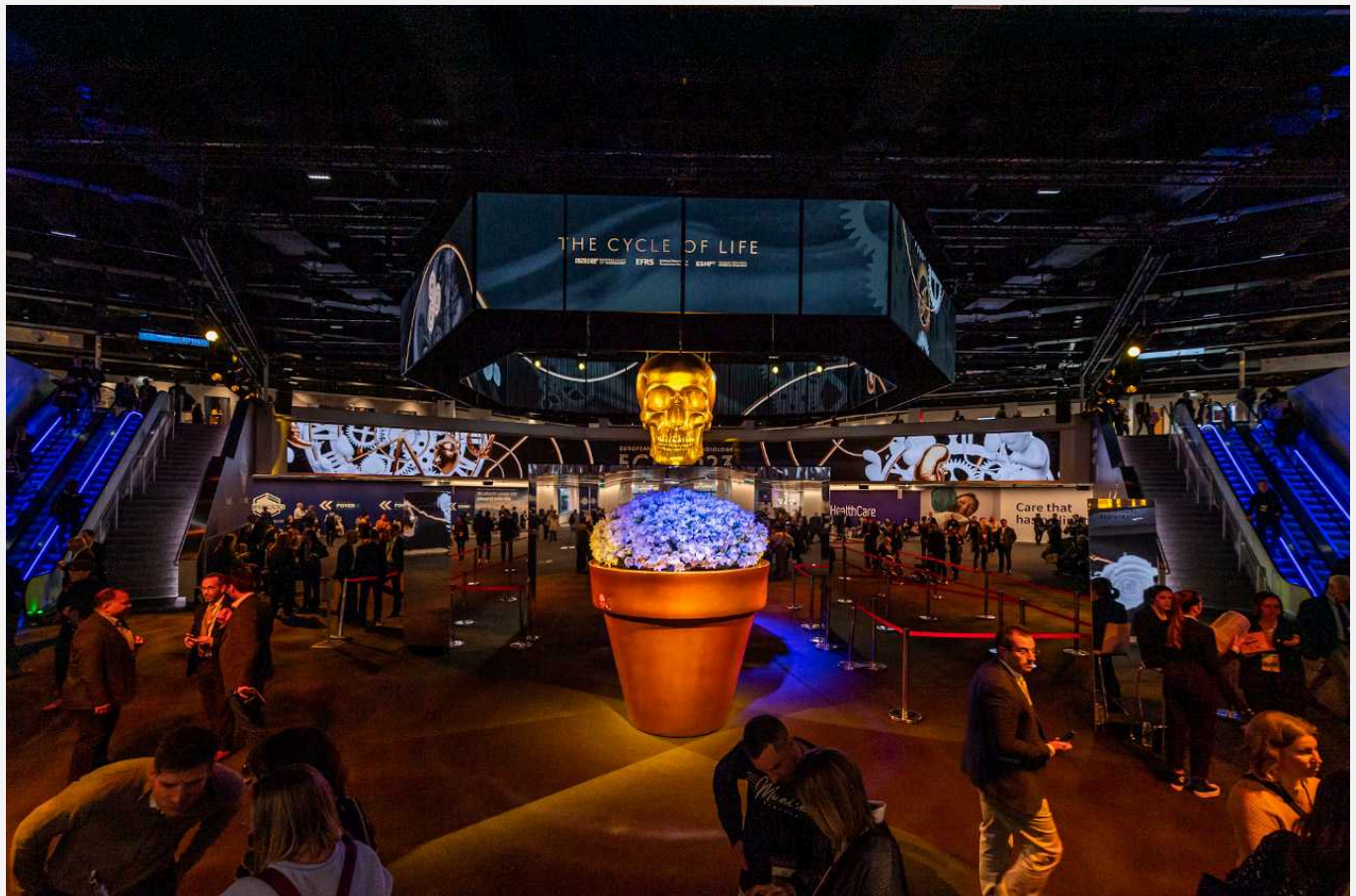
This year the ECR was again held fully on-site in the beautiful city of Vienna. The congress was impressively packed of exhibitions, scientific content and attendees, and even when focusing on Physics and Medical Physics it was sometimes necessary to choose between two parallel sessions.

As a general impression, it was clear that this year's hot topic was Photon-counting CT (PCCT), with a lot of sessions dedicated to it. Dual Energy CT (DECT) was still represented and popular, although it might have taken advantage of the association with PCCT (more on this below).

Despite the high attention received on the media due to recent software developments (Dall-E, ChatGPT), the topic of Artificial Intelligence has not been the main one at this

ECR; this reduced focus should not be taken as a lack of interest, instead as a sign of maturity, with AI shifting from trendy research topic to commercial product which starts to be incorporated in the clinical workflows. There are now more than 2000 CE-marked products on the market, with more than 75% of AI medical applications being developed for radiology, with detection and quantification as main tasks. A couple of sessions on Interventional Radiology completed the general picture; this topic was a bit underrepresented, at least compared to the importance it has in the domain of Imaging Medical Physics...

In the following paragraphs we report some comments from specific sessions.



A big golden skull welcomed the attendees in the ECR 2023 main hall, under this year's motto "The cycle of life".

RC 1713 - Discontinuing patient shielding in radiology: the wind of change

RC 2114 - Adapting to changes in patient contact shielding practices

Having followed the debate in the past two years and the recent developments in Switzerland (see the update on page 8) one might have expected for this session to mostly be a moment of summing up and appreciate a work that was approaching its conclusion; on the contrary, having reached a first international consensus is just the beginning of a long process, where the implementation of the new strategies among trained professionals will just be the next logical step but not the only one remaining.

Exactly as in the case of radiation exposure during pregnancy, the major challenge will be informing and convincing the patients, some of which might have been exposed to a decade-long tradition of "more shielding is better". Here, not only the information will have to be disseminated (think of posters or leaflets in waiting rooms) but the hospital professionals will have to be prepared to deal with confusion and objections from experienced patients; and it will be essential that the information provided is motivated, clearly understandable, and consistent across the various members of the staff.

The international dimension of the ECR allowed for another issue to emerge from the debate, that of the technical gap between world regions. Clearly the current paradigm shift has been made possible by technical advancements of the devices; the downside of this technical dependency is that a single international policy recommendation would make little sense for all the regions where last-generation devices are not yet commonly available.



EF - Physics of photon-counting CT: game changer or incremental progress?

SF 18b - Photon-counting CT

As anticipated, the lion's share of the last ECR was represented by PCCT, with all dedicated sessions being literally packed with attendees, sometimes even standing by the entrance. The reduction in noise, the increased spatial resolution, and most of all the possibility for material decomposition gained PCCT the label of "game changer" in the field of diagnostics. Some vendors predict (and hope) that one or more PCCT scanners will soon be installed in most of the clinics; however the full development of this technology is not yet complete, and a proper integration in the clinical practice in order to fully realize its potential will be the next challenge.

EU 16 - Medical radiation exposure in pregnancy

The topic of radiation exposure during pregnancy is not a simple one: although there is scientific consensus on the associated risks according to the dose and the different stages of the pregnancy, the perception of the risks by the patient can vary by a great extent due to personal and cultural reasons. To complicate the matter, legislation on the subject is often not homogeneous between neighboring countries, further affecting the different perception of the risks by the public.

The main issue is therefore how to handle the communication with the patient, starting from ensuring the agreement between different members of the staff.

As a side note, it was interesting to note the different role of the Medical Physicist when dealing with the irradiation of pregnant patients; as an example, in Croatia the MP talks directly with the patients and plays a lead role in explaining the risks, something that does not represent the routine in Switzerland.

RC 613 - Considerations on radiation doses and associated risks in a lifelong patient journey

This session dealt with the problems of patients receiving high cumulative doses throughout their life (greater than 100 mSv), which some estimations place at around 0.6% of all patients. There is still lack of data regarding this type of examination histories, but there seem to be consensus about the need to further investigate.

As an example we can report a case of a sarcoma in a 10 year old patient (with lung metastasis) which had 52 Thorax CT scans for a cumulative dose of 72 mSv. Preliminary studies on further optimization of "low dose" CT exams show that this patient could have received a cumulative dose of as low as 27 mSv.

On the topic of cumulative dose the SSRMP has recently activated a [Working Group](#) lead by Dr. Elina Samara (USZ).

Davide Cester, USZ

Anaïs Viry, CHUV



Issues Of Interest

French-speaking medical physicist's day Geneva 10th of March 2023

After a break of a few years, for a reason I let you guess, the French-speaking physicists' day was held on March 10, 2023 at the Clinique Générale-Beaulieu, in Geneva. It was a great success, both thanks to the participation of more than 35 of us, and thanks to the numerous proposals for presentations.

Indeed, eight physicists were pleased to share their experience on various subjects. Giovanna Di Pasquale opened the ball with a presentation of her Venus Shell study for the repositioning of patients treated in prone for breast irradiation. Then Pierre-Alain Tercier gave us his tips and tricks to match two Truebeams as rigorously as possible. Speaking of the physicist's rigor, Andreas Joonsten made a clear demonstration that this quality is the major contribution that one of us can bring to clinical studies. Then, Marie Nowak and Lucia Gallego Manzano presented their methodology and their comparative results in the context of a renewal of scopy machines. Finally, Maude Gondré and Misael Caloz presented their respective works on the clinical implementation of the TPS RayStation for the Cyberknife for one, and on the commissioning of the MonteCarlo CK in Precision for the other.

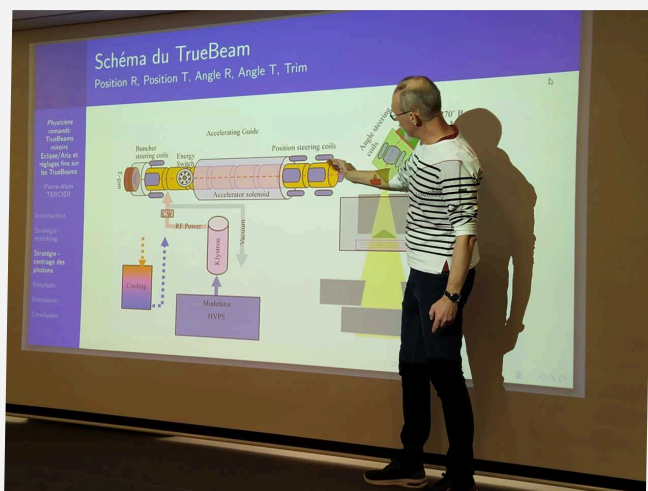
We finished this rich afternoon with a visit of the department and several informal discussions, which make all the interest



of these days. Thank you very much to Maud Jaccard for kicking off these days again after a long break. Thanks also to the Clinic for the welcome, the lunch, the mignardises etc...

In order to keep this great energy, the next edition will take place after the summer: a big thanks in advance to our colleagues from the Hôpital de La Tour, Meyrin, who will be pleased to welcome us!

Marie Fargier-Voiron
Clinique de Genolier and
Clinique Générale-Beaulieu



Pierre-Alain Tercier in the role of an electron



Marie Nowak and Lucia Gallego Manzano

Seminar: Are we prepared for radiological emergencies?

Bern, 31st of March 2023

On Friday 31 March 2023, the Federal Commission for Radiation Protection (KSR/CPR) together with the Federal Commission for Atomic, Biological, and Chemical Protection (KomABC / ComABC) held a bilingual national seminar at the barracks of Berne, entitled "*Are we prepared for radiological emergencies?*".

Over the course of the day, 17 speakers gave short presentations on a wide range of important aspects concerning potential emergencies in Switzerland, such as the legislative situation, test scenarios, and communication with the citizens.

If one tried to extract an answer to the title question of the seminar from the different arguments that were presented it would be "Yes, but only to a certain extent. And, there still is room for improvement."

The seminar was divided into four blocks to assess the core questions. In *Scenarios and Preparations* the speakers explained the current legislation as well as the chain of command w.r.t. radiological emergencies. Emphasis was given to how scenarios for such situations are developed and assessed using the example of the Canton of Geneva. Furthermore, the speakers stressed the importance of the national coordination between the various actors of the different federal, cantonal, and municipal agencies regarding

measures that would need to be taken in case of a radiological emergency. Because any such measures would supposedly impact the daily life of ordinary citizens its consequences on societal cohesion should be considered in the development of hypothetical scenarios.

In the discussion that followed the first block, the question was raised how much the responsible agencies had learned from the experiences of the Corona pandemic during which the Swiss population had been subjected to restrictive measures that -in great part- turned out to be misguided or exaggerated. Everybody expressed hope that agencies and individuals would learn from those mistakes and that their evaluation would also enter into the preparations for future emergencies, specifically also radiological ones.

In the second block, entitled *Influencing Factors*, the pandemic again took centre stage for a moment when the uneasy exchange between members of the scientific community and the public servants in charge of handling an emergency situation and the factors contributing to an unsatisfactory crisis management were discussed. Furthermore, the speakers presented their conclusions from the last Collective Emergency Drill (Gesamtnotfallübung GNU 2022). They again pointed out the need to intensify international and national cooperation, specifically between the Swiss Federal Government and the Cantons because the latter would be in charge of implementing any decisions taken by the government in case of a radiological emergency.

From a scientific and technological point of view, the presentation by Andreas Pautz was the most interesting one. He focussed on new nuclear reactor technologies such as third-generation small modular reactors that are currently being developed in countries with a background in submarine manufacturing. Their development has progressed over the past few years and they might be licensed as early as 2030.



Issues Of Interest



An ensemble of images from the last Collective Emergency Drill (GNU), which took place in 2022.

After the lunch break, the third block was dedicated to *Information and Communication in Case of an Emergency*. This proved to be the most varied part of the whole event as the speakers looked at the risk communication from very different perspectives. Psychological aspects of individual risk perception and their scientific analysis were presented followed by an appraisal of qualitative assessment and communication of radiation risks. Then, the acceptance of emergency measures was dissected from the vantage point of failed communication strategies of the past and how they could be improved. To once again ground the audience in reality, the block ended with a short presentation on the distribution and usage of iodine tablets in Switzerland.

In the final block on *Emergency Organizations*, the attendees were on the one hand briefed on how the National Centre

of Alarms (NAZ / CENAL) collects and evaluates samples. On the other hand, the speakers explained which group of workers would be officially recruited in case of a radiological emergency and what the legal and professional ramifications of such recruitments are. Public transport employees and firefighters served as illustrative examples.

Overall, it was an interesting and well-organized event. Kudos to all the speakers for not digressing too much into the realm of the purely hypothetical, which, given the low probability and the imponderabilia of a potential radiological emergency in Switzerland, is in itself an achievement.

Alexandros Guekos,
PhysMed Consulting GmbH

Further impressions from the KSR meeting

While the topic of this year's meeting was, luckily, not a daily part of the life of a medical physicist, its importance is undeniable, particularly after the many international events of the last decade starting from the Fukushima accident.

It is difficult to describe in detail the content of the many presentations, and it's only possible to convey some overall impression regarding these so-called "multi-dimensional events" with interconnected complexity.

First of all, it is absolutely impressive to realize how much work goes into analyzing, planning and exercise. For an emergency response to have the chance of being effective, the preparation must reach an incredible level of details and readiness, and this requires the continuous, daily work of many different offices and hundreds of people. In case of an actual major accident, the proper reactions need to answer thousands of detailed and interconnected questions, of which it is useful to report some examples...

- should the swimming pools be closed, and when?
- how many emergency tents can a military Puma helicopter carry?
- which staff will regulate the traffic at the crossings in case of a mass evacuation?
- should a certificate be required for importing animals?
- in case of a civil evacuation, who will drive trains and buses?

The point of view of the army was a bit special, since they have the mandate to try and "think the unthinkable", possibly with a long-term outlook of 30 years. Possible scenarios evaluated in their simulations include not only wars with radiological consequences on the European continent, but also in the vicinity of (or even inside!) the Swiss borders.

An important aspect that was underlined by the analysis of the pandemic experience is the need for a clear communication with the population in order to reach a broad acceptance of the proposed measures. Without these two elements even the best technical preparation

can be rendered ineffective. I could not help but think about the clinical challenge of having two or three experts discussing the risks with one single patient, and compare that with the situation where a dozen experts and politicians must convince millions of people.

The role of the hospitals also found some space in the discussion, not only as competence centers during the planning phase, but also as active resources in case of an incident, for example in participating in the decontamination activities, or conducting dosimetry monitoring of the rescue personnel in case of a major radiological incident.

Davide Cester, USZ
Jonas Ekeberg, USZ





Radiotherapie Hirslanden



Introduction

Radiotherapie Hirslanden was founded in 2004, and is subsidiary of the Hirslanden hospital group. It treats between 2500 and 3000 patients per year over all of the sites, and is spread over four sites in Eastern Switzerland, in Zürich, Aarau, St. Gallen and Männedorf and Lausanne (Clinique Bois-Cerf) in Western Switzerland. The radiotherapy of Clinique Grangettes has its own separate physics team, which operates independently of the Radiotherapy Hirslanden.

The department consists of 12 doctors, 8 nurses, 21 MTRAs and 15 secretaries. We are 13 physicists in Hirslanden East team (10 FTE, with two physicists in training) representing Switzerland (4), Germany (4), Italy (1), Finland (1) Austria (1), Latvia (1), France (1) and the UK (1). Our four dosimetrists help perform routine treatment planning and machine QC. What perhaps sets us apart from other radiotherapy services is that the 12 physicists working in Eastern Switzerland all rotate through three of the sites. At our prettiest site on the shores of Lake Zürich in Männedorf the lake beckons in the summer for after work swimming. Working at Hirslanden is never dull!

Equipment

We manage seven Varian Truebeam™ linacs and one Cyberknife™ machine, including the linac at the Animal Hospital in Zürich. The linacs are beam-matched and the treatment planning tasks for any site can be done on the

central ARIA server using the Citrix client. Our clinic in Aarau performs brachytherapy with an HDR afterloader and prostate seed implants. Our newest site is in St. Gallen, which opened last year in October with one Truebeam™. There is room for expansion, with an extra bunker at St Gallen ready to house a new machine. CT scanning is performed separately at each site (except Männedorf) with Siemens scanners.

Managing QA tasks became much more streamlined recently with the commissioning of the SunCHECK™ system from Sun Nuclear. In this system we use the DailyQA3® phantom for daily QA and the ArcCHECK® Phantom for patient-specific QA. For absolute dosimetry we have five large scanning tanks with profilers and use the full complement of radiation detectors (Farmer-type, Roos, Semiflex and Pinpoint chambers from PTW and diodes and diamond detectors).

Clinical service

We perform Electron and Photon treatments mostly for cancer treatment but also for joint pain. Treatment plans range from conformal fields for palliative cases, through gated IMRT and hybrid treatments for breast cancer and VMAT for complex tumour sites. We also perform SBRT on linacs and SRT on the Cyberknife. Moving targets in the lung and liver are tracked with fiducials using the Cyberknife's Synchrony™ system. We also perform motion monitoring on the TrueBeam linacs where possible using the kV system during treatment.

Spotlight On

R&D

Another particular feature of Radiotherapy Hirslanden is that our Head of Department, Prof. Dr. Uwe Schneider, holds a professorship at University of Zürich, thus attracting Masters and PhD students to perform radiotherapy-related research. Current topics are nanodosimetry with detector development, secondary cancer risk modelling and TCP modelling. A strong collaboration between Medical Physics at Hirslanden

and the academic veterinary team at the Animal hospital has enabled development and validation of a TCP model in animals.

Recent clinical developments have been commissioning Acuros™ for all treatment planning calculations and the planning and commissioning of the new clinic in St. Gallen.

Rosalind Perrin
Hirslanden



Photo panel caption, clockwise from the top-left: Fabrizio Storelli, Sergejs Unterkirhens (Head of SBRT) and Käthy Haller on the Cyberknife in Zürich; Jürgen Besser (Head of Dosimetry) and Uwe Schneider (Head of Department) on the truebeam in Männedorf; Marlies Pasler and Christian Priebe (dosimetrist) in St. Gallen; Ramona Trüb, Rosalind Perrin and Riikka Ruuth on a Zürich Truebeam. The single images (top-to-bottom) show Rachid Bouchenna, Matthias Hartmann, Martin Staudacher Marina Ernst and Sylvain Jaquet. Not on the photos is Nabil el Brouksy from Lausanne.

“Welcome!”

Christian Tata Zafarifety

I was born and grew up in Madagascar. After graduating from high school, I moved to Paris to study at Université Paris-Saclay where I received my bachelor in physics, then my master in medical physics. During the two-year master program, I interned at the Institut Gustave Roussy in Paris and wrote my thesis on the commissioning of a new Treatment Planning System using collapse cone algorithms in brachytherapy.

Later, I enrolled in a three-year PhD program at the Université de Technologie de Troyes. My research interests focused on developing a new Gamma Compton and PET camera using Cerium Bromide monolithic crystal and SiPM. In 2021, I got qualified for the French medical physics certification (DQPRM) after being a medical physicist trainee at the Centre Léon Bérard in Lyon and the Institut Jean Godinot in Reims.

As for my Swiss adventure, it started as a series of short stays when I used to visit my wife while she was studying in Lausanne. Switzerland and its mountains and lakes scenery put me in a state of awe. The landscape here is simply stunning. Some of my best memories are hiking to the Grammont and in Emmetten.

My Swiss adventure continued in February 2022 when I took on a temporary position at the Clinique de Genolier/Beaulieu, which was an opportunity that allowed me to finally join my wife and daughter. In October of the same year, I successfully passed the SSRPM exam.

Currently, I work at the Clinique de la Source in Lausanne, as part of the medical physics unit, with great colleagues. I really look forward to meeting all of you!



Christian Tata Zafarifety
Clinique de La Source, Lausanne

Personalia

“Welcome!”

Milena Cristina Gravinatti

I am Brazilian, born and raised in a city in the countryside of the state of São Paulo called Araraquara, which in the local native language means “Home of the Sun”. I grew up on a farm and in 2007 moved to Ribeirão Preto to study Medical Physics at the University of São Paulo, the biggest university in Latin America.

During the five years of graduation, I actively participated in student activities. In one of them (my favorite!), I coordinated and played a clown in a children’s theater play aimed at teaching Science and Physics to kids. On a more “serious” side, I developed an academic research project with Magnetic Resonance Imaging, using Functional Imaging and Tractography.

After completing my Bachelor’s Degree in 2011, I moved to São Paulo to continue my training in Nuclear Medicine and Diagnostic Imaging at the Hospital das Clínicas.

In São Paulo I continued to focus on my studies while also working. In 2013 I was approved by the National Nuclear Energy Commission as a Supervisor in Nuclear Medicine. In 2014 and 2015, I became Specialist in Nuclear Medicine and Radiodiagnosis by the Brazilian Society of Medical Physics.

During my years in Brazil, I was able to experiment and learn at the largest hospitals in the country. Meanwhile I was invited and gladly took part in specialist examination boards and consolidated my career with 8 years of experience.



In the end of 2019, I was surprised with a marriage proposal and a move to the old continent. Love and football made me land in Switzerland in June 2020. The challenges of restarting my career in a new country and with a new language became even greater with the Covid-19 pandemic. I however was happy to embrace the challenge.

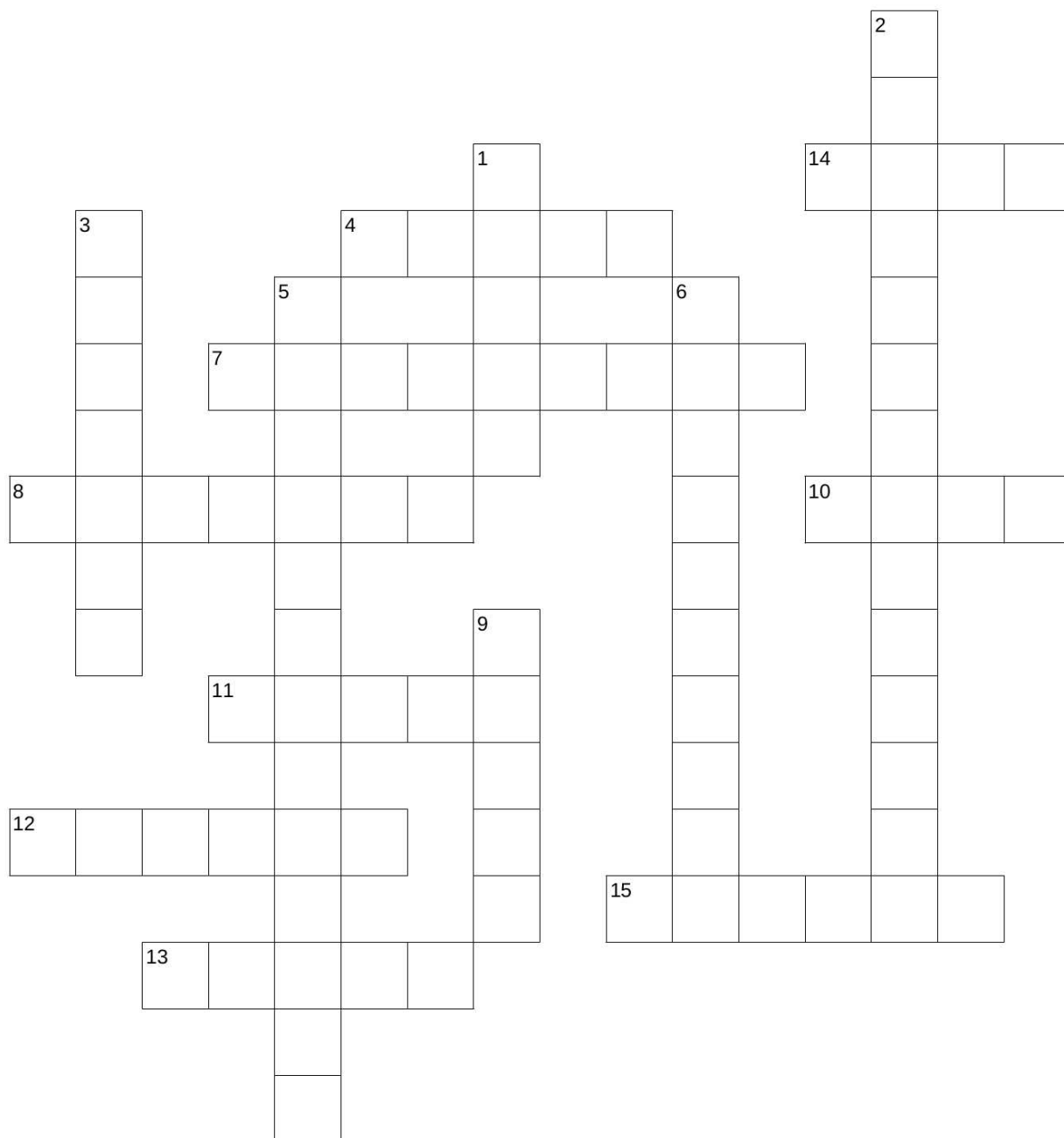
In September 2021, I did my first internship at the USZ Universitätsspital Zürich in the Fachstelle Strahlenschutz and in January 2022 I started my second internship at the LUKS Luzerner Kantonsspital.

After much dedication and support from the wonderful people I had the pleasure to meet on my Swiss journey, I was approved in the SSRPM Certification in November 2022.

Today, I divide myself between Zurich and Lucerne. USZ and LUKS daily provide me new friends, experiences, and learnings from two totally different cultures about the role of the physicist and their work in different areas of Medical Physics. I am looking forward to what comes next!

Milena Cristina Gravinatti
LUKS, Lucerne and USZ, Zurich

Off-duty



Down

1. Synchronized oscillations of electric and magnetic fields
2. Electromagnetic radiation produced by the deceleration of a charged particle when deflected by another charged particle
3. They are in the large collider
5. Emission of electrons when electromagnetic radiation hits a material
6. Direct or indirect effect
9. Produced by a radioactive decay within a nucleus
14. High speed electron

Across

4. A useful peak
7. Blue mystical effect
8. Elastic scattering by a free charged particle
10. Louis Harold ...
11. Particle absorbed by a few centimeters of air
12. fundamental equation in quantum mechanics
13. should not be confused with the absorbed dose
15. Results in work, heat or light, nothing could happen without it!

The solution will be published in the next issue.

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Of desirability are all contributions that could be of interest to members of our society, such as

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- Succinct results of surveys, comparative measurements etc.
- Short portraits of individual institutions (E.g. apparatus equipment, priorities of work, etc.)
- Reports on national and international recommendations
- Short Press Releases
- Photos
- Cartoons & caricatures
- Announcement of publications (E.g. books, magazines)
- Announcement of all kinds of events (E.g. conferences, seminars, etc.)
- Short articles worth reading from newspapers or magazines (if possible in the original)
- Member updates (E.g. appointments, change of jobs, etc.)

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Deadline for submissions to Bulletin No. 106 (August 2023): July 14th, 2023

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Conference Calendar

CALENDAR 2023

May 12 Wien, AT	ESTRO 2023 May 12 - May 16 https://www.estro.org/Congresses/ESTRO-2023
June 22 Davos	SCR '23 - Swiss Congress of Radiology Jun 22 - Jun 24 https://congress.sgr-ssr.ch/
June 26 Bern	AMP Meeting Jun 26
June 26 Paris, FR	14 th Conference on Monte Carlo Methods and Applications Jun 26 - Jun 30 https://mcm2023.sciencesconf.org/
July 23 Houston, TX	AAPM Annual Meeting 2023 Jul 23 - Jul 27 https://www.aapm.org/meetings/
August 28 Heidelberg, DE	5 th Summer School in Medical Physics 2023 (Hybrid event) Aug 28 - Sep 22 https://www.dkfz.de/en/medphys/education_and_training/
August 31 Bern	27 th SASRO Annual Meeting 2023 Aug 31 - Sep 02
September 18 Salzburg, AT	54. Jahrestagung des FS Sep 18 - Sep 22 https://www.fs-ev.org/der-fs/veranstaltungen-des-fs/
September 27 Magdeburg, DE	54. Jahrestagung der DGMP Sep 27 - Sep 30
Nov 26 Chicago, IL	RSNA Annual meeting Nov 26 - Nov 30 https://www.rsna.org/annual-meeting/future-and-past-meetings
Nov 30 Lucerne	56 th SSRMP Annual Meeting Nov 30 - Dec 01 https://indico.psi.ch/event/14191/



And please, if you participate in any conference or meeting, think of writing a few lines or sending a picture for the Bulletin.

THANK YOU!