

Letter from the ESR President



Dear Colleagues,

The more I learn about the practice of medicine in other countries, the more I am struck by the similarities in the issues facing the medical profession internationally. I am writing this, having just returned from the annual scientific meeting of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists, which heightened my awareness of this fact. Melbourne is a stunning city, combining wonderful Victorian buildings with modern skyscrapers. Dr. Liz Kenny, the President of the RANZCR, and her colleagues can be really proud of having run a meeting of the highest quality in splendid surroundings. Liz presided over the congress with effortless charm, and everyone who attended it enjoyed it greatly.

One of the most impressive activities undertaken by the RANZCR is the QUDI programme. QUDI stands for 'Quality Use of Diagnostic Imaging' and is a programme focusing on the implementation of evidence into practice in radiology in Australia. The RANZCR obtained funding from the Australian government, which has enabled it to develop a four-year research and development programme in quality and safety in diagnostic imaging. A number of high quality projects have been commissioned, focusing on quality issues from consumer, economic, referrer and radiologists' perspectives. Examples include the development of best practice standards and guidelines for referrals for radiology and a thorough analysis of the role of non-medical practitioners in the provision of radiological services. Jane Grim, who is the Director of Quality and Standards of Practice at the RANZCR, and her colleagues in the QUDI programme, have done a wonderful job that deserves international recognition. I strongly recommend that you look at the programme in more detail on the RANZCR website.

ESR continues to grow, with an ever-increasing number of European radiologists joining the society, which has become a formidable international force in the specialty. It is now in an excellent position to influence the development of appropriate standards of training and practice in Europe and to coordinate the activities of national radiological societies in this regard. I am most grateful to the many national leaders of radiological societies who have played an important role in the growth of ESR. One example of the benefits that the coordination of activities in radiology within Europe brings is the important role that ESR has played in influencing the European Commission in relation to the EMF Directive. It is likely that by the time you read this, the European Commission will have announced that the implementation of the directive will have been postponed for four years. This is an important step in the right direction and will allow essential investigations and procedures to continue to be carried out and is undoubtedly in the best interests of patients. I am most grateful to everybody involved in the Alliance for MRI for helping achieve this outcome.

European Radiology, the journal of our Society, is one of the jewels in the crown of ESR. The work that Professor Albert Baert has carried out has been phenomenal. He has developed the journal into one of the best publications in the world in our field and we owe him a huge debt of gratitude. Professor Baert steps down from the editorship at the end of this year and his achievements will be recognised appropriately during ECR 2008. The new editor of *European Radiology* is Professor Adrian Dixon, who will be known to most of you as one of the outstanding academic radiologists internationally. The journal could not be in better hands and I am sure that Adrian will lead it to even greater heights of achievement.

ESR is now entering the final phase of the transition period, which will be completed in March 2008. I will have more to say on this later this year but, for now, I would just like to thank everybody involved in the mammoth task of restructuring the society for their outstanding efforts. This has been a complex and difficult task but it has also been immensely rewarding and will bring huge benefits to all radiologists in Europe.



Prof. Andy Adam, ESR President