



Mission: To enhance cooperation among cardiologists on radiation safety in cardiac catheterization procedures and in procedures that utilise ionizing radiations

From the Editor's Desk

Kui Hian Sim

Sarawak General Hospital, Kuching, Malaysia

(sim.kui.hian@health.gov.my)



Dear Colleagues,

I was overjoyed to learn about the IAEA activities in radiation protection activities in cardiology in Latin American region. In the era of globalization, the world is truly flat and we have much more similarities than differences and

much can be learnt from each other. In fact, the leadership of IAEA should be commended for their vision and resolve in this very important but under-recognized and unglamorous topic; initially targeting the radiology profession, then our cardiac fraternity and lately the non-radiologists non-cardiologist i.e. gastroenterologists, orthopaedic surgeons, urologists, gynaecologists and vascular surgeons across different parts of the world.

There is so much yet to be learnt and discovered regarding topics of radiation protection and we are grateful to Prof. Eliseo Vano for sharing with us the information in this issue of the newsletter.

We are grateful to our small group of cardiologists who have great resolve and have been putting words into action and have managed to include topics on radiation protection in the regional and national cardiac conferences as well as circulation of this newsletter in the regional and national cardiac societies' through their websites. Each small step counts towards achieving the mission. The next step is to have more collaborative projects and actions in the region.

Again, I urge you to share and circulate this newsletter with your country's cardiac fraternity. As always, I welcome your comments and look forwards to receiving your contributions on radiation safety, be it in cardiac interventions or cardiac CT.

Lastly, my gratitude to IAEA's continuous leadership and support in radiation protection in cardiology.

Seasons greetings and happy 2009

2nd meeting of the Asian Network of Cardiologists in Radiation Protection

Madan M. Rehani

International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna

(M.Rehani@iaea.org)



As indicated in the [first issue of the Newsletter](#) the network was created under RCA/IAEA Project RAS 9042 on sustainability of radiation protection infrastructure in 2007. The first meeting of the network was held in Sarawak, Kuching, Malaysia in March 2007

and the 2nd meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 24-26 June 2008. The meeting was attended by cardiologists from the following countries: Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The important and significant aspect of this meeting was that it was held in conjunction with the Conference of the Asian Interventional Cardiovascular Therapeutics (Bangkok, 25-27 June) as mentioned in [3rd issue](#).

There were two sessions on radiation protection in AICT 2008. One session involved a one-hour lecture given by myself and another session included a 2-hour panel discussion. Thus, there was an excellent integration of the activities of the network with the regional conference, which had about 800 participants.



Participants in IAEA/RCA Meeting of network of Asian cardiologists in radiation protection

The network members presented data on changes in practice in their work in cardiac catheterization laboratories. All members presented a list of such changes and also presented data on patient dose management. There were quite surprising data where the cumulative skin doses exceeded the threshold for skin erythema in patients. It was decided to strengthen follow-up, continue with

dose monitoring and resolve issues of higher doses after QC actions. An Action Plan for 2008-2009 was then developed with emphasis on a) continuation of the newsletter, b) monitoring of practice (or lack thereof) of radiation protection, c) strengthening communication among the group, and d) wider communication among the whole community of interventional cardiologists. It was also deemed appropriate to collaborate with the group of interventional cardiologists in Latin America (SOLACI), which is working closely with the IAEA.

8th annual scientific sessions of the Sri Lanka Heart association
Sepalika Mendis
Institute of cardiology, National Hospital, Colombo



The 8th annual scientific sessions of the Sri Lanka Heart association and the 5th SAARC Congress of Cardiology was held on the 29th February to 2nd March 2008 at Cinnamon Grand hotel Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Courtesy IAEA, Dr Guglielmo Bernardi from Italy delivered a lecture on “*Radiation protection for staff and patients.*”

It was well attended by approximately 140 delegates mainly interventionalists and cath lab staff. Many senior and junior cardiologists commended the organizing committee to choose the topic in this type of forum and commended the speaker for the excellent lecture. Dr Bernardi also delivered some lectures in Kandy and conducted a workshop for the technicians, nurses and the doctors involved in radiation.

IAEA training course on radiation protection at SOLACI 2008 in Cancun (Mexico)



Eliseo Vano¹



Ariel Duran²



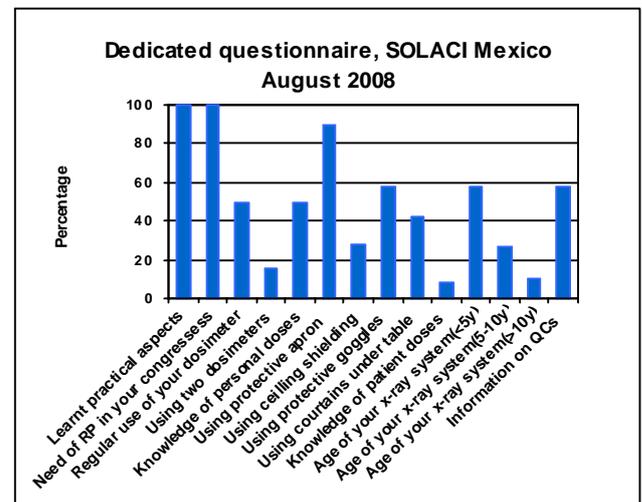
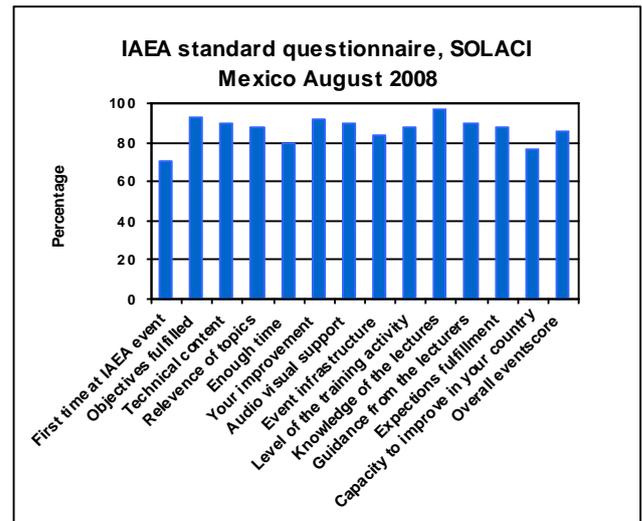
Raul Ramirez³

¹**Professor of Medical Physics. Complutense University of Madrid (Spain); Head of the Medical Physics Service. San Carlos University Hospital. Madrid (Spain).**
eliseov@med.ucm.es

²**Interventional Cardiologist**
Cardiovascular Institute. Montevideo (Uruguay).
aduran@hc.edu.uy

³**Radiation Safety Specialist, IAEA, Vienna**
R.Ramirez@iaea.org

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has been organising training courses on Radiation Protection (RP) in Cardiology in cooperation with Society of Interventional Cardiology in Latin America (SOLACI). A recent event was held in Cancun (Mexico) in August 2008. The graphs provide results of surveys conducted in the recent course.



More than a 70% of participants received this kind of training for the first time. Similar courses have been organized in Argentina, Costa Rica and Colombia in coordination with the regional congresses organized by SOLACI.

Contact us:
Prof. Dr. SIM Kui-Hian
 MBBS(Hons)(Monash), FRACP, FACC, FCSANZ, FESC, FAHA, FSCAL, FAPSC
 Head, Dept of Cardiology,
 Sarawak General Hospital, MALAYSIA.
 Office +60-82-276 666/+60-82-276 593
 Email sim.kui.hian@health.gov.my