

Minutes

ESR Annual Leadership Meeting

Friday, December 11, 2009; 09.00–17.00

Palais Daun Kinsky, Freyung 4, 1010 Vienna, Meeting Room "Ovaler Festsaal"

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome and Presidential Address - C.J. Herold**
- 2. Activity report on EU Affairs - I.W. McCall**
- 3. Report from the ECR 2010 Congress President - M. Szczerbo-Trojanowska**
- 4. Activity report from the Publications Committee - A.K. Dixon**
- 5. Activity report from the Research Committee - G.P. Krestin**
EIBIR report - G.P. Krestin
- 6. Activity report from the Education Committee - É. Breatnach**
- 7. Activity report from the Professional Organisation Committee - L. Donoso**
- 8. Activity report from the Subspecialties Committee - F.E. Avni**
- 9. Activity report from the National Societies Committee - G. Frija**
- 10. Activity report from the Communication & International Relations Committee - L. Solbiati**
- 11. ESOR report - N. Gourtsoyiannis**
- 12. Breakout sessions with 4 Working Groups on the following topics:**
 - Interaction with the EU / role of the ESR and the national societies
 - Multimodality training and practice / radiology and nuclear medicine
 - Harmonisation of training curricula and standards
 - European diploma / board exam
- 13. Presentation by each WG moderator**
- 14. Summary and closing remarks - C.J. Herold**

1. Welcome and Presidential Address - C.J. Herold

In his function as ESR President, C.J. Herold opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees present. He started by reporting that ESR currently has 45,870 members from 127 countries and added that 56% of the members are from Europe. Then he briefly explained the structure of the ESR Office in Vienna.

C.J. Herold stated his vision that ESR serves as a global player improving radiology education, supporting research and science, promoting innovation, and investing in partnership and friendship among radiologists & radiologic societies worldwide.

He introduced the chapters and content of ESR's strategic plan for 2009 to 2011 and presented an example, the Strategic Plan for EU and Public Affairs, underlining that none of the included tasks were untouched. He explained that ESR is intensifying its collaboration with the EU in all matters concerning radiology and related professional fields and pointed to the work of the EU Taskforce chaired by I.W. McCall and M. Hierath in the ESR office. The most important topics in this field were mentioned and with regard to the budget the ESR President stressed that ESR's current annual expenses on EU Affairs amount to approx. EUR 250,000. **C.J. Herold emphasised that input from the National and Subspecialty Societies is essential and informed that a letter will be sent to the member societies in January 2010 asking for pilot persons for EU matters. He further underlined that ESR needs contact to decision makers in European countries for health and policy making, e.g. European parliamentarians in health and research and politicians in the respective country concerned with health policy, innovation and research.**

Letter asking for pilot persons for EU matters to be sent to member societies in January 2010

C.J. Herold introduced the next topic, ESR publications, by presenting the strategic plan for this subject and thanked A.K. Dixon for his help in structuring. He further underline that each publication has an objective and target group. The impact factor of *European Radiology* surpasses the impact fact of most American journals. The submission rate of papers is very high, also from other continents, which points to the journal's international acceptance. C.J. Herold introduced ESR's new second journal *Insights into Imaging* to the audience and listed several papers to be published in the first issue in January 2010.

The next subject addressed by the ESR president was Education. He thanked É. Breatnach, chair of the ESR Education Committee, for his effort and listed the most important topics in this field. With regard to the harmonisation of training curricula C.J. Herold underlined that it is essential to harmonise the framework of resident training and fellowship programmes, also beyond the borders of Europe. It was further stressed that it is important to produce draft curricula for emergency radiology, oncologic imaging and PET/CT. In terms of eLearning C.J. Herold stated that this enables to develop standards, to provide material to reach objectives and to contribute to raise the level of training in Europe. The implementation of board exams at European level had been discussed in the Executive Council meeting the day before and needs a lot of attention in the future. This issue was also be dealt with in one of the break-out sessions in the afternoon.

C.J. Herold briefly summarised the activities of the Communication & International Relations Committee, focusing on the improvement of information of, and communication with members as well as patient information. He mentioned the establishment of an ESR presence on Facebook and Twitter and introduced the idea of a planned European Day of Radiology that should be established in order to raise awareness through direct contact with the public and the media.

C.J. Herold continued his presentation with professional organisation issues. C.J. Herold gave an update on the relations with UEMS. Following the merger of EAR

and ECR to ESR it has become necessary to carve out a working plan between ESR and the UEMS with common goals and objectives and to define the respective resources to enhance the cooperation between both bodies in the future. It had been agreed that an analysis of the cooperation between EAR and the UEMS would be done and adapted to the present situation, as ESR cannot be compared to EAR which consisted of delegates of the European National and Subspecialty Societies only. ESR on the other hand represents also over 45,000 individual members from all over the world. Thus a written Memorandum of Understanding will be elaborated to define the legal status, competencies (also in relation to the European Union) as well as individual tasks of the two organisations and settle down a task-driven relationship between both bodies. Therefore the status of the two bodies, common goals, separate tasks and common areas of cooperation will be defined and put into writing to arrive at a document which will ensure future-oriented cooperation between both bodies.

Concerning the cooperation with the RSNA, C.J. Herold mentioned the RSNA/ESR Leadership Retreat that was held in Chicago in December and reported of collaborative efforts in matters of global perspectives and importance in the field of research, education, support of radiology in socially and economically underprivileged countries and teleradiology.

C.J. Herold closed his address with an outlook into the next working year, **reemphasising the need to involve new leaders and experts as well as additional resources and to closely collaborate with the member societies.** Finally he thanked the ESR office and all bodies and committee members for their contribution.

2. Activity report on EU Affairs - I.W. McCall

I.W. McCall started his report by presenting an overview of the most important topics related to EU affairs. He thanked the ESR office for their excellent work and support. He pointed out that the EU related issues are also relevant to non-EU countries.

Alliance for MRI

I.W. McCall gave the floor to G.P. Krestin to present the first topic, the Alliance for MRI. It aims to ensure that the threat posed by the EU Physical Agents Directive 2004/40/EC (EMF) to the future of MR is averted and that patients in Europe will not be precluded from state-of-the-art healthcare services. The directive has been postponed until April 2012 in order to allow for time to introduce amendments to ensure that limits will not have an adverse effect on the practice of MRI. However, the directive remains in existence and may be implemented by EU member states at their discretion. A new draft directive by EC is not expected before June 2010. Then it will be submitted to the European Parliament (2 readings likely), the Council is to comment on the directive at the same time. The EC made an informal promise to provide for an exemption for MRI from numerical limit values in the draft revised directive (expected for June 2010); the development of binding European MR user guidelines with involvement of ESR is very likely. However, it is expected that this will not be accepted by all member states. Main resistance is expected due to a new German proposal, introducing three levels of limit values whereby the highest limit values would still jeopardise the use of MRI in certain applications (interventional, close monitoring). This new proposal may influence other countries in the Council. **G.P. Krestin asked the national societies for support in this matter by signing the Alliance for MRI online petition (available shortly at ESR website).** He encouraged the attendees to find out

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to sign the
Alliance for MRI
online petition*

the status/position in their country towards the EMF Directive and to contact responsible officers in their government. Furthermore he urged people to inform the members of their respective society of the threat posed to MRI. Germany, UK, France, Poland, Spain and Italy are key countries for the ESR campaign. Society representatives should become advocates for the Alliance for MRI in their contacts with European Parliamentarians interested in health and research, European Commission officials, and member state decision-makers. **Finally G.P. Krestin asked the audience to keep the Alliance for MRI Secretariat abreast of any new intelligence in this matter.**

e-Health

The next subject to be addressed was e-Health. I.W. McCall gave an update on the cooperation with the DG Information Society. ESR has submitted a response to the Telemedicine Communication in May 2009. The EC has approached ESR for expert input regarding teleradiology and respective legal aspects. In October 2009 a meeting with the EC was held to discuss Telemedicine Communication and in particular related legal aspects. The EC is to informally send a draft Staff Working Paper on legal aspects of e-health to ESR for review (end 2009). ESR is asked to provide the EC with an update on available studies/publications on teleradiology and telemedicine. **I.W. McCall informed of the eHealth Session that will be organised jointly by ESR and the European Commission at ECR 2010 and invited all delegates to attend this session.** He further commented that the E-health Conference & World of Health IT Congress from March 15-18, 2009 will be held in Barcelona. ESR is invited to send a delegation and to speak on e-health. The ESR demands future legislation to define teleradiology as a medical act in its own right and to establish accreditation criteria for teleradiology providers that are homogenous throughout the EU. Furthermore, the importance of delivering high-quality healthcare to the patient needs to be emphasised. It is also important that cost savings do not come at the expense of quality or safety, thus careful monitoring of service providers and international quality and safety standards are required. It was also noted that the regulation of telemedicine and teleradiology should be the responsibility of the member state where the patient undergoes the imaging procedure or telemedical referral. Finally, the importance of full information of patients and informed consent were highlighted. **I.W. McCall asked the national societies to ensure that teleradiology is defined as a medical act in its own right in their respective country and to send feedback information on studies/reports on teleradiology to the ESR Office.**

Nat. Soc. asked to send feedback information on teleradiology to ESR Office

Cross Border Healthcare Directive

I.W. McCall moved on to the next topic, the Cross Border Health Services Directive, a proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the European Council on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare. The aim of this directive is to put in place a specific instrument to ensure European citizens further legal certainty as to their right when moving to get treatment within the EU. The European Parliament adopted a legislative resolution (Bowis Report) amending the proposal of the Directive (first reading in co-decision procedure) in April 2009. In October 2009 the Council has published a compromise paper produced by the Swedish government (not commenting on Bowis report). No common position could be reached in the Council in December 2009. The Spanish presidency that takes over in January 2010 has committed to continue to reach an agreement, but as I.W. McCall commented is not in favour of this directive. I.W. McCall gave an overview of the ESR position on the directive. The regulation of telemedicine and

teleradiology should be the responsibility of the member state where the patient undergoes the imaging or telemedical referral. The patient must give informed consent when the clinical details and images are electronically transferred from one EU country to another. Teleradiology must be defined as a medical act. The member states should ensure for the safety of the patient that doctors undertaking cross border telemedicine and teleradiology should have the equivalent regulatory requirement to those of the country where the patient accesses healthcare. Two amendments by the European Parliament partly reflect this position of ESR (Art. 13, Art. 16). **I.W. McCall pointed out that the help of the national societies is needed. He appealed to the attendees to use their contacts with their national governments and to inform their own members of the ESR position.** He further underlined the need of informing national governments of importance of producing medical structure for teleradiology and ensuring that qualified radiologists are involved.

EC Cancer Strategy

I.W. McCall introduced the next topic, the EC Cancer Strategy. The EC launched a European Partnership for Action against Cancer. The partnership aims to support countries in their efforts to tackle cancer by providing a framework for identifying and sharing information, capacity and expertise in cancer prevention and control by engaging a wide range of stakeholders across the EU. The content of the communication as well as ESR activities in this field were summarised briefly. **I.W. McCall asked the attendees to nominate experts with expertise in cancer imaging (research) interested in actively participating in the ESR task group. He further commented that more individuals, younger radiologist need to be involved and feedback from the member societies on this subject is of utmost importance.**

Experts in cancer imaging needed for ESR task group

EC Tender on Revision of Referral Guidelines

The next item to be discussed was the EC Tender on Revision of Referral Guidelines. ESR has not submitted a tender for the guidelines proposal because of the strict criteria laid down in the tender document.

As the EC has not received any proposals, they have decided to cancel the current procedure and will launch a new call for tenders with improved parameters in 2010, as informed in a letter sent by the EC to ESR. ESR is invited together with other national societies with key expertise in developing guidelines at national level (UK Royal College of Radiologists, French Society of Radiology) to discuss the elaboration and revision of European referral guidelines within an adequate framework. **The content of the ESR proposal was summarised briefly and I.W. McCall asked the audience to inform ESR if national referral guidelines are available in the respective countries and to nominate experts with expertise in national guideline development interested in actively participating in the ESR task group.**

Experts in national guideline development needed for ESR Task group

EURATOM Recast

The topic EURATOM Recast was mentioned briefly by I.W. McCall. He explained that the European Commission is in the process of recasting 5 Council Directives, with the aim of merging them into one while keeping as much of the present text as possible.

EC Clinical Trials Directive - Consultation

The EU Clinical Trials Directive (Directive 2001/20/EC), also discussed by I.W. McCall, was implemented in 2004, with the aim of simplifying and harmonising the

administrative requirements for clinical trials across the EU, while ensuring safety of clinical trial participants, ethical soundness of trials and reliability and robustness of data generated. Directive has improved the safety and ethical soundness of trials across the EU, but a number of issues have emerged which made the EU a much less attractive location to carry out clinical trials.

EC Green Paper on European Workforce for Health

I.W. McCall briefly summarised the ESR position on the Green Paper that is published in the EU Affairs section of the ESR website. He further mentioned recent activities related to this topic.

EC Clinical Audit Guidelines

I.W. McCall gave an overview of this subject. He explained that based on the EC medical exposure directive 97/43/EURATOM which introduced the concept of Clinical Audit for the assessment of medical radiological practices, in 2007 the European Commission launched a project to review the status of implementation of clinical audits in Member States and to prepare European Guidance on clinical audits. He thanked E.J. Adam for her work on this matter.

C.J. Herold thanked I.W. McCall for his report and opened the discussion on this item. With regard to the Alliance on MRI, G.P. Krestin remarked that EU Affairs will affect the daily work of all attendees and mentioned several European countries where the respective directive has already been implemented.

C.J. Herold thanked I.W. McCall on behalf of ESR for these activities and to conclude this item on the agenda, **he underlined that the attendees' input and help are needed urgently.**

3. Report from the ECR 2010 Congress President - M. Szczerbo-Trojanowska

M. Szczerbo-Trojanowska started her report by expressing her pleasure for being at this beautiful place. The motto of the ESR 2010 is "Virtuosity in Radiology" in relation to the virtuosity of Fryderyk Chopin, world famous Polish romantic composer and pianist, as the year 2010 is celebrated worldwide as the year of Chopin.

ECR 2010 is offering an attractive programme to radiologists focusing on practical knowledge. As she explained, a new format of organ-oriented courses will be introduced under the title "**Organs from A to Z**", starting with a course on the liver. The second innovation will be the introduction of multidisciplinary sessions. In the coming year they will be dedicated to "Management of patients with cancer". The four topics uterus, prostate, lung and colorectal will be discussed by surgeons, oncologists and radiologists. The Foundation Course will be dedicated to head and neck imaging.

M. Szczerbo-Trojanowska reported that over **5600 abstracts** (papers and posters) had been received and over 4100 of them had been accepted. This signifies an increase of submitted abstracts of 5.48% over last year's congress. The constant increase of abstract submission since 1991 was further stressed by the Congress President. She presented a table of the top 15 countries in terms of abstract acceptance and pointed to the remarkably high number of accepted abstracts from Japan, China, Rep. of Korea and the US, which underlines the global character of ECR.

In the "**ESR meets**" programme renowned radiologists from Argentina, Saudi

Arabia and Poland will present particularly interesting aspects of radiology in their countries. In 2010 also the ESR Meets Partner Discipline Sessions will be continued. Together with neurologists we will discuss diagnostic imaging and management of patients with acute stroke.

M. Szczerbo-Trojanowska enumerated the readers of the Opening Lecture (Anne G. Osborn) and the Honorary Lectures (Michael N. Brant-Zawadzki, Suzanne E. Anderson and Andrzej Pawel Wieczorek), the Gold Medallist (Andy Adam) and Honorary Members (Gary J. Becker, Willi A. Kalender, Ji Qi and Donald L. Resnick).

M. Szczerbo-Trojanowska closed her report by stating that the programme creation would not have been possible without the hard work of the programme planning committee and the professional support from the ESR office and that she was looking forward to welcoming all attendees in Vienna in March.

4. Activity report from the Publications Committee - A.K. Dixon

A.K. Dixon opened his report by listing all ESR publications. In addition to the flagship journal *European Radiology*, the ESR has in 2009 established a second journal called *Insights into imaging*. Besides these two journals, the society also publishes the monthly ESR e-Newsletter, and a multitude of media related to the annual congress, such as the congress newspaper 'ECR Today', all programmes and brochures, and the Book of Abstracts.

A.K. Dixon pointed out that *European Radiology* is now a highly regarded journal in the imaging field and presented a figure indicating the journal's constantly rising impact factor of 3.65, which clearly underlines its position as the second highest ranked general radiological journal in the world.

With the increase in the impact factor and the increase in scientific nature of the journal, there is difficulty in including subjects like news from the ESR and subspecialty societies, articles/promotions, pictorial reviews, case reports, management issues etc. Even with generous increase in space from 2,400 to 3,000 pages there is still a considerable lag between acceptance, electronic publication and formal paper publication. This results in an 80% rejection rate and thus the establishment of another journal was necessary.

He further explained that the second journal, *Insights into Imaging*, also published by Springer, will be launched in January 2010 under the Editorship of Professor Robert Hermans (Leuven, Belgium). It will include loose publications and thus should allow more space to be devoted to the strong scientific articles within *European Radiology*. It will include extensive promotion of all ESR meetings. A.K. Dixon further pointed to the fact that the new journal will be all electronic and six issues will be published per year.

A.K. Dixon continued with a short update on **EURORAD** and reported further improvements in the database in 2009. He mentioned the appointment of J.L. Bloem as Editor-In-Chief of EURORAD. It was further stated that there was a significant reduction of the turnaround time between submission and decision, providing a valuable benefit to readers and authors alike.

A.K. Dixon asked the attendees to encourage young radiologists to submit case reports and to use the database actively in their teaching.

With regard to **EPOS**, the Electronic Presentation Online System of the ECR and ESR, A.K. Dixon commented that due to the introduction of new software and a graphic re-launch EPOS became a faster educational tool and more continuous teaching aid.

5. Activity report from the Research Committee; EIBIR report - G.P. Krestin

G.P. Krestin started his report with an overview of the development of EIBIR, the European Institute for Biomedical Imaging Research, and pointed out that the institute had been officially established in 2006 based on the idea of creating a body that would improve research activities in Europe and ESR's wish to involve in research issues in addition to educational activities. EIBIR is a non-profit limited liability company. During 2009 over 40 new research institutes have joined the EIBIR network, increasing the membership to over 290 research institutes with a focus on biomedical imaging or related disciplines in 35 countries, including clinical departments and basic science laboratories.

G.P. Krestin summarised the **objectives of EIBIR**. It has the aim of co-ordinating and supporting the development of novel biomedical imaging technologies and promoting and facilitating collaboration between centres of excellence to coordinate European research programmes. The platform further supports the dissemination of knowledge with the ultimate goal of improving diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease.

G.P. Krestin mentioned the cell imaging project **ENCITE**, the project **HAMAM** that is aimed at improving the early detection and accurate diagnosis of breast cancer as well as other recent projects. He further introduced the **ESFRI project Euro-BioImaging**, a pan-European research infrastructure project aiming to provide access to imaging technologies across the full scale of biological and medical applications, from molecule to patient that is jointly coordinated by EIBIR and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory.

The report continued with an overview of new project proposals that were initiated during this year. A **COST Action on Imaging and Theranostics** has been successfully submitted and received the invitation to submit a full proposal until January 2010. In addition, two proposals were prepared for the FP7 HEALTH 2010 call: **DETECT**, aiming at the development and evaluation of a quantum imaging cadmium telluride breast CT scanner, and **EMPIRE**, a European multi-modal platform for imaging biomarkers for neurodegenerative disease.

G.P. Krestin further presented the **EIBIR Financial Plan 2010-2012**. EIBIR needs approx. EUR 200,000 to 250,000 per year apart from earmarked EU-funding to ensure its financial viability. The financial plan foresees different funding sources including industry support, EIBIR service fees for network members and for shareholder organisations as well as the EIBIR Research Fund.

G.P. Krestin introduced a **new model for industry support**. Starting 2010, industry service packages will be available in three different categories, involving different service levels and different financial commitment. With this new strategy, EIBIR intends to broaden its liaison with industry, as the fees are attractive to a larger number of companies and also to spread the risk in case of withdrawal of individual industry partners. Furthermore, as of 2010 EIBIR service packages for Network Members will be introduced in 3 different categories.

Research Committee

G.P. Krestin gave an overview of the **activities of the Research Committee**. The **Subcommittee on Molecular Imaging** established some formal collaboration with ESMI. The **Working Group on evidence-based Radiology** led by F. Sardanelli successfully completed a recommendation paper on the topic, which has been published in European Radiology. The **Working Group on Imaging Biomarkers** coordinated by B. Van Beers has revised the Recommendation Paper on Imaging Biomarkers. Other major activities of the

Research Committee include the development of a draft Recommendation Paper on Cardiac Imaging Research by the **Working Group on Cardiac Imaging** led by V. Sinitsyn and activities to establish of a **Working Group on Cancer Imaging Research**. G.P. Krestin underscored that input from the subspecialty and national societies is needed in order to tackle these tasks.

Replying to a question by C.J. Herold, G.P. Krestin admitted that there is a potential problem regarding the financing of EIBIR. **Finally G.P. Krestin encouraged the attendees representing institutions that are not yet members of EIBIR to join the institute** and C.J. Herold underlined that EIBIR is an important strategic investment in research and European Radiology and asked the member societies to support this undertaking.

*Represented
institutions to
join EIBIR*

6. Activity report from the Education Committee - É. Breatnach

At the beginning of his report, É. Breatnach stressed the importance of the ESR Annual Leadership Meeting as an occasion to meet member society representatives for policy making and to receive feedback. He thanked the society representatives as well as the ESR Committee Board and ESR Executive Council members for coming.

The first topic of the activity report was the **relationship with EANM**. É. Breatnach explained that ESR and EANM are cooperating on PET/CT, in particular on its control and double-billing. He reported that ESR and EANM had conducted a joint survey on the usage of PET/CT and briefly summarised its main outcomes, focusing on the aspects of reporting and billing. He also stated that 84% of the respondents would be in favour of an interdisciplinary training programme being developed by the ESR and the EANM. Furthermore there will be a Joint ESR/EANM Session at ECR 2010 and another joint session is planned for 2011.

É. Breatnach continued with a short update on undergraduate education and presented ESR plans to establish a **Working Group on Undergraduate Education**. É. Breatnach added that a short paper elaborating the recommended role of radiology in undergraduate teaching for medical school deans would be prepared, as well as a professional video to attract medical students to radiology. Furthermore the elaboration of an undergraduate curriculum was mentioned.

The next topic to be discussed was the **Revision of the European Training Charter**. É. Breatnach explained that to harmonise European training an ESR agreed, and recommended structure is necessary. He stated that the training curriculum had been developed on a 3+2 basis, i.e. 3 years of general radiology training and two years of subspecialty training.

With regard to **eEducation** É. Breatnach explained that an eEducation Working Group had been established to facilitate communication and cooperation between personnel involved in eEducation endeavours, to standardise education computer methodology within the organisation, to maximise integration of all e-type educational tools, to minimise duplication, to develop cross reference functionality between all educational programmes and to arrive at a common IT platform. Furthermore É. Breatnach introduced the attendees to the members of the working group.

É. Breatnach continued with the topic **European Diploma in Radiology/Radiology Board Exam** and gave a detailed overview of existing board exams of other specialties and stated that all share the common aim to improve and harmonise standards and EC recognition. He added that CIRSE would introduce a skill certificate in IR.

É. Breatnach invited all the attendees to join the break out session on *European*

diploma / board exam in the afternoon to further discuss these issues.

7. Activity report from the Professional Organisation Committee - L. Donoso

L. Donoso introduced this item of the agenda by explaining that his intention is to give a brief overview of the activities of the POC and its subcommittees. During 2009 the POC has collaborated with the National Societies Committee on the review of **European Commission discussions and directives**. The main topics covered have been the Green Paper on the European Workforce for Health, the telemedicine communication, the expert meetings with the DG Information Society, and the Cross-Border Health Services Directive.

In terms of the **collaboration between ESR and UEMS**, L. Donoso explained that following the establishment of the ESR as a society with elected officers and individual members, the relationship between the two bodies needs to be re-examined as UEMS does not have individual members and much of the present cooperation is based on the historical relationship between the EAR and UEMS. It was agreed to work out a Memorandum of Understanding to clearly define the roles and tasks of both bodies and their areas of cooperation.

With regards to the **Working Group on Ultrasound**, L. Donoso reported that the Executive Council has formally approved the establishment of the working group and listed its main aims: coordinating educational programmes on US within the radiological community, establishing examination standards and protocols to enhance the quality of radiological US, coordinating research programmes in advanced US techniques, and liaison with other scientific societies on US to ensure that the voice of radiology in this field is clearly heard. It was further reported that L. Derchi and M. Claudon produced a Position Paper on US this year that will be published in the new journal *Insights into Imaging*.

Furthermore the POC is preparing an **ESR Code of Ethics**, which is intended to aid the radiology community, individually and collectively, in maintaining a high level of ethical conduct. A first draft has already been provided by M. Sasiadek.

In terms of the **ICT Subcommittee**, L. Donoso mentioned that two new members have been appointed by ESR in 2009: D. Robinson (UK) and C. Kahn (US). He summarised the most important activities of the subcommittee in the fields of image sharing, image compression, structured reporting and procedure codes in radiology.

L. Donoso continued his report with the activities of the **MIR Subcommittee**. In January 2009, MIR held another successful and interesting winter course in La Thuile, Italy. The annual congress in 2009 was held in Eastern Europe for the first time, in Riga, Latvia, with a very high local attendance from the Baltic states.

A new venture this year was the introduction of a junior management course, held over 2 days in Central London. This course covered numerous topics relevant to new aspiring consultant (staff) radiologists for medical management, with some specific bias towards imaging. L. Donoso further mentioned the MIR Winter Course 2010 that will be held in Schladming, Austria, in January. He further announced that the MIR Annual Scientific Meeting 2010 will be held in Mallorca from 13-15 October 2010 and informed that E.J. Adam (Audit and Standards subcommittee chair), P. Mildenerger (ICT subcommittee chair), P. Vock (Radiation Protection subcommittee chair) and D. Caramella (eHealth subcommittee chair) will join the MIR Programme Planning Committee.

C.J. Herold underscored the importance of the MIR courses in forming the basis for future leadership in the field of European radiology and

asked the representatives of the member societies for support in identifying qualified persons in this matter. L. Donoso added that ESR will formally contact its member societies through the MIR office regarding this issue.

ESR to contact member soc. for proposing future leadership persons

8. Activity report from the Subspecialties Committee - F.E. Avni

F.E. Avni started his report by announcing that the UEMS Management Council had agreed to establish an official **UEMS Division of Interventional Radiology** within the UEMS Section of Radiology. This was achieved with significant support from the ESR and the respective ESR Working Group on Interventional Radiology. R. Demuth, UEMS Secretary-General, reemphasised that the division of Interventional Radiology within UEMS is not autonomous, but part of the section of radiology.

F.E. Avni summarised the results of the **ESR Survey on the Status of Paediatric Radiology** in Europe. He pointed to the 100% response rate and thanked the ESR Office for its contribution. The results of the survey confirm that there is a lack of paediatric radiologists throughout Europe and clearly underline the new aim of revitalising paediatric radiology.

ESOR subspecialties fellowships have been highly successful in 2008 and 2009 and have been extended to ESR corresponding members and it was decided to establish courses outside Europe. Fellowships for 3 - 5 trainees are offered by ESR/ESOR in partnership with ESGAR, ESCR, ESHNR and ESPR.

F.E. Avni finished his report by listing the future involvements of the Subspecialties Committee. **These topics will necessitate a continuous and intensive input from all new members of the committee as well as from the referring subspecialty societies.** Their involvement is essential for the future development of ESR and of our speciality.

9. Activity report from the National Societies Committee - G. Frija

G. Frija reported that his Committee as well as the three Subcommittees on Audit & Standards, eHealth and Radiation Protection had been heavily involved in all EU affairs mentioned under item 2 over the year. The eHealth Subcommittee developed the ESR response to the European Commission's telemedicine communication, while the Radiation Protection Subcommittee has been involved in the **EC tender on the revision of referral guidelines for imaging**. ESR had originally decided not to submit any response due to the short notice of the tender. As no tender had been submitted, the EC had decided to launch a new call for tenders and had invited ESR, RCR and SFR to a preparatory meeting on September 25, where it expressed its willingness to closely collaborate with ESR and to see it as major player, if not leader, of the process. The Radiation Protection Subcommittee is also involved in the **EMAN** (European Medical ALARA Network) project. G. Frija gave an overview of the project as well as recent activities and informed that a new EC tender launched in spring was successful, and the ESR consortium (with a group of partners active in radiation protection in Europe) obtained the contract. The kick-off meeting was held in Luxembourg on November 25, and ESR will be a key contributor to the project. He thanked P. Vock, chair of the Radiation Protection Subcommittee, for his effort in this matter in addition to his clinical practice.

The next topic addressed was the **EC Guidelines on Clinical Audit**. G. Frija

reported that the guideline had been published recently by the EC. As it has over 100 pages, a summary will be prepared and sent out to the national societies. Additionally the document "Clinical Audit - ESR Perspective", which the Subcommittee had developed, will be published in the first issue of the new journal *Insights into Imaging*. He thanked E.J. Adam and the Audit & Standards Subcommittee for their work and involvement in this subject.

G. Frija further mentioned the EC Workshop on Medical Devices, as the National Societies Committee has been asked to support the ESR policy in this topic.

It was finally underlined that the relationship between ESR and the national societies should be strengthened.

10. Activity report from the Communication & International Relations Committee - L. Solbiati

L. Solbiati started his report by stating that the CIRC has significantly contributed to develop the relations between ESR and some non-European Radiological Societies. **Latin America** has been the geographical area which has been mostly targeted by the CIRC activities during this year. Through this cooperation, similar actions have been promoted with India, Iran and P.R. of China for 2010 with the goal of achieving results similar to those with Latin America.

He continued that with regard to ECR 2010, wider contacts with European journalists, press agencies and TV stations will be promoted in order to diffuse information on the latest advancements of radiology. In addition, **National Societies will be stimulated to follow the example of the Italian Society of Radiology (SIRM) of reporting "live" from the ECR on their websites with special focus on matters relevant to their national participants and on ECR key-events.** These activities, mostly targeted to young radiologists, have turned out to be very successful for SIRM and could lead to increase the number of abstracts submitted to the next ECR. Additionally the national societies are encouraged to provide a link to the ESR website on their respective webpage.

Nat. soc. to report on ECR on their websites

Nat. soc. websites to provide a link to ESR website

L. Solbiati reported that the current format of the **e-newsletter** to individual members had been reviewed, with more extensive focus on promotion of upcoming ECRs and ESR activities relevant for their daily lives (e.g.: EU affairs). **He added that a second e-newsletter to member societies will be provided with the main purpose of informing about the current activities, goals and strategies of ESR. The member societies shall be given the interactive possibility to comment on certain topics or raise questions.**

The newly established presence of **ESR on Facebook and Twitter** was reported. The ESR Executive Council had already discussed the possible launch of a Europe wide **PR campaign** in coordination with the National Societies. There could be a specific day, like e.g. the European diabetes day, to discuss the role of radiology in the respective field. In 2009, autonomous public awareness initiatives of single national societies of radiology were undertaken, e.g. the "Radiology Day" was held for the first time in Spain in December. He asked the national societies to provide information on existing projects for a "Radiology Day" in their respective country.

Nat. Soc. to provide information on existing "Radiology Day" projects

L. Solbiati presented "posters" illustrating the advantages of a direct relationship between radiologist and patient published in the most widely diffused Italian newspaper.

Following these examples, the organisation of a **"European Day of Radiology"** in collaboration with National Societies, on a specific topic aimed to stress the pivotal role of radiologists in the healthcare system has been widely discussed and generally approved, but topic and modalities of realisation have still to be defined.

L. Solbiati finally emphasised that **contact to patient groups** should be stimulated. He stressed again the importance of involvement of the national societies in the mentioned undertakings.

11. ESOR report - N. Gourtsoyiannis

N. Gourtsoyiannis introduced the attendees to the European School of Radiology. One of its main goals is to assist in harmonising radiological education in Europe. It further aims to support the implementation of the European Training Curricula, to kick off an interest for subspecialisation in radiology, to support the development of subspecialty fellowships in radiology through structured training, to serve professional development by continuing radiological education and to extend and coordinate educational activities in radiology in Europe and beyond.

In 2010 ESOR will be offering complementary and continuing education to residents and young radiologists through visiting schools, visiting seminars, scholarships, exchange programmes for fellowships, and tutorials, thus enhancing and ensuring further development of young radiologists during their training. N. Gourtsoyiannis presented an overview of these activities and mentioned the most important partners.

He continued his report with a summary of the international programmes of ESOR including international scholarships. Since 2009 the first scholarship outside Europe has been offered in partnership with the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre (MSKCC), New York, USA. He also mentioned the planned additions for 2011 and onwards.

The next topic addressed was the enrolment for training centres for ESOR Scholarships 2010. The only prerequisites are an existing modular training onsite and an assigned tutor to each modular training. **N. Gourtsoyiannis kindly invited all attendees to enrol and informed that enrolment forms were available at the registration desk and will be sent by e-mail in the following week.**

Attendees to enrol for training centres for ESOR Scholarships 2010

ESOR, in partnership with the European subspecialty societies, has organised Exchange Programmes for Fellowships, which are aimed at rounding off educational requirements for subspecialty fellowships. The programmes realised in 2009 included Abdominal Imaging (ESGAR), Cardiac Imaging (ESCR), Head and Neck Imaging (ESHNR) and Paediatric Imaging (ESPR). The trainees entered three months of intense subspecialty training at volunteer major European reference centres. Every trainee received a grant of EUR 4,000 (50% by ESR, 50% by Subspecialty Society).

In terms of the national societies' commitment regarding the ESOR Programmes 2010, N. Gourtsoyiannis urged the need for support, e.g. by announcing programmes on the societies' websites. He asked the attendees to inform residents on educational opportunities through ESOR and to assist in enabling residents to attend courses.

Nat. soc. asked to announce ESOR Programme on their website

N. Gourtsoyiannis finished his report by reemphasising the need for additional scholarships and requesting help by raising funds.

12. Breakout sessions with 4 Working Groups

C.J. Herold in his function as ESR President had introduced a new meeting format of breakout sessions for the afternoon part of the ESR Annual Leadership Meeting. For the breakout sessions four working groups were formed and tackled the following issues:

- Interaction with the EU / role of the ESR and the national societies (Iain W. McCall, Monika Hierath; Meeting Room "Ovaler Festsaal")
- Multimodality training and practice / radiology and nuclear medicine (Maximilian F. Reiser, Katrine Åhlström Riklund; Meeting Room "Herrensalon")
- Harmonisation of training curricula and standards (Christian J. Herold, Fred E. Avni; Meeting Room "Damensalon")
- European diploma / board exam (András Palkó, Éamann Breatnach; Meeting Room "Gelber Salon")

Each working group consisted of approximately 25 to 30 members. The attendees were asked to sign up for one of the sessions during the coffee or lunch break. Two ESR Executive Council members chaired each session and introduced the respective topic to the working group attendees. A PowerPoint Presentation was prepared by each working group during the breakout session with short statements on how to tackle the burning questions/problems that arise during the discussion and then presented to all meeting participants.

13. Presentation by each WG moderator

Interaction with the EU / role of the ESR and the national societies

M. Epermane, representative from Latvia, presented the results of this session. The chair of the session had reintroduced the main topic related to EU Affairs: Alliance for MRI, eHealth, Cross Border Healthcare Directive, EC Cancer Strategy, Referral Guidelines for Imaging and Clinical Trials. The burning issues that had been tackled during the session were: support ESR needs support of national societies, how national societies can help ESR in EU matters, what national societies expect from ESR and possible methods of interactions. The main outcome was that ESR needs information of the status/position of the member states with regard to the topics mentioned above. Furthermore ESR requires people who would like to contribute to the EU Task Force. It is also of utmost importance to use contacts to national ministries and local politicians and to establish contacts to national patient groups to inform them about these issues. **It had been further agreed that a contact person responsible for EU affairs should be nominated in each national society. Additionally ESR will send specific information material related to EU topics to the national societies and ask for actions needed on the national level, when necessary.**

Each nat. soc. to nominate contact person for EU affairs

Finally I.W. McCall reemphasised the fact that expertise in this field needs to be spread.

Multimodality training and practice / radiology and nuclear medicine

M.F. Reiser, ESR 1st Vice-President and chair of this session, reported on the results of this session. He had introduced the working group participants to the main aspects of the White Paper of ESR and EANM on Multimodality Imaging. Furthermore the results of the Survey on Multimodality imaging in Europe by ESR and EANM had been summarised briefly.

With regard to the Multimodality (Imaging) Training Curriculum, the working group participants had been asked about their opinion on the confidentiality of the draft

of ESR and EANM until the final approval by EANM and 2/3 of attendees had been in favour of this. They were further asked whether negotiations and political activities should be continued in case the curriculum is not accepted by EANM or not and the majority answered in the affirmative. Regarding the long term future strategy the vast majority of the working group participants was in favour of a merger to a diagnostic and nuclear imager.

Harmonisation of training curricula and standards

C.J. Herold, ESR president and chair of this session, presented the results of this working group. Two main questions had been tackled during the session: "Is harmonisation needed?" and "Are e-curricula and e-education needed?"

Both national standards and harmonisation of subspecialty curricula were discussed, as both areas require standardisation. However, the working group did not agree on any format or style that could be implemented.

The group member agreed on the need for e-curricula and e-education, as there is an enormous diversity in local training environment and standards.

The topic European Board Exam had also been tackled in this session and received a very favourable response.

European diploma / board exam

A. Parkar, representative from Norway, presented the results of this session. The main discussion points were listed. Some subspecialty society representatives had stressed the need for a subspecialised diploma instead of a general/basic radiology diploma as the subspecialties are under threat. É. Breatnach commented that he had been rather surprised by this opinion. It was further stated that the Bologna agreement already provides a template for harmonised undergraduate and postgraduate training.

A. Parkar reported about an informal vote that had been held during the session. Attendees had been asked if they preferred a general/basic radiology examination (after 3 years) or a subspecialised examination, which the majority was in favour of. It was emphasised that the majority of participants came from countries with exit examinations, which means that the outcome may not represent the average opinion of participants.

D. Caramella finally emphasised that general radiology is not considered as basic, but represents the core knowledge of the radiologist profession and the general audience agreed.

14. Summary and closing remarks - C.J. Herold

C.J. Herold spoke of an enlightening day and that he hopes people had enjoyed the meeting. He finally thanked for the attendance as well as for the fruitful comments and discussion and stresses that he is enormously grateful for the support and all the input.

He again underscored the feedback ESR needs from its members in order to promote issues in the individual countries.

Reiterating his thanks, C.J. Herold wished the participants a merry festive period and a happy, successful and healthy New Year. Then he formally closed the meeting.