



**ESMRMB**

European Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine and Biology

**Vol. 7 – May 2009**

# **Newsletter**

**European Multidisciplinarity**

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Vol.7 – May 2009

**Newsletter**  
European Multidisciplinarity



### Dear Colleagues and Friends,

This new edition of the Newsletter of the European Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine and Biology (ESMRMB) is the occasion to provide you with an update of our current activities. After the midwinter meeting of our Executive Board, which took place at the end of January, the milestones of this spring 2009 are the active preparation of the next congress, the launch of the new strategic plan, the creation of the ad hoc committee on industry relations and the start of a new type of educational programme in the form of hands-on courses.

We launched the new version of the strategic plan at the beginning of January, which reflects our aim to support educational activities and research in MR with an even larger scope, expanding to other imaging modalities related or comparable to MR. Our society, which was founded in 1984 as the platform for clinicians, physicists and basic scientists with an interest in the field of MR, has recently expanded to over 1,000 members and continues to favour multidisciplinary interactions. Students and young researchers have benefited from low membership fees and free congress registration for some time, but now anyone wishing to become a member at the congress will be able to benefit from the privileged registration fee. Also, since 2006, national MR organisations have been able to join the ESMRMB as Affiliated Members. The individual members of these organisations are offered Associate Membership of the ESMRMB and this initiative is currently being expanded, further broadening the scope of ESMRMB.

After a record attendance of over 1,200 participants in Valencia in 2008, the next Annual Scientific Meeting of the ESMRMB will be held in Antalya, Turkey from October 1–3, 2009. Every effort is being made to maintain the high standard of our forum for integrated European research activities in basic and clinical MR

applications, and to attract a large number of participants. The recent site visit made by the Office and myself was very fruitful and supplied plenty of proof that we will be able to provide a very attractive meeting in a wonderful location. Antalya is perfectly equipped to cater for a combination of business and pleasure, and we can all look forward to reinforcing our links with the Turkish Society of Magnetic Resonance, whose President, Prof. M. Agildere, is our local committee chair for the meeting.

From this year our broad range of educational initiatives will be joined by a new Hands-On MRI Programme aimed at advanced technicians and interested physicians, which will be held in collaboration with system manufacturers. This will supplement the existing programmes that ESMRMB has organised for clinicians under the name of the School of MRI (which is now in co-operation with the European School of Radiology of ESR) as well as the Lectures on MR for MR physicists and basic scientists. As a member of our society, you can enjoy reduced participation fees for all events organised by the ESMRMB.

I thank you very much for your continued support and your commitment to ESMRMB as members, and I look forward to welcoming you if you would like to join us!

With my kindest regards,

**Prof. Isabelle Berry**  
ESMRMB President

## Antalya 2009 meeting presents an exciting combination of MR basic science and clinical applications



A scientific programme that is balanced between basic science and clinical applications of MR has been built for the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting of the ESMRMB in Antalya. The scientific meeting will start with the Sir Peter Mansfield Lecture on ultrahigh field MRI. Other meeting highlights include the popular hot topic debate about quantitative MRI, the round table discussion on clinical spectroscopy, the young investigator award finals, plenary sessions devoted to ageing and neurodegenerative diseases, novel endogenous contrast phenomena, and post parallel imaging. Four mini-categorical courses will be run in parallel during the three days. The topics will include molecular MR, cardiovascular MR, interventional MRI, and clinical body imaging at 3T. For the first time this year, a joint session between the ESMRMB and EFOMP will be held and will be devoted to radiation therapy and surgical treatment planning based on MR data sets.

The scientific programme will include parallel oral sessions, electronic and traditional posters, and demonstrations of computer applications in information management of magnetic data. Industry-funded lunch symposia will also be offered.

The Programme Committee invites you to submit your scientific work on MR at the ESMRMB Annual Meeting no later than May 26, 2009. With your help, we are confident that we will once again increase the number of submissions and the quality of the programme. We hope to meet you in Antalya to share our latest results on biomedical and clinical MR in a relaxed atmosphere.

**Prof. Bernard Van Beers**

Chairperson of the Scientific Programme Committee

## Organisation of the LOC



### Dear Colleagues,

The Local Organising Committee of the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the ESMRMB is waiting to welcome you to our upcoming congress in Antalya.

Participants interested in MRI will be coming from across Europe and various other places around the world to attend this meeting, which will be held at the Maritim Pine Beach Resort, a holiday village that provides excellent meeting facilities as well as attractive leisure opportunities. The Maritim Pine Beach Resort offers a convention centre, six main meeting rooms and 15 break-out rooms, with the capacity to cater for a total of 2000 participants, while simultaneously providing plenty of options for relaxation via the resort's many other facilities.

Because of the location of the congress venue, participants will have the chance to discover the beauties of the destinations of Antalya and Belek, surrounded by the amazing and sharply contrasting scenery of the Turkish Riviera, which is considered the tourism capital of Turkey. The region offers lots of surprises with its archeological, historical and natural treasures set in a landscape of pine forests, olive and citrus groves and palm, avocado and banana plantations.

### Highlights from the Destination:

Well-preserved historical sites give you a number of options for daily activities. Perge is located 18km east of the city and was an important city of the ancient

Pamphylia, originally settled by the Hittites around 1500 BC. A photogenic Seljuk bridge crosses the Köprülü River from the road to Aspendos, which is the best preserved theatre of the antiquity, with seating for 15,000 people. Köprülü Kanyon National Park is a valley of wild beauties rich in flora and fauna. The canyon stretches for 14km along the Köprülü River and is 400 metres deep in some places. The Manavgat Waterfalls are located 25km from Aspendos, and although the falls are not high, the milky white, foaming water rushes powerfully over the rocks. Titreyen Göl (Blue Flag) & Kızılağaç are located at the same destination and their sandy beaches and sparkling sea should not be missed. The ancient city of Myra, now called Demre is located west of Antalya, and was inhabited as early as 500 BC. Many splendidly carved rock tombs dating from the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC overlook the magnificent Roman Theater. Kalekoy Castle offers a bird's-eye view of the bays, inlets, islands and colourful yachts sailing over the glassy water. Along the northern shore of Kekova Island and Apollonia, earthquakes have disturbed the land causing some of the ancient houses to sink under the clear water, thus creating a sunken city.

We look forward to meeting you in Antalya at our congress.

### Prof. Dr. A. Muhtesem Agildere

Chairperson of the Local Organising Committee

# CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Scientific Programme Committee of the ESMRMB invites you to submit abstracts electronically via [www.esmrb.org](http://www.esmrb.org) until **May 26, 2009**.

## Abstract categories

There are two main abstract categories:

- **Scientific Paper**  
(Clinical Applications)
  - **Scientific Paper**  
(Preclinical Studies and Basic Science)
- and
- **Info-RESO**  
(Information technology in Magnetic Resonance)\*

\* In addition to the two scientific abstract categories, there will be another category for demonstration exhibits called Info-RESO. Successfully introduced in 2008, this exhibit is aimed to demonstrate computer applications in information management of magnetic resonance data. Info-RESO is focused mainly on non-commercial computer-based demonstrations of software programs that manage magnetic resonance data. Software programs with the aim to educate MR can also be submitted in this category.

## Abstract format

Abstracts must not exceed 400 words and should be structured as follows:

- Purpose/Introduction
- Subjects and Methods
- Results
- Discussion/Conclusion
- References

**During submission, authors can choose between the following presentation formats:**

- Oral preferred
- Poster preferred – electronic EPOS™ poster preferred
- Poster preferred – traditional poster preferred
- Poster only – electronic EPOS™ poster preferred
- Poster only – traditional poster preferred

You are encouraged to submit your application via the online abstract submission system until May 26, 2009.

**For more information,  
please visit [www.esmrb.org](http://www.esmrb.org).**  
We look forward to receiving  
your numerous submissions!

## First School of MRI course 2009: Advanced MR Imaging of the Abdomen, March 26–28, Dubai/UAE

We are happy to announce that the first School of MRI course of 2009, held March 26–28 in Dubai, was a great success as expected.

The course on Advanced MR Imaging of the Abdomen, which has been a standard part of the annual course programme, was once again held outside of Europe this year. Thanks to the efforts of the programme director W. Steinbrich and the great enthusiasm shown by the local institution in Dubai, the course became part of the programme in 2009. The statistics show that nearly 40 participants out of 60 were from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, showing the great demand and interest in our courses from the Arabian countries. The remaining 20 places were taken by delegates from various European countries.

Overall the course received positive feedback and the delegates as well as the local organisers stated their interest in additional courses in the future.

We are therefore looking forward to more courses in the impulsive city of Dubai and would like to thank the Rashid Hospital for their excellent support in making this course a success.

## Upcoming courses

### Advanced Neuro Imaging: Diffusion, Perfusion, Spectroscopy

Budapest/HU, June 25–27

### Advanced MR Imaging in Paediatric Radiology

Genoa/IT, July 2–4

### Applied MR Techniques, Advanced Course

Gdansk/PL, July 9–11

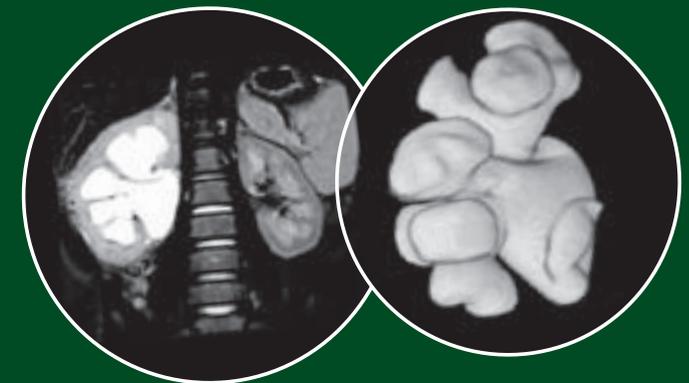
## Join the ESMRMB 2009 Congress in Antalya and win a free registration to one of the School of MRI courses in 2010!

We are happy to announce that a teaching quiz will once again take place during the ESMRMB 2009 Congress in Antalya. The winner of the quiz will be announced during the Award Ceremony on Saturday and will receive a free registration to a School of MRI course of her/his choice in 2010!

We look forward to welcoming last year's teaching quiz winner to Santiago de Compostela/ES for the School of MRI course on Advanced MR Imaging of the Musculoskeletal System.

## NEW! Online Picture Gallery

We are happy to announce that the School of MRI now offers an online picture gallery. Visit our website to see the pictures of the first course in Dubai in March 2009.



# Hands-On MRI, pilot course fully booked

We are happy to announce that the first course of the newly introduced Hands-On MRI programme is fully booked with a waiting list of more than 15 interested delegates.

The course on MR Angiography, using Siemens equipment and kindly supported by Bayer Schering Pharma AG, just took place in the beautiful city of Basel/CH. The course has been fully booked since the end of February 2009. Due to the hands-on nature of the sessions, using scanners and workstations, the Hands-On MRI courses are limited to 30 places per course, giving participants the opportunity to fully exploit the 2.5 days training programme with experienced teachers and application specialists.

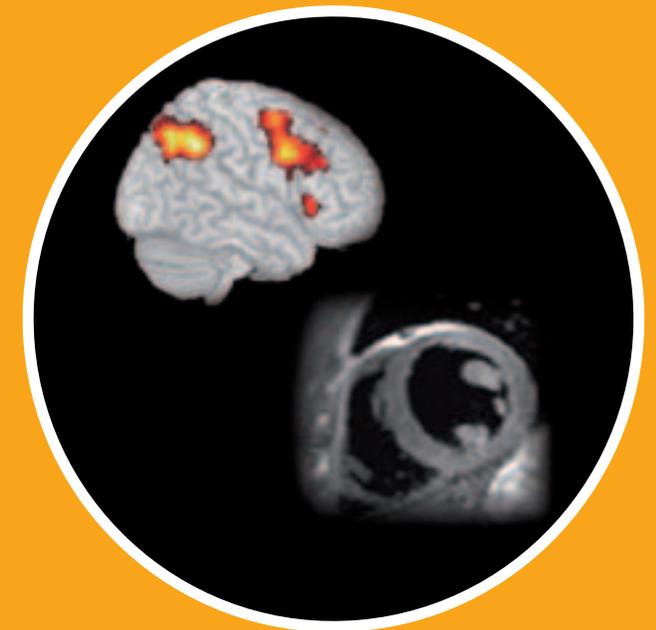
**Two more Hands-On MRI courses  
will be held in 2009 and registration  
is already available online:**

**Cardiac MRI, carried out on Philips equipment**

Bonn/DE, October 15–17, 2009

**fMRI & DTI, carried out on GE Healthcare equipment**

Rotterdam/NL, November 5–7, 2009



# Lectures on MR

## Course Programme 2009

We are happy to announce that the courses of the Lectures on MR programme once again offer high-level education for MR physicists as well as other basic and clinical scientists in 2009. Six courses will be offered this year:

**Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging:**

From Neurophysiology to Cognitive Neuroscience – NEW!  
September 9–11, Tübingen/DE

**Rapid Imaging: Echo Generation and Manipulation**

September 24–26, Magdeburg/DE

**Current Concepts in Perfusion and DCE MRI**

October 15–17, Freiburg/DE

**Clinical MR Spectroscopy**

November 5–7, Marseille/FR

**MRI and Molecular Imaging in Experimental Neuroscience – NEW!**

November 19–21, Zurich/CH

**RF coil design: design and build your own – NEW!**

December 7–9, Leiden/NL

The Lectures on Magnetic Resonance programme is accredited by the European Federation of Organisations for Medical Physics (EFOMP) and the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME). A certificate of attendance will be delivered to participants (scientists: EFOMP, physicians: EACCME) of the entire course.

Registration for the Lectures on MR course is available via the online registration tool MyLectures on MR through the website [www.esmrmb.org](http://www.esmrmb.org).

We look forward to welcoming you to your desired courses!



## MAGMA special issue on MR imaging of brain networks

### Background

During the last decade, multidisciplinary research in neuroimaging has provided methods capable of exploring in vivo and noninvasively both structural and functional connectivity of brain networks at the macroscopic level. Both structural and functional methods have led to impressive findings not only on the physiological organisation of the brain but also in pathology. Two different imaging methods have been developed in parallel. The first approach, based on diffusion magnetic resonance (MR) tractography imaging, aims at inferring and quantifying structural (or anatomical) connectivity by computing putative pathways of white matter bundles linking cortical areas. The second approach, based on functional MRI (fMRI), offers the possibility of quantifying functional connectivity (at rest or during a sustained task) and effective brain connectivity by measuring statistical interdependencies and causality, respectively, between blood oxygenation level dependent (BOLD) signals recorded in spatially remote areas.

The present special issue of MAGMA entitled 'MR Imaging of brain networks: developments and applications' aims at stressing the crucial point of the better understanding of large-scale brain networks responsible not only for high cognitive processes but also for understanding the clinical consequences of cerebral diseases.

We will consider original papers assessing the following topics:

## Call for papers

### Topics:

1. New MR acquisition or post-processing techniques to assess functional brain connectivity (resting-state fMRI).
2. New MR acquisition or post-processing techniques to assess structural brain connectivity (DTI/Q Ball imaging).
3. Applications of resting state fMRI and/or DTI in the characterisation of brain connectivity organisation and connectivity disorders.
4. Comparative studies researching the electrophysiological, magnetoencephalographic underpinnings of resting-state fMRI.

### Instructions for authors

Papers should be submitted not later than July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 through the normal submission procedures of MAGMA on the web (<https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/magma>). Authors will have to advise in their cover letter that the paper is submitted "For inclusion of the Special Issue on MR imaging of brain networks".

Special Issues are widely read and heavily referenced, so this is your chance to get your latest and best results published in a timely manner. Also, MAGMA has a policy of not applying charges for colour illustrations.

We are looking forward to receiving your manuscripts.

**Prof. Patrick J. Cozzone**  
MAGMA Editor-in-Chief

**Dorothee Auer (Nottingham, UK)**  
**Ewald Moser (Vienna, Austria)**  
**Jean-Philippe Ranjeva (Marseille, France)**  
Guest-Editors of the Special Issue

### Safety update Repetition of survey on NSF cases

Dear Colleagues,

During the last Safety Committee Meeting it has been noticed that there is a growing demand to make information available on the ESMRMB website [www.esmrm.org](http://www.esmrm.org) regarding the safety, installation and initiation of MR machines.

Therefore ESMRMB has contacted GE Healthcare, Hitachi, Philips, Siemens, Toshiba and Bruker in order to ask to provide information related to general safety, installation, building requirements, specific safety issues of their various machines and more detailed information related to field strength dependent effects.

Furthermore, given the importance of and the ongoing discussion about Nephrogenic Systemic Fibrosis (NSF), the Safety Committee of ESMRMB has decided to repeat the survey among the membership of ESMRMB.

Herewith we would like to thank all the participants who have completed the survey last year and the very same time would like to ask them for their kind support also this year.

The survey is based on a questionnaire developed by the Swiss Society of Radiology and will also be available for participation by non-members at the safety section of the ESMRMB website.

Nephrogenic Systemic Fibrosis or Nephrogenic Fibrosing Dermopathy (NSF/NFD) is a new and rare disease which is known for less than 10 years. NSF/NFD may occur in patients with moderate to end-stage kidney disease after they have had a magnetic resonance examination with a gadolinium-based contrast agent. The knowledge about the new disease and its possible link to gadolinium-based contrast agents is currently increasing. Retrospective analysis is being performed in order to elucidate possible influencing factors on the disease.

The Safety Committee kindly advises all members of the MR community to carefully consider the new knowledge about potential side effects of MR contrast agents in specific patient groups. For radiologists working with contrast media it seems necessary to keep up with current studies and publications in this field.

**We would like to strongly encourage all of you to participate in the survey, which will be open at [www.esmrm.org](http://www.esmrm.org) until June 30, 2009.**

If necessary, please update the results given last year, as this will help to set up a comprehensive database of cases in Europe. Please note that if you indicate the occurrence of NSF cases, details need to be given in order to allow proper assessment.

A summary of the results to this survey will be published on the ESMRMB website.

Thank you very much for your cooperation!

### Members & Services update – ESMRMB launches study groups

During the last Members & Services Committee taking place on March 7, 2009 it has been decided to create study groups within ESMRMB. The aim of these study groups is to create forums where different topics can be discussed and experiences can be shared. For this purpose a web-based forum will be implemented, which allows free access to ESMRMB members. Suggested topics include: Neuro, Musculoskeletal, Body and Cardiovascular, Safety and NSF.



**Prof. Dr. Peter Reimer**  
Chairman of the Safety and Members & Services Committee



## Imaging of Articular Cartilage



Articular cartilage injuries are common and cartilage degeneration represents the early stage of osteoarthritis. MR imaging as a non-invasive technique is the method of choice in cartilage imaging and in the follow-up of patients with different surgical cartilage repair techniques.

MR imaging of the morphology of cartilage and cartilage repair tissue has significantly improved in recent years due to the development of clinical high-field MR systems operating at 3 Tesla. The improved performance has also been achieved as a result of higher gradient strengths and the application of dedicated coils with modern configuration, such as phased array coils.

MR should be performed with cartilage-sensitive sequences such as fat-suppressed PD-FSE or 3D GRE sequences, which provide a good SNR and CNR. High resolution imaging is necessary for a better visualisation of early stages of cartilage degeneration and graft morphology, in particular for the evaluation of transplant integration to the adjacent hyaline cartilage and bone. Recently developed isovoxel sequences have the potential for high-resolution isotropic imaging with a voxel size down to  $0.4\text{mm}^3$ , and can thus be reformatted in arbitrary planes without any loss of spatial resolution.

In addition to morphological MR imaging of cartilage and cartilage repair tissue, an advanced method to quantitatively monitor parameters reflecting the biochemical status of cartilage and cartilage repair tissue is a necessity for studies that seek to diagnose early degeneration of articular cartilage before morphological changes occur and elucidate the natural maturation of cartilage grafts and the efficacy of repair technique. For example, glycosaminoglycans (GAG) are known to be responsible for stiffness properties of cartilage and the organisation of the collagen network reflects further mechanical properties of cartilage.

Therefore, several MR techniques were developed, which allow detection of biochemical changes that precede the morphological degeneration in cartilage. To date, the most promising technique for visualising the loss of GAG, the earliest stage of cartilage degeneration, seems to be the delayed gadolinium-enhanced MRI of cartilage (dGEMRIC). To overcome the problem of long scan times, a fast

T1 determination by using different excitation flip angle values in gradient echo-based sequences was optimised for clinical application of dGEMRIC techniques. While GAG content reflects stiffness properties of cartilage, the organisation of the collagen matrix in repair tissue over time is important too, as failure within the collagenous fibre network is considered to entail further cartilage breakdown.

Under ideal circumstances cartilage repair tissue produced following cartilage repair techniques should, over time, develop a collagen network with a similar shape and collagen concentration to normal hyaline cartilage.

With high resolution T2 mapping it is possible to assess zonal variations within the cartilage layer and use the measurement of the organisation of articular cartilage as an additional tool to differentiate between cartilage repair tissues.

One encouraging alternative to these above-mentioned sequence modalities for the evaluation of cartilage microstructure is the use of diffusion-weighted sequences. Diffusion Weighted Imaging (DWI) is based on molecular motion that is influenced by intra and extra-cellular barriers. Consequently, since cartilage nutrition is done by diffusion, it is possible, by measuring the molecular movement, to reflect biochemical structure and architecture of the cartilage.

Diffusion imaging can be clinically performed based on steady state free precession sequences (SSFP) which realise a diffusion weighting in relatively short echo times. Diffusion-weighted imaging can complement the information obtained from approaches such as dGEMRIC or T2-Mapping.

Most recent developments in MR imaging of cartilage and cartilage repair comprise Magnetisation Transfer imaging (MT) and its special variant: Chemical Exchange Saturation Transfer (CEST) and the biomechanical MR imaging of cartilage and cartilage repair tissue using unloading techniques.

**Prof. Dr. Siegfried Trattnig**

University of Vienna, Competence Center on Highfield-MR

Prof. Fritz Schick, Secretary of ESMRMB

Prof. Alberto Torresin, Chair of EFOMP Scientific Committee

## Joint ESMRMB-EFOMP Session to be held during the ESMRMB Annual Meeting in Antalya



Prof. Fritz Schick



Prof. Alberto Torresin

The Executive Board of ESMRMB is in close contact with European societies dedicated to medical physics. Several of those societies have already gained the status of an Affiliated Society of ESMRMB, which allows significant benefits on both sides, since information about society activities can be spread out in a much easier way.

During the ECR (European Congress of Radiology) in Vienna, which took place on March 6–10, 2009, our ongoing joint activities between the ESMRMB and the European Federation of Organizations for Medical Physics (EFOMP) reached a new level: A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by the presidents of both societies (Prof. Isabelle Berry and Prof. Stelios Christofides).

### The following commitments are covered by the memorandum:

EFOMP and the ESMRMB desire to engage in cooperation to promote each other's educational and scientific activities and events, for the mutual benefit of both organisations.

### The parties have agreed upon the following:

- To mutually promote their educational and scientific activities on their websites and in their newsletters and other relevant publications
  - To consider each other in the scientific/educational programmes of each organisation's congresses, as far as applicable and feasible
- 1) The terms of cooperation for each activity implemented under this agreement shall be mutually discussed and agreed upon by the two organisations on a case-by-case basis.
  - 2) Each organisation will be responsible for funding its involvement in the cooperative activities included in this agreement.
  - 3) All activities shall be in accordance with the regulations and policies of EFOMP and ESMRMB.
  - 4) This agreement becomes effective from the day the representatives of both organisations affix their signatures and will continue for an initial period of one

year, subject to review from time to time. At the end of one year, the agreement will automatically be renewed for three years unless otherwise determined. This agreement may be revised through the mutual agreement of both organisations and may be terminated by either party upon giving four months written notice signed by the presiding office of the notifying party.

5) All modifications to this agreement must be in writing and signed by both parties.

Our first joint ESMRMB-EFOMP scientific event took place at the EFOMP meeting on September 2007 near Pisa, Italy, as reported in our Newsletter Vol. 2, November 2007. Four invited speakers from ESMRMB offered their perspectives on current MR topics in a guest symposium embedded in the EFOMP conference.

The speakers and topics for the second joint ESMRMB-EFOMP Symposium during our Annual Meeting in Antalya were selected by Prof. Alberto Torresin in close collaboration with our SPC and our office in Vienna. The following presentations are planned in this session, which is scheduled for October 2:

### A) MR images for treatment: advantages and disadvantages.

Philip M. Evans, United Kingdom

### B) Magnetic resonance imaging in radiosurgery and in image-guided neurosurgery.

Carlo Cavedon, Italy

### C) MRI and focused ultrasound: physical aspects and future prospective.

Part 1: Philippe Degreze, France

Part 2: Thomas Andreae, Finland

We look forward to a very interesting symposium, which allow insights into new fields of research.

Prof. Fritz Schick, Secretary of ESMRMB

Prof. Alberto Torresin, Chair of EFOMP Scientific Committee

### MR Section of the Czech Radiology Society



The Czech MR Section was created in 1998 as part of the Czech Radiology Society and today has about 150 active members (the majority of the members are radiologists but there are also eight physicists). The number of members is increasing every year as the number of MR scanners grows (as of 2009, 41 MR systems serve the 10 million habitants of the Czech Republic). The main goal of the section is to support information exchange and to promote scientific and educational events in the Czech Republic. The safety aspects of MRI are taken into account by providing general rules and recommendations. The section also plays an important role as a professional partner regarding MRI discussions for health insurance companies, the Czech Ministry of Health and other health authorities.

Since 1998 the section has regularly held two annual events: a scientific conference every March in Harrachov and an educational course in September in Brno. Each course is dedicated to a specific MR topic. Additionally, in the past four years we have organised an education course for Czech MR technicians.

The executive board of the Czech MR Section is Marek Mechl, MD, PhD (president), Ludek Klzo, MD, PhD, Jaroslav Tintera, PhD, Josef Vymazal, MD, PhD, and Jan Zizka, MD, PhD. More information about professional events and the Czech Radiology Society can be found on our website: <http://www.crs.cz/>.

### Groupe de Recherche pour les Applications du Magnétisme en Médecine



GRAMM (Groupe de Recherche pour les Applications du Magnétisme en Médecine) is a French society promoting research and exchange between researchers in the biomedical field of Magnetic Resonance imaging. Like the ESMRMB, GRAMM is a multidisciplinary society including researchers from physic, biomedical engineering, image processing and medical fields. Research developments concern MR methodology, preclinical and clinical applications.

Created in 1984, the society today has about 150 members. A French speaking biannual GRAMM meeting is held in France to promote scientific exchanges and provide educational support in basic and advanced MR physic principles and developments as well as biomedical applications.

## News from the European Institute for Biomedical Imaging Research

As ESMRMB is co-shareholder of EIBIR, we would like to give you an update on EIBIR's recent activities and new projects.



### EIBIR – continuing to grow

EIBIR's new face, including a fresh corporate identity and the launch of our newly designed website, was unveiled at ECR 2009 to a very positive response. With many productive discussions and new member applications at the EIBIR booth, EIBIR continues to grow, while offering improved service.

The 270 member institutes enjoy access to a restricted members' area on the EIBIR website, which documents other institutions' fields of expertise and thus facilitates networking activities. You can find member institutions with the same research interests, announce your events, post vacant positions on the career forum, and access and post studies to a database of European assessment studies. We encourage you to take a look at the redesigned site at [www.eibir.org](http://www.eibir.org) where you can also download EIBIR's Annual Scientific Report 2008, featuring comprehensive information on last year's activities.

### Co-shareholders and Friends of EIBIR

We would like to thank ESMRMB and the four other co-shareholder organisations for their continuing support and cooperation. Being a co-shareholder comes with important rights and duties, including representation at the General Meeting and on the Scientific Advisory Board. Co-shareholders are encouraged to promote EIBIR within their scientific communities and to play an active role in the strategic planning of EIBIR's activities.

### What does EIBIR offer to its member institutions?

- Exchange of multidisciplinary expertise
- Information on EU research calls
- Support from project idea to submission
- Project management
- Research communication & exploitation
- Research training

*The European MR community is already well represented in EU-funded research projects coordinated by EIBIR and is very welcome to bring in new ideas for initiatives and projects! Email your ideas to [office@eibir.org](mailto:office@eibir.org).*

### Euro-Biolmaging – another ambitious project on the way

EIBIR and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) submitted a proposal to the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) on establishing a European biomedical imaging infrastructure (Euro-Biolmaging). ESFRI is dedicated to the development of high quality European research infrastructures.

Euro-Biolmaging will meet the challenge of access to state-of-the-art equipment, provide training, and continue the development of imaging technologies. The over-arching aim is to provide research infrastructures for multidisciplinary projects by combining biologists, chemists, physicists, bioengineers, computer scientists, imaging technologists and clinicians in order to deliver world class methods for biological and medical applications.

### How can the MR community participate?

*One of the nodes of this project is likely to be high-field MR infrastructure. Participation in the project is possible for institutions that have secured funding and support from a national funding organisation. Visit [www.eurobioimaging.eu](http://www.eurobioimaging.eu) for further information or send your note of interest to [office@eibir.org](mailto:office@eibir.org).*

### PEDDOSE.NET – the European Commission invites EIBIR to contract negotiations

EIBIR is pleased to announce that it has received affirmative notification from the European Commission regarding the project proposal PEDDOSE.NET (Dosimetry and Health Effects of Diagnostic Applications of Radiopharmaceuticals with particular emphasis on the use in children and adolescents). The project consists of a literature survey on dosimetry and the health effects of diagnostic applications of radiopharmaceuticals. PEDDOSE was favourably evaluated and EIBIR is now looking forward to the beginning of the project activities.

*This project is a good example of how the scientific communities of co-shareholder organisations get involved in EIBIR's activities and benefit from EIBIR's project management services. Do not hesitate to contact us with ideas for your community!*



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