

Minutes: Regional Eurasian Radiology Collaborations

Thursday, March 7, 2013; 16:00-17:30

Room 14/ Level O1
Austria Center Vienna

<i>PRESENT</i>				
Chairperson of the ESR Communication and External Affairs Committee				L.E. Derchi
Chairperson of the ESR International Relations Subcommittee				G. Mostbeck
General Secretary of the Iranian Society of Radiology				M. Fatehi
General Secretary of the Turkish Society of Radiology				A.T. Turgut
<i>PRESENT</i>				
Egypt	S. Hanna	W. Tantawy		
Georgia	A. Baramidze	M. Razmadze		
Iran	J. Jalalshokouhi			
Iraq	H. Alwash	M. Al-Khalissi	Al-Okbi Muslim	N. Al Khafagi
Iraq	A. Essam Matti	M. Mahdi	J. Salam	M. R. Alhily
Jordan	W. Maaiah	M. Rihani	E. Samawi	
Kazakhstan	T. Dautov	B. Kh Abishev	B. Amirbek	
Russia	S. Ternovoy	R. Bakhtiozin	N. Serova	D. Ustyuzhanin
Ukraine	V. Rogozhyn			
<i>ESR Office</i>				
J. Knež – ESR Committee and Board Affairs Department				
M. Szucsich – ESR Committee and Board Affairs Department				

<i>APOLOGISED</i>				
ESR 1st Vice-President	G. Frija			
Afghanistan	N. Rasouly	N. Wjhaj		
Albania	A. Gjokutaj	K. Preza		T. Hysa
Armenia	S. Petrosyan			
Azerbaijan	J. Sevda			
Bahrain	A.H. Al Awadhi			
Cyprus	C. Tziakouri Shiakalli			
Egypt	T. Eldiasty			
Georgia	F. Todua			
Iraq	A. Atheer			
Kazakhstan	Z. Khamzabaev			
Kosovo	I. Ahmetgjekaj	A. Kutllovci		
Kuwait	S. Alkandery			
Kyrgyzstan	M. Dadabaev			
Lebanon	E. Chemali	M.M. Haddad		
Moldova	A. Rosca			
Mongolia	S. Batzorig	O. Gankhuyag		
Pakistan	H. Akram	M. Azzemuddin		
Qatar	A. Omar	A. Jenaid		
Syria	S.A. Yasir			
United Arabian Emirates	A. Belhoul			
Uzbekistan	M. Kodjibekov			

AGENDA

1. Welcome note (L.E. Derchi, Chairman of the ESR Communication and External Affairs Committee)
2. Globalization in Radiology: Eurasian Perspective (A. Turgut, General Secretary, Turkish Society of Radiology)
3. Strengths and Weaknesses in Establishing A Regional Eurasian Radiology Association (M. Fatehi, General Secretary, Iranian Society of Radiology)
4. Open Discussion by Participants from Potential Member Societies

1. WELCOME NOTE (L.E. DERCHI, CHAIRMAN OF THE ESR COMMUNICATION AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE)

A.T. Turgut and M. Fatehi welcomed everyone to the meeting, which aimed to discuss different points of view as regards future perspectives of collaboration between societies in the Eurasian region. It was mentioned Vienna and ECR were selected as the best place for launching this initiative and sharing the idea because people of different countries come to attend the congress yearly. They thanked G. Frija and L.E. Derchi for their support in organising this meeting at the ECR 2013.

L.E. Derchi welcomed everybody and mentioned that the idea of Eurasian radiology collaboration had been discussed during the Iranian congress in Tehran in May 2012, which he visited on behalf of the ESR together with G. Frija who presented the ESR activities. He wished M. Fatehi and A. Turgut all the best in establishing such a collaboration in the future.

2. GLOBALIZATION IN RADIOLOGY: EURASIAN PERSPECTIVE (A. TURGUT, GENERAL SECRETARY, TURKISH SOCIETY OF RADIOLOGY)

A.T. Turgut presented the current situation of radiology in the Eurasian region and stated that interaction of knowledge and people is important. Globalisation is the process of international integration arising from the interchange of products, services and knowledge and it implies the opening of local and nationalistic perspectives to a broader view of an interconnected and interdependent world. The main purpose thus is to gather the Eurasian societies and collaborate on the Eurasian radiology initiative as globalisation enables countries to find ways to solve problems on a regional or global rather than a local scale. Global health is the area of study, research and practice that puts priority on improving health and achieving equity in health worldwide. Health problems that transcend national borders or have a global political and economic impact are often emphasized. Diagnostic radiology has changed the medical field and the globalization of healthcare and medicine has changed diagnostic radiology significantly. A.T. Turgut mentioned that the ESR and the ISR already tackle these tasks very successfully. Further, he mentioned some regional societies such as the Balkan Society of Radiology, the PanArab Association of Radiological Societies (PAARS), the Radiological Society of SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) countries (RSSR), and the Asian Oceanian Society of Radiology (AOSR). Ultimate goals of such collaboration are to provide access to radiology-related knowledge and to improve the standards of radiology practice by promoting and coordinating the scientific, intellectual and professional activities in the field of radiology in this region. Scientific collaborations between the societies and radiology communities in the Eurasian region would create greater opportunities for radiologists by sharing expertise. Nevertheless, there are challenges such as geographic and social extremes, regional politics and global economics.

Eurasian collaboration to work together with the existing global and regional societies

Goals: to provide access to radiology knowledge and to improve standards of radiology practice

3. STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES IN ESTABLISHING A REGIONAL EUROASIAN RADIOLOGY ASSOCIATION (M. FATEHI, GENERAL SECRETARY, IRANIAN SOCIETY OF RADIOLOGY)

M. Fatehi presented two agreements which had been signed between the Iranian and the Turkish Society of Radiology at the Turkish congress of radiology in November 2011 and the Iranian congress of radiology in May 2012. It had been agreed, among other things, to organise tours to visit academic and private institutions and exchange training programmes. Examples such as the "Turkish Society of Radiology meets Iran" session at the Turkish congress in 2011 and a joint refresher course "Advances on Medical Imaging" between Iran and Iraq show possibilities of collaboration between societies. M. Fatehi presented a number of examples of cultural similarities between Iran and Turkey, such as food, landscape and art. There are also weaknesses in founding a Eurasian radiology association such as lack of organisation, economic situations, lack of equipment, political issues and social unrests in certain countries in that region. These issues need to be taken into consideration in order to be able to collaborate with all societies in the Eurasian region. He presented the map and the list of potential member societies for a Eurasian

radiology collaboration, which should not be seen as final as there is no strict rule which countries to include or exclude. He asked everyone to share their opinion if other countries should be added. M. Fatehi further pointed out that it was not easy to collect all the contact data of the different societies and that contact details of two societies (Tajikistan and Turkmenistan) out of the 28 societies were not available.

Weaknesses: economic situations, lack of equipment, political issues and social arrest to be taken into consideration

4. OPEN DISCUSSION BY PARTICIPANTS FROM POTENTIAL MEMBER SOCIETIES

S. Hanna presented the Egypt point of view and considered it a very good idea to contribute to a Eurasian collaboration. He suggested the leaders of these societies to be in contact in the future and attend the congresses of each other's societies. He will present this idea at the congress of the Egyptian Society of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine (April, 13-15, 2013, Cairo). W. Tantawy suggested starting with an annual or biannual meeting in one country and establishing contacts with other societies before founding an entity. It was argued that language should not be an obstacle as it is not a requirement to speak perfect English. R. Bakhtiozin from Russia stated that his country is multi-religious and many different societies come together at their congress, which shows that religion and language is not an obstacle. He welcomed everyone to attend the Russian congress of radiology on May 29-31, 2013 in Moscow. A. Laith from Iraq said that it is an honour for Iraq to be represented at this meeting and that Iraq will use the knowledge of other countries to progress in the field of radiology. V. Rogozhyn from Ukraine argued that despite different religious and economical issues in the countries in question, no visa is required for people from those countries to move within that region, which is a positive aspect. T. Dautov from Kazakhstan and M. Rihani from Jordan expressed their willingness to support Eurasian radiology collaboration.

Suggestions: leaders of societies to be in contact and attend each other's congresses

M. Fatehi said that 2015 would be a realistic approach to organise the first regional Eurasian conference. In the meantime, preliminary meetings should take place at the ECR or RSNA in Chicago as many representatives from the Eurasian societies visit these congresses. Also, congresses of the respective countries should be attended. Further steps are nominating a contact person, not necessarily the president or general secretary, from every society for the Eurasian radiology collaboration. It was suggested to set up a doodle survey to ask about possible dates and best locations for the next meeting.

Realistic date for first regional Eurasian conference: 2015

Preliminary mtgs to take place at ECR and RSNA

Contact person from each society to be identified

Suggestion: to set up a doodle survey re date and place for the next mtg

A.T. Turgut and M. Fatehi thanked everyone for their support and assured that they will pursue this idea further on.

+++