



PRESS RELEASE

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Radiology Accreditation on the agenda for ECR 2007

The Radiology Accreditation Programme (RAP), a major scheme to develop a process for accrediting services offering diagnostic or interventional radiology in the UK, will feature at the European Congress of Radiology 2007, taking place in Vienna from the 9th to 13 of March.

RAP is a collaborative scheme between the Royal College of Radiologists and the Society and College of Radiographers (ScoR), designed to provide both patients, and the providers and commissioners of radiology services, with ways of knowing that services are safe and competent, and the relative strengths and weaknesses of a particular service in relation to their needs and aspirations. The Programme is being funded primarily by the RCR and ScoR, with significant contributions from the Department of Health, and additional funding from BUPA Insurance, Nuffield Hospitals, and Philips Medical Systems.

Professor Janet Husband, President of the Royal College of Radiologists, said, "The Radiology Accreditation Programme is a powerful service accreditation scheme which is led by clinical professionals working in close partnership with their patients and with clinical colleagues in other disciplines.

"We are moving rapidly into a world in which there are potentially many providers of diagnostic imaging services, and so the RAP is vitally important, as it will provide patients with reliable information about diagnostic imaging services, and will allow radiologists to focus on improving clinical outcomes, the quality of each patient's experience, and the safety of radiology for both patients and staff."

Dr Conall Garvey, the RAP's Clinical Lead and the College's Treasurer, said, "The two colleges are very pleased with the progress of the Radiology Accreditation Programme. A pilot programme will start in April; the RAP will be trialled at five pilot sites across England, including teaching specialist, and general hospital sites, and an independent sector provider. In addition, over 250 standards have been drafted by expert groups, and it is around these that the Accreditation Programme will be built and administrated."

Notes to Editors

1. For further information from the Royal College of Radiologists, please contact the College's Communications Office on 020 7299 1138, or dan_garbutt@rcr.ac.uk
2. The Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) has approximately 7,200 members and Fellows worldwide representing the disciplines of clinical oncology and clinical radiology. All members and Fellows of the College are registered medical or dental practitioners.
3. Further information about the Radiology Accreditation Programme (RAP) is available via the RAP website, <http://accreditation.rcr.ac.uk/>