



Memorandum of Understanding for an integrative approach to European Radiation Protection research, inclusive of medical applications of ionising radiations

The undersigned European organisations, duly represented by their respective officers,

Considering that:

- MELODI was founded as a European Research Association aiming to consolidate radiation protection research in Europe by progressive integration of national and European research in this field. MELODI in particular develops and maintains a European SRA (Strategic Research Agenda) for the field of low-dose radiation risks. Together with other European research platforms with whom a cooperation MOU was signed (EURADOS for dosimetry, ALLIANCE for radioecology and NERIS for nuclear emergency preparedness), MELODI aims to develop a European research landscape for radiation protection as a whole by developing joint programming, prioritisation of research topics and joint road mapping.
- EURADOS was founded in 1981 as a European Association aiming at the promotion of research and development and European cooperation in the field of the dosimetry of ionizing radiation, and that in particular develops a European SRA for the field of dosimetry.
- In Europe, radiation exposure in the medical field represents a significant part of the total exposure of the population. Exposure resulting from diagnostic or intervention protocols belong to the low dose exposure levels, and research in this dose range is of high relevance for the continuous improvement of such radiology and nuclear medicine protocols. The same consideration applies to the field of radio oncological therapy, where most of the tissues and organs outside the tumour target receive low to medium doses. Therefore European level professional organisations with competence in the field of medical use of ionising radiations in radiology, nuclear medicine, and radiation therapy wish to cooperate with relevant European research platforms to the development and implementation of the European Radiation Protection Research landscape.
- ESR (European Society of Radiology) was founded as a non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting and coordinating the scientific, philanthropic, intellectual and professional activities of radiology in all European countries. The ESR acts as the umbrella organisation of all national radiological societies as well as subspecialty organisations in the field of radiology in Europe.
- EANM (European Association for Nuclear Medicine) was founded in 1985 as the umbrella organisation of nuclear medicine in Europe and represents the sector towards the European Institutions. Within this role, the EANM aims at advancing science and education in nuclear medicine for the benefit of public health as well as at promoting and co-ordinating, throughout Europe and beyond, discussion and exchange of ideas and results relating to the diagnosis, treatment, research and prevention of diseases through the use of unsealed radioactive substances and the properties of stable nuclides in medicine.

- EFRS (European Federation of Radiographer Societies) was founded in 2008 as a non-profit organisation with as main aim to represent, promote and develop the profession of radiography in Europe, within the whole range of medical imaging, nuclear medicine and radiation therapy. The EFRS acts as umbrella organisation of the national radiography societies in Europe. The EFRS has an educational wing with 47 universities involved in radiographer education. Through its member organisations the EFRS represents about 100.000 radiographers and 8.000 students.
- ESTRO (European Society for Radiotherapy & Oncology), founded in 1980, is a non-profit and scientific organisation that fosters the role of Radiation Oncology in order to improve patient's care in the multimodality treatment of cancer. With over 5000 members in and outside Europe, ESTRO supports all the Radiation Oncology professionals in their daily practice: Radiation Oncologists, Medical Physicists, Radiobiologists and RTTs (Radiation Therapists) and the wider oncology community. ESTRO's mission is to promote innovation, research, and dissemination of science through its congresses, special meetings, educational courses and publications.
- EFOMP (European Federation of Organisations of Medical Physics) was founded in 1980 to serve as an umbrella to all national member organisations in Europe. The current membership covers 35 national organisations which together represent more than 6000 physicists and engineers working in the field of Medical Physics. Among the main missions of EFOMP is to harmonise and advance medical physics both in its clinical and scientific expression throughout Europe.
- The inception of the European Horizon 2020 framework programme will call for a close cooperation between signatory organisations and the other European Research Associations, towards developing and strengthening Strategic Research Agendas in each field of radiation protection research and of developing a coherent and joined Strategic Research Agenda drawn up at the European level, and further integration of national R&D programmes. This co-operation at European level should be designed and operated with the objective to achieve a high level of operational effectiveness and complementarity of research actions, including their funding procedures, within the EU Health and EURATOM programmes as well as relevant national RTD programmes.
- Other European organisations active in the field of R&D coordination in disciplinary, scientific or technical fields of interest to radiation protection research in the medical field may wish to adhere to the present memorandum.

Decide to cooperate on the following issues according to the principles set hereafter, in order to promote the integration and the efficiency of European radiation protection research, to maintain and use a common European infrastructure for this research, as well as to bring forward scientific education and training in the field of radiation protection for medical applications of ionizing radiations.

Art 1: The signatory organisations decide to establish a Joint Committee for the coordination of European radiation protection research in the field of medical applications of ionizing radiations (referred here after as the "Joint Committee").

This Joint Committee will comprise two senior experts designated by each signatory organisation.

The chair of the Joint Committee will be chosen for three-year periods from the medical sector signatory organisations by consensus among signatory members. The secretariat of the Joint Committee will be provided by MELODI.

The mission of the Joint Committee will be to co-ordinate actions by the signatories towards the following objectives:

- Ensure an adequate level of information exchange between the signatories in the fields of joint interest within the scope of the MOU,
- Identify gaps of joint interest in existing SRA's with respect to RTD needs for improving radiation protection in the medical field, or for improving the effectiveness/exposure ratio of medical protocols based on the use of ionizing radiations, so as to optimise the SRA contents and avoid duplication of efforts,
- Identify research areas of joint interest where progress may benefit from contributions from signatory organisations or the members thereof: for example, some low dose effects or dosimetry research projects may benefit from contributions in a clinical environment, conversely, some medical protocol research may benefit from advanced dosimetry or radiobiology developments,
- Develop joint documents in support to the elaboration of RTD calls in the framework of the H2020 programme, both in the EURATOM/Fission and in the Health programme,
- Optimise and co-ordinate the dissemination of scientific knowledge resulting from research, particularly through education and training actions.

Art 2: The signatories agree to set up as necessary joint working groups (JWG) in order to elaborate a joint vision in areas of common concern to all (or some of) the Signatory Organisations. The Chairs and Secretaries of these JWG's will be appointed by consensus between the signatory organisations concerned for three year periods. The detailed mandate of each JWG will be reviewed by the Joint Committee and approved by the concerned signatory organisations. The operations and results from each JWG will be periodically reviewed by the Joint Committee as long as the need exists to operate such a JWG. The operations of these JWG's will in addition be closely coordinated with activities in the corresponding fields generated by EC/EURATOM or EC/Health programme funded projects.

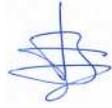
Art 3: Each Signatory Organisation invites the other Signatories to appoint an observer to participate in their respective organs competent for issues related to this MOU, in order to ensure adequate transparency and quality of communication.

Art 4: This MOU is open to adhesion by other European organisations active in the field of R&D coordination in disciplinary, scientific or technical fields of interest to radiation protection research in the field of medical applications of ionizing radiations, subject to prior information and unanimous agreement of the signatories.

Art 5: The Signatories agree to inform the European Commission of the signature of this MOU and of results achieved through the above initiatives, and where needed to invite EC responsible officers to participate in joint meetings.

Art 6: This MOU, of which each signatory organisation holds an original copy, is concluded for a period of 4 years. It may be prolonged by tacit agreement, or amended by consensus agreement between the signatory organisations. A signatory may withdraw from the obligations set forth in this MOU subject to prior notice to other signatories at least six months in advance. At the initiative of MELODI, acting as coordinator for the implementation of this MOU, the officers representing the respective signatory organisations meet at regular intervals in order to jointly oversee the implementation of their above mentioned common undertakings.

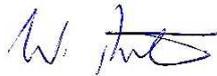
For MELODI: Mr Jacques REPUSSARD, President
Fontenay-aux-Roses, May 21st, 2014



For ESR: Prof. Guy FRIJA, President
Vienna, March 8th, 2014



For EURADOS: Prof. Dr. Werner RUEHM, President
Munich, August 7th, 2014



For EANM: Prof. Fred VERZIJLBERGER, President
Vienna, May 6th, 2014



For ESTRO: Prof. Dr. Wolfgang DÖRR
Vienna, June 5th, 2014



For EFOMP: Prof. Peter SHARP, President
Aberdeen, March 17th, 2014



For EFRS: Prof. Graciano PAULO, President
Coimbra, April 30th, 2014

