

World Radiography Day – 8 November

Dr Wilhelm Roentgen, a German physicist, discovered X-rays on 8 November 1895, and dramatically changed the healthcare landscape over 120 years ago. This earned him the Nobel Prize for medicine in 1901. Our global family of radiographers, at home, across our continent and abroad, gather in our localities to celebrate and commemorate World Radiography Day as homage to Dr Roentgen.

During this week, radiographers worldwide will be rallying around the events to raise the profile of radiography, and radiographers, as a frontline job in the healthcare sector. The vital role of radiographers in healthcare cannot be underestimated.

The Society of Radiographers of South Africa (SORSA) highlights World Radiography Day, to inspire and motivate radiographers to continuously strive for service excellence, and high ethical standards, in delivering radiation dose to the patient. Ionizing radiation dose optimisation is the responsibility of radiographers to exercise judgment prior to delivering the radiation dose tailored for the individual patient. Both public and professional awareness has consistently increased, following the high-level campaigns on radiation safety and safety culture by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

As radiographers, we have an ethical responsibility to create a public, and professional, awareness aimed at reducing unnecessary radiation to patients, the public and health workers, as well as the safety of radiation, in line with the Bonn accord on radiation safety.

The WRD 2019 theme, **‘Your Safety - Our Priority’**, enhances the fact that the radiographer is promoting and maintaining safety culture.

This theme is in keeping with the programme for medical and radiation exposures linked to the WHO and IAEA campaigns, and further strengthens the 2012 Bonn-Call-for-Action aimed at:

- strengthening the radiation protection of patients and health workers overall;
- attaining the highest benefit with the least possible risk to all patients by the safe and appropriate use of ionizing radiation in medicine;
- aiding the full integration of radiation protection into healthcare systems;
- helping to improve the benefit/risk-dialogue with patients and the public;

Radiographers could use days around this historic milestone to also promote radiography as a career and, as a vital contribution to modern healthcare, and as a chance to increase public awareness of diagnostic imaging, nuclear medicine, radiation therapy and ultrasound.

WRD is close to our hearts, making this medical milestone a global rallying call for all of us to ensure that radiography, and medical diagnosis, continue to strive to achieve uncompromising service excellence and integrity.

SORSA calls on all radiographers, allied practitioners, medical personnel and service providers to participate in the workshops, symposia and social and academic events taking place at private and government hospitals and other service providers to commemorate WRD. SORSA strives to improve technical and ethical standards, while offering radiographers opportunities for personal and professional growth

SORSA wishes Radiographers a happy World Radiographers Day 2019!

Your Safety – Our Priority