ICR/SPR in São Paulo, Brazil, May 2012

During the 2011 RSNA meeting in Chicago, conversations with the Sociedade Paulista de Radiologia leaders, Drs. Renato A. Mendonça e Ricardo Baaklini, lead to an invitation to introduce the Image Gently campaign to the 2012 ICR/SPR meeting attendees, using the World Federation of Pediatric Imaging Founding-President, Dr. Ines Boechat, as its spokesperson. The International Congress of Radiology is the bi-annual meeting of the International Society of Radiology, which rotates around the world; it had last happened in Brazil in 1977. The very successful event took place in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in partnership with the SPR, from May 3-6 with participation of more than 5500 radiologists from Brazil and abroad, 130 international guest speakers, more than 400 local speakers, and many industry representatives, with a total of 18000 visitors.

The organizing committee, represented in daily operations by the very efficient Ms. Priscila Figueiredo, scheduled a presentation on radiation safety in pediatrics and offered a high visibility booth located in one of the busy traffic areas in the convention center. The booth was continuously supported by one of the meeting organizers staff persons, particularly, Ms. Sara Daltri, who assisted not only with a friendly presence at the stand, but also with the distribution of Image Gently promotional materials, translated into Portuguese and printed locally by the SPR. Dr. Dolores Bustelo, Past President of the Sociedad Latino Americana de Radiologia Pediatrica (SLARP), coordinated the schedule of pediatric radiologists present at the booth and did a wonderful public relations work, contacting media representatives at the meeting for interviews, photo shooting opportunities and meetings with leaders from other organizations present at the meeting. The booth achieved its objective of providing information about dose reduction strategies and materials downloadable from the Image Gently website (www.imagegently.org) too many of the general radiologists that regularly perform studies in children Latin America and was a meeting point for the pediatric radiologists at the congress.

Dr. Antonio Soares de Souza was in charge of the translation of distributed Image Gently materials and the scientific program in the area of pediatric imaging. The presentation, “Radiation Protection in Children: a shared responsibility”, by Dr. Ines Boechat, was well received, and followed by a more specific lecture by Dr. Donald Frush, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Society for Pediatric Radiology (the other SPR), on “Dose Reduction in Pediatric CT”.

Such was the success of the Image Gently initiative that the SPR plans to continue to distribute the materials at forthcoming events; several Latin American organizations manifested an interest to become part of the Alliance and there were many invitations for IG related presentations at regional meetings.

From left to right: Doctors Giovanni Guido Cerri (Secretary of Health, Sao Paulo state), Dolores Bustelo (SLARP), Inês Boechat (President, WFPI), Pedro Daltro (SLARP), Ricardo Baaklini (President, SPR), Hanz Ringertz (Gold Medal, ICR 2012), Renato Mendonça (Chairman, ICR 2012) and Antônio Soares Souza (SLARP).
In the fall of 2010 I discovered the Image Gently web site and after exploring the site decided to make a training program for all our CT techs to complete ending with the Image Gently pledge. I created in-services and quizzes using the CT modules. The technologists learned a great deal about reducing and controlling the radiation dose for pediatric patients.

I became curious about our pediatric protocols and asked our CT manufacturer for their recommended protocols for our 32 slice scanner. I discovered our protocols were not utilizing x/y modulation or the most effective quantum de-noising program and it was recommended the protocols be weight based instead of age and use a graduating kVp level. I made all of these changes, did some phantom testing before and after the changes and was still not satisfied with the dose. Fortunately I had been to the manufacturer’s training school three times and was able to go further into the preset parameters to make additional changes including increasing the standard deviation and decreasing the allowable maximum mA on pediatric body work. After more phantom testing I realized I had reduced the dose from our original protocols by 60% without any compromise of image quality. A comparison of the dose for an abdomen/pelvis scan between patients of similar age and size prior to and after the protocol changes are as follows:

Old protocol: Age 1y10m, body width 18 cm, 16 cm phantom, SSDE = 21.95 mGy
New protocol: Age 2y3m, body width 18 cm, 16 cm phantom, SSDE = 8.51 mGy
Reduction in dose = 61%  (SSDE = Size Specific Dose Estimate)

I presented all of my work to Radiologists Dr. Joe Pekala and Dr. Charles Pappas; they compared the two above stated cases and found no compromise of image quality. Together we agreed to limit the number of contrast phases when the clinical allowed for it and to educate our CT technologists to always center the patient in the gantry and to only scan the indicated area in order to further reduce the overall radiation dose. We have had these protocols in practice for one year and have not experienced any compromise in image quality as defined by our local Radiologists. Every time a child is scanned at my hospital I am proud to know that they have received the lowest dose possible.

Meet Quentin Moore, Image Gently Intern

Quentin Moore is a driving force in the Image Gently Digital Radiography initiative workgroup in order to prepare for the upcoming roll out in September 2012. He has his Masters of Public Health from the University of Toledo / Bowling Green State University. During his internship, Quentin has: developed educational resources, led and organized subcommittee meetings, and created quality improvement materials. Collaborative works include: Exposure Indicator Manuscript, Exposure Indicator Power Point, Digital Radiography Parents Brochure, Digital Radiography FAQ by Parents Document, CR/DR Safety Steps Flow Chart, BASICS Image Analysis Acronym, Fishbone Root-cause Diagram, Diagnostic Repeat Analysis PQI Project, and Image Gently Radiation Overview Power Point.

Thank you Quentin for all of your hard work!
Image Gently and the IAEA work together...

Image Gently and the IAEA have created a free downloadable poster for your department. It features a link to the Step Lightly pediatric interventional safety checklist that can be used for patient care. Please visit [www.imagegently.org](http://www.imagegently.org) or [https://rpop.iaea.org/RPOP/RPoP/Content/Documents/Whitepapers/poster-children-interventional.pdf](https://rpop.iaea.org/RPOP/RPoP/Content/Documents/Whitepapers/poster-children-interventional.pdf) to download your copy today.

FDA Leveraging/Collaboration Award

June 5, 2012 - Image Gently and the Medical Imaging and Technology Alliance (MITA) were honored along with FDA members in developing a collaborative network aimed at reducing unnecessary radiation exposure from imaging exams to pediatric patients.


Dr. Thalia Mills accepted the award on behalf of the group. Many thanks to everyone for working together!

Coreen Bell, the Administrative Director of the Alliance was singled out as a primary reason for the success of the collaboration. Ms. Bell received a special letter of commendation from Dr. Jeff Shuren, the Director of the FDA’s Center for Devices and Radiologic Health.

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