



## **WORLD RADIOGRAPHY DAY – 8 NOVEMBER**

Radiographers are essential in elevating patient care with artificial intelligence

The Society of Radiographers of South Africa (SORSA) extends warm wishes to all radiographers and radiological technologists on World Radiographers Day 2020.

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 held globally by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Vienna-based International Atomic Agency (IAEA).

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. 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.

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.

In keeping with the ISRRT world radiography day theme; 'Radiographers are essential in elevating patient care with artificial intelligence' SORSA hosted their 1<sup>st</sup> virtual symposium on artificial intelligence on Saturday 12 September 2020.

SORSA will participate in the ISRRT WRD 2020 webinar, the ISRRT Facebook live session entitled "Artificial intelligence (AI) in radiography practice; International perspectives"; on 8 November 2020, where Riaan van de Venter, SORSA President-elect, will present, Artificial intelligence in radiography practice – a South African perspective. Be sure to tune in and support SORSA on this international platform.

The SORSA 2<sup>nd</sup> virtual symposium, 'Advances in radiography to enhance service delivery', will be hosted complimentary from SORSA at 09:00 on Saturday 21 November 2020. Your support is always appreciated. Visit <http://www.sorsavirtual.co.za> to register and for more details.

As radiographers, we have an ethical responsibility to create 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 2020 theme, enhances the fact that radiographers are essential in elevating patient care by employing not only artificial intelligence but also by promoting and maintaining safety culture. Radiographers must at all times be cognisant of strengthening 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 and helping to improve the benefit/risk-dialogue with patients and the public. Radiographers must embrace justification and optimisation.

Radiographers could use the days around this historic milestone to 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 to commemorate WRD. SORSA strives to improve technical and ethical standards, while offering radiographers opportunities for personal and professional growth.

Happy World Radiography Day!