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Chairperson's introduction: What will radiology departments look like in the future?

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It's well known that the technological evolution and new scientific progress have increased the organisational complexity of healthcare. One of the major contributors to this complexity increase is the influence of medical imaging technology development. There is no doubt that modern healthcare is every day more and more dependent of medical imaging diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, which dramatically contributes to the increase of hospital efficiency, providing more effective and less invasive patient care. The development of medical technology, together with the several pressures on health systems are the potential drivers for the exponential increase of the number of imaging procedures (but not always followed with the necessary increase of radiographers and radiologists). Although this might be seen, in general, as a very positive aspect, reality shows that medical imaging is being seen more as a commodity and therefore there is an urgent need to develop a new paradigm for medical imaging departments, to maintain our identity. The development of a European Radiology Model, based on strategic management tools and professional role development are the key points to maintain the medical imaging procedures under the supervision of the radiological family and increase the visibility and the importance of radiology in health systems, based on a value-based healthcare model. Appropriateness criteria combined with audit and accreditation are the key to the development of a modern European radiology model.

Session Objectives:

1. To consider the drivers for change within radiology departments.
2. To appreciate the brief history of evolution within radiology departments.
3. To consider how radiology departments may look in future years.