



International Conference on Integrated Medical Imaging in Cardiovascular Diseases (IMIC 2016)

**IAEA Headquarters
Vienna, Austria**

10–14 October 2016

Ref. No.: IAEA-CN-243

Announcement and Call for Papers

A. Background

In 2016, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will hold the International Conference on Integrated Medical Imaging in Cardiovascular Diseases (IMIC 2016), building on the success of the IMIC 2013 conference. Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are steadily increasing both in developed and developing countries. Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) are an important subgroup of NCDs and account for the highest proportional mortality among all NCDs. Consequently, CVDs are one of the main priorities in the health care systems of many IAEA Member States. Identifying appropriate management strategies is of the utmost importance, as it was estimated by the World Health Organization (WHO) that more than 23 million people will die annually due to CVDs by 2030. The situation is particularly alarming in low and middle income countries, as 80% of the mortality burden is borne by such countries.

Medical imaging, including molecular nuclear medicine, is extremely important in that it offers strategic advantages in both diagnostic and therapeutic decision-making. It provides invaluable inputs for different stages of CVD management, including diagnosis, staging, treatment, prognosis and follow-up. Medical imaging includes techniques such as single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT), positron emission tomography (PET), echocardiography, computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). These techniques represent very useful tools to understand the pathology of individual patients in detail and can therefore serve to facilitate specifically tailored clinical management. Each imaging modality has its advantages and limitations which need to be understood properly by health care professionals dealing with CVDs. Given their high usefulness, integrating these techniques into the health care systems of Member States can provide an invaluable contribution to improving CVD management. Many Member States are already actively using, have recently implemented or are planning to acquire the relevant medical imaging techniques.

Capacity building is at the core of IAEA activities, with the ultimate goal in the area of human health being to strengthen the human and technical expertise of Member States to address health challenges in a sustainable and self-resilient manner. The IAEA has been applying many approaches for capacity building in Member States to allow them to optimally utilize medical imaging technologies. These approaches include training courses, fellowships, expert missions and conferences, to name a few. IMIC 2013 was organized to improve the understanding of nuclear medicine imaging in the management of CVDs. It was held at the IAEA's Headquarters in Vienna, Austria, and was extremely well received by Member States. Two hundred and forty participants from all over the world, including from 70 Member States and 12 invited organizations, benefited from this conference. In order to follow up on the most recent advances in the use of medical imaging in the management of CVDs and to support professional development for the purpose of strengthening the capacities of Member States, it is proposed to hold IMIC 2016.

B. Objectives

The conference will follow up on the recent developments in the entire spectrum of activities related to medical imaging as applied to CVDs.

The conference will have the following objectives:

- To evaluate the current status of medical imaging, including SPECT, PET, echocardiography, CT and MRI, in the management of CVDs;
- To reflect on challenges faced in developing countries;
- To deliver supporting 'know-how' via continuing medical education programmes in the field, including information on the relative merits and limitations of each imaging modality;
- To improve the performance of clinical practice through 'read with the experts' sessions and workshops;

- To interact with the user groups (nuclear medicine physicians, radiologists, cardiologists, technologists, radiographers, radiopharmacists, radiochemists, medical physicists and other practitioners and scientists working in all aspects of CVD management) and provide them with state-of-the-art information on this field;
- To exchange information on current advances in the field among leading clinical scientists from developed and developing countries; and
- To identify future challenges and trends, as well as the role of the IAEA and other international organizations in addressing these.

C. Format and Topics

The IAEA invites participants to provide high quality contributions on all aspects of medical imaging as applied to the management of CVDs. Both academic and practice based papers under the umbrella of the following topics are welcome:

- Member State experience with SPECT, PET, echocardiography, CT and MRI in the management of CVDs
- Use of hybrid imaging or integrated imaging in CVD management
- Setting up an integrated imaging facility
- Radiopharmaceutical production using cyclotrons and radionuclide generators — including good manufacturing practices and quality assurance aspects — with special reference to imaging agents for CVDs
- Issues of medical physics, instrumentation and image processing and analysis related to CVD imaging
- Quality management, quality control, quality assurance and audits in integrated medical imaging and nuclear medicine practice
- Radiation protection for personnel and dose reduction for patients
- Ethics, leadership and education in integrated medical imaging

D. Target Audience

This conference will give an opportunity to review the exciting latest developments in the field of integrated medical imaging as applied to CVDs. The target audience comprises:

- Nuclear medicine physicians

- Radiologists
- Cardiologists
- Radiochemists/Radiopharmacists
- Medical physicists
- Technologists/Radiographers
- Other practitioners and scientists working in all aspects of medical imaging

E. Expected Outcomes

The conference will provide clinicians, scientists and professionals with an international forum at which they can review the latest developments in all aspects of integrated medical imaging as applied to CVDs, with a view to addressing the health challenges common to many IAEA Member States.

F. Abstracts, Presentation of Papers and Proceedings

All papers — other than invited keynote papers — must present original work and must not have been published elsewhere.

Persons who wish to present a paper (including in the form of a poster) at the conference must submit an abstract on one of the topics listed under Section C. The abstract should give enough information on the contents of the proposed paper to enable the Programme Committee to evaluate it. Introductory and general matters should not be included. The accepted abstracts will be reproduced in unedited form in the electronic Compilation of Abstracts which will be distributed to all participants at the conference.

F.1 Submission of Abstracts

Anyone wishing to present a paper at the conference must submit an abstract **in electronic format** (no paper copies) directly to the IAEA. Instructions on how to upload the abstracts to the conference's web browser-based file submission system will be available on the conference web page (see Section P) as of **December 2015**. The abstracts **must** be submitted through this system by **31 March 2016**. No other form of submission will be accepted.

The abstract should indicate to which of the topics outlined in Section C above the proposed paper relates and should:

- be a maximum of 500 words (including title);
- not include more than one figure, graph or table;
- not include references; and
- must be written and submitted using the abstract template available from the conference web page (see Section P).

In addition, authors must submit the following two forms to their appropriate governmental authority (see Section G) for transmission to the IAEA. These forms must be received by the IAEA no later than **31 March 2016**:

- Participation Form (Form A); and
- Form for Submission of a Paper (Form B).

IMPORTANT: The electronically received abstracts will be considered by the Programme Committee only if these two forms have been received by the IAEA through the established official channels (see Section G).

Authors should state to which of the topics outlined in Section C their contribution relates.

F.2 Acceptance of Abstracts for Presentation

The Conference Secretariat reserves the right to exclude papers that do not comply with its quality standards and do not apply to one of the topics in Section C above.

Authors will be informed by **mid-May 2016** as to whether their abstracts have been accepted for poster presentation. The abstracts, if accepted by the Programme Committee, will also be reproduced unedited in the electronic *Compilation of Abstracts* which will be distributed to all participants at the conference.

F.3 Proceedings

The proceedings of the conference will be published by the IAEA as soon as possible after the conference.

G. Participation and Registration

All persons wishing to participate in the conference are requested to **register online in advance** through the conference web page (see Section P below). In addition, they are required to send a completed Participation Form (Form A) and, if applicable, the Form for Submission of a Paper (Form B) and the Grant Application Form (Form C) to their competent national authority (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs

or National Atomic Energy Authority), or to one of the organizations invited to participate, for subsequent electronic transmission to the IAEA (Official.Mail@iaea.org).

A participant will be accepted only if the Participation Form is transmitted through the competent national authority of a Member State of the IAEA or by an organization invited to participate.

Participants whose official designations have been received by the IAEA will receive further information approximately three months before the opening of the conference. This information will also be posted on the conference web page.

H. Expenditures and Grants

No registration fee will be charged to participants.

The IAEA is generally not in a position to bear the travel and other costs of participants in the conference. The IAEA has, however, limited funds at its disposal to help meet the cost of attendance of certain participants. Such assistance may be offered upon specific request to normally one participant per country provided that, in the IAEA's view, the participant on whose behalf assistance is requested will make an important contribution to the conference.

If Governments wish to apply for a grant on behalf of one of their specialists, they should address specific requests to the IAEA to this effect. Governments should ensure that applications for grants are:

1. Submitted by **31 March 2016**;
2. Accompanied by a completed and signed Grant Application Form (Form C); and
3. Accompanied by a completed Participation Form (Form A).

Applications that do not comply with the above conditions cannot be considered.

Approved grants will be issued in the form of a lump sum payment that usually **covers only part of the cost of attendance**.

I. Distribution of Documents

A preliminary programme will be posted on the IAEA conference web page as soon as possible. The final programme and the electronic *Compilation of Abstracts* will be available free of charge upon registration at the conference.

J. Exhibitions

A limited amount of space will be available for commercial vendors' displays/exhibits during the conference. Interested parties should contact the Conference Secretariat by email (imic2016@iaea.org) by **31 March 2016**.

K. Working Language

The working language of the conference will be English. All communications and papers must be sent to the IAEA in English.

L. Conference Venue and Accommodation

The conference will be held at the IAEA's Headquarters in Vienna, Austria. Participants must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. Hotels which are offering a reduced rate for conference participants will be listed on the conference web page (see Section P below). Please note that the IAEA is not in a position to assist participants with hotel bookings, nor can the IAEA assume responsibility for paying cancellation fees or for re-booking and no shows.

M. Visas

Designated participants who require a visa to enter Austria should submit the necessary application to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of **Austria at least four weeks before they travel to Austria**. Since Austria is a Schengen State, persons requiring a visa will have to apply for a Schengen visa. In States where Austria has no diplomatic mission, visas can be obtained from a designated consular authority of a Schengen Partner State representing Austria in the country in question.

N. Key Deadlines

Submission of Form B and abstract:	31 March 2016
Submission of Form C:	31 March 2016
Notification of acceptance of abstracts:	mid-May 2016

O. Conference Secretariat

General contact details of the Conference Secretariat:

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Subsequent correspondence on scientific matters should be sent to either of the Scientific Secretaries of the conference, and correspondence on administrative matters to the IAEA Conference Services Section.

P. Conference Web Page

Please visit the following web page regularly for new information regarding this conference:

<http://www-pub.iaea.org/iaemeetings/50808/International-Conference-on-Integrated-Medical-Imaging-in-Cardiovascular-Diseases-IMIC2016>