Successful DIAM Coffee and Talk session at ECR 2018
Scaling up IT infrastructure in imaging departments: learn from the 1st DIAM stage 6 hospital

We are pleased to announce that the DIAM Coffee and Talk session at ECR 2018 had many attendees from around the world who were able to gain insight from Digital Imaging Adoption Model (DIAM) project participants and consider the importance of a proper IT system in their imaging departments.

During the first part of the session, Prof. B. Brkljačić presented all of ESR’s initiatives that support radiology departments in planning and implementing imaging IT and DIAM benefits for healthcare providers. Prof. B. Brkljačić added that eHealth and health IT have been priority topics for ESR for many years. There are special subcommittees within ESR- the ESR eHealth and Informatics Subcommittee and the ESR Subcommittee on Professional Issues and Economics - intended to support radiology departments in Europe.

Jorg Studzinski, Director of Research and Advisory Services in HIMSS Europe GmbH, familiarised attendees with the DIAM project, its model and survey. Participants learned about initial project results and recommendations on how to be involved and benefit from the project. J. Studzunski explained how radiology departments can move to higher DIAM stages by using the DIAM gap report.

Prof. Mildenberger, a session moderator, provided reasons to use DIAM for planning imaging IT strategy and how to use DIAM gap report for different purposes. These reasons include to plan future IT system upgrades, optimise current IT infrastructure, and understand the level of IT maturity in one’s department. He commented that DIAM is a unique benchmarking programme to guide the adoption of IT supported processes in radiology departments.

During the second part of the session, attendees got to meet Mr. Mosa Al Mutairi, a representative from the first DIAM Stage 6 hospital in the world. Mr. Al Mutairi from the King Abdulaziz Medical Center (KAMC) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia provided practical examples of how imaging IT affects all hospital processes. These examples include how proper workflows optimize the patients’ flow and equipment utilization and how fully integrated image management can improve the health outcomes for patients. His presentation was very useful for
many attendees because he shared information about the assessment process and how to use a DIAM report. Afterwards, there was an interactive Q&A where several questions were posed to the speakers.

The session illustrated a significant practical advantage for imaging departments who participate in the project. At the end of the Coffee and Talk session, Mr. Al Mutairi was presented with an acknowledgement letter to recognise the exemplary accomplishments of the KAMC hospital in the planning and implementation of its imaging IT system.

We are planning many DIAM activities and events in different countries for the upcoming year. We look forward to gaining new DIAM participants, as well as staying in touch with our current followers.

DIAM Coffee and Talk session speakers (left to right): Prof. B. Brkljačić, Mr. Mosa Al Mutairi, J. Studzinski, Prof. P. Mildenberger.