ISR

International Society of Radiology

Centennial Anniversary

Improving Global Health through Imaging

International Society of Radiology Centennial Celebration 2025 – 2026

From the President

Bibb Allen, MD FACR
President, International Society of Radiology

Throughout 2025 and 2026, the International Society of Radiology (ISR) will celebrate a remarkable milestone – 100 years of advancing global health through medical imaging.

It all began in 1925 when pioneering radiologists, inspired by Wilhelm Roentgen's discovery of X-rays, gathered in London for the first international radiology congress. Though no official proceedings remain, that historic meeting ignited a century-long mission for the ISR:

- Unite radiologists worldwide
- Advance radiological education, quality, and safety
- Improve access to medical imaging – regardless of geography or resources

Over the past century, the ISR has grown into a global federation of the world's radiology societies, collaborating with organizations like the WHO and IAEA to expand imaging access, strengthen education, and promote radiological quality and safety.

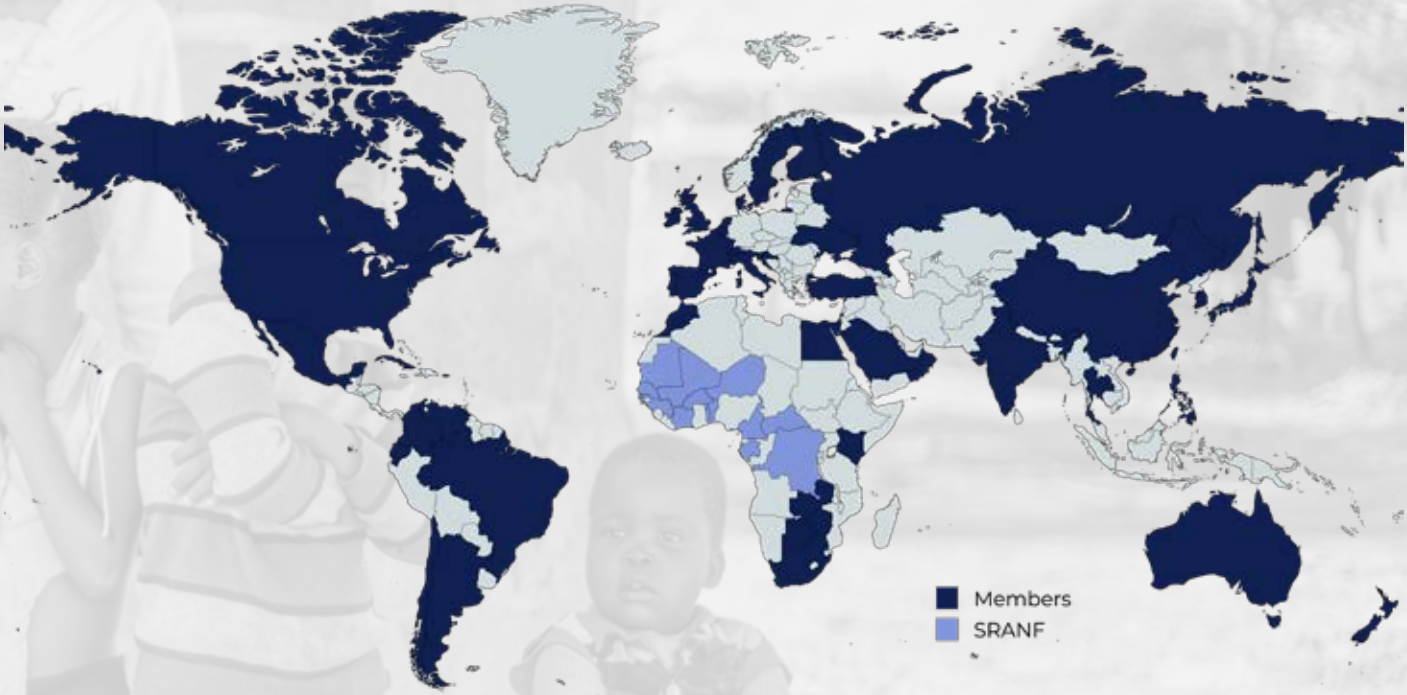
As we celebrate our Centennial Anniversary, we honor the past while looking to the future. Events will take place at major radiology meetings, including the 2025 and 2026 European Congress of Radiology and the 2025 RSNA Annual Meeting. The celebration will culminate in May 2026 at the International Congress of Radiology in Cartagena, Colombia.

In our centennial year, we are also introducing the International Society of Radiology Béclère-Fuchs Foundation, dedicated to supporting education, radiation safety, workforce development, and equitable imaging access in LMICs.

The ISR's work is built on collaboration and a shared commitment to improving global health. As we mark this milestone, our focus remains on the future – expanding imaging access, strengthening education, and ensuring that radiology continues to improve lives worldwide. We invite you to join us in helping us make life-saving medical imaging accessible to all.

What Is the International Society of Radiology?

The International Society of Radiology (ISR) is a federation of over 75 national, regional and continental radiological societies, serving as a unified voice for radiology on global health issues.



Our Mission

Improving imaging care worldwide

Promoting global radiological quality & safety

Bringing high-quality radiological education to underserved areas

Uniting Science & Medicine Through Imaging
Pioneering a Global Radiology Movement

Discovery of Xrays
The discovery of X-rays by Wilhelm Roentgen ignited a revolution in medicine, transforming diagnosis and treatment.

1895

First International Congress on Medical Imaging
This marked the beginning of the International Society of Radiology and a global movement dedicated to medical imaging.

1925

Antoine Béclère
Renowned for pioneering a pioneer X-ray use for tuberculosis, organized the third International Radiology Congress in Paris, advancing global collaboration and medical imaging.

1931

Centennial
ISR celebrates 100 years of uniting radiologists to advance innovation, education, safety, and imaging access for patients worldwide.

2025

1928

As X-ray technology advanced, radiologists and physicists worldwide collaborated to standardize radiation measurement, enhance imaging, and improve safety – continuing international efforts despite the loss of early congress records in World War I.

Stockholm Congress
This led to the creation of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP), dedicated to safeguarding populations from the harmful effects of ionizing radiation.

1953

Formal Establishment
The International Society of Radiology (ISR) is formally established as the only international federation of national radiology societies.

What Does the ISR Do?

The International Voice of Radiology

The ISR is a Non-State Actor (NSA) in official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO) and a trusted non-governmental organization (NGO) in long-standing collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Recognized by WHO and IAEA as a respected advisor, ISR provides expert guidance and collaborates with these organizations on critical global health challenges, including:

- Reducing health disparities
- Enhancing radiation safety
- Expanding imaging capacity in underserved areas

ISR Partners

WHO

IAEA

Promoting Global Quality and Safety

Leads the ISR Quality and Safety Alliance (ISRQSA), bringing together global and regional safety initiatives.

Provides insight and expertise to WHO and IAEA's work to enhance radiation protection and the establishment of international safety guidelines.

Amplifies member societies' quality and safety initiatives, strengthening efforts to deliver safe and effective imaging worldwide.

QUALITY ISR QSA SAFETY

Canada Safe Imaging
Imagerie Sécuritaire Canada

ASIASAFE

AFROSAFE RAD
Championing Radiation Safety

Arab Safe
Promoting Radiation Safety

ESR EUROSAFE IMAGING

IMAGE WISELY®
Radiation Safety in Adult Medical Imaging

image gently®

JAPAN SAFE RADIOLOGY

LATIN SAFE

What Does the ISR Do?

Bringing High-Quality Education to Underserved Areas

The ISR provides educational resources and training to radiologists and healthcare professionals worldwide, with a focus on underserved areas.

Key Initiatives

Hosting webinars and developing open-access resources to provide free access to cutting-edge knowledge.

Supporting radiologists in LMICs by sponsoring travel to national, regional, and international radiology meetings.

Sponsoring radiology professionals and expert speakers to attend regional and international meetings, fostering knowledge-sharing and collaboration.

Through partnerships with WHO and IAEA, ISR amplifies these efforts, ensuring education reaches those who need it most.

Promoting Global Health Equity Through Medical Imaging

Health equity means ensuring everyone has access to essential medical care, yet millions in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) lack even basic imaging services, leading to delayed diagnoses and preventable deaths.

Medical imaging is critical for detecting and treating cancer, stroke, maternal-fetal complications, trauma, cardiovascular disease and more, yet limited access to X-ray, ultrasound, CT, MRI, and nuclear medicine disproportionately affects LMICs.

ISR advocates for expanding imaging access as part of WHO's Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Primary Health Care (PHC) initiatives, ensuring imaging is recognized as a cornerstone of equitable healthcare. Yet, one of the greatest gaps in health equity today remains access to imaging in LMICs.

Closing the Imaging Gap: Expanding Access in LMICs

Expanding Imaging Access to Reduce Global Health Disparities

Medical imaging is a cornerstone of modern healthcare, yet in LMICs, limited access contributes to poor health outcomes, particularly in cancer care and other non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

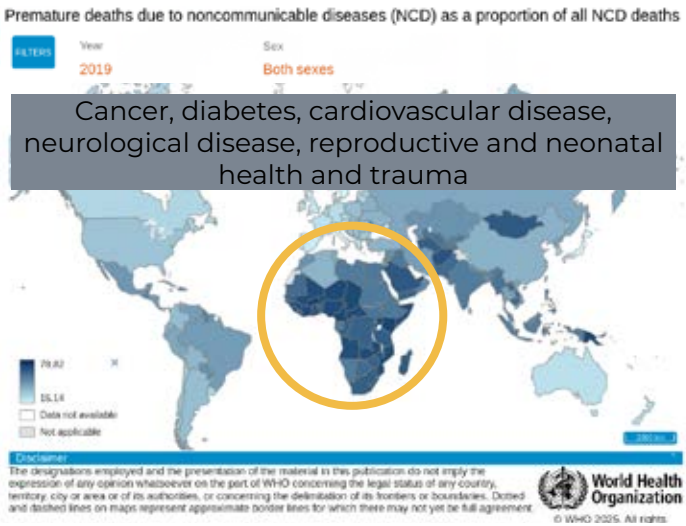
17M people die prematurely each year from cancer & NCDs

86% of these deaths occur in LMICs

70% of deaths in patients under 70 in LMICs are attributed to **NCDs**

Shortages of healthcare workforce, imaging infrastructure & equipment worsen the gap in patient care

The goal of health equity cannot ignore the impact of NCDs on health in LMICs



"NCD is no longer an emerging problem... it is taking on the proportion of an epidemic"

https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators/indicator-details/GHO/ncd-deaths-under-age-70-(percent-of-all-ncd-deaths)

Closing the Imaging Gap: Expanding Access in LMICs

Expanding Imaging Access to Reduce Global Health Disparities

The global availability of imaging technologies like CT, MRI, ultrasound, and nuclear medicine varies dramatically, with some LMICs having as few as zero CT scanners per million people, compared to 30+ in high-income countries.

Early Diagnosis Is Critical For Saving Lives

Expanding and sustaining access to medical imaging, including nuclear medicine, is essential for improving diagnosis, guiding treatment, and reducing preventable deaths worldwide.

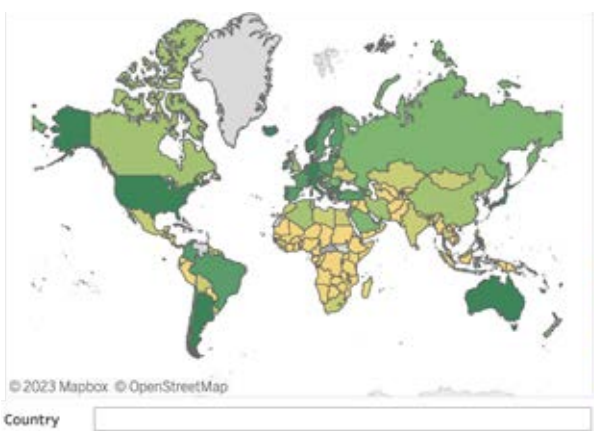
IAEA

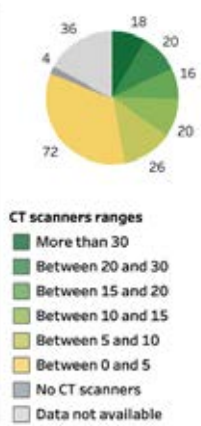
CT scanners (per 1 mil)

Countries	Countries with CT scanners	Regions	Population (mil)	Number of CT scanners	CT scanners (per 1 mil)
212	172	6	7,674M	93,773	12.220

Income Group

Income Group	Countries	Countries with CT scan..	Population (mil)	Number of CT scanners	CT scanners (per 1 mil)
High Income	75	57	1,237M	46,714	37.767
Upper-Middle Income	54	47	2,854M	34,228	11.993
Lower-Middle Income	50	43	2,913M	12,428	4.266
Low Income	30	25	669M	403	0.602





https://humanhealth.iaea.org/HHW/DBStatistics/IMAGINEMaps2.html

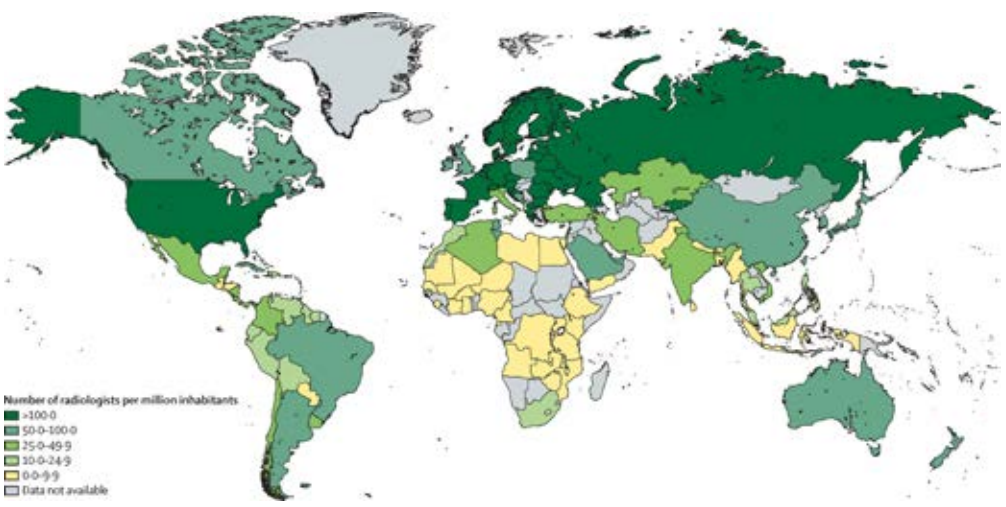
Closing the Imaging Gap: Expanding Access in LMICs

Expanding Imaging Access to Reduce Global Health Disparities

A skilled workforce is essential for delivering medical imaging, yet low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) face a severe shortage of trained professionals.

- Some LMICs have just one radiologist per million people, compared to over 100 radiologists per million people in high-income countries – a 50-fold difference
- Extends beyond radiologists to medical physicists and radiographers, whose expertise is crucial for ensuring safe and effective imaging
- Limited access to training programs, professional development, and retention challenges further widen the gap

Workforce Crisis in Low- And Middle-Income Countries



	Nuclear medicine physicians	Radiologists
High-income countries		
Range	0·0–26·2	13·9–194·0
Mean (SD)	10·9 (10·5)	97·9 (56·2)
Median (IQR)	6·5 (1·8–11·8)	93·1 (51·3–129·3)
Upper-middle-income countries		
Range	0·0–6·5	1·5–118·0
Mean (SD)	2·7 (3·4)	66·8 (65·3)
Median (IQR)	1·5 (0·2–3·0)	30·6 (15·6–61·0)
Lower-middle-income countries		
Range	0·0–1·2	0·4–68·4
Mean (SD)	0·5 (0·9)	22·3 (36·4)
Median (IQR)	0·1 (0·0–0·6)	6·9 (3·0–30·9)
Low-income countries		
Range	0·0–0·1	0·1–3·9
Mean (SD)	0·1 (0·1)	1·9 (2·5)
Median (IQR)	0·0 (0·0–0·0)	1·1 (0·5–3·3)

The data source is the International Atomic Energy Agency medical imaging and nuclear medicine global resources database.[11]

Table 3: Radiologists and nuclear medicine physicians per million population by country income group

Hricak H, Abdel-Wahab M, Atun R, Lette MM, Paez D, Brink JA, Donoso-Bach L, Frija G, Hierath M, Holmberg O, Khong PL. Medical imaging and nuclear medicine: a Lancet Oncology Commission. The Lancet Oncology. 2021 Apr 1;22(4):e136-72.

How Does the ISR Make a Difference?

Breaking Barriers to Imaging Access in LMICs

Access to medical imaging remains a critical challenge in many low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), where geopolitical, infrastructural, and financial barriers limit availability. ISR is working to close this gap through strategic collaborations that focus on sustainability, innovation, and workforce development.

- Supporting imaging access as a priority in WHO initiatives for UHC and infrastructure improvement
- Working with the IAEA and regional organizations to develop regional strategies for increasing imaging access

Bringing affordable, high-quality imaging technology to underserved regions requires collaboration with industry to develop solutions tailored to LMICs. ISR is leading efforts to ensure that imaging equipment is both accessible and sustainable.

- Encourage industry to support the development of affordable, durable, and energy-efficient equipment
- Advocate for cost-effective maintenance programs that ensure long-term sustainability

Even where imaging equipment is available, a severe workforce shortage limits its use. ISR is addressing this gap by expanding training programs and supporting the next generation of radiology professionals.

- Provide educational programs and on-site training for radiologists, radiographers, and medical physicists in LMICs that focus on the safe and effective use of medical imaging equipment
- Support strengthening of remote and on-site learning and professional development and development of AI tools optimized for patient populations in LMICs to assist imaging acquisition and interpretation

Help Support the ISR Mission

Recognizing the urgency of our mission, the ISR Executive Committee established the International Society of Radiology Béclère-Fuchs Foundation.

ISR International Society of Radiology Béclère-Fuchs Foundation

Named in honor of Antoine Béclère, a pioneer in radiology, and Walter Fuchs, a dedicated leader in international radiology collaboration, the Foundation builds on the ISR's century-long mission to unite radiologists worldwide and promote equitable access to imaging.

Foundation Focus Areas

- Advancing Global Health Equity
- Empowering Innovation & Collaboration
- Promoting Quality & Safety
- Providing Targeted Education

By partnering with the Foundation, donors contribute to a healthier, more equitable world – where all patients, regardless of geography, can benefit from the power of medical imaging.

Together, we can make a lasting impact on global health and shape the future of radiology for all.

Visit the Foundation webpage to learn more and make your pledge.

ISR International Society of Radiology

ICR2026

ACR | ASOCIACIÓN COLOMBIANA DE RADIOLOGÍA

International Congress of Radiology

Cartagena, Colombia

As ISR celebrates 100 years, it remains dedicated to advancing imaging, elevating patient care, and uniting radiologists worldwide.

A joint meeting with the 49th Colombian Congress of Radiology

ISRadiology.org