

Subtask 2.5.1 Transition research agenda and road map for inclusion of medical radiation protection research goals in the first open CONCERT RTD call.

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2.5.1 Transition research agenda and road map for inclusion of medical radiation protection research goals in the first open CONCERT RTD call.

(Lead: UniPv; Partner: MUW, BfS, IRSN, NRPA, STUK, ISS; experts from medical professional organizations and medical institutes)

Key activities are:

- Identifying research needs and priorities of each of the medical groups and developing a transition SRA for radiation protection in medicine.
- Identifying common research areas in the medical SRA and the SRAs of MELODI (health) and EURADOS (dosimetry) in order to facilitate the establishment of the first CONCERT RTD call
- Providing input to WP3.

D2.2	Joint research needs and priorities addressing radiation protection research relevant for medical use of radiation and communication/ risk perception in radiation protection field (1)	2 - STUK	Report	Public	Month 5
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Participants:

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Background

The OPERRA project was the first to explicitly include medical use of radiation within the Euratom radiation protection research programme (Task 2.4: “identifying research, education and training priorities to improve radiation protection in medicine.”)

Engagement with the medical associations to formulate SRAs or a joint SRA was not suggested in OPERRA.

In 2014 a **Memorandum of Understanding** was drawn up between MELODI, EURADOS, and the medical associations

The MoU has an agreement to form a Joint Committee to (among other things) “Develop joint documents in support to the elaboration of RTD calls in the framework of the H2020 programme, both in the EURATOM/Fission and in the Health programme”

OPERRA Task 2.4 has set up an ad hoc OPERRA working group (“OWG”), formed of experts nominated by the following medical signatories of the MoU (**but not established as the MoU Joint Committee**):

European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM)

European Federation of Organisations in Medical Physics (EFOMP)

European Federation of Radiographer Societies (EFRS)

European Society of Radiology (ESR)

European Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology (ESTRO)

The OWG has drafted a **joint SRA** identifying research priorities for radiation protection in medicine.

The research topics are divided into the following sections:

1. Measurement and quantification in the field of ionising radiation
2. Tissue reactions and biological radiation risk
3. Optimisation and harmonisation of practices
4. Justification of the use of ionising radiation in medical practice
5. Infrastructure for quality assurance

The current status of the medical SRA:

- The most recent draft is dated 14 April 2015
- This is awaiting updating following a meeting on 27 May which led to a number of suggested amendments
- The draft has provisional (presumably since it is only a draft) approval from the respective Boards of the medical associations (except ESTRO)
- It has not yet gone out for wider consultation to the membership of the associations or other interested parties
- Task 2.4 of OPERRA, under the leadership of Christoph Hoeschen (HMGU), **has taken ownership of the production of the medical SRA and assumed responsibility for continuing development**
- The draft SRA includes a proposal for the evolution of the OWG into a medical Platform

The issues

What are the respective roles of CONCERT T2.5.1 and OPERRA T2.4?

- Tasks 2.1-2.4 of CONCERT entail consultation and revision of Platform SRAs and production of an annual statement for WP3. In each case the Platform is a participant in the task.
- When Task 2.5 was first drafted a joint medical SRA was not contemplated; medical research priorities were to be included in MELODI and EURADOS SRAs.
- The leadership of OPERRA T2.4 is committed to producing an SRA. The current draft contains 19 research areas, with many sub-topics. It is more descriptive of problems than presenting clear lines of research. This is an important source document but not what is needed by WP3.

Proposal for discussion: T2.5.1 to take the OWG SRA as a starting point, ensure appropriate consultation has taken place, and produce a “statement”, with short-term research priorities for submission to WP3 for the first call. This will form our part of deliverable D2.2

Appointment of experts.

Task 2.5.1 participants include “experts from medical professional organizations and medical institutes”. This is the counterpart of the relevant Platform in the previous WP2 tasks. For the purpose of carrying out T2.5.1, the experts could be drawn from the OWG.

Proposal for discussion: call for nomination of one member from each of the medical associations in the OWG

Longer term status of the experts

Task 2.5 needs a continuing independent body representing the medical associations that will take responsibility for continuing development of the joint medical SRA. The options range from reformulating the medical association membership of the OWG as an independent Joint Committee set up under the MoU, to the formation by the medical associations of a full medical radiation protection Platform.

Considerations on a Medical Platform

The participating Platforms in CONCERT each consists of a membership of institutions with a common interest in a particular aspect of radiation protection. They exist in order to coordinate and organise activities and hold annual meetings.

The membership of the medical associations is not formed of institutions, rather individual members (EANM, ESR, ESTRO) or a federation of associations (EFOMP, EFRS). They do not all have a history of close collaboration. For the purpose of CONCERT a Medical Platform would only be useful if it included all the associations.

Creation of a Medical Platform would need to be motivated and driven by a consensus perceived need on the part of all the medical associations. This is not the job of CONCERT or OPERRA.

CONCERT does not have any requirement for a Medical Platform beyond the existence of a body responsible for the medical SRA.

Proposal for discussion: explore this issue with the medical associations as to their preferred option

Comments on the 2nd key activity: Identifying common research areas in the medical SRA and the SRAs of MELODI (health) and EURADOS (dosimetry) in order to facilitate the establishment of the first CONCERT RTD call.

This is a remnant left over from when it was not contemplated that there would be a medical SRA, and it was intended that medical research priorities would be incorporated in the MELODI and EURADOS SRAs.

The current draft medical SRA has two separate sections on “Measurement and quantification in the field of ionising radiation” and “Tissue reactions and biological radiation risk” so these areas are already identified.

Proposal for discussion: there is no need for further work on this activity.

Workplan

- Invite representative members of OWG to participate as experts in CONCERT Task 2.5.1
- Call a meeting of T2.5.1 participants and observer/s from OPERRA as soon as possible to consider:
 - Status at the time of the OWG SRA
 - Further consultation if needed
 - Formulation of the statement and short-term research priorities for D2.2 and submission to WP3 by end of October 2015
 - Setting up of a longer-term body to continue SRA development and participation in Task 2.5