

Main Idea of workshop:

Rheumatologists and radiologists are increasingly working in silos because of the worldwide adoption of DICOM and PACS solutions, as the medical imaging format. Imaging of Spondyloarthritis was traditionally plain radiograph based, of the lumbar spine with sacroiliac joints and not 'sexy enough' for the skeletal radiologist enamoured by 'Sports type' radiology with Ultrasound and MRI imaging.

The advent of drugs to treat SpA and the use of MRI imaging to classify disease, has resulted in an increase in MRI of the Spine and sacroiliac joints, without systematic training and a wide awareness of specific findings in SpA among radiologists and rheumatologists.

Consequently, rheumatologists frequently complain that radiologist reports do not correspond to their clinical evaluations and/or are too intimidated to discuss them due to lack of understanding of MRI terminology. A survey of 57 rheumatologists in Canada revealed the 'Role of MRI in early diagnosis of SpA' as the top unmet need in the field.

This course has been developed to address these limitations and is presented in DICOM image format using PACS systems that mimic daily reporting workstations.

Target Group:

The course is highly interactive and case-based from the most obvious to more difficult SpA and includes cases relevant to differential diagnosis attempting to mimic 'real world issues' faced by jobbing radiologists. It will be particularly useful for radiologists in training, established radiologists with an arthritis practice and the general radiologist who reports spines.

The course is based on the concept of a one-day course that was conceived by a rheumatologist (Walter Maksymowych) and a musculoskeletal radiologist (Robert Lambert). The first successful radiologist format of this half day course, was held at the last ESSR Meeting in Amsterdam by Prof Lambert and Dr Rennie.

Focus Topics:

- Participants will learn MRI protocols and specific scanning parameters-a standardized approach to routine evaluation and clear definitions for specific disease stigmata so that 'over-calling or under-calling lesions' are minimised.
- Sessions focus on the sacroiliac joint, spine, early SpA, the full spectrum of the disease and finally differential diagnosis. A full course evaluation will be part of the learning assessment.
- Case-based with clinical information and radiographs provided in addition to the MRI scans.
- Participants will review each case on their own laptops and provide direct audience-response to questions posed by the moderators.
- Responses will be reviewed in real-time and discussed by rheumatologist and radiologist moderators from their respective backgrounds.