

## EDITORIAL / SPECIAL ISSUE

# Special issue: Musculoskeletal radiology

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**M**usculoskeletal Radiology (mskR) was chronologically the first imaging subspecialty, since the first ever radiograph taken by Roentgen was that of his wife Bertha's hand on December 22, 1895 [1]. However, other subspecialties, such as Neuroradiology, took advantage of the technical achievements earlier than mskR and became more popular. During the last three decades however, those technical achievements have been adopted by radiologists who work on orthopaedic and rheumatologic disorders. Major milestones in the evolution of mskR include the application of arthrograms, the wide use of bone scintigraphy, ultrasound, CT and MRI, and the development of interventional procedures for both diagnosis and treatment [2, 3]. Molecular imaging, provided by MRI and PET/CT or PET/MRI, have further contributed to the expansion of mskR [4]. More and more publications on mskR are dealing with artificial intelligence which is considered to be the next big move forward regarding health care [5]. As a result, mskR is now a major imaging subspecialty showing tremendous efficacy for the benefit of the patients [2]. The constant growth of geriatrics and sports injuries medicine has contributed to its further expansion. Therefore, it was an obvious decision to devote an entire issue of the Hellenic Journal of Radiology (HJR) to mskR.

In Greece musculoskeletal (msk) Radiology was introduced in the early nineties, when Dr. Virgilios Benakis, Chair of the Radiology Department in a major Athens Hospital, published his book on "*Conventional Radiology of the Musculoskeletal System*". This turned out to be the book of reference for radiology trainees for at least a decade. It was indeed the turn of the century which highlighted the enormous changes when many Greek radiologists were trained abroad in major centers on MRI, ultrasound and interventional radiology. Greek radiologists were additionally involved in the activities of RSNA, ECR, CIRSE and of bodies specifically dedicated to mskR, such as the ISS, ESSR and IDKD. Many Greek msk radiologists have served

in major bodies such as the ESSR as presidents, excommittee members, program planning committee members, educational and research committee members, chairpersons of various committees and invited speakers.

When I received an invitation in 2003 to act as a guest editor in *European Journal of Radiology*, with the main topic "*Musculoskeletal Radiology in Greece*", I was surprised and hesitant at the same time [6]. It seems that Prof. H. Imhof, Editor-in-Chief of the journal at the time, had conceived the big picture of the rising, next generation of msk radiologists. That issue, dedicated to Greek mskR, included papers on diagnosis, treatment and basic research from four different centers in the country. These papers have been well cited in the literature. Few years later, I was honoured to edit another issue of *European Journal of Radiology*, with the main topic being "*Hip*" [7]. Again, papers from two different centers in Greece, with emphasis on research related to avascular necrosis, contributed substantially to the contents. In addition, important meetings such as the School of MRI/ESMRMB (2006) the annual ESSR congress (2011), and the Erasmus MRI msk (2016, 2019) took place in Crete and IDKD congresses in Athens (2014, 2018). Quite regularly now, more and more educational activities, including various meetings on ultrasound applications or interdisciplinary congresses, train the msk Radiologists in the country to face the future of this wonderful subspecialty.

HJR has already hosted articles on mskR, both on basic clinical problems and on current research, including radiomics and imaging of artificial tissues [8, 9]. This special issue on mskR comprises of 3 original papers, 2 reviews/pictorial essays and 2 clinical cases. A short editorial on the establishment of the *Hellenic Society of Musculoskeletal Radiology* is presented by Dr. K. Pikoulas, a founding member and current Chairperson. In their article, "Femoroacetabular impingement (FAI) in amateur athletes", E. Perdikakis et al. explore the value of intra-articular block

in arthroscopically treated patients with symptoms of FAI. They showed that MR arthrography has a high sensitivity and specificity regarding labral tears and that intra-articular block has a high positive predictive value for diagnosing an intra-articular pathology. This is an important observation because there is an increasing concern for overdiagnosis of FAI. A study of “Clinical safety and efficacy regarding treatment of spinal haemangiomas” is presented by D. Filippiadis et al. The treatment of large symptomatic spinal haemangiomas has not yet been established. The authors present their experience on the safety and efficacy of percutaneous vertebroplasty for treating 31 symptomatic haemangiomas. The third original article by Desimpel and Vanhoenacker is dealing with the “Staging of osteochondral lesions of the talus”. The study is exploring the efficacy of the coned beam CT arthrography (CBCTa) versus MRI and the results showed significantly better staging with the CBCTa over 1.5 MRI. The topic is clinically important and all radiologists should be aware of the current classification system of these lesions and its clinical impact. The review article by K. Pikoulas et al. on the “Incidentalomas on MR examinations of the adult knee” presents a wealth of information required by practicing radiologists, in order a) to avoid causing unneces-

sary concern to both patients and referring clinicians in the so called “leave me alone” lesions and b) to depict the clinically important ones which need further investigation. The pictorial essay by A. Fyllos et al., presents an updated overview on the “Clinical and imaging features of primary bone lymphoma”. This entity is rare and a gallery of cases with a multimodality approach will hopefully be useful even to experienced radiologists. Two educational clinical cases on rare msk disorders are also included in this HJR issue.

We hope that this HJR issue will provide all practicing radiologists with a robust and useful content for the accurate interpretation and image-guided treatment. The authors of the articles shared their experience, either clinical or related to research, with updated information and the editorial team is grateful for their efforts. **R**

#### Abbreviations

**ISS:** International Skeletal Society; **ESSR:** European Society of MusculoSkeletal System; **IDKD:** International Diagnostic Course Davos; **EJR:** European Journal of Radiology; **HJR:** Hellenic Journal of Radiology; **ECR:** European Congress of Radiology; **CIRSE:** Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiological Society of Europe.

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