

08:00-09:00

Open Forum #1 (Radiographers)

## Research Presentation Session: Radiographers

### RPS 1714

#### Professional challenges for radiography

##### Moderators

P. Cornacchione; Rome/IT  
J. C. Vilanova; Girona/ES

##### RPS 1714-3

#### Incidents of workplace harassment: reporting mechanisms & support services available to radiographers in the Republic of Ireland

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**Purpose:** Health care workers experiences of workplace harassment are well documented across the world. There appears to be a lack of up-to-date data available on issues relating to workplace harassment amongst radiographers. Therefore, this study aimed to explore the incident rate, reporting mechanisms and support services associated with workplace harassment.

**Methods or Background:** A questionnaire was designed by adapting a WHO (2003) survey on violence in the health sector. Following ethical approval and a pilot phase, radiographers across the ROI were invited to participate via a snowballing methodology using Social Media and direct contact.

**Results or Findings:** A total of 60 responses were recorded. Verbal abuse was the most frequent form of harassment (65%), followed by acts of microaggression (48%) sexual & gender-based harassment (41.6%) and physical assault (15%). Over 78% were aware of the reporting procedures in place concerning workplace harassment. The majority of participants (78.3%) reported that they had not received official training on how to utilise reporting mechanisms, with 73% stating that they would be more likely to report an incident if they knew how. Almost 90% felt that support offered to them following work-related harassment was inadequate.

**Conclusion:** The vulnerability of radiographers to workplace harassment is demonstrated throughout this research. Emphasis is placed on the need for departments to implement strategies to protect employees from such incidents.

**Limitations:** The limited-time frame of this research did not allow for a thorough analysis to be conducted on a larger cohort. As a result, the sample size and findings do not represent the wider population of radiographers in ROI.

**Ethics committee approval:** Ethical approval was granted from the Social Research Ethics Committee in UCC (CT-SREC-2020-39).

**Funding for this study:** No funding was received for this study.

##### Author Disclosures:

Mark F. F. McEntee: Nothing to disclose  
Rena Young: Nothing to disclose  
Lisa Langan: Nothing to disclose

##### RPS 1714-4

#### Radiographers' perceived workload

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**Purpose:** These past years radiology has seen an increase in examination demands and in workload. Increased flow of patients and heavy workloads have been shown to have numerous negative outcomes on work well-being. The aim of this study was to assess radiographers' perceived workload.

**Methods or Background:** For this cross sectional designed study conducted as part of a MSc degree in 2019, data was gathered via an online survey sent to diagnostic radiographers in Western Switzerland. Perceived workload was determined using the validated translated version of the NASA-RTLX. Descriptive statistics were established.

**Results or Findings:** Response rate was 23.9% (n=150). Radiographers' perceived workload was above average (6.48/0-10 scale). Mental, physical, temporal demand and performance all scored above 7/0-10 scale, with temporal demand being the highest score. The increased number of examinations and the increased pressure to reduce time both have an impact on radiographers' perceived temporal workload.

**Conclusion:** These results show that radiographers have high perceived workload. Misalignment between radiographers' willingness to have more time with their patients and the induced time pressures, could lead to an increase in staff turnover. Staff shortage can contribute to higher perceived workload since understaffing will automatically induce more work and may lead to error and negative impacts on patient safety. To decrease perceived physical workload and strain, ergonomic principals must be encouraged through adequate training and work organisation. Departments must take actions that will

increase staff in radiological departments to decrease perceived high workload and guarantee quality of care in the future.

**Limitations:** Limitations linked to using self-reported surveys, analysis of likert scales and the understandability of some statements.

**Ethics committee approval:** Approval was obtained through head of departments.

**Funding for this study:** No funding was received. Conducted during a MSc program of the University of Applied Sciences of Western Switzerland.

##### Author Disclosures:

Eija Metsälä Metsälä: Nothing to disclose  
Stephanie Elaine de Labouchere: Nothing to disclose

##### RPS 1714-5

#### Impact of work interruptions on stress level of health care workers and professional quality of life: single institute experience

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**Purpose:** Interruptions while working may adversely affect the level of stress and professional quality of life of healthcare workers. Our aim was to assess the impact of workplace distractions at our institution.

**Methods or Background:** 61 respondents completed our self-designed and internationally validated Effort Reward Imbalance and Professional Quality of Life Scale questionnaire. We also observed the amount and the reason of daily phone calls. Results were analysed using descriptive statistics, two-sample T-test, ANOVA, Mann Whitney and Kruskal-Wallis tests (p≤0.05).

**Results or Findings:** Male respondents (p=0.026) over 40 years of age (p=0.020) working as a physician (p=0.004) had significantly higher stress values compared to other professions. Coffee and smoking habits did not, but the presence of background noise increased stress levels (p=0.004). The values of Compassion Satisfaction dimension were significantly elevated in the group of women (p=0.004), those over 40 years of age (p=0.008), and those who assist 25 or more phone calls per day (p=0.019). Male gender (p=0.05), administration and physician positions (p=0.030; p=0.001), the presence of background noise (p=0.05) affected significantly negatively on burnout dimension. Regarding compassion fatigue dimension the values of non-smoking workers were found to be elevated (p=0.003).

**Conclusion:** Men over the age of 40 who experience background noise had significantly higher stress values. Profession, gender, age and background noise had significant impact on an individual's professional quality of life.

**Limitations:** Among the limitations of the study belong co-workers who did not fill out our questionnaire.

**Ethics committee approval:** Approval obtained from the Institutional Ethics Committee.

**Funding for this study:** This study has no fundings.

##### Author Disclosures:

Adam Miovecz: Nothing to disclose  
Andrea Farkas: Nothing to disclose  
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Gábor Bajzik: Nothing to disclose  
Ferenc Lakosi: Nothing to disclose  
Imre Repa: Nothing to disclose

##### RPS 1714-6

#### The lived experiences of radiographers imaging trauma patients in Gauteng, South Africa

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**Purpose:** To explore South African diagnostic radiographers' lived experiences when imaging trauma patients.

**Methods or Background:** Healthcare workers who work with trauma patients experience changes in their psychological functioning. Since diagnostic radiographers image trauma patients as part of their work routine, they may have similar experiences. However, limited studies were found on radiographers' experience imaging trauma patients. Therefore this qualitative, explorative and descriptive phenomenological study explored diagnostic radiographers' lived experiences when imaging trauma patients. Data was collected through one-on-one in-depth interviews from 20 diagnostic radiographers in both the private and public healthcare sectors in Gauteng, South Africa. Detailed notes were taken during the interviews and interviews were audio-recorded. The data was transcribed and underwent thematic analysis. Trustworthiness and ethical principles were adhered to throughout the study.

**Results or Findings:** Participants conceptualised trauma differently, experiencing both positive and negative effects to imaging trauma patients. They also shared their varying degrees of preparedness to image trauma patients and their coping mechanisms.