



**IAEA**

**International Atomic Energy Agency**

*Atoms for Peace and Development*

# **International Conference on Integrated Medical Imaging in Cardiovascular Diseases (IMIC-2022)**

**IAEA Headquarters**

**Vienna, Austria**

**13–16 December 2022**

**Organized by the**

**International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

**In cooperation with the**

Latin American Association of Societies of Biology and Nuclear Medicine  
(ALASBINM)

Australian and New Zealand Society of Nuclear Medicine (ANZSNM)

Asia Oceania Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology (AOFNMB)

Asian Regional Cooperation Council for Nuclear Medicine (ARCCNM)

Arab Society of Nuclear Medicine (ARSNM)

American Society of Nuclear Cardiology (ASNC)

British Nuclear Medicine Society (BNMS)

European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM)

European Society of Radiology (ESR)

International Society of Radiology (ISR)

Society for Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance (SCMR)

Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SNMMI)

The World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology (WFNMB)

World Health Organization (WHO)

# Announcement and Call for Papers

## A. Background

In 2022, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will hold the International Conference on Integrated Medical Imaging in Cardiovascular Diseases (IMIC-2022), building on the success of the IMIC-2013 and IMIC-2016 conferences. Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are steadily increasing both in developed and developing countries. Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) are a dominant subgroup of NCDs and account for the highest proportional mortality among all NCDs. Consequently, CVDs rank among the main priorities of health care systems of many IAEA Member States. Identifying appropriate management strategies is of the utmost importance, as it was estimated by the World Health Organization (WHO) that more than 23 million people will die annually due to CVDs by 2030. The situation is particularly alarming in low- and middle-income countries, as 80% of the mortality burden is borne by such countries.

Medical imaging, including molecular nuclear medicine, is extremely important in that it offers strategic advantages in both diagnostic and therapeutic decision-making. It provides invaluable inputs for different stages of CVD management including diagnosis, staging, treatment, prognosis and follow-up. Medical imaging includes techniques such as single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT), positron emission tomography (PET), echocardiography, computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). These techniques represent very useful tools to understand the pathology of individual patients in detail and can therefore serve to facilitate specifically tailored clinical management. Each imaging modality has its advantages and limitations which need to be understood properly by health care professionals dealing with CVDs. Given their clinical utility, integrating these techniques into the health care systems of Member States can provide an invaluable contribution to improving CVD management. Many Member States are already actively using, have recently implemented, or are planning to acquire relevant medical imaging techniques.

Capacity building is at the core of IAEA activities, with the ultimate goal in the area of human health being to strengthen the human and technical expertise of Member States to address health challenges in a sustainable and self-resilient manner. The IAEA has been applying many approaches for capacity building in Member States to allow them to optimally utilize medical imaging technologies. These approaches include training courses, fellowships, expert missions and conferences, to name a few. The most recent IMIC conference was held in 2016 with the support of 17 cooperating professional organizations. It gathered 329 professionals from 88 Member States, with over 1000 professionals taking advantage of the live streaming of the conference. The scientific programme was accredited by the European Union of Medical Specialists and was awarded 26 CME credits which can be used to maintain certification as a medical specialist and are also recognized by the American Medical Association.

In order to follow up on the most recent advances in the use of medical imaging in the management of CVDs and to improve patient management, support professional development, and strengthen the capacities of Member States, it is proposed to hold IMIC-2022.

## **B. Purpose and Objectives**

The conference will cover trends spanning the spectrum of activities related to the use of nuclear medicine and diagnostic imaging in CVDs with the following objectives:

- To review the status of evidence-based recommendations for the use of different imaging modalities in the management of CVDs including SPECT, PET, echocardiography, CT and MRI;
- To review the latest advances and developments in cardiac imaging;
- To reflect on the importance and future of integrated cardiovascular imaging approaches;
- To deliver supportive ‘know-how’ via continuing medical education programmes in the field, including information on the relative merits and limitations of each imaging modality;
- To reflect on the impact of COVID-19 on the diagnosis of heart conditions, and on the role of medical imaging in the assessment of cardiovascular complications due to COVID;
- To interact with all professionals involved in the management of CVDs and provide them with state-of-the-art information on cardiac imaging; and
- To identify challenges and trends, as well as the role of the IAEA and other professional organizations in addressing these.

## **C. Themes and Topics**

The IAEA invites participants to provide high quality contributions on all aspects of medical imaging as applied to the management of CVDs. Both academic and practice-based papers under the umbrella of the following topics are welcome:

- Experience in the use of medical imaging for the management of stable coronary artery disease, acute coronary syndromes, heart failure, cardiomyopathies, pericardial diseases, primary valve diseases, cardio-oncology, endocarditis, congenital heart disease or other applications;
- Member State experience in the implementation of SPECT, SPECT/CT, PET/CT, echocardiography, CT or MRI facilities for cardiac studies;
- Experience in setting up an integrated cardiovascular imaging facility;
- Radiopharmaceutical production using cyclotrons and radionuclide generators — including good manufacturing practices and quality assurance aspects — with special reference to imaging agents for CVDs;
- Issues of medical physics, instrumentation and image processing and analysis related to CVD imaging;
- Quality audits in integrated cardiovascular imaging and nuclear medicine practices;
- Radiation protection for personnel and dose reduction for patients; and
- Ethics, leadership, and education in cardiac imaging.

## **D. Structure**

The conference will have an opening session including statements delivered by the Director General of the IAEA, the Deputy Director General of Nuclear Sciences and Applications, the Director of the Division of Human Health and the Conference Scientific Secretary, followed by keynote lectures, presented by invited international speakers.

The conference is organized by clinical sessions, addressing specific cardiac diseases such as coronary artery disease (CAD), heart failure, and cardio-oncology, among others. Every session will follow a clinical systems-based approach and include an initial discussion on the important clinical aspects of the disease, or condition, to which the session is devoted. The discussion will be followed by a thorough review of the role of different medical imaging techniques and will conclude with highlights of the topic. The clinical sessions will comprise plenary and interactive ‘read with the experts’ lectures.

Sessions devoted to medical physicists, technologists, radiographers, radiopharmacists and radiochemists will be conducted in parallel.

Depending on the number of abstracts, poster sessions will also be organized. The best abstracts will be selected, and the authors will have the opportunity to present their work at the abstract presentation sessions.

The conference will end with a plenary session on future directions and trends in cardiovascular imaging and a closing ceremony that will include a highlight lecture stressing the most prominent aspects of the conference.

## **E. Expected Outcomes**

The conference will provide clinicians, scientists and professionals with an international forum at which they can review the latest developments of all aspects of integrated medical imaging as applied to CVDs, aiming to address health challenges common to many IAEA Member States.

## **F. Target Audience**

This conference will give an opportunity to review the exciting latest developments in the field of integrated medical imaging as applied to CVDs. The target audience comprises:

- Nuclear medicine physicians
- Radiologists
- Cardiologists
- Radiochemists/Radiopharmacists
- Medical physicists
- Technologists/Radiographers
- Other practitioners and scientists working in all aspects of cardiac imaging.

## G. Call for Papers

Contributions on the topics listed in Section C are welcome as oral or poster presentations. All submissions, apart from invited papers, must present original work, which has not been published elsewhere.

### G.1. Submission of Abstracts

Abstracts (approximately 500 to 600 words on one or a maximum of two printed A4 pages, may contain any charts, graphs, figures and references) should give enough information on the content of the proposed paper to enable the Programme Committee to evaluate it. Anyone wishing to present at the conference must submit an abstract in electronic format using the conference's file submission system ([IAEA-INDICO](#)), which is accessible from the conference web page (see Section Q). The abstract can be submitted through this system from **1 November 2021 until 30 April 2022**. Specifications for the layout will be available on IAEA-INDICO. The system for electronic submission of abstracts, IAEA-INDICO, is the sole mechanism for submission of contributed abstracts. Authors are encouraged to submit abstracts as early as possible. The IAEA will not accept submissions via email.

In addition, authors must register online using the InTouch+ platform (see Section H). The online registration together with the auto-generated Participation Form (Form A) and Form for Submission of a Paper (Form B) must reach the IAEA no later than **30 April 2022**.

**IMPORTANT:** The Programme Committee will consider uploaded abstracts only if these two forms have been received by the IAEA through the established official channels (see Section H).

### G.2. Acceptance of Abstracts

The Secretariat reserves the right to exclude abstracts that do not comply with its technical or scientific quality standards and that do not apply to one of the topics listed in Section C.

Authors will be informed by **End of July 2022** as to whether their submission has been accepted, either orally or as a poster, for presentation at the conference. Accepted abstracts will also be reproduced in an unedited electronic compilation of Abstracts which will be made available to all registered participants of the conference.

## H. Participation and Registration

All persons wishing to participate in the event must be designated by an IAEA Member State or should be member of an organization that has been invited to attend. The list of IAEA Member States and invited organizations is available on the event web page (see Section Q).

### Registration through the InTouch+ platform:

1. Access the InTouch+ platform (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>):

- Persons with an existing NUCLEUS account can [sign in here](https://websso.iaea.org/login/login.fcc?TYPE=33554433&REALMOID=06-ef4f28c9-f8dc-467e-8186-)<https://websso.iaea.org/login/login.fcc?TYPE=33554433&REALMOID=06-ef4f28c9-f8dc-467e-8186->

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and password;

- Persons without an existing NUCLEUS account can [register here](#).

2. Once signed in, prospective participants can use the InTouch+ platform to:

- Complete or update their personal details under ‘Basic Profile’ (if no financial support is requested) or under ‘Complete Profile’ (if financial support is requested) and upload the relevant supporting documents;
- Search for the relevant event (**EVT2005413**) under the ‘My Eligible Events’ tab;
- Select the Member State or invited organization they want to represent from the drop-down menu entitled ‘Designating authority’ (if an invited organization is not listed, please contact [Conference.Contact-Point@iaea.org](mailto:Conference.Contact-Point@iaea.org));
- If applicable, indicate whether a paper is being submitted and complete the relevant information;
- If applicable, indicate whether financial support is requested and complete the relevant information (this is not applicable to participants from invited organizations);
- Based on the data input, the InTouch+ platform will automatically generate Participation Form (Form A), Form for Submission of a Paper (Form B) and/or Grant Application Form (Form C);
- Submit their application.

Once submitted through the InTouch+ platform, the application together with the auto-generated form(s) will be transmitted automatically to the required authority for approval. If approved, the application together with the form(s) will automatically be sent to the IAEA through the online platform.

**NOTE:** Should prospective participants wish to submit a paper or request financial support, the application needs to be submitted by the specified deadlines (see section O).

For additional information on how to apply for an event, please refer to the [InTouch+ Help](#) page. Any other issues or queries related to InTouch+ can be sent to [InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org](mailto:InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org).

If it is not possible to submit the application through the InTouch+ platform, prospective participants are requested to contact the IAEA’s Conference Services Section via email: [Conference.Contact-Point@iaea.org](mailto:Conference.Contact-Point@iaea.org).

Participants are hereby informed that the personal data they submit will be processed in line with the [Agency’s Personal Data and Privacy Policy](#) and is collected solely for the purpose(s) of reviewing and

assessing the application and to complete logistical arrangements where required. Further information can be found in the [Data Processing Notice](#) concerning IAEA InTouch+ platform.

## I. Expenditures and Grants

No registration fee is charged to participants.

The IAEA is generally not in a position to bear the travel and other costs of participants in the conference. The IAEA has, however, limited funds at its disposal to help cover the cost of attendance of certain participants. Upon specific request, such assistance may be offered to normally one participant per country, provided that, in the IAEA's view, the participant will make an important contribution to the conference.

If participants wish to apply for a grant, they should submit applications to the IAEA using the InTouch+ platform through their competent national authority (see Section H). Participants should ensure that applications for grants are:

1. Submitted by **30 April 2022**;
2. Accompanied by Grant Application Form (Form C); and
3. Accompanied by Participation Form (Form A).

Applications that do not comply with the above conditions cannot be considered.

Approved grants will be issued in the form of a lump sum payment that usually covers **only part of the cost of attendance**.

## J. Distribution of Documents

A preliminary and final programme will be made available on the conference web page (see Section Q) prior to the start of the conference. The electronic compilation of abstracts will be accessible free of charge to participants registered for the conference.

## K. Exhibitions

A limited amount of space will be available for commercial vendors' displays/exhibits during the conference. Interested parties should contact the Scientific Secretariat by email [imic2022@iaea.org](mailto:imic2022@iaea.org) by **30 April 2022**.

## L. Working Language

The working language of the conference will be English. All communications must be sent to the IAEA in English.

## M. Venue and Accommodation

The conference will be held at the Vienna International Centre (VIC), where the IAEA's Headquarters are located. Participants are advised to arrive at Checkpoint 1/Gate 1 of the VIC one hour before the start of the event on the first day in order to allow for timely registration. Participants will need to present an official photo identification document in order to be admitted to the VIC premises.

Participants must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. Hotels offering a reduced rate for participants are listed on <https://www.iaea.org/events>. Please note that the IAEA is not in a position to assist participants with hotel bookings, nor can the IAEA assume responsibility for paying fees for cancellations, re-bookings and no-shows.

## N. Visas

Participants who require a visa to enter Austria should submit the necessary application to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of Austria as early as three months but not later than four weeks before they travel to Austria. Since Austria is a Schengen State, persons requiring a visa will have to apply for a Schengen visa. In States where Austria has no diplomatic mission, visas can be obtained from the consular authority of a Schengen Partner State representing Austria in the country in question.

For more information, please see the Austria Visa Information document available on <https://www.iaea.org/events>.

## O. Key Deadlines and Dates

|   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| Submission of abstracts through IAEA-INDICO   | <b>30 April 2022</b>    |
| Submission of Form B (together with Form A) through the InTouch+ platform                       | <b>30 April 2022</b>    |
| Submission of Form C (together with Form A) through the InTouch+ platform                       | <b>30 April 2022</b>    |
| Notification of acceptance of abstracts for oral or poster presentation                         | <b>End of July 2022</b> |
| Submission of Form A only (no paper submission, no grant request) through the InTouch+ platform | <b>No deadline</b>      |



## **P. Conference Secretariat**

### **General Postal Address and Contact Details of the IAEA:**

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### **Administration and Organization:**

#### **Ms Julie Zellinger**

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Subsequent correspondence on scientific matters should be sent to the Scientific Secretaries and correspondence on administrative matters to the IAEA's Conference Services Section.

## **Q. Conference Web Page**

Please visit the IAEA conference [web page](#) regularly for new information regarding this conference.