

# ESSR 2014

## European Society of Musculoskeletal Radiology

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Prof. Dr. med. Norbert Hosten  
Präsident der Deutsche Röntgengesellschaft  
Universitätsmedizin Greifswald  
Institut für Diagnostische Radiologie und Neuroradiologie  
Ferdinand-Sauerbruch-Strasse  
D-17475 Greifswald  
Germany

June 26, 2014

Dear Prof.Dr.med Norbert Hosten,

It has come to my attention that a number of German members of the European Society of Musculoskeletal Radiology have formed an initiative to establish an official subspecialty of musculoskeletal radiology in Germany.

As President of the ESSR I support these efforts to further develop German musculoskeletal radiology.

The ESSR strongly endorses the concept of subspecialisation. We believe that it is only by having adequate subspecialist training and knowledge that radiologists can provide appropriate imaging services and communicate effectively. They must 'speak the same language' as their referring clinicians and understand the anatomy, patho-physiology and therapeutic options in the locomotor system. Increasingly, musculoskeletal radiologists directly deliver percutaneous treatments.

In order to foster subspecialisation, the ESSR has created a new ESR-endorsed Diploma in musculoskeletal radiology that will commence in January 2015. The Diploma will only be awarded to certified radiologists (ie fully-trained general radiologists) who have satisfied certain additional criteria and successfully taken an examination in musculoskeletal radiology.

We are aware that in other countries such as France, UK and USA, subspecialisation already exists and is proving very successful. Radiologists in countries that do not adopt subspecialisation are increasingly likely to face - and lose - 'turf battles' in the future.

I would appreciate if the DRG would promote the concept of subspecialisation and support the establishment of musculoskeletal radiology as a recognised subspecialty.

With kind regards,



Ian Beggs  
ESSR Society President