

Canberra marks International Day of Radiology with good news for breast and prostate cancer

Politicians of all persuasions have marked the fourth International Day of Radiology (IDoR) by hearing how Diagnostic Imaging is improving the odds for Australian cancer sufferers.

The politicians have attended an expert presentation on the powerful new options Diagnostic Imaging is providing to better identify and treat both breast and prostate cancers – which affect 35,000 Australians every year.

The event was organised by Maria Vamvakinou MP and Dr Andrew Southcott MP, co-convenors of the Parliamentary Friends of Raising Breast Cancer Awareness Group, and The Hon. Jason Clare MP and Karen McNamara MP, co-convenors of the Parliamentary Friends of Prostate Cancer Awareness Group.

In his presentation ‘Developments in Prostate Cancer Imaging’, Dr Darren Ault explained how the latest MRI technology can **reduce cancer-related biopsies by approximately 50%**. This represents a massive reduction in patient risk and a significant cost saving to the health system.

Similarly, Dr Manish Jain in his discussion ‘Breast Imaging - The Way Forward’ detailed how new breast MRI techniques are uniquely able to **detect and diagnose hard-to-find breast cancers**.

“Diagnostic imaging is constantly evolving to improve the information we can uncover from the human body,” said Dr Christian Wriedt, President of the Australian Diagnostic Imaging Association (ADIA), which helped organise the day.

“That’s why it’s really important for our political leaders – across all parties – to understand what is possible and how this excellent technology can be best utilised across the health system to both improve patient care and ensure we get the best value out of every dollar we spend on health.

“So I really would like to thank everyone who attended. I think if there’s one thing everyone can agree on, is that it’s far better to diagnose and start treating conditions as soon as possible – and that’s possible when patients access the latest advances in Diagnostic Imaging.”

This year, the IDoR marks the 120th anniversary of the day German physicist Wilhelm Röntgen discovered the existence of X-rays.

Since then diagnostic imaging has grown to become an indispensable part of modern medicine, helping us to better understand, recognise, diagnose and treat an ever expanding range of conditions.

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