

**INTERNATIONAL  
DAY OF RADIOLOGY**

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**International Day of Radiology 2017  
Interview on Emergency Radiology  
Bulgaria/Dr. Nikoleta Traykova**

**Although radiologists are available around the clock, emergency radiologists are not on the payroll in Bulgarian emergency departments, where hospitals dictate the staffing rules, according to Dr. Nikoleta Traykova**

***European Society of Radiology:** Could you please describe the role of the radiologist in a typical emergency department in your country?*

**Nikoleta Traykova:** In Bulgaria, there are emergency departments in the major, university hospitals and in some municipal hospitals. They do not have a radiologist on the payroll. The principle is that all radiologists, whether they work at diagnostic imaging clinic or in the respective hospital, should also serve emergency patients, mostly on a rotation. They provide service around the clock for hospital and emergency department patients.

***ESR:** What does a typical day in the emergency department look like for a radiologist?*

**NT:** Emergency departments work around the clock, and there always are radiologists available to serve patients. The workload depends on the patient flow and the size of the hospital (e.g. number of beds and types of departments and clinics).

***ESR:** Teamwork is crucial in an emergency department. How is this accomplished in your department and who is involved?*

**NT:** All of my radiology colleagues who work at the diagnostic imaging clinic are involved in serving emergency patients. The hospital has internal rules to regulate this.

***ESR:** How satisfied are you with the workflow and your role in your department? How do you think it could be improved?*

**NT:** Patient flow can be regulated by introducing precise and clear definitions of what constitutes an emergency and emergency patient, which is something that has not been introduced or regulated in Bulgaria.

***ESR:** Which modalities are used for different emergencies? Could you please give an overview sorted by modalities?*

**NT:** The imaging methods used in emergency patients are x-rays, ultrasound and CT, and the application to choose one or more of the three depends on the patient's pathology.

***ESR:** Is teleradiology an issue in emergency radiology? If yes, how so, and how often is it used?*

**NT:** In general, teleradiology is an option, but it is not often used. In Bulgaria, it is used in small hospitals and settlements, where there is a shortage of radiologists.

***ESR:** Are emergency radiologists active anywhere other than emergency departments? Do they have other non-emergency roles, or other emergency roles in other departments?*

**NT:** Yes, as I have explained above, emergency radiologists are on the diagnostic imaging clinic's payroll, and they deal with both emergency and non-emergency cases, with all kinds of pathology.

**ESR:** *Do you have direct contact with patients and if yes, what does it entail?*

**NT:** In major hospitals, where there are radiologists on duty in the afternoon and evening, radiologists almost always have direct contact with patients, except in cases when patients are nonresponsive or unconscious. In that case, we seek information from relatives or the person who accompanied them to the hospital. The communication with the patient or relatives is important because it provides more information and could influence outcomes, especially in the case of an emergency patient with congenital or oncological diseases.

**ESR:** *How are radiologists in your country trained in emergency radiology? Is emergency radiology a recognised specialty in your country?*

**NT:** Emergency radiology training is a part of a specialisation in diagnostic imaging. It lasts four months and ends with an examination or colloquium. There is no separate emergency radiology specialty.

**Dr. Nikoleta Traykova** is the head of department of diagnostic imaging at the University Hospital for Active Treatment 'Sv Geogri' in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, and director of the Medical College at the Medical University of Plovdiv. She trained in Plovdiv in general radiology and also in Dresden and Fulda, Germany, in general and head-and-neck radiology. She has authored and co-authored many publications and has given invited lectures and courses at national and international meetings. Since 2016, she has been a lecturer at the European School of Radiology (ESOR); a member at large on the Communication and External Affairs Committee of the ESR; and society delegate to the Education Committee of the ESR. She was president of the National Congress of the Bulgarian Radiology Association in 2015, and was the chair of the programme planning committee of the Balkan Congress of Radiology (BCR) in 2017.

