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In new opinion paper, Agfa’s Radiology Advisory Board looks to the future of X-ray imaging

Bringing together senior radiologists and medical imaging technologists from different countries, the board uses their combined and shared expertise to develop knowledge-based advice on strategies for the development of diagnostic X-ray.

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- X-ray as an affordable and accessible imaging exam will continue to play an indispensable role in medical imaging.
- Agfa’s Radiology Advisory Board offers a forum where senior radiologists and technicians explore the future role of X-ray imaging and develop strategies to foster growth.
- Its first opinion paper “*The future of X-ray modality in Radiology*” covers six crucial transformation areas for the future of X-ray imaging.

X-ray examinations still constitute between 40% to 70% of a typical radiology department’s activity. Radiologists should be encouraged to think about the future development of diagnostic X-ray, as a reliable and low-cost medical imaging tool that provides standardized, quantifiable and high-quality images. At the same time, industry should support this development, while maintaining the need for diagnostic accuracy, reproducibility, efficiency of workflow and cost-benefit balance.

This is the conclusion of a new opinion paper from Agfa Radiology Solutions, “*The future of X-ray modality in Radiology*”. The paper is based on the joint consultation of Agfa’s Radiology Advisory Board.

Advancing the field of X-ray

Founded in 2020, the Radiology Advisory Board has a mission to investigate the role of X-ray imaging as a diagnostic tool, and the potential strategies. Jeroen Cant, Research Team Lead R&D, Radiology Division at Agfa, explains, “The

Radiology Advisory Board offers a forum where senior radiologists and technicians can discuss and share the expertise essential for fostering growth and advancing the field of X-ray imaging. It enables a collaborative space that uses its members' collective wisdom to formulate advice on strategies and roadmaps for the future."

Six crucial transformations for the future of X-ray

"*The future of X-ray modality in Radiology*" is the first opinion paper created by the board. It covers six transformation areas that the board considers crucial for the future of X-ray imaging:

1. **Empowering patients:**

From the Metaverse to communicating about radiation exposure, how can X-ray play a role in delivering correct and understandable information that helps patients feel confident and responsible?

2. **The growing role of point-of-care (POC) X-ray:**

The goal of POC is to provide diagnosis or treatment closer to the patient. How can the POC strategy be applied for radiology equipment, and specifically for X-ray?

3. **Progressing technology beyond X-ray photography:**

Over the last decade, technological innovation has accelerated more in other imaging modalities than it has in X-ray. What opportunities exist for X-ray to move beyond simple 'X-ray photography', and to redefine its role in clinical practice?

4. **AI: from decision support to improvement of overall population health:**

AI plays a large role in the field of patient-centricity. Yet the integration of AI algorithms in clinical practice has been very slow. How can this bottleneck be overcome, to enhance the diagnostic value of X-ray images?

5. **Augmented operators:**

X-ray imaging is one of the most difficult modalities to operate to obtain an image of optimal quality. How can 'supervised' automation of radiology tasks open new roles for technologists, while keeping the radiologist in the center of the entire image chain process?

6. **Low-cost X-ray equipment for developing countries:**

Although X-ray is one of the oldest imaging techniques, it still accounts

for the largest number of medical images taken around the world. What is the untapped potential for both the medical industry and consumers to benefit from simple and affordable X-ray equipment?

As the opinion paper highlights, the healthcare ecosystem in which X-ray operates is transforming drastically, and X-ray as an affordable and accessible imaging exam will play an indispensable role in this new ecosystem.

The opinion paper is available to download on [Agfa's website](#).

About Agfa

Agfa develops, produces and distributes an extensive range of imaging systems and workflow solutions for the printing industry, the healthcare sector, as well as for specific hi-tech industries such as printed electronics & renewable energy solutions.

The headquarters are located in Belgium. The largest production and research centers are located in Belgium, the United States, Canada, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Austria, China and Brazil. Agfa is commercially active worldwide through wholly owned sales organizations in more than 40 countries.

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