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## Volume 8 - Issue 5, 2008 - Association News

### Latest Updates From Leading European Associations

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#### CIRSE News - Studies Highlight Superiority of Embolisation

At the last CIRSE meeting in Rome, Italy, (Sept. 9 - 13) results from two randomised studies comparing hysterectomy and embolisation for treatment of uterine fibroids were presented. The Dutch study (EMMY trial, Prof Reekers, Amsterdam) and the Scottish study (REST trial, Dr Moss, Glasgow) were performed independently. The REST study shows a similar quality of life for both groups one year after the procedure (embolisation versus surgery).

The EMMY study shows that this result was also maintained after a two year follow-up period. Surgical treatments like hysterectomy could be avoided in more than 80% of all women after a successful embolisation, as the two year follow-up showed (EMMY). Furthermore, both studies indicate that embolisation is almost 40% cheaper than a surgical option.

For more information please visit [www.cirse.org](http://www.cirse.org)

#### CARS News - CARS 2009 Invites You to Berlin

The CARS congress with its associated journal, the International Journal of Computer Assisted Radiology and Surgery, is focused on research and development for computer assisted systems and their applications in radiology and surgery.

The main themes emphasised in the CARS programme are established by an interdisciplinary and international group of experts from healthcare institutions, academia and industry, world-renowned for their work on innovative methods and technologies in medicine. These are members from the ISCAS, EuroPACS, CAR, CAD, CMI and CURAC societies, who are active in the various committees of CARS, and in particular, who have successfully presented novel approaches at CARS congresses. The CARS Congress Organising Committee invites you to join us in Berlin in June 2009. Clinical specialties represented at CARS include:

- Image Guided Tumor Ablation Therapies
- Cardiovascular Imaging
- Computed Maxillofacial Imaging
- Computer Assisted Radiation Therapy
- Computer Assisted Orthopaedic and Spinal Surgery
- Computer Assisted Head and Neck, and ENT Surgery
- Image Guided Neurosurgery
- Minimally Invasive Cardiovascular and Thoracoabdominal Surgery

The deadline for paper and abstract submissions for CARS 2009 in Berlin is January 10, 2009.

For further information, please visit [www.cars-int.org](http://www.cars-int.org)

#### IHE News - Connectathon Goes To Austria

The eighth annual European IHE Connectathon will be held in Vienna, Austria on April 20 - 25, 2009. At the IHE Connectathon, all companies that have implemented IHE's Technical Framework specifications in their products have the chance to test them with many other companies' products in a real interoperability environment. Vendors have the opportunity to identify and solve many 'bugs' during the event. According to vendors who have participated in previous Connectathons "the cost of identifying and solving a bug during a Connectathon is about ten times less than the cost of a bug identified on site".

The specialist of each company is present at the Connectathon, as well as standards specialists. The results of the Connectathon will be published in the "Connectathon Results Table" on the IHE-Europe website. Vendors may use the "IHE Integration Statements" to show the compliance of their products with the IHE Integration profiles. This is a clear benefit to vendors when responding to requests for proposals from users.

For further information, please visit [www.ihe-europe.net](http://www.ihe-europe.net)

#### ECRI Institute - New Online Courses Provide Continuing Education

ECRI Institute has announced the availability of its new online education programme, e-Learn™. This catalogue of patient safety and risk management courses, is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME).

ECRI Institute's new programme uses proven interactive learning techniques to help healthcare entities meet accreditation and regulatory requirements for staff education related specifically to patient safety and risk management issues. In 2007, the Agency for Health Research and Quality (AHRQ) conducted a meta-analysis of the effectiveness of CME in the US that found only 58% of CME courses offered appear to be effective at changing physician behaviour and patient outcomes.

ECRI Institute's e-Learn courses are designed to be interactive and to incorporate other accepted adult learning principles, such as providing learners with feedback and incorporating opportunities for peer-to-peer interaction with discussion forums.

For further information, please visit [www.ecri.org](http://www.ecri.org)

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