

Reducing Radiation Doses – Health Physics Society joins the *Image Gently* campaign

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At their Board meeting in San Antonio, TX, the Health Physics Society voted to become a member of the Image Gently Alliance.

While many efforts are ongoing to reduce radiation doses from medical x-ray exams, the Society believes that each person involved with the x-ray exams (from the general practitioner ordering the exam to the technologist performing the exam) must continue to be prudent in assuring that the exam is necessary and the amount of radiation used is as small as possible while allowing for a good diagnostic exam.

The campaign emphasizes CT dose reduction in children by reducing the amount of radiation used per exam, scanning only the indicated region, performing the scan only when necessary, and scanning only one time. The campaign was launched in January 2008 by the American College of Radiology, Society for Pediatric Radiology, American Association of Physicists in Medicine, and the American Society of Radiologic Technologists to bring attention to the subject of CT radiation doses when imaging children.

The Health Physics Society is now one of 14 alliance members who have agreed to utilize their expertise in this educational campaign. For its part, the Society has launched a physician-focused section on its Website that is dedicated to physician education in the areas of radiation doses, radiation and risk, and radiation and pregnancy (<http://hps.org/physicians/>).

The Health Physics Society consists of over 5,500 radiation safety professionals whose activities include ensuring safe and beneficial uses of radiation and radioactive materials, assisting in the development of standards and regulations, and communicating radiation safety information.

The Society is a nonprofit organization formed in 1956. Its primary mission is excellence in the science and practice of radiation safety. The Society has members in 44 countries, and has established 45 chapters and 14 student branches. Visit www.hps.org for more information.