



May 7, 2020

Subject: Invitation to Participate in INCAPS COVID Survey

Dear Colleague,

Over the past decade, the International Atomic Energy Agency, part of the United Nations family of organizations, has conducted a number of surveys of worldwide cardiac imaging practice. The most extensive such effort has been a worldwide study of nuclear cardiology practices, called INCAPS 1, which has led to over 15 publications beginning in 2015. Its successor, the INCAPS 2 study of nuclear cardiology and cardiac CT, had been planned for 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the collection of data for INCAPS 2 has been put on hold until 2021.

At the same time, we are well aware that all cardiac imaging laboratories worldwide have been impacted by COVID-19. The INCAPS team believes that it is important to understand the impact that COVID-19 has had on nuclear cardiology and cardiac CT practice worldwide. We have developed a survey to assess this impact and would be grateful for your participation if you practice in either of these modalities.

There are 3 parts to the INCAPS COVID survey: 1) basic data about you and your lab/facility (including information needed to include you in publications); 2) a series of questions about your lab/facility's plans regarding COVID-19 (what you are planning or have already implemented); and 3) an estimate of the numbers of different cardiac imaging procedures your lab/facility has done during the pandemic and during the same time in 2019. We anticipate this should take only 5-10 minutes of your time per lab/facility.

The one or two individuals contributing data from each facility will be included in publications as an author in the INCAPS COVID Investigators Group. INCAPS 1 investigators have already been included on 12 papers and several abstracts. We request that no more than one survey be completed from each institution and hence we only need one person from each centre to fill in the data. Because many centres will have both a nuclear laboratory and a cardiac CT laboratory we ask individuals within each centre to talk with their colleagues and share the information so that only one survey needs to be completed. If a second person assists, there is space in the survey to specify the second person's name to be included for authors group membership in publications. We aim to publish this collected data in a timely fashion so that this becomes available over the next few weeks.

You can complete the survey at <https://iris.iaea.org/public/survey?cdoc=COV19030>. If you are affiliated with multiple facilities/centres, we would be grateful if you would complete the survey separately for each centre. The deadline for completing the survey is May 20.

We are well aware that you are all very busy at this difficult time, but we are hopeful that, with your help, we can produce an excellent survey which will offer a wonderful comparison of what we are all doing at this difficult time, and help our patients around the world. We thank you for your involvement in our important project and are most appreciative for your time.

Stay safe,

With kindest regards,

The INCAPS Executive Committee, IAEA, Vienna, Austria  
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Dr. Andrew Einstein, Principal Investigator