

## Erasmus Course on Magnetic Resonance Imaging (EMRI)



In 1991 prof. Michel Osteaux (Radiology, UZ Brussel, Brussels) founded together with colleagues of several other European Universities the postgraduate Erasmus Courses, which were sponsored by a grant of the European Union and Schering AG (Berlin) (today: Bayer Schering Heath Care). Main reasons were to provide a new radiological education to the increasing number of European radiologists and medical practitioners, and the upcoming new technology of MRI, which already evolved as one of the most important medical imaging methods. This new course was and is based on small group training and interactive teaching, which allows all participants to enhance their knowledge substantially in a short time.

The nine course are organ oriented and comprise three to five day modules of 30/40 hours. The number of students per module is usually limited to 60-100.

The students are evaluated at the end of each module. The excellent teachers (who represent the faculty) are from different European Universities. While until 2003 teaching focussed mainly on MRI, since 2004 the new courses include also other modalities and inform the participants about the best possible modality for different clinical questions. The courses are optimal for last year residents and radiologists. A basic knowledge of MRI is an absolute prerequisite.

Since 2009 more than 6000 residents or radiologists from 46 different countries attended 160 courses. The courses were held (usually organized by university departments) in 26 different European locations. All courses are CME accredited (locally by the host University and on a European basis (EACCME).

The courses are decentralized and organized by module coordinators and follow the recommendations of the UEMS-Curricula and European subspecialty societies.

An added benefit of the courses is to foster understanding and respect among radiologists from the various European countries: teacher of different nationalities learn to work together in forming a common European standard of knowledge and practice, whereas the students help in disseminating this standard.