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Editorial

Cardiac Image Updated, Marie Curie and the origin of cardiovascular image technics

Actualización de la imagen cardiaca, Marie Curie y el origen de las técnicas cardiovasculares de imagen

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The effort of many enthusiastic professionals that dreamed of the first scientific journal of cardiovascular imaging in Latin-America culminates with this first number of Cardiac Image Updated (CIU), now in your hands. CIU seeks to be a common humanistic space for exchange of knowledge, promoting development of the specialty and also the correct use of technology at service of health.

As in every birth the recognition to our history is an obligation. For this reason, Editorial Committee has decided pay tribute to Maria Salomea Skłodowska, better known as Marie Curie. In hard times, her sacrifices, efforts and vision changed gender paradigms and started a technological revolution that settle the fundamentals for cardiovascular image techniques.

Marie Curie was born in Warsaw (Poland) at November 7, 1867. Since she was a child she felt special attraction to physical and chemical sciences that learned from her father. At that time, in the Russian empire of which Kingdom of Poland was a part, women were not allowed to get university degrees, for that reason Marie had to study clandestinely and then emigrate. In 1881 she arrived to Paris, completed her university studies and she started to work on different researches of the magnetic properties of steels. She married Pierre Curie and they conducted pioneering researches on radioactivity based on Becquerel's studies. In 1880 Pierre and his brother Paul Jacques had discovered piezoelectric effect and they made a device called electrometer. Using these tools, Marie was able to demonstrate that the air around uranium salts conducted electricity and she conjectured that radiation came from the atom itself and not for interaction between molecules. Radioactivity theory was born.

Throughout her life Marie had to face many professional and personal obstacles that are not the subject of this editorial, but we invite you to investigate more about them for the reason of interest. With the beginning of the First World War, Marie was forced to interrupt her researches but, in her eagerness to help, she made it possible for her to create the first portable diagnostic unit, a radio-diagnostic one, allowing doctors assisted

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soldiers on the battlefield. Later, in 1915, she produced cannulas containing a radioactive gas called radon hoping it would help in the treatment of cancer. Unfortunately, her discoveries, that offer so many benefits to our patients today, led her to death in 1934 at the age of 67 due to aplastic anemia consequence of radiation exposure. «The road to progress is not quick nor easy», she used to say.

At the 85th anniversary of her death, every image device keeps a close relationship with Marie Curie and her colleagues' works. Piezoelectric effect is the physical tool that animates our ultrasound equipment; X-ray are the fundamentals for tomographic studies; portability made possible diagnosis at the bedside especially in critically ill patients,

magnetism and radioactivity let us know anatomy and cellular metabolism by Magnetic Resonance, Nuclear Medicine studies and Positron Emission tomography. For it all, no mentioning therapeutic possibilities and medical contributions, we consider to dedicate Marie these first pages as a grateful duty and as a sign of recognition to her work.

We hope you find in Cardiac Image Updated a place for sharing your researches, knowing your colleagues' work and remaining updated on this fast-evolving medical discipline. It is dedicated to all those who, following the Marie Curie wish, make a permanent contribution to science.

Welcome to this new scientific forum.

www.medigraphic.org.mx