

CONCEPT NOTE FOR RASCO 2023 CONFERENCE

Theme:

Resilience in Radiography: Diversity, Inclusivity, and Equity in Practice of Radiography

Introduction:

The Society of Radiography in Kenya (SORK) was founded in 1960 as both a welfare and professional voice of radiographers practicing radiography in Kenya. These roles have been effectively carried through supporting social aspects of subscribing members, and professional development programmers such as seminars, workshops, and conferences such as the biennial **Radiographers Scientific Conference** popularly referred to **RASCO** whose birth in Mombasa on 9th October 2004 has provided the impetus for phenomenal growth within the professional, especially in medical radiography. The most recent milestone of midwifing of an independent radiography profession vide the enactment and assent to the law of The Radiographers Act No, 28 of 2022 on the 21st June 2022 has necessitated the RASCO 2023 theme "Resilience in Radiography: Diversity, Inclusivity, and Equity in Practice".

By prioritizing diversity, inclusivity, and equity in the practice of radiography, radiographers can improve service delivery outcomes, foster a positive work environment, and contribute to a more equitable service delivery system. Radiography is an integral component of the healthcare system, forensic science, industrial applications, and veterinary science. Being highly specialized field radiography requires knowledge, skills, and expertise to produce quality service delivery. Professionals that are radiographers in these fields face diverse and challenging situations, which require resilience and adaptability. However, the practice of radiography has been characterized by several issues, such as a lack of diversity, inclusivity, and equity,

RASCO 2023 will be a platform for radiographers from around the world to discuss the challenges, opportunities, and emerging trends in the field of radiography. The conference will be organized by SORK Council at the Diani Reef Beach Resort and Spa, South Coast, Kwale.

The conference aims to bring together key government officials, policymakers, and stakeholders, product exhibitors, over 300 radiographers from Kenya and other parts of the world to discuss and deliberate on the sub-themes, current trends, challenges, and opportunities in the radiography profession in Kenya.

Objectives:

RASCO 2023 aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. Identify potential solutions and opportunities for addressing these challenges and promoting the resilience of radiography practice in Kenya.

2. Create awareness about the need for diversity, inclusivity, and equity in the practice of radiography.
3. Discuss the current trends and best practices in radiography practice in Kenya, including advances in technology, protocols, and procedures.
4. Provide a platform for networking, collaboration, and knowledge sharing among radiography professionals in Kenya and beyond.
5. Highlight the challenges facing radiography practice in Kenya, including limited resources, inadequate training, and ethical dilemmas.
6. Provide a forum for stakeholders to engage with policymakers, regulators, and other key decision-makers in radiography practice in Kenya.
7. To develop a call to action for promoting diversity, inclusivity, and equity in radiography practice.

Thematic Areas:

The conference will focus on six thematic areas:

1. Improving access and financing radiography services.
2. Evolving prospects in radiography education, training, and research.
3. Emerging aspects of information technology in radiography.
4. Less harm better care: The safety question in Radiography.
5. Compliance and Ethics in Radiography.
6. Enhancing evidence-based practice in radiography.

Prior to the official commencement of the main conference, a workshop for radiography managers, key educators, and relevant stakeholders shall be held focusing on ***“Strategic Purchasing and Payments Methods of Radiography Services”***.

Relevance:

Radiography is a critical component of healthcare, forensic investigations, industrial safety, and veterinary medicine. As such, it is important to ensure that the practice of radiography is diverse, inclusive, and equitable. However, the practice of radiography is often characterized by various challenges, including limited access to radiography services, inadequate funding, lack of diversity, and ethical concerns.

The RASCO 2023 conference provides a platform for radiographers to discuss the challenges and opportunities in the field and explore ways of improving access, financing, and delivery of radiography services, best practices, and challenges. It will also promote the development of strategies for building resilience and promoting diversity, inclusivity, and equity in radiography practice.

Eventually, the conference's call to action will provide a roadmap for promoting inclusive and equitable radiography practice in Kenya and the world.

Conference Format:

RASCO 2023 will be held over three days featuring the presentation of topics related to radiography practice in Kenya and elsewhere in the world. The conference will also include poster presentations in addition to will be an exhibition showcasing the latest advances, products, and services related to radiography technology, practice, and education. Participants will have the opportunity to present their research findings, share experiences, and participate in interactive workshops.

Methodology and Sustainability:

RASCO 2023 will adopt a hybrid approach that includes both virtual and in-person attendance. The virtual attendance option will ensure maximum participation from delegates who may not be able to travel to the conference venue. The conference will comprise keynote speeches, plenary and parallel sessions, panel discussions, presentations, and poster sessions. The sessions will be interactive and provide an opportunity for participants to engage in discussions and knowledge-sharing.

The conference will also incorporate networking sessions, where participants can interact and exchange ideas. The conference proceedings will be published in a peer-reviewed journal.

Keynote speeches will be delivered by experts and speakers will be drawn from academia, industry, government, and different parts of the world and will be experts in the field of radiography, who will provide insights on the conference theme. Some workshops will be hands-on training sessions that will provide attendees with practical skills and knowledge in radiography practice.

The plenary sessions will focus on the different sub-themes of the conference while panel discussions will be interactive and provide an opportunity for participants to share their experiences and insights. The breakout sessions will provide a platform for in-depth discussions on specific topics related to radiography.

The pre-conference activity on **strategic purchasing and payment methods of radiography services** will provide a platform for policymakers and stakeholders to discuss ways of improving affordable and efficient access to radiography services.

Sustainability will be through partnerships of radiographers with relevant organizations and stakeholders in Kenya and the rest of the world. Additionally, the conference will promote the use of sustainable practices, such as digital technology and eco-friendly materials, to reduce the carbon footprint and minimize its environmental impact such as reducing paper waste and

promoting energy-efficient practices. The conference will also engage with local communities and promote social responsibility initiatives that support environmental conservation, health, and well-being.

An outcome document will be drafted by conference rapporteurs under the leadership of the conference chair and submitted for global consultations leading up to and during the conference. The document will be presented at the closing plenary for adoption.

Expected Outcomes:

The expected outcomes of the conference are:

1. A better understanding of the challenges faced by radiographers in diverse fields.
2. A recognition of the importance of diversity, inclusivity, and equity in radiography practice.
3. Increased commitment to promoting diversity, inclusivity, and equity in radiography practice
4. The promotion of networking and collaboration among radiographers and stakeholders from Kenya and the rest of the world.
5. Identify key challenges and opportunities in radiography practice, education, training, and research.
6. Explore new strategies to improve access, financing, and quality of radiography services.
7. Foster evidence-based practice in radiography.
8. Develop a call to action based on the conference theme.

Expertise and Operational Capacity:

The conference will be run by a team of experienced professionals in radiography and event management who have organized similar conferences in the past. SORK also has a network of partners and stakeholders who will provide technical support and expertise in organizing the conference. For instance, the conference's central and scientific committees will comprise experts in radiography, policymakers, and researchers supported by an able local organizing committee.

The conference will also leverage the expertise of renowned radiography professionals from around the world who will be invited to participate as speakers and panelists. Whilst operational capacity will be ensured by the conference venue, the **Diani Reef Beach and Spa Hotel**, which has a track record of organizing successful events.

SPONSORSHIP CATEGORIES

1. Platinum
2. Gold
3. Silver
4. Bronze

BENEFITS TO SORK PARTNERS CLUB MEMBERS:

- Cooperation from SORK on members market activities.
- Endorsement and recognitions with key decision makers.
- Access to Technical Advisory (Modality Experts) to discuss product specifications on behalf of members.
- Associate with members' abstract of choice during RASCO.
- Priority access to SORK Sponsored CPD activities.
- Keynote address during conference.
- Thirty (30) minutes presentation after tea break on day one (1) of conference.
- Continued hosting on SORK website for the next two (2) years.
- Publicity in every SORK FORUM with members.
- Company logo inclusion in RASCO certificate as well as subsequent CPD certificates for the next two (2) years.

1. PLATINUM CATEGORY

(Get Full Benefit of an SPC Member)

- Three (3) Exhibition space (3x2) for free (1st priority in selection of space).
- Branding of awards with the company's logo
 - a) Bags, tags, brochures, booklets sponsorship (jointly branded with SORK.
 - b) Place promotional material on the delegate' desk in the conference room.
 - c) Place promotional items in delegates rooms e.g. courtesy notes, braded t-shirts, brochures, etc
- Oral presentation /demonstrations (10 minutes each at the time of choice).
- Exclusive hanging of banners in the conference hall.
- Two (2) pages free for advertisement space in RASCO 2023. A5 journal and half page for a word from the company representatives.
- Hosting of major events during the conference e. g gala dinner for radiographers.
- To own and brand conference dinner and recognition during the conference as the main sponsor.
- Insertion of promotional advertising materials in the conference bag (have 1st priority in offering the bags).
- Branding of sponsor logo on the conference bag. (Have a 1st priority offering the bags).
- Participating in SORK COUNTY FORUM Launch.
- Negotiate for any acceptable partnership dimension that will directly benefit the platinum in the market for the next two (2) years.
- Company's senior management to give key note address.
- Get an exclusive meeting with all County Liason Officers and Chief Radiographers present per county during RASCO 2023.

2. GOLD CATEGORY

(Get 50% Benefit of an SPC Member)

- Two (2) exhibition space (3X2) for free. (Second (2) priority in selection of space).
- Branding of awards with company's logo.
- One (1) oral presentation (20) minutes at a time of choice (2nd choice after platinum).
- Second (2) choice of banners and hangers location
- Hosting of major events during the conference (2nd choice after platinum).
- Recognition during conferences.
- Insertion of promotional and advertising materials in the bag and conference brochure (2nd priority to offering the bags)
- 2nd priority in exhibition space selection.

3. SILVER CATEGORY.

(Get 25% Benefit of an SPC Member)

- One (1) exhibition space (3x2) for free (3rd priority in choice).
- Hanging of banners (3rd priority of location).
- Recognition during conference.

4. BRONZE CATEGORY

(Mutually agree on level of Benefit of an SPC Member)

- One (1) exhibition space (3x2) fourth priority in allocation of space.
- Recognition during the conference
- Hanging of banners and boards (fourth priority in space allocation).

Conclusion:

The RASCO 2023 conference will provide a unique platform for radiographers to discuss critical issues affecting their practice.

The conference will also provide a platform for practical skills and knowledge in radiography practice and promote the use of sustainable practices; this is expected to enhance the quality, safety, and efficiency of radiography services in Kenya and beyond.

The call to action at the end of the conference will seek to develop an action plan to address the challenges identified during the conference.

Samuel M. Karanja,
Honorary Secretary,
Society of Radiography in Kenya (SORK).