For many years Medical Physicists have evaluated image quality performance on all medical imaging modalities, except radiographic systems. We have looked at resolution and contrast on MRI, CT, fluoroscopic systems, ultrasound systems, and nuclear medicine cameras; but rarely radiographic equipment, especially those having screen-film receptors.

With the increased presence of flat panel digital radiographic systems, which have dedicated detectors as an integral component, it is appropriate for the Medical Physicist to include an analysis of detail and contrast sensitivity as part of acceptance and routine annual testing.

Some vendors provide automated QA hardware and software tools, but these may not give standard results for adequate monitoring. Using commonly available test tools, resolution and contrast sensitivity can be evaluated on each system. Patient radiation dosimetry can also be evaluated for manual and automatic techniques.

Test methods and typical results will be presented, which should help the clinical Medical Physicist to monitor and maintain good image quality performance.

Educational Objectives:
1. The participant will learn simple test methods to evaluate image quality performance on flat panel detectors.
2. Typical and expected results will be presented to provide the participant with thresholds of acceptance.