



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Contact:**

Randy Hicks, M.D.

RMI

Regional Medical Imaging

*rhicks@rmipc.net*

(810) 732-1919

Rob McColgan

Executive Director

*rmccolgan@rmipc.net*

(810) 732-1919

## **On 115<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the X-ray's Discovery, a Flint Radiologist Looks Back at How an Accidental Discovery Shaped Modern Medicine**

**FLINT, MI (November 8, 2010)**—If a change in the usual logo on the home page happened to catch your eye between sips of your morning coffee, you might have noticed Google's commemoration today of the 115<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the discovery of the X-ray.

Imagine life without X-rays. How difficult would it be for doctors to tell whether an injury is a break or a sprain, let alone tackle even more challenging problems like finding cancer early enough for successful treatment?

All this seems even more remarkable when we ponder the fact that we owe these medical capabilities to a discovery that happened to be a complete accident.

While experimenting with radiation generated by electrical current applied to metal electrodes in a glass vacuum tube, Wilhelm Röntgen, a German physicist, found that a particular type of ray could cast light on a distant screen even after passing through a solid object.

Röntgen coined the term *X-ray* for his discovery, and it appears that he sensed the medical implications immediately. Shortly after his discovery, he used X-rays to generate an image of the bones in his wife's hand.



“X-ray is used so frequently today that it’s easy to take it for granted,” said Randy Hicks, M.D., of Regional Medical Imaging (RMI), a leading mid-Michigan radiology practice based in Flint.

“But it was a huge discovery. Before the X-ray, it was difficult to have any certainty about what was happening in a patient’s body without invasive surgery. If you think of all the imaging procedures performed every day—from radiography to diagnose broken bones to advanced procedures like mammography and CT scans—you realize that modern medicine without the X-ray is unimaginable. Not only would our work as physicians be drastically different: *all* of our lives would be different. So it’s worthwhile to take this anniversary as an opportunity to look back and appreciate the keen scientific insight that enabled Röntgen to understand the implications of his accidental discovery.”

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### **About RMI**

RMI began in 1985 as a private, outpatient-based imaging facility with a goal of offering patients an alternative to hospitals for radiology services. Today RMI continues its commitment of providing state-of-the-art equipment in a patient-friendly atmosphere at its offices in Flint, Fenton, Grand Blanc and Davison. For more information, visit [www.rmipc.net](http://www.rmipc.net).

**To arrange interview, photo, or video opportunities, please contact William C. Hayward, Communications, at 717-852-7171 or [bhayward@marketingworks.net](mailto:bhayward@marketingworks.net).**