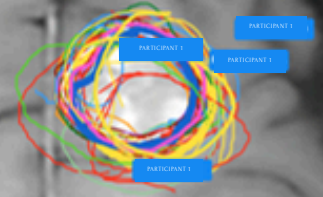


# Rayos Contra Cancer

April 2026, Biannual Newsletter



## Dear Colleagues, Volunteers, & RCC Supporters,

We have some positive news to share: *less centers are struggling with gaps in education and training!* We are making our mark on the world.

And this is a mark that, even if broader society doesn't recognize what we do in radiation oncology, at least we know how we are helping make patient care and treatment outcomes better—one course at a time. We hope this is something RCC can bring to light.

In the meantime, it has been quite a year of progress:

- New talented and committed volunteers making our mission stronger. (Thank you! We feel blessed by your support and helping strengthen our mission!)
- Reaching new generations of learners. Some of our YouTube videos are becoming staple resources for clinics, whether it is new learning or directing others to these learning resources.
- Supporting Ukraine efforts to make photon-based radiotherapy (rather than Cobalt) much more available in the country — working with HUG and Swecare in partnership.
- Scholastic milestones, new textbook inspired from a course.
- And last but not least, “Desafíos”, a new [song](#) inspired by one of our courses in Latam!

-Ben Li  
President & Executive Director, RCC  
Assistant Prof., UW Radiation Oncology



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RCC team members meet in San Francisco, CA, USA for dinner during the 2025 ASTRO conference

# Volunteer Spotlight

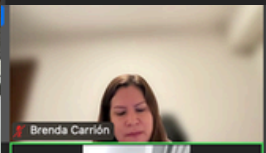
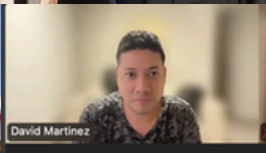
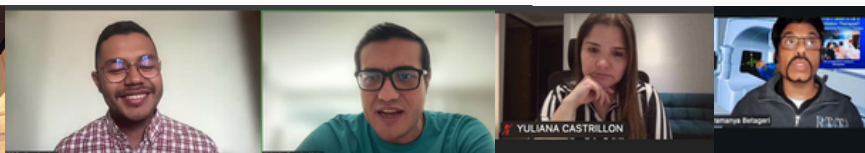
## Welcoming New Volunteers & Educators

Since January 2025, a growing group of new volunteers have joined the global community of RCC educators, moderators, and partners. These individuals bring expertise from across the radiotherapy field and have contributed in many ways—from teaching live course sessions and moderating discussions to helping develop course materials and refine educational resources.

We are also excited to recognize several long-time RCC volunteers who stepped into educator roles for the first time in the last year (noted with an \* in the table below). Their willingness to share knowledge and mentor colleagues around the world make RCC’s programs possible.

Together, these volunteers represent institutions and radiotherapy centers across many countries, reflecting the truly global nature of the RCC community. We are grateful for their time, expertise, and commitment to strengthening radiotherapy education worldwide.

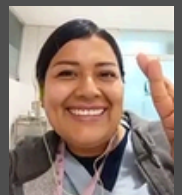
Adriana Cortés Delgado (RTT)*	Crystal Clark (Nurse)	Jim Leng (RO)	Kylie Kang (RO)	Rohini Bhatia (RO)
Amanda Lulloff (Nurse)	Dametria Robinson (Nurse)	Joel Parker (RTT)	Lesia Mytsak (RO)	Sahaja Acharya (RO)
Angela Verbeck (RTT)	Daniela Fortich (RTT)	John Gonzalez (RTT)*	Linda Schinman (RTT)	Sarah Rieth (Nurse)
Anika Patel (Student)	Daniela Navarro (Nurse)	John Hollman (Nurse)*	Lisa Ni (RO)	Serhii Mykhailiuk (RO)
Ashley Kerr (Nurse)	Denilson Amador (MP Res)	Josue Hernandez (RO)*	Martin Ma (RO)	Steven Moeckly (MP)
August Anderson (RO)	Dr. Gokulakrishnan (RO)	Joyce Tang (Nurse)	Maryna Sokolovska (RO)	Subramanya Betageri (RTT)
Baozhou Sun (MP)	Elke Pastor (RTT)*	Kara Banson (RO Res)	Matt Ning (RO)	Sunshine Gray (Nurse)
Benjamin Ssemata (RTT)	Florence Yuen (Nurse)	Karen Gonzalez Perez (MP)*	Michael Dykstra (RO)	Susie Hiniker (RO)
Beverly Rodgers (RD)	Gabby Baugh (Nurse)	Karina Ochandorena (Dosi., RTT)	Michael Folkert (RO)	Tanyaradzwa Chifamba (RTT)
Bob Press (RO)	Hannah Wasserman (Nurse)	Kathleen Mier (LCSW)	Muthukkumaran Thiagarajan (RO)*	Thomas Beckham (RO)
Bree Eaton (RO)	Jake Matranga (RTT)	Kayla Kafka-Peterson (Nurse)	Naba Ali (RO)	Viktor Iakovenko (MP)
Chonnipa Nantavithya (RO)	Janice Kim (RO)	Keerthiga Karthikeyan (RO)	Natia Esiashvili (RO)	Yuliana Castrillón (RO)*
Chris Osam Doudoo (RTT)	Jay Shiao (RO)	Kevin Risolo (MP)*	Nicholas Gatmaitan (RTT)	Yuliia Lozko (RO)
Clare Monk (RTT)*	Jayson Co (RO)	Kristin Redmond (RO)	Oleh Ovsienko (MP)	



“Enseñar por primera vez en RCC fue una experiencia muy gratificante. Pensar en poder transmitir nuestros conocimientos a otros profesionales a nivel Latinoamérica incluyo emoción, pasión y nerviosismo. Esa sesión me lleno el corazón, me reforzó mi pasión y vocación por mi carrera y mi trabajo, con todo gusto y compromiso seguiré apoyando a Rayos Contra el Cáncer.”

[\(click here for English\)](#)

**ADRIANA CORTÉS DELGADO  
EDUCATOR IN RTT COURSE**



# May - Oct 2025: “The Transition from 2D to 3D External Beam RT”

## Advancing radiotherapy training and collaboration in Ukraine

RCC partnered with [Swecare](#) and the [Help Ukraine Group \(HUG\)](#) to deliver a virtual training course focused on the transition from 2D to 3D external beam radiation therapy (EBRT) for radiation oncologists, medical physicists, dosimetrists, and radiation therapists/technologists (RTTs). Spanning 23 sessions, this course is RCC’s longest program, covering topics such as acceptance & commissioning, CT simulation, contouring, treatment planning, and delivery.

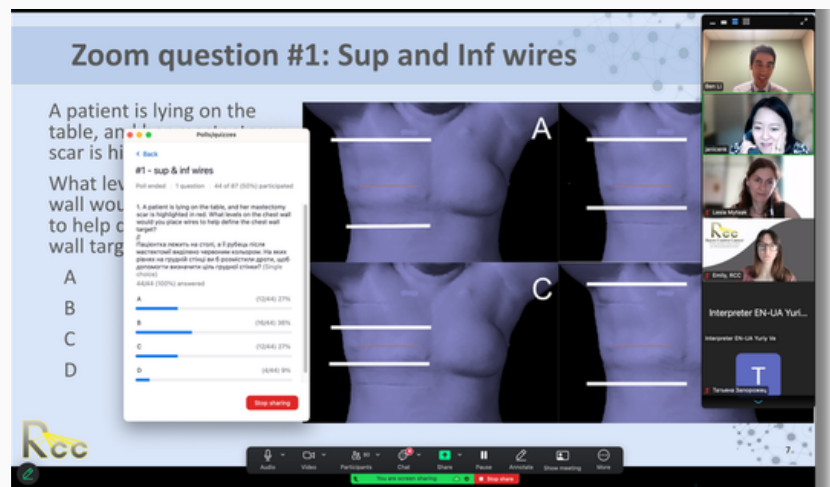
Over **200 radiotherapy professionals from 36 centers across Ukraine** enrolled in the course. Approximately 20% of centers were transitioning or planning to transition from 2D to 3D EBRT at the beginning of the course—highlighting the course’s relevance in advancing cancer care capabilities—and we are pleased to share that quantitative results from 151 participants demonstrated clear gains in both confidence and knowledge:

Measure	Pre-Course	Post-Course	% Change
<b>Average Confidence</b> <i>(1 = least, 5 = most)</i>	2.63	3.62	37.64%
<b>Knowledge Score</b> <i>(out of 100)</i>	51.50%	68.40%	32.82%

Congratulations to all participants for their commitment to advancing cancer treatment in Ukraine, despite the challenges of an ongoing war. We are also grateful for the partnership with Swecare and HUG, the dedication of volunteer educators who taught the 2D to 3D EBRT course twice in one year, and the hard work of our English-Ukrainian interpretation team (**Serhii Tyupas, Yuriy Velykoroda, and Alexandra Komarova**)!

Additionally, we would like to extend a special thanks to volunteer moderators in the Ukrainian radiotherapy community who supported educators and participants throughout the course:

- Dr. Viktor Iakovenko, PhD
- Dr. Nataliya Kovalchuk, PhD
- Dr. Yuliia Lozko, MD
- Dr. Lesia Mytsak, MD
- Dr. Serhii Mykhailiuk, MD
- Mr. Oleh Ovsienko, MS
- Dr. Maryna Sokolovska, MD



## July - Sept 2025: “RTTs Common Struggles”

### Addressing everyday challenges for RTTs across Latin America

With support from the [Elekta Foundation](#), RCC partnered with colleagues across Latin America to deliver “Common Struggles for RTTs in Latin America,” an 11-session live course created by and for radiation therapists and dosimetrists.

Conducted in collaboration with volunteers from four continents(!), the course addressed common challenges faced in daily radiotherapy practice, particularly in settings where formal radiation oncology training for RTTs may be limited. The curriculum emphasized practical, case-based learning grounded in real-world clinical experience, and each session included:

- A review of anatomy by disease site
- Patient positioning for simulation and treatment
- Practical guidance for safe and effective treatment delivery



Over 1500 participants across Latin America enrolled in the course, and **data from 903 participants demonstrated a +22.5% increase in knowledge exam scores from pre- to post-course.**

We are grateful for every participant and RCC team member who contributed their expertise to create a space to exchange experiences, strengthen clinical confidence, and continue building a supportive professional community.

**“Me parece muy interesante el curso ya q para los q somos nuevos en este ámbito nos ayuda demasiado a aprender cosas q a veces solo hemos puesto en práctica”**

[\(click here for English\)](#)

- COURSE PARTICIPANT

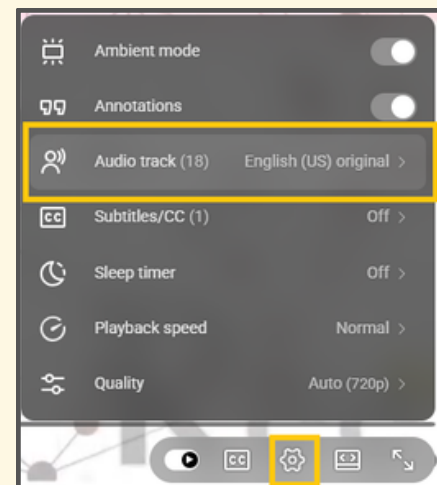


## YouTube Update!

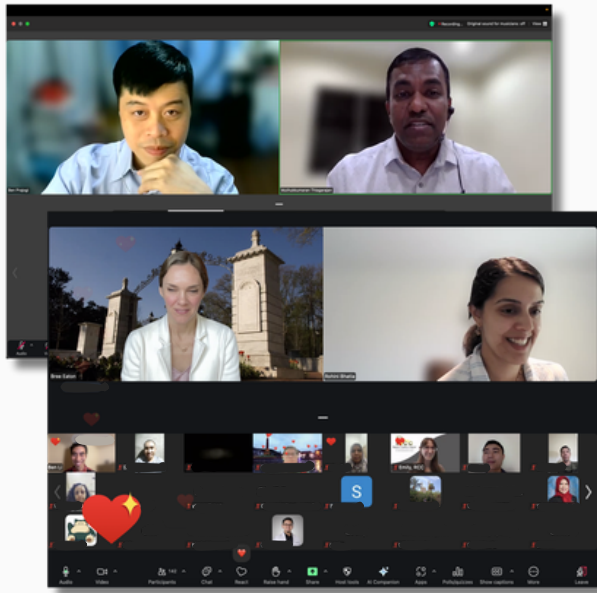
The videos from RCC’s first-ever [program for nurses](#) in radiation oncology are now posted to our YouTube channel!



Additionally, YouTube now offers automatic dubbing into multiple languages for new videos under 60 minutes long. While most RCC sessions are longer than one hour, we hope this new feature can be a supplement for eligible videos to the auto-translated captions available in YouTube.



The videos from the “RTTs’ Common Struggles in Latin America” course are also on YouTube, though we plan to replace the existing playlist with a more edited version soon.



“As someone still in training, I often felt lost learning how to contour, but the sessions—and especially the recorded videos—really helped me gain clarity and confidence.”

- RADIATION ONCOLOGIST PARTICIPANT, PHILIPPINES

## July - Sept 2025: “Contouring CNS + Pediatrics”

Building contouring skills across SE Asia & the Middle East

In collaboration with the **Elekta Foundation**, the **South East Asian Radiation Oncology Group (SEAROG)**, and the **Pediatric Radiation Oncology Society (PROS)**, RCC delivered “Contouring: CNS + Pediatrics,” an online skills-based training course for radiation oncologists and senior residents in Southeast Asia & the Middle East.

Held over 3 months and 10 sessions, the course focused on strengthening contouring skills for both adult and pediatric central nervous system (CNS) cancers, including brain metastases, gliomas (low- and high-grade), meningiomas, and key pediatric entities such as germinoma, ependymoma, and medulloblastoma.

Over 300 participants completed the course, and data from the **pre- and post-course surveys show a +33% increase in confidence and a +25% increase in knowledge.**

Thank you to all the volunteer faculty, regional partners, and participating clinicians whose time, expertise, and engagement made this collaborative effort possible!

## Scholastic Success: 4 new publications

Sierra Silverwood, Caroline M Carlson, Hong Zhu, Cesar Della Bianca, Claire Dempsey, Adam Shulman, Timothy Keiper, Sharareh Koufigar, Afua Yorke, Bilal Jalal, Cenji Yu, Doris Dimitriadou, Lydia Wilson, Tomi Nano, Benjamin Li. **A Longitudinal Assessment of Remote IMRT/VMAT Training for Medical Physicists in Low- and Middle-Income Countries.** [International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics](#), Published March 21, 2026.

Edgar Ruiz, Hiram Gay, Milton Ixquiac, Angel Velarde, Baozhou Sun, Jose García-Ramirez, Eric Laugeman, Benjamin Li, Carlos Cardenas, Laurence Court, Jessica Maas; Jeff Michalski, Vicky de Falla, MD; Geoff Hugo, and Jacaranda Van Rheenen. **Lessons Learned from an Epic Transformation of a Radiation Oncology Department in Guatemala: Keys to Success.** [Advances in Radiation Oncology](#), Published December 2025.

Caroline Colbert, Emily Kruse, Dustin Jacqmin, Jose Carlos Pichardo, Chunhao Wang, Leah Schubert, Stephanie Bennett, Mu-Han Lin, Lindsey Olsen, Benjamin Li, Minsun Kim. **Virtual Radiotherapy Plan Quality Education: Perspectives From a Global Setting.** [Physica Medica](#), Published September 2, 2025.

Sierra M. Silverwood, Caroline M Carlson, Hong Zhu, Cesar Della Bianca, Claire Dempsey, Adam Shulman, MS, Timothy D. Keiper, Sharareh Koufigar, Afua Yorke, Bilal Jalal, Cenji Yu, Doris Dimitriadou, Lydia Wilson, Tomi Nano, Benjamin Li. **Enhancing IMRT/VMAT Competencies in LMICs Globally within Radiation Physicists through Remote Training.** [Radiation Oncology](#), Published online May 24, 2025. PMID: 40419116.



Dr. Alejandro González-Motta, Dr. Ben Li, and Nahuel Díaz Giunta reunite at the 2025 ASTRO conference in San Francisco, CA, USA

# Volunteer / Partner Initiatives

## New Radiotherapy Textbook

Physicists and RCC educators, **Minsun Kim** & **Mu-Han Lin**, recently authored the [Handbook of Radiotherapy Planning: Core Skills and Practical Considerations](#), which grew from a clear need for more practical, accessible guidance in treatment planning and evaluation as technologies continue to advance. RCC's 2024 Treatment Plan Evaluation course played an important role in its development, offering insight into common challenges and gaps through engagement with both educators and participants.

Reflecting on the process of developing the textbook, Dr. Kim shared, "For others interested in global radiotherapy education, I'd encourage taking opportunities to share and collaborate, as there is much to learn from one another across different practice settings. I believe that incremental efforts can collectively make a meaningful difference."

## Online Learning Platform

RCC has continued working with **Sinapsos** to pilot a new learning management system for radiotherapy education. Four courses have now been piloted on this emerging platform—including three developed to support radiotherapy professionals in Ukraine and one for radiation oncologists worldwide—allowing us to explore new ways to deliver accessible, self-paced learning alongside our live courses.

## Sneak Peek

### 2 recently concluded courses (more details to come next time!) + 1 upcoming course



#### Nursing in Radiation Oncology for South & Southeast Asia

- Using the same curriculum as RCC's first Nursing in Radiation Oncology program, this course aims to support nurses in the care of patients undergoing radiotherapy.
- Over 600 participants from centers across South & Southeast Asia are enrolled in this current version of the course that takes place over 15 sessions from November 2025 to March 2026.



#### RTTs from Scratch in Africa

- Designed in collaboration with the input from radiation therapists at the **Uganda Cancer Institute (UCI)** and broadcast to reach centers across Africa with the support of the **African Organisation for Research and Training in Cancer (AORTIC)**, this new program aims to teach the must-knows for any RTT practicing in clinic, ranging from CT simulation and patient positioning to treatment techniques and planning.
- Over 500 participants across Africa enrolled in the course, which takes place over 14 sessions.



#### Contouring: Cervix, Prostate, and Breast Cases in Africa

- This pilot course will be conducted for radiation oncologists and residents in centers across Africa from May to August 2026.
- The program will include case-based learning with contouring demonstrations and exercises to illustrate concepts and help participants develop better awareness of anatomy + superior contouring skills for the three most common cancer types in Africa.

## Interested in supporting RCC?

Sign up as a new volunteer: [New Volunteer Form](#) →



Interested in joining as a future participant: [New Learner Form](#) →



Interested in helping in another way? [Visit our Donation Page](#) →

