July 31, 2022

RAYOS CONTRA CANCER

Biannual Newsletter

RCC TRAINING PROGRAMS - 3 MORE LAUNCHED

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NEW PARTNERSHIP - ELEKTA FOUNDATION

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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT!

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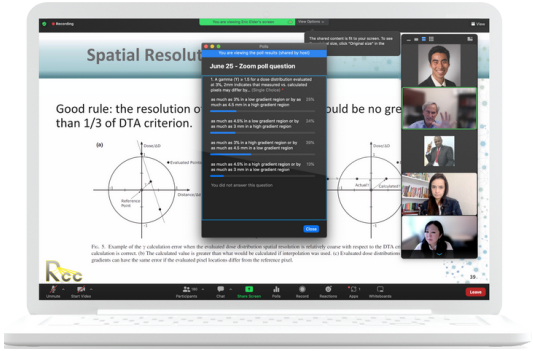
STRONG Seasons for Medical Physics!

RCC's HDR Brachytherapy course for Medical Physicists in Africa took place from January to June 2022 with over 400 participants. This course was led by physicists Claire Dempsey and Adam Shulman.

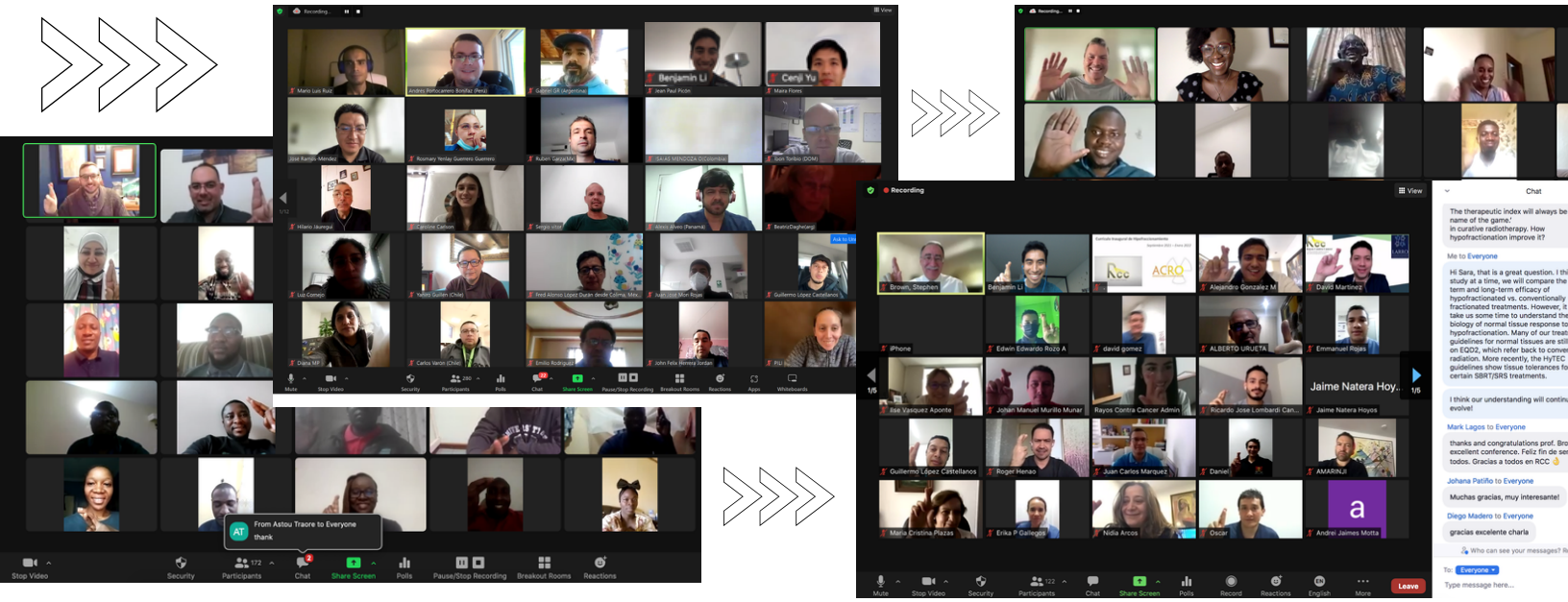


Our program, "Mastering IMRT/VMAT for Medical Physicists," began in May 2022 with nearly 500 English speaking participants from Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and other areas. This interactive program teaches practical concepts around QA and treatment planning over 16 weekly Zoom sessions.

Our newest Spanish program, "Dominando IMRT/VMAT para físicos" began in July 2022 for Latin American and Caribbean cancer clinics. This course is reaching over 450 medical physics across the region and is being taught by an expert team of both U.S.-based and LATAM-based educators.

RCC is excited to announce a new partnership with the Elekta Foundation. The Elekta Foundation was founded in 2022 with a mission to strengthen cancer care in low- and middle-income countries by harnessing philanthropic and voluntary engagement. We are humbled by the support and grateful to be able to work together to make our programs more visible, more far-reaching, and more impactful. RCC will collaborate with the Elekta Foundation to continue providing high-quality radiotherapy training for resource-limited settings. We would like to note that the Elekta Foundation is independent of Elekta as a company and our programs will continue to be vendor neutral.

You can read more about the Elekta Foundation at: https://www.elektafoundation.com/



Reflections from RCC's President

When you hear, "RCC" and think of "Rayos Contra Cancer" instead of renal cell carcinoma, you know something has changed about you. RCC is a vision that we can help ALL cancer patients, even those in hard places, get the best care possible. It is a mission that we CAN ACCOMPLISH by working together. And for many of us, RCC has been a journey that started as a seed and now has grown far and wide.

We pride ourselves in the efficient, hard work of our staff, our volunteers, and our participants. In the past year, we have helped hundreds of thousands of cancer patients get improved radiation treatment. And we promise to continue strong. Reflecting on the beauty of even helping one life, that is something pretty special.

RCC would like to thank all of our amazing moderators who have taken on new responsibilities over the last few months. Our growing moderator team is made up over 20 residents, medical students, and radiotherapy professionals from all regions of the world. We have recently launched a training for moderators on how to facilitate highly engaging lectures!

"I always wanted to be more involved in global education, and moderating for RCC has been a great step towards that goal. I have gotten to know and interact with some amazing people in the field, and not only has it been a rewarding experience, but I have also learned a lot from the educators and the great questions that are asked during the sessions!"

-Sharareh (Sherry) Koufigar

"As a moderator, I really enjoy the opportunity to participate in lively discussions with the participants and educators throughout the courses. I always try to provide responses immediately when questions are asked and do my best to facilitate a great discussion. During the training, I realized the importance of recognizing individuals by their names as much as possible and the value of encouraging them to verbally speak... I think it helps connect everyone!"

-Tim Keiper

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Claire Dempsey, PhD

We would like to recognize Claire Dempsey for all of the great work she has contributed to our HDR Brachytherapy and IMRT programs for medical physicists! Claire is a Senior Medical Physics Specialist at the Calvary Mater Newcastle Hospital in Australia. She served as a "Lead Educator" for the recent HDR Brachytherapy curriculum in Africa and rose to incredible heights by revamping each lecture throughout the course to ensure they connected to each other and covered learning objectives specifically designed for RCC participants. Along with those educators she supported, she is an excellent teacher herself and led sessions on Bunker Design and Shielding Calculations, Shipping and Accepting a New Source, and Imaging for HDR Brachytherapy. She is also a key collaborator on our IMRT course and led a session on Contouring for Physicists. We are so thankful for Claire's dedication to the craft of teaching and bringing advanced physics knowledge to low-resource regions of the world!

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING WITH RCC?

First time as an educator with RCC?
Click on your respective role's link and we will notify you of any future opportunities!
Radiation Oncologist | **Radiation Therapist** | **Medical Physicist**

Would you like to help with an upcoming curriculum?
Let us know by emailing info@rayoscontracancer.org

Interested in helping in another way?
Visit our Donation Page!

If you want to participate in a program as a participant, please email info@rayoscontraacancer.org

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