

42nd Regional Meeting of National RCA Representatives

Project: RAS6087 Enhancing Medical Physics Services in Developing Standards, Education and Training through Regional Cooperation

Details: 2018 – 2022 | AUL | Dr Donald McLean, The Canberra Hospital | 18 participating GPs

Background

- The need for *well-trained clinical physicists* is critical for effective and safe applications of radiation medicine
- Rate of growth of radiation medicine in the region >> Number of new medical physicists (MPs) available.
- Some MSS' MPs are either in *isolated situations* or *lack experienced staff* to be involved in supervision, or both.

Project Objectives

- Improve access to MP clinical training programs and individual learning in developing countries, regional centres and small departments through implementation of Moodle e-learning platform AMPLE
- Increase number of MP as registrars and supervisors in clinical training programs
- Develop a regional resource of external supervisors and assessors to support emerging and isolated medical physics facilities in developing GPs.
- Adoption by developing GPs the agreed regional standards in medical physics certification and accreditation

Project Activities in 2019

▪ Meetings / Workshops

- › Meeting on AMLPE review in Vienna, Austria ([20-24 May 2019](#))
 - 6 experts from the region met with Moodle expert from Europe and various agency parties
 - Meeting reviewed use of AMPLE in the region and formulated approach to improve platform with use of external software contractor
- › Meeting on assessment in clinical training in Canberra, Australia ([26-30 June 2019](#))
 - 5 experts from the region met with LCC and TO to explore the requirements for assessment for clinical training in the region and to draft out a document
 - Meeting agreed on requirements and a publication was outlined. This document has since been developed and will be ready for comment end of Q2 2020.
- › Mid-term review meeting in Chiba, Japan ([14-18 October 2019](#))
 - 16 participants from the region met including the TO to review progress and determine future direction. Sri Lanka was welcomed into the project at this meeting.
 - Meeting reviewed the workplan, making adjustments to reflect changed situations – including 3 new countries requesting to be pilot sites for clinical training.

▪ Expert Missions

- Indonesia ([26-30 June 2019](#)) – assessment of radiotherapy cohort of clinical training medical physicists completing first intake of clinical training.
- Malaysia review of RT resources for AMPLE ([February 2020](#)) – 3 experts reviewed resource material for AMPLE. Large section of the resource research were reviewed. There is still a need for further review.

▪ Contracts

- Contracts have been issued in the last 12 months for IT support to upgrade AMPLE with progress tracking reporting, AMPLE implementation and international coordination of clinical training pilots (ongoing).

Progress during 2019

- As reported at the mid-term meetings existing clinical training programs are progressing and working with 3 new countries to setup programs in 2020.

Constraints/ Challenges

- ✓ Difficulties in scheduling missions etc. as discussed last year.
- ✓ Current travel restrictions, linked with the increased work burden generally as we are all mainly working remotely – leaves little expression for project work.

- ✓ Work plan is severely impacted by COVID-19 restrictions – the initiation of new clinical training projects, assessment of candidates completing training and expert missions on reviewing material in AMPLE for diagnostic radiology and nuclear medicine are on hold.
- ✓ Work is continuing as best as possible with communication with the clinical training sites, international coordinator, and MS NPCs being prioritised as well as work on upgrading AMPLE and completion of the assessment guide.