

RAYOS CONTRA CANCER

Biannual Newsletter

2023 BY THE NUMBERS

And we still have more to go!

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COURSE REVIEW

*Pelvic Contouring in SE Asia
Hypofractionation in LATAM*

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COMMUNITY UPDATES & VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

We build success together

3-4

2023 by the Numbers

3

COMPLETED COURSES

1

COURSE IN PROGRESS

1

UPCOMING COURSE

2,529 PARTICIPANTS*

30+ VOLUNTEERS

81 COUNTRIES!

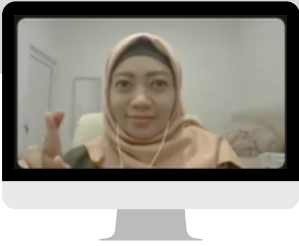
7+ PARTNERSHIPS

- Elekta Foundation
- South East Asia Radiation Oncology Group
- Sociedade Brasileira de Radioterapia
- Sociedad Mexicana de Radioterapeutas
- Asociación Colombiana de Radioterapia Oncológica
- BIO Ventures for Global Health
- American Association of Physicists in Medicine

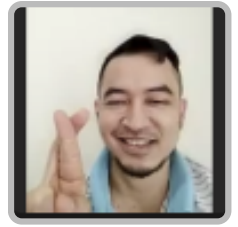
*FOR COMPLETED COURSES

Thank you to all who join in our mission of creating sustainable access to high-quality, timely, and affordable radiation treatment for cancer in limited-resource settings globally!

COURSE REVIEW: PELVIC CONTOURING IN SOUTH EAST ASIA



From November 2022 to January 2023, about 150 radiation oncologists and residents in South East Asia participated in an RCC course on “Avoiding Common Errors in Contouring - Pelvic Malignancies.” The course provided a framework for participants to self-evaluate and improve contouring skills, focusing on practical skills and demonstrations.



As shown in the table below, participants reported increased confidence in contouring different disease sites and teaching contouring skills. We are thrilled that the course improved confidence across the board that can lead to improved patient outcomes for >35,000 patients!



Please indicate how confident you currently are in your ability to contour EVERY target volume without ANY errors for the following disease sites:*

	Cervical Cancer EBRT	Cervical Cancer Brachytherapy	Endometrial Cancer	Prostate Cancer (intact)	Prostate Cancer (post-op)	Bladder Cancer	Rectal Cancer (intact)	Rectal Cancer (post-op)	Anal Cancer	Vulvar Cancer	Pelvic Nodal Regions	Teach Contouring Skills
Pre-curriculum	3.24	2.83	3.17	3.03	2.76	2.97	3.20	2.95	2.76	2.59	2.95	2.70
Post-curriculum	3.95	3.59	3.88	3.73	3.55	3.75	3.91	3.69	3.56	3.51	3.78	3.53
Percentage Change	22%	27%	22%	23%	29%	26%	22%	25%	29%	35%	28%	31%

*n = 145 paired responses *Likert confidence scale 1-5

COURSE REVIEW: HYPOFRACTIONATION IN LATIN AMERICA

This summer, we completed a course in hypofractionation for medical physicists and radiation oncologists in Latin America. **Over 1,000 radiotherapy professionals** enrolled in the synchronous course... RCC's largest course to date! Additionally, we offered a new asynchronous course option that helped participants access course training materials while opening spaces in the live course for those who could attend most or all of the scheduled sessions.

We are very thankful for the opportunity to partner with many centers in Latin America and increase knowledge of and confidence in hypofractionation. We could not have achieved success without two of RCC's dedicated volunteers, **Maria Caicedo** and **Alejandro Gonzalez**, who worked together to moderate every session of the course and provide a wonderful experience for participants. Thank you!

98%
PARTICIPANTS
REPORTED
INCREASED
CONFIDENCE &
KNOWLEDGE

Isn't it amazing what we are accomplishing by working together? Each educator, moderator, and volunteer, dedicating time to make every session the best it can be, something special for the world, each participant improving patient care in their clinic, and all of these adding up to create magnificent works of education that are uplifting and impactful. Like an orchestra, it wouldn't be possible if we didn't work together, listen, and learn from each other as we ourselves continue to improve as well. We will continue to collaborate to meet real needs and empower clinics to face both old and new challenges in the rise against cancer. Thank you to everyone who is playing a role and fostering our RCC team spirit!

-Dr. Ben Li, Founder & Executive Director of RCC

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Recent Publications

Reimagining Education in Global Radiotherapy.
Yorke et al. 2023.

Targeting Education as a Barrier to Implement Hypofractionation.
Caicedo et al. 2022.



Did you know...?

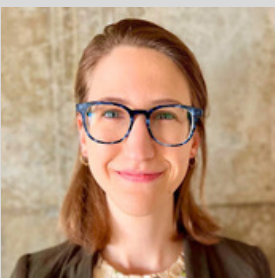
A lot of work takes place behind the scenes to launch a successful course: learning about the needs of radiotherapy centers around the world, developing course curricula, answering questions during the course, and evaluating a course after it ends so we can improve.

We want to send a big **THANK YOU** to RCC course planners, lead educators, and other volunteers who help support radiotherapy around the world!

NEW RCC STAFF MEMBER

This May, we said farewell to our wonderful Program Manager, Caroline Carlson, as she headed off to medical school! We wish Caroline the very best in her journey, where she will do great things!

At the same time, we welcomed a new Program Manager, Emily Kruse. With a Master in Public Health from Johns Hopkins and several years of operations and data analytics experience in home health & hospice care, she is passionate about improving organizational efficiency and addressing gaps in global healthcare. Furthermore, as a cancer survivor herself, she feels honored to work with clinicians and volunteers across the world to improve care for cancer survivors.



Welcome to the family, Emily! We are thrilled to have you!



Hello, I would like to thank all of the educators of the RCC course on my part and the part of my colleagues, we could not choose just one in particular, but all of the educators who volunteered their time and knowledge! Greetings from FUESMEN Radiotherapy (Argentina Mendoza)*

*translated from Spanish

From Mario Aracena, Federico Lassabe Y Germán Gonzalez



YouTube update! The videos from the **Pelvic Contouring for Radiation Oncologists in South East Asia** course earlier this year have been posted at [this link](#). Remember, you can subscribe to our channel!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Serguei A. Castaneda, MD

We are excited to honor our Volunteer of the Year, Dr. Serguei Castaneda! Serguei is a radiation oncologist at Miami Cancer Institute, Baptist Health South Florida in Miami, Florida, USA, and he specializes in CNS, spine, and other disease sites using advanced technologies such as GammaKnife, proton pencil beam scanning, MRLinac, MRIIdian, and surface guided RT, among others.

As a volunteer with RCC, he has done so much. He is a former RCC board member, helping with communication in Latin America, project planning, research, and educator recruitment. He has taught several sessions as an educator for Pelvic Contouring in Southeast Asia and IMRT for RTTs in Latin America, and he has moderated many sessions...sometimes jumping in for us at the last second!

RCC is immensely grateful for Serguei's leadership, expertise, and dedication to supporting global radiotherapy, **not only in his home country of Colombia, but also across the world.** We cannot thank Serguei enough for being a passionate and engaging educator and a continued champion for RCC's mission!



“I’m humbled and privileged for having the opportunity to collaborate, teach, and learn from our radiation oncology colleagues and friends locally and around the world. I’m also thankful to RCC for providing such robust and enjoyable networking platform to enhance high-quality, timely, and affordable radiotherapy in limited-resource settings globally.”

Sneak Peek



We are currently launching our fall 2023 course on SBRT/SRS in Latin America for medical physicists and radiation oncologists. The course aims to ensure safe, proper, and consistent methods for implementation, commissioning, motion management, treatment planning, and QA in the transition from IMRT to SBRT/SRS. The course will be conducted in Spanish, and we are excited to support our partners in LATAM!

INTERESTED IN FURTHER SUPPORTING RCC?

Join as an educator or refer a friend!

Click on your respective role's link and we will notify you of 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@rayoscontracancer.org