

RAYOS CONTRA CANCER

Education | Clinic Development | Research

Education

Another training program completed! The RCC SBRT/SRS 2.0 curriculum, our largest to date, concluded this past Thursday, April 16th. Featuring 17 sessions, educational review of treatment plans, and more, we enjoyed upgrades from the 1.0 curriculum. (pg. 2) Without delaying a beat, we are launching the first RCC IMRT for Therapists curriculum *this week* and first Head & Neck contouring curriculum *next month!* (pg. 4)

Research

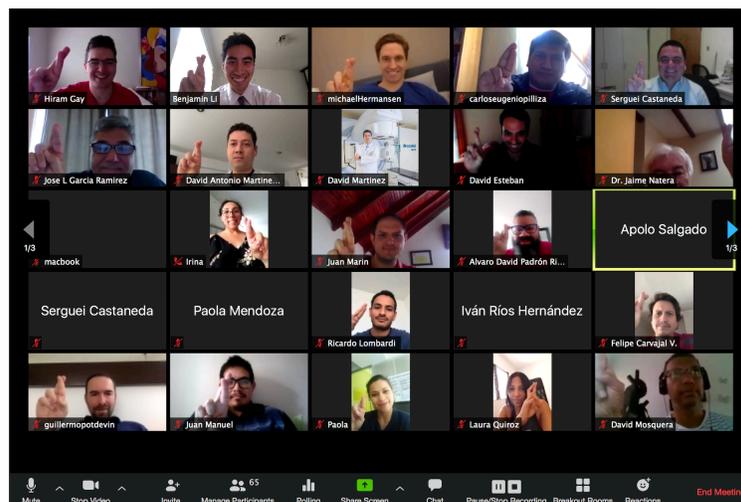
The team of Benjamin Li, Betty Chang and Sameeksha Malhotra recently traveled to Lima, Peru with an efficient mission: quantify the costs of radiotherapy treatment for locally advanced cervical cancer across different settings, greet four new clinics participating in the SBRT/SRS 2.0 curriculum, and learn from Peruvian colleagues the barriers surrounding radiotherapy that exist in the country. RCC is also happy to welcome several new medical students, residents, and fellows who have become involved! (pg. 5)

Clinic Development

Rayos Contra Cancer sends its heartfelt prayers to the cancer patients around the world whose treatments may be disrupted at this time during the COVID-19 pandemic. Read more about our message of unity (pg. 1)

Rayos Contra COVID-19

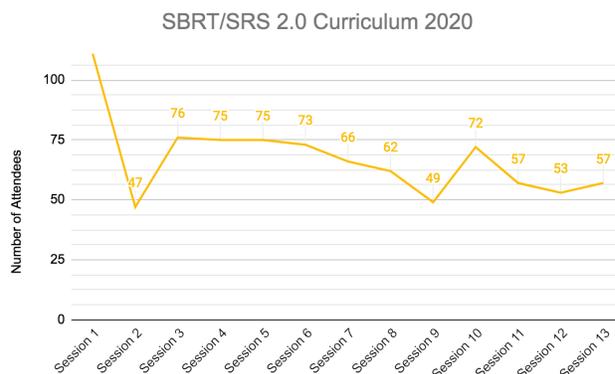
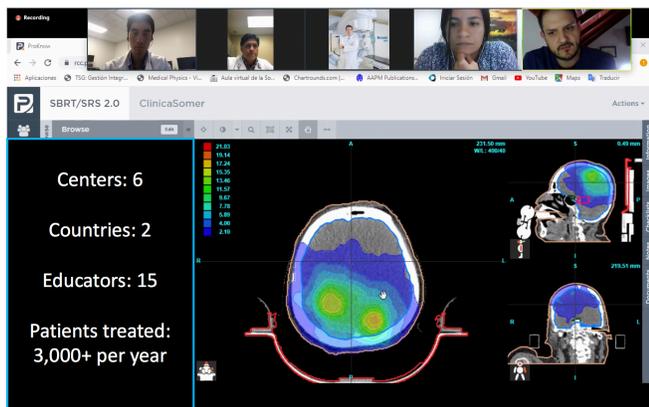
“We Stand United!” 🙌



March 21, 2020 – Rayos Contra Cancer organized a special forum bridging the U.S. and Latin America to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic with radiation oncology centers across different countries. Over 60 participants gathered to listen and contribute their thoughts and viewpoints. The global pandemic has significantly threatened those healthy in society, as well as marginalized those patients who need treatment. Therefore, it is our duty to help one another navigate these turbulent conditions and support each other as professionals.

We have also put together a resource for radiation oncology professionals (<https://tinyurl.com/yc3ra8p8>) detailing experiences, reports, and publications about the effect of COVID-19 on cancer patients and radiation oncology as a whole. Please visit the link for additional information. We are thinking of each member of our global community right now and hoping that everyone is staying safe. Our thoughts go out to all patients and professionals persevering through these challenging times. We provide this photo and message as a symbol of our unity (🙌), the RCC sign!

SBRT/SRS 2.0: Telehealth Training Complete!



January 28, 2020 marked the kick-off of RCC’s SBRT/SRS 2.0 Curriculum with 120 participants and new energy for learning! The six primary centers participating included INEN (Instituto Nacional de Enfermedades Neoplásicas), AUNA, Hospital Rebagliati, Ricardo Palma Clinica, Clinica Occidente, and Clinica Somer from Lima, Cali, and Medellin. Training sessions were conducted once to twice a week following the ECHO model and incorporated ProKnow, a cloud-based software allowing clinics to upload sample treatment plans. The curriculum was robust, featuring pre- and post- examinations, supplementary material, and contributions from each center presenting cases. Volunteer educators united from all over for this curriculum, coming from the Henry Ford Hospital, UC Irvine, Vanderbilt, Washington University, UT Southwestern, MD Anderson, and more. We were also so proud to have a medical physicist from Peru, Bertha Garcia - AUNA, as an educator for a session examining SRS cases of the brain! Bertha Garcia participated in the first iteration of this curriculum as well, and having her as an educator on this iteration fulfills our goal of training trainers, who can then continue to spread their knowledge to develop more robust radiation oncology clinics in their area.

Partnership Spotlight: ProKnow

RCC is proud to work with ProKnow to advance global health oncology initiatives as a team with industry leaders in radiation oncology. ProKnow was recently acquired by Elekta, a change with expands the resources at ProKnow’s disposal while still allowing ProKnow to maintain its dedication to global health. ProKnow makes cloud-based systems such as RT-PACS, data discovery systems, and quality systems for contouring and planning. We have integrated our partnership with ProKnow into our Project ECHO sessions to create high-quality, interactive, and accessible education and training for clinics in developing settings and we are able to use this platform for clinicians to analyze and peer review treatment plans from across the world, fulfilling our goal of bidirectional learning and engagement.



January Visit to Lima, Peru

By: Betty Chang and Sameeksha Malhotra



We want to share a recap of our recent trip to Lima, Peru. As you know, RCC selected us as Project Managers as an opportunity to gain experience in global cancer development at an early point in our careers and to impact patient lives through our work with RCC. This January 2020, we traveled with Ben to visit our colleagues in four of the clinics participating in the SBRT/ SRS curriculum. Touring the radiotherapy departments of these centers allowed us to better understand the available technology in the area, as well as the daily workflow of cancer treatment. We also drew differences between the variety of public and private clinics to gain a comprehensive appreciation of radiation oncology abroad. In order to uncover the actual resource costs of treatment, we created a process map for the treatment cervical cancer cases, and interviewed several professionals in each of the clinics about the amount of time needed for each step of treatment. By combining these numbers with the salary and equipment costs, we were able to complete a time-driven activity-based costing analysis of locally advanced cervical cancer. We hope that this analysis will help us better understand the cost of radiotherapy on a global scale. While in Lima, we were also able to make great friends in each of the clinics, try local Peruvian food, and travel to some beautiful beaches!

RCC University

As a part of our RCC University initiative, we are bringing more medical students into our organization, and helping them develop leadership skills and radiation oncology experience by spearheading one of our telehealth curriculums. Currently, students from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine are working on IMRT for Therapists Curriculum, UCSF School of Medicine students are working on a Head and Neck Curriculum, and Vanderbilt University School of Medicine students are working on a Gynecologic HDR-Brachytherapy Curriculum.

Our goal is to train medical students to run these curricula independently, so we can have several running concurrently and are able to widen our horizons and help hundreds of clinics at the same time!



Volunteer Spotlight

Michael Hermansen



We are proud to announce our first volunteer spotlight of the year: Michael Hermansen! Michael is currently completing his medical physicist residency at Banner MD Anderson, and has quickly become an integral member of our organization. He has served as a moderator for all of the sessions in our SBRT/SRS 2.0 Curriculum, and has done an amazing job engaging with the clinics in each session, fielding questions, and communicating with the educators. Thank you, Michael for everything you do for RCC!

IMRT for Radiation Therapists in Latin America

Radiation therapists are an important part of the treatment team, and RCC is thrilled to invite them to join our global health mission. We are excited to start with this pilot curriculum helping therapists in developing settings transition to IMRT for the first time, where training opportunities for therapists otherwise do not exist. Our curriculum launches this week for eight centers in Latin America with some of the most motivated educators we have seen to date!

... and RCC Launches Third Student Chapter: UCSF

Students at the UCSF School of Medicine in San Francisco, CA have established a Rayos Contra Cancer student chapter at their school. These students are incredibly passionate about addressing global disparities in cancer outcomes and access to care.

As their first project, they are helping lead a brand new **Head & Neck Contouring curriculum**, which will be implemented across seven cancer centers in the Philippines. Volunteers with experience and passion for southeast Asia and the Pacific are also helping. The team of radiation oncologist educators assisting this effort are shown below:

RCC Head and Neck Educator Team



Jason Chan (UCSF)



John Holland (OHSU)



Kenneth Hu (NYU)



Ana Kiess (Hopkins)



Lisa McGee (Mayo)



David Palma (LHSC)



Samir Patel (Mayo)



Parag Sanghvi (UCSD)

The Next Generation



We have recently added many new medical students, residents, and other new volunteers to our Rayos Contra Cancer team! Many will be joining and leading new projects that we have coming up this year. These include various research and educational initiatives like implementing new curriculums or investigating the state of radiotherapy in a certain region of the world. We are extremely excited about this group of volunteers who will undoubtedly make RCC a better and more effective organization.

Above, David Bruss, MS4, visits Ecuador to meet one of our LACOS partners in person. David is interested in head and neck oncology and had a chance to spend a month in Ecuador, where we helped connect him with local radiation oncologists and ENT physicians. We are proud to have students like David joining our organization, representing RCC with professionalism, and sharing what they learn on the ground to enhance our efforts!

Read more here about our new generation of volunteers: (<https://www.rayoscontracancer.org/nextgen>)

2020-2021 RCC Project Managers

As June is quickly approaching, we have completed several rounds of interviews searching for RCC's project managers for the 2020-2021 year. After speaking with many extremely qualified candidates, we have chosen two students: **Fei Yang** and **Raymond Carter**! Fei and Raymond will both be graduating from Vanderbilt University in May 2020, and will begin working with RCC in June. They are both spectacular students who are extremely passionate about global health, and we can't wait to bring them into the organization.

Are you interested in helping as an educator? Click whether [Radiation Oncologist](#), [Radiation Therapist](#) or [Medical Physicist](#) and we can notify you with a future opportunity!

Are you interested in helping in another way? We have a [contact page](#) and a [donation page](#) and appreciate your solidarity with us.

Thanks to the combined efforts of many, **for every \$1 we raise, we help 1 cancer patient** in a limited-resource setting receive a better radiation treatment! Have a question or comment? Reach us at info@rayoscontracancer.org