



# **Training Course for the Treatment of Cervical Cancer: Clinical, Quality and Safety Aspects**

**Hosted by**

The Government of the United States of America

**through the**

IAEA Programs at Argonne National Laboratory

Houston, TX, United States of America

**6 to 11 July 2020**

**Ref. No.:** TN-INT6062-1907514

## **Information Sheet**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the event is to train the participants on the quality, the safety tools and the management strategies related to the treatment of the cervical cancer; including the critical and high-risk elements of the treatment workflow for cervical cancer; and guidance on how to establish a quality management system in radiotherapy, with emphasis on cervical cancer.

### **Working Language(s)**

The working language(s) of the event will be English.

## **Deadline for Nominations**

Nominations received after 3 April 2020 will not be considered.

## **Project Background**

There is a growing awareness among IAEA Member States about the enormous magnitude of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) throughout the world and, particularly, in developing countries. Currently, chronic diseases claim more than 35 million lives each year and account for more than 60% of all deaths worldwide. This figure includes 16 million premature deaths involving people under the age of 70. The World Health Organization (WHO) projects that the burden of NCDs will continue to increase by a further 17 per cent over the next 10 years, most markedly in Low and Middle Income (LMI) countries.

According to GLOBOCAN, worldwide, 266,000 women died of cervical cancer in 2012. And 90% of these deaths were in LMI countries.

To ensure cost-effective and successful cancer control approach, cervix cancer patients need to be early diagnosed and adequately treated. Modern radiotherapy (including advances in external beam radiotherapy and high dose rate brachytherapy) plays a key role in the management of cervical cancer.

However, many Low and Medium Income (LMI) countries have inadequate radiotherapy capabilities and limited human resources. Consequently; the radiotherapy departments in LMI countries will definitely need vital support in human capacity development in order to meet and cope with the demand for such services.

To build on what exists and enhance progress, 7 UN agencies (including the IAEA) under the United Nations Task Force on NCDs have established a new 5-year Joint Programme to prevent and control cervical cancer. The vision of the Joint Programme is the elimination of cervical cancer as a public health concern across the world.

The IAEA, through various mechanisms including the Technical Cooperation Programme and the Human Health Programme, can assist MS to strengthen capacity in the field on radiation medicine.

## **Scope and Nature**

Participants will:

Be updated on the basic elements of quality management in the treatment of cervical cancer;

Acquire practical knowledge on how to set-up a quality management system in their institutions;

Learn how to develop process flow diagrams and identify high risk procedures in their local HDR brachytherapy services;

Disseminate the knowledge acquired during the workshop;

Improve the operation of clinical services treating cervical cancer.

A comprehensive approach to quality management for the treatment of cervical cancer will be given during the course. Clinical (patient indication, contouring, dose prescription, plan evaluation, brachytherapy insertion, postoperative care) as well as technical (commissioning of equipment, imaging and applicator reconstruction, creating of a treatment plan, plan QA, common incidents, etc) aspects of the patient workflow will be discussed. Process mapping, FMEA and QM tools will also be discussed. Hands-on exercises will complement the theoretical lectures. Interactive sessions and active participant engagement are key elements of learner centred activity.

## **Participation**

Each Member State can submit up to two nominations: one radiation oncologists and one medical physicist directly involved in the treatment of cervical cancer using external beam radiotherapy and brachytherapy, especially HDR. Preference will be given to teams coming from the same institution.

## **Participants' Qualifications and Experience**

Candidates must be a Radiation Oncologist/Medical Physicist with strong background and interest in HDR brachytherapy for the treatment of gynaecological cancers. The candidates should have been involved in activities in this field at national and international levels.

## Application Procedure

Candidates wishing to apply for this event should follow the steps below:

1. Access the InTouch+ home page (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>) using the candidate's existing Nucleus username and password. If the candidate is not a registered Nucleus user, she/he must create a Nucleus account (<https://websso.iaea.org/IM/UserRegistrationPage.aspx>) before proceeding with the event application process below.
  
2. On the InTouch + platform, the candidate must:
  - a. Finalize or update her/his personal details, provide sufficient information to establish the required qualifications regarding education, language skills and work experience ('Profile' tab) and upload relevant supporting documents;
  - b. Search for the relevant technical cooperation event (EVT1907514) under the 'My Eligible Events' tab, answer the mandatory questions and lastly submit the application to the required authority.

**NOTE:** Completed applications need to be approved by the relevant national authority, i.e. the National Liaison Office, and submitted to the IAEA through the established official channels by the provided designation deadline.

For additional support on how to apply for an event, please refer to the [InTouch+ Help page](#). Any issues or queries related to InTouch+ can be addressed to [InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org](mailto:InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org).

Should online application submission not be possible, candidates may download the nomination form for the training course from the [IAEA website](#).

**NOTE:** A medical certificate signed by a registered medical practitioner dated not more than four months prior to starting date of the event must be submitted by candidates when applying for a) events with a duration exceeding one month, and/or b) all candidates over the age of 65 regardless of the event duration.

## Administrative and Financial Arrangements

Nominating authorities will be informed in due course of the names of the candidates who have been selected, and will at that time be informed of the procedure to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Selected participants will receive an allowance from the IAEA sufficient to cover their costs of lodging, daily subsistence and miscellaneous expenses. They will also receive either a round-trip air ticket based on the most direct and economical route between the airport nearest their residence and the airport nearest the duty station through the IAEA's travel agency American Express, or a travel grant, or they will be reimbursed travel by car/bus/train in accordance with IAEA rules for non-staff travel.

## **Disclaimer of Liability**

The organizers of the event do not accept liability for the payment of any cost or compensation that may arise from damage to or loss of personal property, or from illness, injury, disability or death of a participant while he/she is travelling to and from or attending the course, and it is clearly understood that each Government, in approving his/her participation, undertakes responsibility for such coverage. Governments would be well advised to take out insurance against these risks.

## **Note for female participants**

Any woman engaged by the IAEA for work or training should notify the IAEA on becoming aware that she is pregnant.

The Board of Governors of the IAEA approved new International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources. The Standards deal specifically with the occupational exposure conditions of female workers by requiring, inter alia, that a female worker should, on becoming aware that she is pregnant, notify her employer in order that her working conditions may be modified, if necessary. This notification shall not be considered a reason to exclude her from work; however, her working conditions, with respect to occupational exposure shall be adapted with a view to ensuring that her embryo or foetus be afforded the same broad level of protection as required for members of the public.

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