

1st ESTRO physics workshop: science in development

17-18 November 2017
Glasgow, UK



Interview with Núria Jornet, chair of the physics committee

Why is the physics committee launching the physics workshop on the theme of science in development?

During the physics committee strategy meeting in 2016, two key issues came forward that should be given high priority amongst the medical physics community in ESTRO in order to fulfil the ESTRO vision: strengthening scientific and professional networking amongst our members with interests in a common area, and promoting “outside the box” thinking by interaction with physicists working in other fields who could contribute to our field.

From our perspective, and also from the analysis of responses to two surveys that the physics committee has conducted, we concluded that the annual ESTRO meeting is an excellent platform for science dissemination and for continuous professional development, but we thought that a smaller, complementary gathering would allow us to go deeper into active networking. Being aware that there are already too many meetings in Europe and beyond, we wanted to develop a unique meeting concept. ▼



NURIA JORNET

SIX TOPICS TO RUN IN PARALLEL

Which one will you choose?

- Automation of treatment planning and QA: automate or perish (*chairs: Ben Heijmen and Dirk Verellen*)
- *In vivo* dosimetry: *in vivo* dosimetry methods for external beam radiotherapy and brachytherapy (*chairs: Kari Tanderup and Frank Verhaegen*)
- Dosimetric audits: dosimetry audit in radiation oncology – where to go next? (*chairs: Catharine Clark and Eduard Gershkevitch*)
- Gate Monte Carlo: the multidisciplinary Gate/Geant4 Monte Carlo platform in medical physics – clinical applications and research (*chairs: Uwe Pietrzyk, Hermann Fuchs and Loïc Grevillot*)
- Nanodosimetry: micro and nanodosimetry for radiotherapy (*chairs: Brigitte Reniers and Hugo Palmans*)
- Challenges in treatment planning with particles: medical physics research and treatment planning development for therapy with scanned particle beams (*chairs: Håkan Nystöm and Dietmar Georg*).

It is within this scenario that the idea of a smaller format meeting, with a strong focus on interaction and networking, started to take form. What was a concept, is now a reality, and we are delighted to announce the first physics workshop on science in development in medical physics for radiation oncology.

What is the concept of the workshop?

This is a two-day workshop. In order to facilitate attendance, it will run on a Friday starting at 10:00 and end on Saturday at 16:00. We would like to limit attendance to a maximum of 60 participants per topic to keep the spirit of the concept and stimulate discussion. The workshop will start with a plenary lecture on ‘The adaptive medical physicist: new challenges, new needs, new roles’, then break out into six sessions of different topics that will run in parallel. All participants will then meet together at a plenary session at the end of each day to share summaries of what has been happening in the different topic groups. Finally, as with any ESTRO event, we will gather together for a social event on the Friday evening.

What is the overall aim of the new workshop concept?

The main aim is to facilitate scientific and professional networking amongst medical physicists and to stimulate joint collaborations amongst members, but also with physicists

working in other fields (imaging, detectors, modelling, etc.).

How will the scientific programme be built?

For this first meeting, we have selected a number of different topics where there is currently active research, such as automation of treatment planning and quality assurance (QA), *in vivo* dosimetry, dosimetric audits, Gate Monte Carlo, nanodosimetry, and challenges in treatment planning with particles. Most topics will be led by two experts. They are key medical physicists in the field who will combine invited talks with contributions sent by the participants to stimulate discussion. We have just launched the call for contributions which should be a summary of their on-going work on the topic area. The topic leaders will be in charge of making selections from the submissions, as well as the final organisation of the topic programme. We will focus on projects still in the development phase or, in other words, work in progress.

So, one of the differences with this workshop is that the programme is proposed by the ESTRO physics members themselves?

Indeed. This is a meeting for our community, created by our members, and we rely on their active participation because their contribution ▼

OUTCOME

The main aim of the workshop is to gather medical physicists with a common interest in research and clinical practice. The stimulating exchanges will lead to:

- For those active in the field:
 - Obtaining feedback from colleagues on your project
 - Participating in stimulating discussions
 - Joining existing collaborations
- For those not yet active in the field, but with an interest in the topic:
 - Becoming updated on the topic
 - Getting to know colleagues in the field
 - Participating in discussions
 - Fostering potential future collaborations.

will be the key element in making it a success. We aim for a member-driven approach, so for future meetings the topics will be selected by an open call to ESTRO physics members. Any group with an active background in a particular topic can submit a topic proposal that will be evaluated by the physics committee.

Who should attend?

Physicists, researchers, and engineers working in, or with an interest in, any of the proposed topics or related areas who would like to benefit from an experts' forum with discussion and networking opportunities.

Finally, what would you say in a few words to convince your colleagues to attend?

If you think that interaction with colleagues around Europe and beyond has the potential to benefit your research and clinical practice in multiple ways, you should definitely consider participating in this new concept being launched by the ESTRO physics committee. This, combined with a top programme built by at least two recognised experts on each topic who have enthusiasm for the meeting concept and for stimulating lively and interesting discussions, will create an opportunity not to be missed.

Call for contributions on ongoing research deadline and early registration fee deadline:

4 September 2017

Call for contribution:

estro.org/binaries/content/assets/estro/conferences/1st-estro-physics-workshop/170621-1st-estro-physics-workshop--call-for-registration-and-contributi....pdf >

Registration:

estro.org/congresses-meetings/articles/physicsws2017reg >

More information:

estro.org/congresses-meetings/articles/physicsws2017reg >