This year the course on “Modern brachytherapy techniques” took place on the beautiful island of Cyprus. “Kalos orieses” (“Welcome”)! The course lasted four days and took place in the stunning Four Seasons Hotel in Limassol, in the ballroom, which provided superb facilities. Thirty-nine participants came from all over Europe and even further afield, including New Zealand, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Israel.

There was a very diverse audience with different experiences in brachytherapy, including not only radiation therapists, but also radiation oncologists and medical physicists. Hosted by five well-known specialists in brachytherapy, the course offered an in-depth look at the magical world of brachytherapy and all the radiation techniques concerned.

The course began with a general presentation about past and present brachytherapy techniques, which gave a good impression of how much brachytherapy has developed in the last century in both a physical and radiobiological context.

The full four days were spent sharing information on a wide range of target areas being treated with brachytherapy using different sources, such as iodine 125, iridium 192, caesium 137 and cobalt 60, as well as different afterloaders.

Image guided brachytherapy using MR imaging was also discussed. This now commonly used technique makes it possible for radiation therapists, radiation oncologists and physicists to adjust the volume being treated for each patient individually according to the situation at hand.

The presentations gave a comprehensive summary of interstitial and intraluminal/intracavitary brachytherapy with permanent or temporary implants/applicators for a wide variety of target areas. Even though each institute uses its own treatment type and schedule, you could learn from all techniques and take home those you could perform in your own institute.

The technique of the Paris System, which forms the basis of brachytherapy treatment with needles and catheters, was very well explained in the presentation entitled “Interstitial BT: the Paris system and dose recording and reporting in interstitial brachytherapy”. At the end of the day there was an opportunity to delve deeper into this technique during the interactive discussion. The clinicians/physicians and physicists were separated and had the opportunity to explore various subjects in this way. In addition, in order to start an interactive discussion we were all asked to participate in a multiple-choice questionnaire, which ended the day interactivly. And even more importantly, enriched us with a lot of new knowledge.

I would like to close this report by thanking the teachers, the organisation and everyone else who made this course possible. I enjoyed the hospitality of Cyprus with its pleasant weather and the beautiful venue of the Four Seasons Hotel with its great lunches. Last but not least, I should not forget to mention our well organised social event, the Cyprus Night, at the vineyard with live musicians and plenty of good Cyprus wine.

I hope to meet you all again in the future.

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