WP3: Education and training

The primary task of the latest work package was to survey staff at European proton centres to discover their needs for education and training. The survey revealed requirements for training in upcoming as well as in existing centres.

A second task was to seek the incorporation of particle therapy into the ESTRO core curriculum and the ESTRO School teaching courses. The ESTRO School has agreed to integrate proton therapy into courses where it is relevant. However, the School's overall strategy is to teach radiation therapy in general and not to add sections and teachers from the different radiation modalities such as MRI-linac, brachytherapy or proton therapy to each of the teaching courses. As an alternative, it was suggested that workshops could be established in, for example, planning of proton-therapy treatment to supplement the ESTRO School teaching course in particle therapy.

A third agenda item in the work package was to pave the way for a staff exchange programme between the European proton centres. The WP3 will organise a second survey, this time on the need and capacity for exchange between the centres. Staff can apply for ESTRO mobility grants, but there is no funding available for the host institutions. The WP3 will look into the possibilities of establishing generic training programmes and e-learning that will reduce the teaching load at the host centres.