

ISRRT 2018 World Congress **Travel Support Fund Report**

Sindiso Nleya and Polite Mukwada

We **Sindiso Nleya and Polite Mukwada** lecturers in the department of Applied Physics at the National University of Science and Technology in Zimbabwe attended the ISRRT 2018 World Congress in Trinidad and Tobago from 12 to 15 April 2018 courtesy of the Travel Support Fund. We benefitted quite a lot from attending the conference and interacting with radiographers from all over the world. What we have done so far to disseminate our experiences to the rest of the radiographers in our country is as follows;

We managed to make presentations at the Zimbabwe Medical Association (ZIMA) seminar which was held in Bulawayo on the 16th of June 2018. The theme of the seminar was “Communication the future and Awareness in the use of Radiation Equipment in diagnostic imaging and radiation oncology”. The programme included some of these presentations; Reducing radiation risk during Imaging by Polite Mukwada; Biological effects of Radiation by Simbarashe Gashirai. The delegates of this seminar included radiographers, pharmacists, nurses, and medical practitioners. This enabled us to share our experience and knowledge of radiation uses and hazards to other healthcare personnel who together with us benefit from the use of radiation. Inter professional discussions came up where the referring clinicians (medical practitioners) shared with us their views about radiation and its use. The use of the x-ray request form and its role in radiation protection was discussed at length.

We had a group of students who are upgrading their diploma qualifications to degree coming for their block on the 25 June to 8 July 2018. These include students not only from Zimbabwe but from our neighbouring countries; Zambia and Botswana who are not yet members of the ISRRT. Other than the informal reports and updates which we were giving to these students now and then, we had a whole day’s seminar at the National University of Science and Technology on the Saturday of the 7th of July 2018. Saturday allowed all the radiographers in the Southern region of the country to join with these students and attend the seminar. Attendance was excellent cutting across the four tier system of the radiography profession that is to say X- ray operators who are certificate holders and manning some districts and Mission hospitals; Diploma holding radiographers; Degree holding radiographers, some MSc holding radiographers and in addition students on the conventional

programme. We have to point out that all the delegates were from the southern region of the country of Zimbabwe. Another seminar would be held in November 2018 during the World Radiography Day celebrations encompassing all the radiographers in the country. We will also present our experiences in this seminar. With the interest displayed by the delegates one would assume that word has gone round about the ISRRT. Some of the presentations included a presentation by Sindiso Nleya (Contemporary issues in radiotherapy), Polite Mukwada (Advanced practice in radiography), Bigboy Rakata (Bonn Call for Action and ISRRT initiatives in Southern Africa and ISRRT conference updates), Ellen Maguranyanga (Optimisation in digital radiography), and Bernard Nyirenda (Current perspectives in the Radiography Association of Zimbabwe). The seminar allowed us to share our experiences from the Congress.

End of Report