Travel Grant Award Report on ISRRT World Congress-2018 in Trinidad & Tobago

Name & Address of “TRAVEL GRANT AWARD” Recipient: Teekendra Singh Faujdar
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Date & address where ISRRT Congress -2018 held: 12th – 15th April, 2018
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Port of Spain, Republic of Trinidad & Tobago.

It was a privilege and pleasure to attend ISRRT World Congress-2018 with the support of ISRRT. I must thank the authorities of ISRRT for giving me sponsorship to participate and present my research.

Objectives:

- To present my research paper on “SBRT in Hepato-cellular Carcinoma with Portal Vein Tumor Thrombosis”.
- To share and discuss the current technical advances, issues and gaps in radiation oncology with other delegates from across the world.
- To network and gain knowledge from other participants, acquire skills on advances in radiation treatment technology and share challenges
- With experience, a bar on quality, standards and technical issues shall be shared to the Indian community of Radiation Therapists.
- The knowledge acquired will be shared through workshops, conferences in India.

Scientific details of the visit:

The pre-conference workshop on “Bonn call for action on Radiation safety” gave me a great start. The new ISRRT president took the delegates through the 10 pillars.

I made contact with Sandra Hayden, a member of ASRT who presented on “Radiation safety in radiation therapy” which I found very informative and interesting. She highlighted the importance of Radiation Therapist in safety during our day-to-day practice. She also highlighted the causes and types of errors in Radiotherapy and their solutions. I shared a lot with her and she promised to assist me in developing a culture of safety among other things in my department. She shows that Patient safety/care is the bedrock of quality care in radiation therapy which was summed up by Picker’s eight principles. These are; respect for patients’ preferences, co-ordination and integration of care, information and education, physical comfort, emotional support, involvement of family and friends, continuity and transition and access to care. These principles augur well with the nature of work I am involved in.

Another lecture I attended was, “Radiation Therapy Safety- by the use of Incident Learning Systems” presented by Maria law (Director of Education, ISRRT). She presented that safety culture needs to be promoted in the practice of radiation therapy, as a flawed safety culture is a significant contributing factors to adverse outcomes. She highlighted the importance of few reporting system which following by the major organizations utilized a shared approach within their own countries. Such open incident reporting systems includes; SAFRON from IAEA, RO-ILS from the ASTRO
& AAPM and the ROSEIS from the ESTRO. I have picked up to suggest to my department about these reporting systems and to create an integrated voluntary reporting and learning system of radiotherapy incidents and near misses in our practice.

Another lecture presented by Chek Wee Tan (Principal Radiation Therapist, Singapore), allowed me to know about the Role of Radiation Therapist in creating a patient safe system in Brachytherapy Delivery. She highlighted that Radiation therapists are ultimate gatekeeper in the delivery of radiation dose to the patients, hence they needs to be vigilant and careful during delivery and need to understand their role in the safety and emergency procedures in brachytherapy.

Lectures by Nigel Anderson (Principal Research Radiation Therapist, Australia) were highly informative, which highlighted the importance of radiation therapist in research. I have picked up the points to discuss with concern authorities, to start this scope of practice of therapist in India.

Lectures by the other eminent speakers such as; Needs of feeding tube in H&N radiotherapy patients, optimize the radiation dose to eye lens in SRS procedures, Evaluation of thyroid dose in breast radiation, importance of patient education in radiation therapy, skin care for patients during radiation therapy and many more, were found highly informative and allowed me to realize the importance of the role of the radiation therapists during the advance procedures in this modern era of Radiation Therapy.

I did my presentation on “Quantification of Inter- and Intra-fraction positioning errors in patients of Hepato Cellular Carcinoma with Portal Vein Tumor Thrombosis (HCC with PVTT) treated with Linac based SBRT using Active Breath Co-ordinator (ABC) system”. During my presentation, I have highlighted the effectiveness and efficacy of stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT) in the management of HCC with PVTT cases by using the respiratory motion management system (ABC-Gating), to prevent intrafractional errors. Around 40-50 delegates were present during my presentation and the talk was well appreciated by them.

During the congress, I got an opportunity to interact with the ISRRT/WRETF/ASRT/CAMRT/ASMRT/IIRRT’s executive members and their representatives. I also had discussion with the concern authorities of ISRRT to have collaboration with our ARTTI (Association of Radiation Therapists of India). I also got chance to meet the world of radiation therapists especially from Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Canada, USA and Trinidad and Tobago and to know about their practices and services in their countries.

**How I plan to share my experience and the impact of the congress on my career:**

First, a detailed report on the conference; and the observable changes required in our department, possible solutions and or recommendations have been submitted to the Head of my Department. Discussion has commenced on the report and also some changes have already been implemented.

Secondly, an oral presentation about the congress was given to my colleagues in the department. The dissemination of the knowledge acquired during my visit has been a continuous exercise during our day-to-day activities in the department and will continue to be so until issues identified are resolved for the benefit of our patients.

Thirdly, being the National academic Co-ordinator of ARTTI and as part of sharing my experience acquired during the congress, I delivered a presentation on the following topic: “Advances in Technology v/s Challenges for Radiation Therapist”, at a workshop organized by the Association of Radiation Therapy Technologist of India on 11th August 2018 in Medanta Hospital. I will also highlights my congress’s experience during our upcoming National conference ARTTICON-2018 going to be held at SAIMS Hospital, Indore, India from 27th – 28th October, 2018.
Special Appreciation:

From the depth of my heart, my sincere thanks to the ISRRT Travel Award’s selection team for the favorable consideration given to my application for a travel grant and I specially thank “Katsifarakis Dimitris (CEO, Support Services, ISRRT)” for his support and coordination during my travel grant. I am grateful to be a beneficiary of the award. It was indeed a great opportunity to learn of the ideal radiotherapy practice and to be an instrument for change in my department. Furthermore, I would like thanks to the co-authors of my paper; Dr Tejinder Kataria (Chairperson, Radiation Oncology, Medanta) and Dr. Kushal Narang (Consultant, Radiation Oncology, Medanta) for their unending support during the preparation of my study. Thank you for making my age-long aspiration for competency knowledge in radiotherapy a reality at last. I ensure that I will be available for ISRRT any time they need me.

Glimpses during ISRRT World Congress-2018

(Teekendra Singh at the 20th ISRRT World Congress-2018)
Teekendra Singh and WRETF Chairman Christopher Steelman at 20th ISRRT CONGRESS-2018

Teekendra Singh with Sandra Hayden (Board of Directors, ASRT) and Radiation Therapists from Suriname (Caribbean Country) at ISRRT World Congress-2018.
Teekendra Singh with Katsifarakis Dimitris (CEO, Support Services, ISRRT) at ISRRT World Congress-2018

Teekendra Singh with group of Radiation Therapists from Singapore, Hongkong and Trinidad & Tobago during 20th ISRRT World Congress- 2018
Making my presentation at the 20th ISRRT World Congress-2018 in Trinidad and Tobago

I authenticate this report to ISRRT with my signature.

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