REPORT ON VISIT TO TRINIDAD & TOBAGO FOR THE ISRRT WORLD CONGRESS, 12 – 15 APRIL 2018

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Simbarashe T Gashirai, National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Zimbabwe

The ISRRT World congress held from the 12th to the 15th of April 2018 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago under the theme “We Care” was a wonderful experience that I will forever cherish as a radiographer. This being my second attendance of an ISRRT world congress, it was really humbling to interact with fellow radiographers from around the world with such great passion for our profession. The warm welcome and hospitality of that we received in Port of Spain definitely helped make my visit a memorable one.

I had the opportunity to attend a pre – congress workshop on radiation protection where several speakers gave interesting presentations on current trends in radiation protection. As a lecturer from a developing country, the exposure that I got from different experts from around the world is invaluable. Several topics were explored and of major interest to me were the presentations by Donna Newman from the United States of America (Bonn Call for Action) as well as Radiation Protection in Paediatric Imaging by Michael Odrigen also from the USA. Radiation protection continues to be a topical issue in our local set up in Zimbabwe and both these presentations were eye openers regarding current trends and challenges in radiation protection.

Radiographers from all over the world presented findings from their research work, we were spoilt for choice in terms of the variety of imaging modalities as well as other fields of research. My main areas of interest were Breast imaging, Computed Tomography, General Radiography as well as Radiation Protection. I also had the opportunity to give an oral presentation on Renal CT Angiography which was well received and this went a long way in boosting my confidence in terms of the quality of work that I can produce as well as the ability to present in front of an international audience.

I also took particular interest in a presentation by Daniel DeMaio, from the University of Hartford (USA). He gave an interesting talk on ‘Shielding in CT – An update for
This presentation enabled me to develop my own topic that I presented here during our local Radiography Association of Zimbabwe (RAZ) CPD workshop on the 7th of July 2018. The presentation was entitled ‘Radiation Protection in Computed Tomography – Shielding and Technique’. CT accounts for almost half of the collective dose from all x-ray examinations and in recent times, we have seen an increase in the availability and utilisation of CT locally. The knowledge that I gained during Mr DeMaio’s presentation enlightened me on various areas that require strengthening in terms of dose reduction and radiation protection during CT procedures which I highlighted during my own presentation. I also look forward to further disseminating this knowledge to a wider audience during our national World Radiography Day celebrations later this year.

Overall, it was definitely enlightening experience and I look forward to the next congress to be hosted by Ireland in 2020. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the ISRRT as well as my home institution NUST for helping me make the trip to Korea. The opportunity to network, meet new friends, experience the Trinidad & Tobago culture and being part of large family of radiographers from all over the world is one that I will forever appreciate. Thank you ISRRT! Thank you NUST!
GALLERY OF PICTURES FROM VISIT

SIMBARASHE T GASHIRAI & DIMITRIS KASTIFARAKIS

L-R: SIMBARASHE T GASHIRAI, CHRISTOPHER STEELMAN & BIGBOY T RAKATA
L-R: Simbarashe T Gashirai, Bigboy T Rakata, Polite Mukwada and Sindiso Nleya
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