

REPORT ON TRAVEL SUPPORT FUND AND HOW KNOWLEDGE GAINED FROM THE ISRRT 2018 WORLD CONGRESS OF RADIOGRAPHER IS SHARED

INTRODUCTION

The International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists (ISRRT) is an international body that represent radiographers in all cadres with the mission of improving the standards of delivery and practice of medical imaging and radiation therapy by promoting quality patient care, education and research in radiation medicine science. To accomplish this mission, the ISRRT organises a biannual Congress which gather together radiographers from around the world.

This time around, the ISRRT held its 20th World Congress at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago in April 12-15, 2018 under the theme “WE CARE”. This congress attracted over 450 delegates coming from different member countries aiming at sharing research and professional experiences, learn from one another, and discuss the current and future developments in medical radiation practices globally.

I was honoured to be amongst the delegates representing Tanzania for the second time after representing the Tanzania Association of Radiographers (TARA) for the first time in Korea two years back. Meeting up with professional colleagues from different countries and continents, together with equipment manufacturers and suppliers did not just made T&T stay fun but also productive, educational and convenient. All these wouldn't be the case if not for ISRRT and Travel Support Team to provide me with support that made the T&T dream a reality. Outline below is a summary of some of the activities that I have in plan in order to share the knowledge gained with my fellow professionals in Tanzania.

1. Social Media Engagement

Radiography professional in Tanzania have 5 different WhatsApp groups as follows;

- a. TARA Members
- b. Radiographers who pursued their profession with Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS)
- c. Radiographers who pursued their profession with Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences (CUHAS)
- d. General group for all radiographers regardless of their affiliations
- e. Students' group

By grace and virtue of my position, I am privileged to be a member of all the groups. We also have a face book page and group. Using these media and emails I keep starting discussions and debate where I find opportunity to share what was discussed and agreed during the meetings and

Congress at large. I also prepared a brief not to our Zones representatives and Executive Committee so that they can communicate with Radiographers in their localities. Together with these, the ISRRT Views and News as well as abstract document with all the scientific presentation mentioned are shared to all radiography family, both members of the society and non members where the information about what happened during congress is well captured and shared. One of the very prompt feedbacks for this engagement is that radiotherapists in Tanzania are now starting to come in as members of the radiography society as they now slowly understand that we (diagnostic and therapy radiographers) belong to one family whereas majority of radiotherapists tend to think we are different.

2. Workshops and CMEs

In collaboration with executive members and vendors, we are organising small group workshops in evening where we address the challenges discussed during the congress mostly especially in the area of radiation protection and radiation safety. We have so far had three events as follows;

- a. Dose Reduction Techniques in CT Scan (with GE) in May
- b. Digital Age of Medical Imaging: Dose Advantage (with Angell Technology) in June
- c. Radiation Safety and Advances in Breast Imaging (GE) in July

I (we) hope to continue with these projects depending on funding.

Apart from that I have been doing presentations in local hospital CMEs and will continue doing that accordingly depending on the availability of space. In all these gatherings, the theme that drives is “We Care” for our patients, ourselves, our fellow workers in hospitals as well as the public.

We also expect to have our AGM and local Workshop, and World Radiography celebrations in November where we will be in the same nerve of proclaiming the message of CARE and professionalism.

3. TARA Critical Student Award

The Association of Radiographers in Tanzania have a culture of having a biannual students’ scientific writing competition. The fourth coming competition will be announced during AGM in November 2018 for the prize giving in 2019’s AGM. In the same nerve, I am continuing discussing with my executives thus this time around the topic for the writing competition be in line of optimization of radiation in digital radiography which was among of the top and hot discussion in pre-congress sessions. In this way, the message of the 20th Congress will be conveyed to the radiography community as we always send the community to professionals after announcing the winner of the contest.

4. TV and Radio Show

I (we) have communicated with some stations to invite us to their free community education shows so that the information about radiography work and radiation knowledge can be shared to the community. We have not received any invitation yet but hopefully we shall secure the opportunities and share the knowledge with others. Getting the chance to media has been a challenge because many of their programmes are for paying, however, the association's funds are so limited to afford paying for the same hence we rely on waiting for free community programmes only.

5. Publication

As part of sharing the information, I am organizing the research done and presented at ISRRT 2018 for publications. This will ensure that the information of the research will be communicated even beyond Tanzania. And thus many will benefit from the results presented.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I would like to thank the ISRRT leadership and the ISRRT Travel Support Team for their consideration in me. Without this, I would not be in T&T whatsoever. As part of the beneficiary to ISRRT funds, I promise to work hard not only to spread news about ISRRT and its felicities, but I will make sure I bring people to ISRRT world. Being appointed ISRRT Coordinator for Public Relation and Communication- Africa has just added to the inborn zeal a power to see all Africa unite and come together to and for ISRRT our focus being CARE for our patients and PROFESSIONALISM for the providers.

Prepared by:



Stephen Samson Mkoloma

President and ISRRT Council Member; Tanzania Association of Radiographer (TARA)

ISRRT Coordinator for Public Relations and Communication- Africa