

Medical Physics in Guatemala, (Historical Review)

Hernández E¹, Ureta L², Toledo M³, Freire D⁴

¹San Carlos University, ^{1,2}Clínica La Asunción, ³Dirección General de Energía, ⁴Formely General Subdirector of Energy
ehernandezgarcia@yahoo.com, Guatemala

Introduction

Medical physics in Guatemala is intimately linked to radiotherapy. Cancer institute was the first hospital where the medical physicists worked, at the suggestions of IAEA and PAHO.

In 1999, was presented the Radiological Protection Regulations, and the article 94, refers to the contraction of a medical physics for the radiotherapy practice. This Regulations began the legal recognition of the profession of Medical Physics in Guatemala.

Historical review

1896 May, Dr. Darío Gonzalez presents in Guatemala, the first X rays tube

1897, The first radiography of a human was made in Guatemala

1925 1st Radiology world congress. Conclusion of this congress was: The necessity of start a committee of radiological protection.

1953 The USA president sent to the United Nations General Assembly, initiative proposal for creation of IAEA. In 1956, 81 nations approve the creation of IAEA; **Guatemala is founding member**

1960 Was installed the first cobalt unit in Guatemala. It was a Junior Theratron.

1977 Victor Tello, medical physicist begin to work at INCAN in Guatemala. In 1980 Prof Tello went from Guatemala to USA.

1990 Cancer institute work closely with the IAEA several cooperation programs, At these programs the physicist Erick Hernandez went to Argentina to study medical physics. When he came back to Guatemala (1995), he worked at INCAN. The equipment of radiotherapy in Guatemala at this moment were: 4 cobalt units, Cesium 137 sources for brachytherapy, and superficial x rays. The physicist Carlos Castellanos begin to work at General Direction of Energy.

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2001 ARCAL L, IAEA regional project of Medical Physics Master degree is started.

Conclusions

1. Medical physicists in Guatemala began in the medical practice of radiotherapy at 1995.
2. The profession of medical physicist was legally recognized in 1999 and established the requirements to be recognized by the DGE in 2002.
3. The first medical physicists were recognized in Guatemala Graduates in Physics: Mr. Erick Hernandez Garcia, Mr. Carlos Castellanos Santos and Mr. Angel René Osorio Tercero



