ICTP REGIONAL COLLEGE ON MEDICAL PHYSICS - 2007

The ICTP Regional College on Medical Physics-2007 was organized by the Radiological Physics & Advisory Division, Health Safety & Environment Group, BARC at CT&CRS Building, Anushaktinagar, Mumbai during November 12 - 23, 2007. The objective of this international college was to update and refresh the knowledge and skill of qualified medical physicists, who can make direct contributions to the improvement of healthcare in their institutions, through optimized medical imaging diagnosis and radiation therapy procedures. The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) conducts College on Medical Physics (CMP) every alternate year at its campus in Trieste, Italy since 1982, for the benefit of medical physicists from developing countries. This was the first ICTP College on Medical Physics organized outside Italy.

The first week of the college was devoted to the Physics and Technology of Medical Imaging and the second week to the Physics and Technology of Radiation Therapy. Prof. Perry Sprawls, Emeritus Professor, Emory University, USA and Dr. S. D. Sharma, Scientific Officer (E), RP&AD, BARC, Mumbai were academic directors of this college. The principal learning activity was the classroom presentations and discussions. Printed handouts, visuals (Power Point) on CD ROMs and video recordings of all the presentations were also made available to the participants. These resources provided significant enrichment to educational needs.
programmes throughout India and the participating countries in addition to contributing to the learning opportunities provided to the participants.

Total registered participants in the college were 67 including 16 from abroad (Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Iran, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam). Among 51 Indian participants, 36 were from different hospitals of the country while 15 were from different Divisions of BARC, AERB and TMC. Twenty eight faculty members including 5 from USA and 23 from different institutions in India delivered the lectures on topics of their expertise.

The college was sponsored and funded by the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Trieste, Italy and the BARC, Mumbai, India. American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) and the Association of Medical Physicists of India (AMPI) co-sponsored the college. The Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences (BRNS), Mumbai and also leading manufacturer of radiotherapy instruments and equipment, provided financial support for the college. The AMPI, as a co-sponsor, provided significant promotion to the college and participated in the educational needs analysis. The AAPM selected four of its most experienced members and educators to serve on the faculty, two in diagnostic imaging and two in therapy. A special effort was made to enrol all college participants as Developing Country Educational Associates (DCEA) of the AAPM and provide them with instructions on using the Virtual Library and its extensive educational resources. This gives the college participants access to most of the current continuing education material available to AAPM members at the AAPM Annual Meetings, Summer Schools and other educational programmes. This is completely funded by the AAPM and is at no cost to the college participants. Sprawls Education Foundation (SEF) provided printed textbooks and digital media for classroom presentations to all participants. Additional orientation was provided on the effective use of web-based resources. As per feedback received from the participants showed, that they benefited immensely in terms of quality and quantity of information, provided during the college.

Faculty and participants of ICTP Regional College on Medical Physics-2007