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Developing Strategies for Cancer Care

IAEA Conference Puts Radiation Oncology Advances in Perspective for Developing Countries

Staff Report

24 April 2009

One size doesn't fit all in cancer diagnosis and treatment. Machines that are heralded as breakthroughs in technological wizardry in developed countries may not be equally beneficial to patients in low and middle income states.

This is why more than 400 cancer therapy specialists from 100 countries will meet next week in Vienna at an IAEA event to discuss modern techniques in radiation treatment and how to apply them in developing countries.

Major national and international organizations in the field of radiation oncology will also take part in the conference.

"This event will benefit developing countries by putting things into perspective. Not everything that is popular in North America or Western Europe should be immediately adopted in low and middle income countries," says Eduardo Rosenblatt, a Radiation Oncologist in the IAEA's Applied Radiation Biology and Radiotherapy Section.

"Many of the advances in radiation oncology that are unveiled at international fora every year are not only expensive but untried and sometimes even experimental. It's more crucial for developing countries to understand which of the current treatments and approaches can be best applied considering the challenges they face, like limited human and financial resources," he says.

The three-day International Conference on Advances in Radiation Oncology (ICARO) begins 27 April. It promotes information sharing between low, middle and high income countries, so that cancer care can be improved in the long term.


Although cancer itself is a global issue, its management is especially critical in developing countries, which are in the process of developing specific strategies and programmes for treating cancer.

See Story Resources for more information.



Story Resources

- [International Conference on Advances in Radiation Oncology \(ICARO\)](#)
- [Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy \(PACT\)](#)
- [Africa's Nightmare: The Struggle to Protect Medical Workers in Radiological Services – IAEA Bulletin \[pdf\]](#)
- [Collaboration, New Thinking Needed for Cancer Crisis](#), 4 February 2009
- [Nuclear Sciences and Applications](#)
- [Division of Human Health](#)
- [World Health Organisation \(WHO\)](#)

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