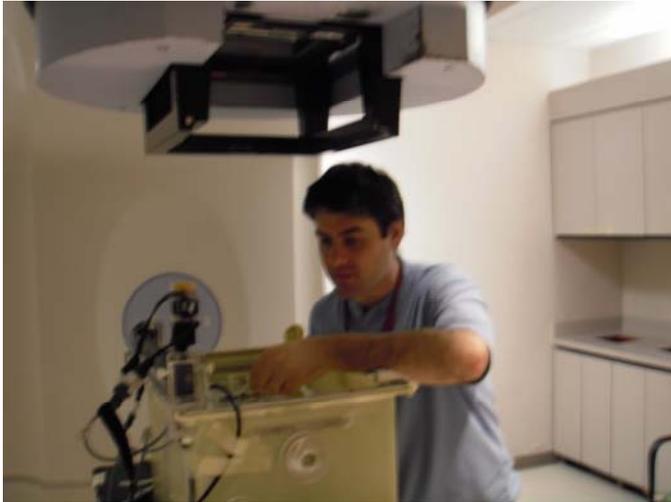




ARIEL HERNAN MARTINEZ: Argentina

Quality Assurance in Radiotherapy in the Latin American Region



Ariel Hernan Martinez has been working at the Hospital Oncologico Urritia in the Radiation Oncology & Medical Physics Department in Cordoba, Argentina since 2005. When he started there, he had been selected by the provincial Ministry of Health at Coroba to partake in a 3 year residence training program in Medical Physics at the Hospital. The program involved both theoretical and clinical training and after it ended in September of 2008, he became a permanent member of the Radiation Oncology & Medical Physics Department staff.

The Hospital Oncologico Urritia belongs to the provincial Ministry of Health at Cordoba, and is the largest and only

public hospital within the state that provides radiation therapy to patients without health insurance. It is also one of the two public centers in the country with HDR brachytherapy. One of the main objectives of the Hospital Oncologico Urritia is to have high qualified staff that will benefit the health of the population.

With this goal in mind, Ariel is currently taking part in a ten-month IAEA fellowship at the University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in the Medical Physics department. While in Houston, he is under the supervision of Dr. Francisco Aguirre, the Senior Medical Physicist at the Radiological Physics Center. Ariel is receiving training that will improve his knowledge in several different aspects of radiotherapy physics and quality assurance.

Ariel is learning several topics on radiation therapy. These include theoretical aspects of the interaction of radiation with matter, as well as learning the quality assurance activities involved in the various techniques in this area of human health. He is also observing the teamwork amongst physicists, physicians, and other staff in hopes to improve techniques at his home institution in Argentina upon his return. After completion of his formal training at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Ariel hopes to assist in the clinical applications, the research, and the educational tasks performed by the Department of Medical Physics and by the Radiation Oncology students and residents of the Hospital Oncologico Urrita.

Trained 8/10/2009—6/15/2010