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Serbian Society of Radiotherapy Technologists - SSRTT

Institute for Oncology and Radiology of Serbia, Pasterova 14, Belgrade
iccuric@gmail.com, surth@gmail.com, surtt@ncrc.ac.rs

The initiative to establish the Serbian Society for RTTs came from the RTTs from Serbia's RT Centres who attended the workshop Breast Cancer-Contemporary Radiotherapy Access, held at the Institute for Oncology and Radiology of Serbia (IORS) from April 9-11th 2009 (following the ESTRO/IAEA programme Train the RTT Trainers).

The rationale for establishing the Serbian Society of Radiotherapy Technologists has come from the process of modernisation of radiotherapy centres in Serbia, which necessitates continuous professional education for RTTs in Serbia.

In Serbia there are two Societies of Radiology Technologists. The Society of Radiology Technologists and Technicians in Nuclear Medicine and the Society of Radiology Technologists (which is part of the Serbian Union of Association of Health Workers). However, both of these societies give greater importance to diagnostic radiology and nuclear medicine than radiotherapy.

On the 24th of September 2009, RTTs from the Radiotherapy Department of IORS, respecting the laws of the State of Serbia and the expressed will of their colleague RTTs from Serbia's RT Centres, took on the responsibility and adopted the Founding Act for the establishment of the SERBIAN SOCIETY OF RADIOTHERAPY TECHNOLOGISTS.

FOUNDERS OF THE SSRTT:
Nikola Gavrilovic
RTT, Institute for Oncology and Radiology of Serbia, Belgrade

Iljia Curic
RTT, Institute for Oncology and Radiology of Serbia, Belgrade

Davor Prodanovic
RTT, Institute for Oncology and Radiology of Serbia, Belgrade

RTTs from other Serbian RT Centres - Sremska Kamenica, Nis, Kragujevac, Kladovo, and the Military Medical Academy - accepted this decision and it was ratified at the First Assembly Election on 13th November, 2009. At the first Assembly, the leadership of SSRT was elected:

PRESIDENT:
Nikola Gavrilovic,
RTT, Institute for Oncology and Radiology of Serbia, Belgrade

SECRETARY:
Iljia Curic,
RTT, Institute for Oncology and Radiology of Serbia, Belgrade

EXECUTIVE BOARD:
Davor Prodanovic,
RTT, Institute for Oncology and Radiology of Serbia, Belgrade

Jovan Stevanovic,
RTT, Institute for Oncology and Radiology of Serbia, Belgrade

Zeljko Uzelac,
RTT, Military Medical Academy, Belgrade

Dragan Ristic,
RTT, Medical Center Nis-Radiotherapy Department, Nis

Stojanka Maricevic,
RTT, Radiotherapy Department of Oncology Institute, Kladovo,

Vesna Novicic,
RTT, Radiotherapy Department of Medical Center Kragujevac
Ilona Sustum,
RTT, Radiotherapy Department, Oncology Institute of Vojvodina Sremska Kamenica

On 16th November, the Serbian Business Registers Agency registered SSRTT with registration number-28000502.

THE AIM OF THE SSRTT:
1. Full co-operation with ESTRO and other international and Serbian organisations
2. Participation of our members in education at European RT centres and ESTRO events
3. Organisation of courses in Serbia for RTTs

We have organised a programme of activities for 2010 that includes:

1. Two workshops in accordance with the ESTRO/IAEA Best Practice in Radiotherapy programme
2. Symposium
3. Three educational seminars
4. SSRTT Annual meeting.

The programme of activities covers basic knowledge on the application of modern equipment, techniques and standards in modern teleradiotherapy.

We will strive to achieve our aims despite the ongoing and severe economic crisis in Serbia. In view of this, immediately after establishing SSRTT we started, our contacts with potential partners and friends who had helped us to hold our workshop in April, with a view to continued co-operation.

At the end of 2009, SSRTT had exactly 100 members based on the signed application forms we had received. From our data, we believe there are currently about 115 RTTs working in Serbia. If our government continues the trend of investment in radiotherapy in Serbia, we expect substantial growth of RTTs in Serbia over the next few years leading to an increase in the membership of our Society.

As the Secretary and one of the founders of SSRTT, I must emphasise the great support we have received from PhD Nenad Borojevic, Director of IORS, Dr Dusan Mileusnic and Dr Suzana Stojanovic-Rundic. Also, the very significant and important support and advice we have received from Professor Mary Coffey and other teachers from ESTRO - Guy Vandevelde, Andreas Osztavics and Viviane Van Egten, course coordinator.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the support and trust from my colleagues in the Radiotherapy Department of IORS, as well as from my fellow RTTs from the RT centres in Serbia - Sremska Kamenica, Nis, Krugujevac, Military Medical Academy and Kladovo.

Ilija Curic
RTT, Radiotherapy Department IORS Secretary of Serbian Society of Radiotherapy Technologists

Educational material available on line from the International Atomic Energy Agency

It is perhaps not widely known or appreciated that the IAEA website has a vast range of educational and professional information available to download and use. For any RTT seeking detailed information on a particular aspect of practice we would recommend that they log on and see what they can find.

The IAEA is dedicated to supporting the development of radiation oncology and their publications include technical documents, syllabi, lecture notes and slides. Their philosophy is to make educational material available for all disciplines involved in radiation oncology in an effort to help to raise the standards of radiotherapy.