

AbstractID: 1257 Title: Implementation of an In-House Educational Program

One of the least acknowledged roles of the medical physicist is that of educator, especially outside of an academic environment. We are often asked to implement new modalities, technologies and methodologies in the clinic. The success of these implementations often depends heavily on the training and involvement of the clinical staff, which can include physicians, nurses, dosimetrists, therapists, and fellow medical physicists. Medical physicists have an ideal knowledge base to provide training and forum discussions on effective implementation of new technologies.

Our goal was to develop a consistent and formalized training program which would improve the quality of care delivered, and could be realistically delivered in a multi-center outpatient setting. The medical physicists coordinated this effort, developing and teaching many of the classes, and finding presenters for others. Our experience is presented here in which we developed, coordinated and delivered monthly in-services over a variety of clinical, radiation safety, and emerging technology subjects. The process cycle for effective clinical training is summarized as:

- Identify a training need
- Identify a suitable training format
- Develop and present training
- Discuss and revise procedures related in next staff meeting
- Evaluate effectiveness

The forum of monthly in-services provided a learning atmosphere. Additionally, the staff benefited from a deeper understanding of their roles in a particular modality. Expected rewards from this program are improved communication among clinical staff members on steps needed to implement a new technology, improved quality of care and improved administrative understanding and support for needed new processes.