A local partnership as part of the national collaboration and implementation of VERT into Australian RTT curricula.

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Purpose/Objective: A joint submission for funding made to the Australian Government by a group of Australian Universities was approved in 2011. As a result Virtual Environment Radiotherapy Training (VERT™) facilities were installed in each University where Radiotherapy entry level programs are offered. Five fully immersive 3D installations were funded as well as 6 academic positions established. These were to enable collaboration in developing resources using VERT™ in a part time capacity over 3 years. The collective group of academics formed a VERT™ Academic Community of Practice (VACoP). The Universities sought a variety of employment options including a secondment arrangement to be entered into with the successful applicants’ clinical site.

Materials and Methods: In 2012 a secondment agreement was entered into between the clinical site and the University. A new position was created within the Universities as a VERT™ Academic Resource Developer. The essential criteria for this position included current clinical expertise in treatment planning and delivery. Experience in training, mentoring and supervision were also key qualifications as well as knowledge of research methods. As the successful applicant would retain their clinical role part time it was necessary to establish support from the clinical provider for this initiative to be successful.

Results: Outcomes of this partnership include;
- Collaboration between Australian Universities for the development of course material for both lecture and tutorial delivery formats using VERT™
- Sharing of anonymous data set information and comparison of techniques from various clinical sites
- Ongoing training of students and academics
- Further collaboration for multi-disciplinary teaching
- Developing patient information videos and demonstrations
- Using VERT™ as a marketing and information tool
- Embarking on research into simulated learning environments
- Sharing of experiences and broadening exposure in the international arena
- Bringing VERT™ awareness into the clinical setting

Conclusions: This presentation will outline what has transpired at the conclusion of the first year of the secondment and the future direction for the upcoming year. It will highlight the benefits to institutions of entering into such employment arrangements. It will also elaborate on how the VERT™ Academic Community of Practice (VACoP) was developed as a model that has expedited resource development and research into innovative new teaching models. All parties continue to work together to share resources and discuss other avenues where simulated learning can enhance clinical initiatives.

OC-0560 Job satisfaction of the UK radiotherapy workforce: physics and radiography, a strategy to improve satisfaction

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Purpose/Objective: Developing a strategy for retaining a skilled radiotherapy workforce, requires a strong understanding of the issues involved, including a greater understanding of the factors that influence satisfaction of radiotherapy professionals. There are a number of factors, under the influence of service leaders and organisations, which can enhance the job satisfaction of RTTs, Physicists, dosimetrists and technicians, and as a consequence the service provided to patients.

This work sought to;
- gain understanding of the issues and factors influencing job satisfaction, retention and burnout.
- Identify factors to support the development of strategies to increase the level of job satisfaction and consequently retention and effectiveness of their radiotherapy workforce.

Materials and Methods: A quantitative survey tool was employed (with limited free text options to allow for deeper depth and insights). The questionnaire comprised of 7 sections; demographics, job