NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE IN RADIOTHERAPY (CUB/6/011) E2 New

CORE FINANCING

YEAR	Experts		Group Activity	Equipment	Fellowships		Scientific Visits		Group Training	Sub-Contracts	Misc. Comp.	TOTAL
	m/d	US $	US $	US $	m/d	US $	m/d	US $	US $	US $	US $	US $
1997	1/0	13,200	0	85,000	3/0	9,450	0/0	0	0	0	0	107,650
1998	1/0	13,950	0	80,000	6/0	19,800	0/0	0	0	0	0	113,750
1999	0/15	7,350	0	80,000	3/0	10,350	0/0	0	0	0	0	97,700

First Year Approved: 1997

OBJECTIVES: To raise the level of radiotherapy physics by improving the accuracy of dose delivery in cancer treatment.

BACKGROUND: Cancer is the second cause of death in Cuba, with an annual rate of 124/100,000, and 70% of cancer patients will require radiotherapy at any given time. The present radiotherapy network consists of nine facilities with fourteen Co-60 units and one accelerator. Two of them are using computerized treatment planning systems; the others have the software but not the hardware. The Government plans to provide new equipment and simulators and to support activities with a view to improving cancer treatment. Medical physicists specializing in radiotherapy and radiological protection, as well as physicians specializing in radiotherapy, are available. Agency assistance has been requested to develop a system for planning, calibration and checks for radiotherapy systems. The National Institute of Oncology and Radiobiology (INOR) will be supported during and after implementation by the Secondary Standards Dosimetry Laboratory (SSDL) of the Centre for Hygiene and Radiation Protection (CPHR) and by the Centre for State Control of Medical Equipment (CCEEM), in order to establish systematic control of the national radiotherapy network. This will include dosimetric calibrations and intercomparisons of doses according to IAEA guidelines.

NATIONAL COMMITMENT: Six medical physicists, three physicists and some dosimetrists; an SSDL; upgraded teletherapy and brachytherapy facilities and auxiliary equipment.

AGENCY INPUT: Expert services for a training course on quality assurance (QA) in radiotherapy physics and on implementation of a QA programme; an electrometer, water and plastic phantoms, basic dosimetry set, ion chambers, ionization chamber set, densitometer, survey meters; training in QA for brachytherapy, treatment planning and radiotherapy.

PROJECT IMPACT: Cancer treatment will be safer and more reliable, resulting in a significant improvement in the quality of life for patients.