



South Asia Centre for Medical
Physics and Cancer Research

SCMPCR

Newsletter

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A Milestone Experience: Moderating the SCMPCR E-learning Program on Brachytherapy Practices

The South Asian Centre for Medical Physics and Cancer Research (SCMPCR) is an autonomous, non-profit organization under the Alo Bhubon Trust (ABT), guided by its board of trustees. Bringing together philanthropic professionals worldwide, particularly from South Asia, SCMPCR collaborates on various projects through a unified platform and seeks support from multiple sources to fulfil its mission. The organization is dedicated to advancing cancer care in South Asia by sharing scientific and technical knowledge, fostering education and professional growth, and promoting the highest standards of medical services for patients. SCMPCR conducts diverse programs like e-learning courses including conferences, workshops, cancer awareness campaigns, health screenings, and specialized training for cancer care professionals. It also supports cancer patient self-help groups and publishes newsletters highlighting its activities and contributions to cancer care in the region.

Since 2020, SCMPCR has successfully conducted several accredited E-Learning Programs (ELP), featuring expert speakers and comprehensive sessions that include lectures, discussions, online examinations, and evaluations. These programs have attracted participants from around the world, fostering global engagement and knowledge sharing.

In 2024, SCMPCR proudly completed its 9th E-Learning Program, reinforcing its commitment to continuous education and professional growth. Through these regular e-learning initiatives, SCMPCR provides invaluable opportunities for students and early-career professionals to enhance their understanding and skills. Programs like ELP-09 play a vital role in bridging the gap between theory and practice, offering access to global expertise and the latest advancements in medical physics and oncology.

The E-learning Program (ELP-09) on Brachytherapy Practices for Medical Physicists and Radiation Oncologists, organized by the South Asia Centre for Medical Physics and Cancer Research (SCMPCR), was an exemplary initiative that was between 1st November – 22nd November 2024, with a total of 16 credit points brought together 101 participants, 10 expert speakers, and 9 moderators from many countries from worldwide. This program served as a vital platform for advancing knowledge and fostering collaboration in brachytherapy practices, a critical area in cancer treatment.

This year, I had the privilege of serving as a moderator for the first time, which was a truly rewarding experience. My specific session focused on the topic "Electronic Brachytherapy: Physical Basics and Medical Applications" with Dipl.-Ing. Volker Steil (MP) from Germany. Mr. Steil, a former Medical Physicist at the Department of Radiation Oncology, University Hospital Heidelberg, Germany, shared invaluable insights into the fundamentals and clinical applications of electronic brachytherapy.

Moderating this session was an incredible learning opportunity that came with tons of responsibilities. As I prepared to moderate for the first time, excitement blended with uncertainty and self-doubt. I constantly questioned my abilities, fearing mistakes and imagining all that could



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go wrong, especially speaking in front of a global audience. The thought of technical glitches, like internet failures or microphone issues, only added to my anxiety. The responsibility of ensuring a smooth experience for both participants and speakers felt overwhelming.

Despite these fears, I reminded myself of the program's significance and the trust SCMPCR had placed in me. I prepared thoroughly—rehearsing, familiarizing myself with the topic, and checking the technical setup. Gradually, my nervous energy shifted into determination to give my best.

It was a valuable experience to guide a discussion led by such an expert, ensuring everything ran smoothly and engaging with participants from different backgrounds. The exchange of ideas and the participants' curiosity highlighted the importance of global collaboration and shared learning in improving medical practices.

I am deeply grateful to SCMPCR for entrusting me with this responsibility. This first-time opportunity not only allowed me to contribute to a meaningful initiative but also helped me enhance my professional skills and build confidence. The positive feedback from participants in the program's evaluation reflects its impact and effectiveness. The success of the program stands as a testament to the dedication and collaboration of everyone involved—participants, speakers, and organizers alike.

Programs like ELP-09 are not just about advancing technical knowledge; they also inspire professionals and students to pursue excellence and innovation in patient care. I look forward to being part of more such initiatives and contributing to the global community of medical physicists and oncologists working towards a common goal.

Reflecting on the experience now, I feel a deep sense of accomplishment. Facing my mental dilemma head-on not only helped me grow but also gave me the courage to embrace future challenges with greater confidence. This experience has been a milestone in my journey, and I am excited to see how it will shape my contributions to the field in the future.