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LANGUAGE

The working language of the Forum will be English.

CONFERENCE WEB PAGE

Detailed information on administrative procedures including participation and registration is provided on the Forum website: www.iaea.org/scientific-forum

SCIENTIFIC FORUM

NUCLEAR SCIENCE FOR HEALTH

27-28 SEPTEMBER



RAYs OF HOPE

CANCER CARE FOR ALL



VIENNA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE
Board Room D / C Building / 4th Floor

IAEA.ORG

BACKGROUND

With more than 19 million people diagnosed in 2020 and over 10 million lives claimed, cancer is the second leading cause of death globally. Cases are expected to rise to almost 30 million by 2040, with low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) enduring the lion's share of this burden where even though an estimated 70% of cancer deaths are occurring only 5% of global cancer spending is directed there.

For over 60 years the IAEA has supported its Member States in the use of nuclear science and technology to better diagnose, treat and manage cancer. In February 2022, the Rays of Hope initiative was launched aiming to help countries increase access to cancer care either by establishing or expanding their capabilities in this area, including medical imaging, nuclear medicine, and radiotherapy.

IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi will open the Forum, which will be attended by several high-level speakers. In five sessions over two days, leading experts from around the world will highlight the role of nuclear science in tackling the cancer burden globally in a multidisciplinary, systematic, equitable, continuous and evidence-based way.

SESSION 1

The role of radiation technologies in the medical management of cancer patients

The first session will focus on the medical uses of radiation for the diagnosis of cancer and the treatment of patients. The fundamental role of radiotherapy in addressing the global burden of this disease will be discussed, taking into consideration the fact that many countries do

not have a single radiotherapy machine. The role of radiology and nuclear medicine in providing diagnostic information to inform the treatment of patients will be explored, while cost models and the challenges in implementing radiation medicine will also be discussed.

SESSION 2

Enhancing quality, safety, and sustainability

Bolstering regional cancer institutions and establishing collaborative networks in all aspects of radiation medicine will help ensure quality, safety and sustainability in the delivery of cancer care for all. The second session will explore the development of regional 'anchor centres' — cancer centres which have a long-standing collaboration with the IAEA and whose valuable services are essential for providing high-quality care and training at the regional level. IAEA support to countries through training, provision of experts and quality improvement will be discussed.

SESSION 3

Expand Innovations

The third session will showcase the vital role of innovation in meeting the growing global need for cancer care, considering its role in education and research. Speakers will discuss the importance of access to modern technology, such as telemedicine and IT-based tumour boards, in enabling the expansion of cancer care services, as well as the Secretariat's cooperation with Member States in fostering this development.

SESSION 4

Radiation in medicine within the context of the cancer continuum – Enhancing access to medical uses of radiation globally safely and securely

Tackling the burden of cancer requires a multi-sectoral, multidisciplinary and evidence-based approach founded on universal health coverage for effective cancer prevention. The fourth session will look at incorporating uses of radiation in medicine within the wider cancer control continuum through country examples, while also considering the role of safety and security in radiation medicine as well as the role of global cancer initiatives.

SESSION 5

The way forward

The fifth session will be a high-level panel discussion with IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi highlighting the importance of partnerships and collaborations in promoting access to cancer care through the IAEA's Rays of Hope initiative. From countries seeking to establish their first radiotherapy centre to those wishing to expand existing national cancer programmes, this session will focus on resource mobilization and outreach to international financing institutions, development agencies and the private sector, coupled with renewed Member State support to complement existing funding sources.