

Indira Bhansali, Chair of MENSor, was invited to speak at the biannual conference, RASCO 2006, hosted by the Kenya Society of Radiographers (SORK). Here, she reports on her experience...

RASCO is an acronym for the Radiographers Science Conference, established in 2004 to provide a forum for forging closer relationships and integration between sister societies in Africa.

This year's conference featured invited speakers from Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, the UK, Australia and the Netherlands, and the 98-strong delegation comprised a multidisciplinary mix of therapeutic, diagnostic radiographers, academics and radiologists.

The morning session consisted of papers on mammography, small parts ultrasound and stereotactic biopsy, while the afternoon session dealt with paediatric radiography, problems and challenges in care for children.

A keynote address by a representative from the Office of the President of Kenya dealt with 'Healthcare challenges/opportunities in Southern Sudan and Somalia'. Alphonse Nyalla from Kenya Medical Training College, Nairobi, gave a well received presentation on budgeting in an imaging department.

My attendance at RASCO 2006 was a fact-finding mission with a view to ascertain how MENSor can help in establishing a link between SORK and the SoR. My presentation on the subject was well attended and I have gained many ideas on how the link can foster a programme of exchange visits for training, CPD and research.

Parallel sessions on Sunday were divided between radiotherapy and diagnostic radiography. Delegates were also free to visit the technical



Kenyan conference broadens the spectrum of radiography

exhibition, sponsored by Philips Medical Systems and GE Healthcare.

Visits to local hospitals and excursions around Mombasa were organised on the afternoon of the second day of the conference.

The official conference dinner was held in a room overlooking the Indian Ocean. Delegates attended in their traditional dress, making it a very colourful and vibrant evening. This was a major highlight of the whole conference, and gave radiographers the chance to relax, to socialise and network.

In summary, the RASCO 2006 conference was considered a great success – highly scientific – and radiographers in Kenya are certainly playing a great role in broadening the radiography spectrum. There are many

challenges that lie ahead and I sincerely hope that the link we wish to establish between SORK and SoR UK will succeed.

Visiting departments

I was pleased to have an opportunity to visit the Kenyatta National University Hospital, one of the largest hospitals in Kenya. It is a government-run national hospital with 2000 beds and 5000 staff.

I also visited the Diagnostic Centre, which is privately owned and set up through private funding.

The visits were eye opening because of the contrast between the two radiography/radiotherapy departments. It was clear that radiographers at the government hospital

encounter difficulties in delivering treatment and care for patients with limited resources, compared to the radiographers who work in a private setting.

The Chairman and Secretary of the Society of Radiographers also took me to visit their head office in Nairobi.

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