

Radiation Oncology Training and Certification in the Philippines

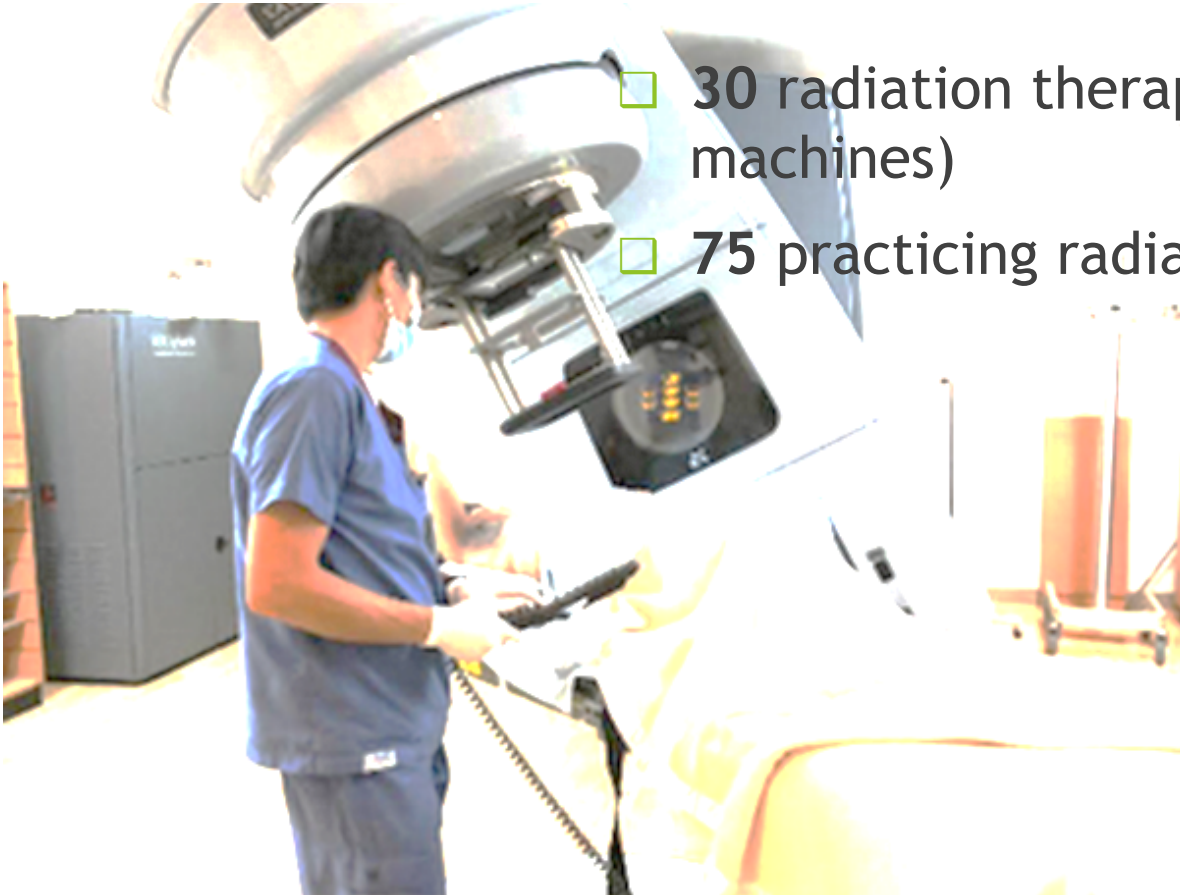
Miriam Joy C. Calaguas, MD

Enrico D. Tangco, MD

J. Richelcyn M. Baclay, Kathleen H. Baldivia, Nonette A. Cupino, Edilberto Joaquin V. Fragante Jr., Manuel Martin L. Lopez, Diana Francesca P. Tuano

Statistics

- 30 radiation therapy facilities (34 machines)
- 75 practicing radiation oncologists



Society

- The practice of Radiation Oncology is regulated by the Philippine Radiation Oncology Society (PROS), Department of Health (DOH) and Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI)



Philippine
Radiation
Oncology
Society

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Residency

- Residents must be:
 - graduates of recognized medical schools
 - must have passed the Philippine Medical Board examination.

Residency

- ❑ 4-year program
- ❑ 8 training institutions
- ❑ 3-5 radiation oncologists certified per year



Residency

- The residency training program:
 - set by the PROS
 - is structured after the IAEA Syllabus for the Education and Training of Radiation Oncologists.

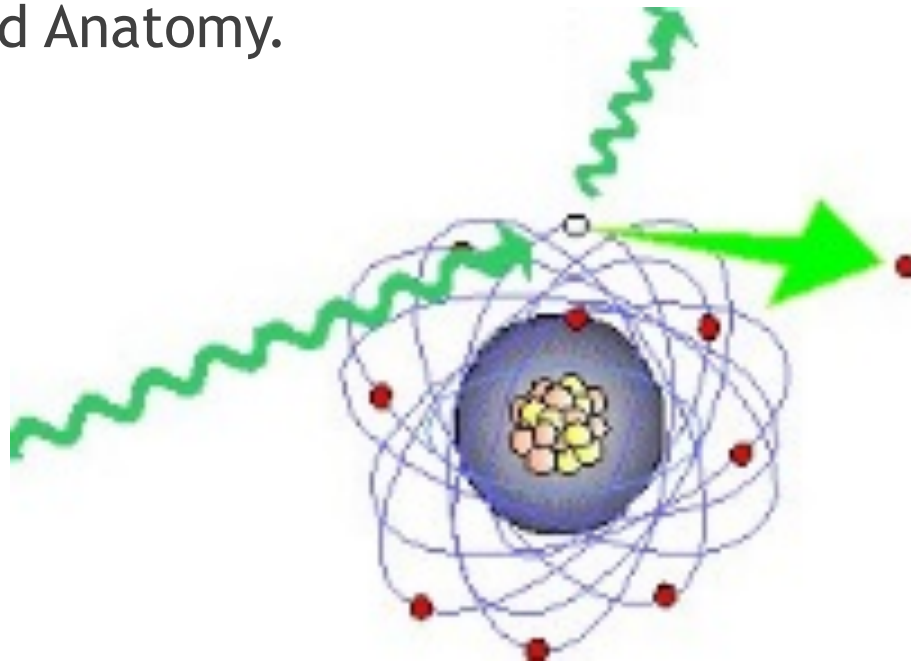


Certifying Examination

- The Philippine Board of Radiology in Radiation Oncology (PBR-RO) administers the certifying examinations that are completed in 3 phases.

Certifying Examination

- The first phase:
 - after the second year of residency training
 - covers Radiation Biology, Radiation Physics, and Anatomy.



Certifying Examination

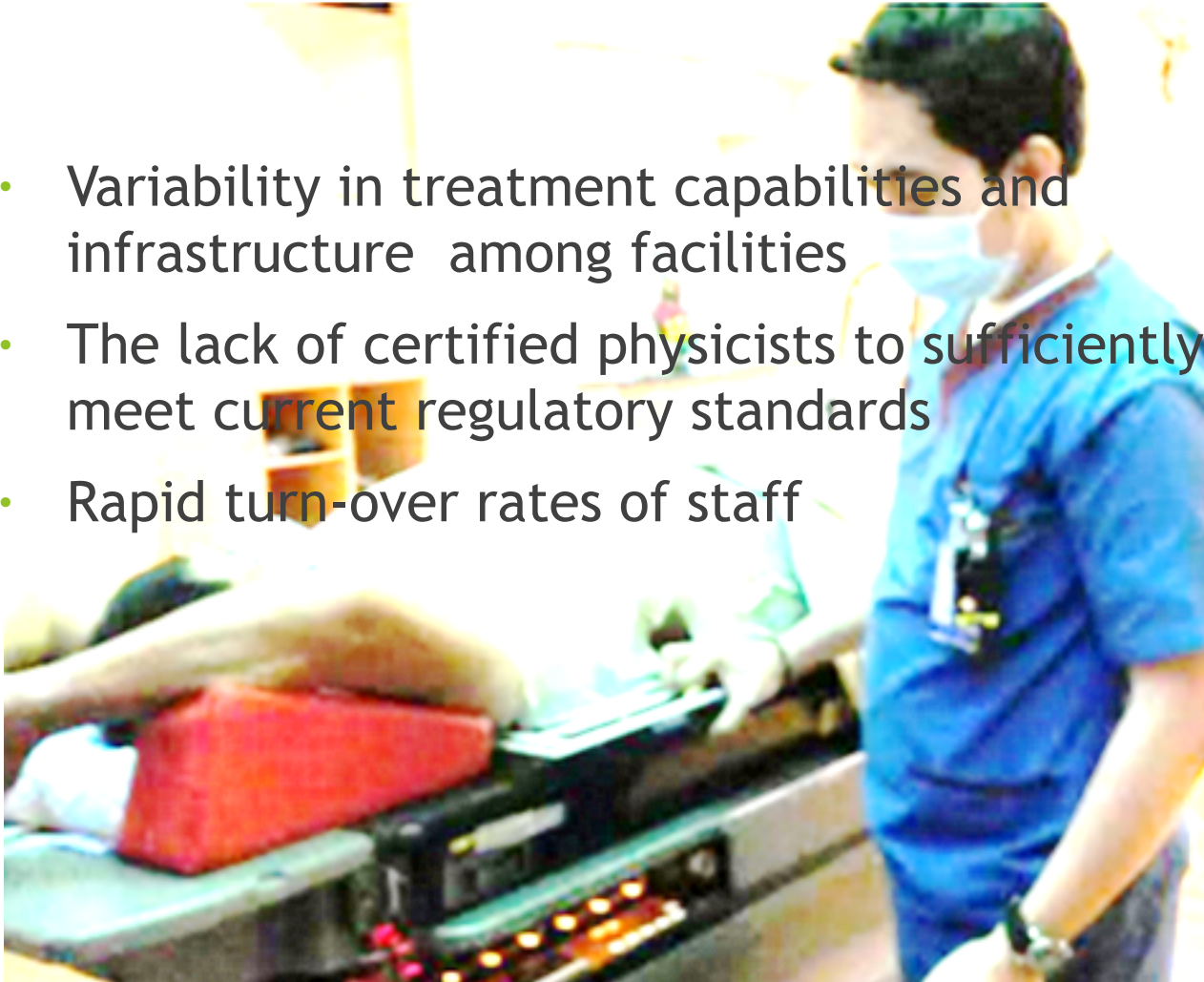
- The second and third phases
 - given upon completion of the fourth year of training
 - consist of written and oral clinical oncology, respectively.

Introduction to Society

- Successful candidates are inducted as Diplomates in Radiation Oncology of the PCR. (Pass the certifying exams and finish at least 1 research paper)
- One year after being inducted as Diplomates, they will be eligible for induction as Fellows upon completion of the PCR fellowship requirements. (Second research paper)

Pertinent Issues

- Variability in treatment capabilities and infrastructure among facilities
- The lack of certified physicists to sufficiently meet current regulatory standards
- Rapid turn-over rates of staff



International linkages

- ASTRO courses
- ESTRO courses
- IAEA courses
- SEAROG
- FARO

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Future directions

- May be geared towards systems-based practice.
- As new treatment centers are developed, more training institutions are expected to open, with more radiation oncologists certified to meet the goal of excellence in patient care.



MARAMING SALAMAT PO!