

**APSIG**

Asia Pacific Special Interest Group

**2009 - 2019**

**CELEBRATING 10 YEARS  
OF BUILDING CAPACITY  
AND INCREASING ACCESS  
TO RADIATION ONCOLOGY SERVICES  
IN THE ASIA PACIFIC**

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# A SNAPSHOT OF OUR FIRST DECADE

APSIG has successful

## **OPERATIONS IN 7 COUNTRIES TO DATE:**

PNG, Cambodia, Myanmar,  
Vietnam, Philippines,  
Mongolia and Laos.

Provided staff training  
& resourcing support for

## **4 NEW CANCER TREATMENT CENTRES**

established in the region with thousands  
of patients now being treated at these  
new facilities.

## **OVER \$100,000 RAISED**

through local fundraising efforts by  
APSIG members across Aust-NZ  
along with help from our  
stakeholder sponsors.

## **20+ INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENTS**

successfully undertaken by APSIG  
medical physicists to the Asia Pacific.  
(5 of these assignments facilitated  
through Australian Volunteers  
International - DFAT)

## **OVER 7,500 HOURS OF PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT AND TRAINING**

by APSIG volunteers - either  
on-ground or via remote assistance -  
provided to local cancer treatment centres  
and hospital radiotherapy units  
in the Asia-Pacific region.



## RECENT ASSIGNMENT HIGHLIGHT 2019

### Abdurrahman Ceylan - Mongolia

Medical Physicist and APSIG volunteer Abdurrahman Ceylan [Ab] travelled to Mongolia in 2019 to provide training and mentoring support to local staff at the only specialised cancer hospital in the country, the National Cancer Centre of Mongolia (NCCM), which is located in Mongolia's capital city Ulaanbaatar. This trip built upon the relationship that had been fostered by earlier visits by APSIG representatives to the country as part of an integrated cancer treatment needs assessment team (including Radiation Oncologists and Radiation Therapists) who visited in 2018 and identified radiotherapy equipment training and quality management systems support opportunities.

Ab was in Mongolia for a total of 4 weeks, during which time he had the opportunity to work alongside and guide NCCM staff from a number of different RT disciplines to help them in their transition to linac-based radiotherapy services and new treatment techniques.

A subsequent follow up IAEA mission to Mongolia was undertaken by Medical Physicist Soo Min Heng in June 2019 who taught at the hospital and the National University, providing advice on 3D conformal radiotherapy treatment planning and quality assurance.

*Ab Ceylan (centre) with staff from the National Cancer Centre, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.*

## ESPM CONFERENCE 2019 - COMBINED WITH AOCMP

This coming year the 2019 ESPM Conference will be combined with the Asia - Oceania Congress of Medical Physicists (AOCMP) which presents a great opportunity to

welcome an expanded group of colleagues to the work of APSIG and its partners in the region.

There will be presentations and talks by APSIG members and

volunteers showcasing recent achievements and promoting participation in sponsored awards and volunteering assignment opportunities in the coming year.



## FUNDRAISING

APSIG'S work and achievements over the last decade would not have been possible without the support of our local fundraisers and industry partners. Recent fundraising initiatives across our state and territory APSIG fundraising committees have included:

- **'Team Supreme' Sydney Beachside Dash**
- **Yarra Valley Harvest Run**
- **WAAF** (West Australian APSIG Fundraisers)  
The Jacobs Ladder 1000 step climb challenge
- **Sydney City to Surf**
- **Run Melbourne**
- **Brisbane APSIG charitable morning tea and bake-off event**
- **Darwin APSIG** cash for cans recycling drive
- **EPSM Conference Trivia Night**
- **Great Ocean Road Walk**
- **L'Eroica Bike Ride**

## UPCOMING VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### Laos

Support for staff in implementing modern radiotherapy techniques using a linear accelerator at the new cancer centre at Mittaphab Hospital in Vientiane.

### Cambodia

Further opportunities to assist with introduction of advanced radiotherapy treatment services.

### Mongolia

Additional volunteer visits to continue work with NCCM staff and consolidate the progress of recent APSIG missions.

### PNG

Future opportunities to support the operations of new cancer centres in Port Moresby and Lae.

## HELP US BROADEN OUR CANVAS

Although our work to date has been in radiation oncology, we are keen to work with other health professionals to promote better public access to a wide range of health technologies, e.g. in radiology and nuclear medicine.

## HOW VOLUNTEERING CAN BOOST YOUR CAREER AND YOUR HAPPINESS

If you are a certified medical physicist or associated health professional why not consider a volunteer assignment position through APSIG? We offer a variety of roles and assignment opportunities working in neighbouring low and middle-income countries to help build their capacity to offer better quality radiation-oncology services to their populations. Here's how getting involved can also help you...

- You will strengthen your links with colleagues across the region and here at home – APSIG works with Radiation Oncologists (RANZCR- APROSIG) and Radiation Therapists (via ASMIRT's Global Group) as part of a team providing integrated support to local radiotherapy centres across the Asia-Pacific. And that's great experience for your CV.
- You can expand your clinical experience into areas such as professional training, team-building, integrated service delivery and medical equipment re-purposing.
- You will experience unique personal rewards and satisfaction knowing you are helping our neighbouring countries increase their capacity to save lives and improve their population's quality of healthcare.
- You will generate some priceless memories and experiences in a new culture, and make friends and associations that will last a lifetime.

## GET INVOLVED!

Like to help us raise funds for our vital work?

If you have fundraising ideas and would like to organise a local initiative to support our work - we'd love to hear from you! Visit the website and submit an enquiry form, or send us an email at: [apsig@acpsem.org.au](mailto:apsig@acpsem.org.au)

You can also make a donation through our website: [betterhealthcaretechnology.org](http://betterhealthcaretechnology.org)



### NIKKI SHELTON....

1 year APSIG volunteer  
Phnom Penh Cambodia  
2017 - 2018

"You may have some doubts about whether volunteering is for you. My advice? Go for it. Jump in, you won't regret it! You can draw upon plenty of support to help you meet the day to day challenges of working in another culture and country. And at the end of the day, knowing that you are really making a difference to people's lives will be really satisfying. Myself and my family have no regrets, and a host of happy memories from our time in Cambodia on an APSIG volunteer assignment."



If your organisation is interested in partnering with APSIG and the Foundation we have a number of exciting project-based and special initiative sponsorship support opportunities available. Please reach out via the contact channels below.

**Building capacity for better healthcare:**

- Information on volunteer assignments
- Fundraising and support in your region
- Sponsorship and partnership options

**Contact Us:**

Email: [apsig@acpsem.org.au](mailto:apsig@acpsem.org.au)

Phone: +61 2 8305 3902

Website: [betterhealthcaretechnology.org/apsig](http://betterhealthcaretechnology.org/apsig)



**APSIG AND THE FOUNDATION THANK OUR PARTNERS FOR THEIR INVALUABLE SUPPORT**

