



## Department of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences

### Short Course in Breast Localisation and Simulation for Advanced Radiation Therapy Practice

- Academic units must be studied concurrently or as a pre-requisite to studying clinical units.
- Each course has a total of 4 units, at a cost of \$2000. Participants can choose to study single academic units from any of the listed short courses.
- Each unit has a variety of assessments which may include online exams, written academic submissions (essay form assignments), PowerPoint presentations, peer review, case studies and case appraisals, case logs, e portfolios, self appraisal and action plan, clinical skills assessment (carried out in your clinical centre).

This course comprises two elements, an academic component designed to facilitate evidence-based, self-directed study of the underpinning principles related to breast cancer and its management, and the clinical component designed to provide you with a framework upon which you can develop and demonstrate competence in the procedures involved for breast localisation and simulation. This has been designed within the context of radiation therapist led breast localisation and simulation. This unit is the first of two academic units.

#### Semester 1 Units (February – June)

##### Principles of Oncology for the Breast (Academic unit)

Duration	13 weeks
Delivery	February - June Off campus – supported by Moodle (online interactive education delivery platform) and one introductory Video/teleconference
Category	Certificate of completion
Fee	\$500

This unit is the first of two academic units. This unit comprises four topics. The first topic will build on your existing knowledge and develop a comprehensive in-depth knowledge and understanding of anatomy, physiology and oncological pathology of the breast. This is followed by topic two; the study of breast cancer, which includes epidemiological and aetiological perspectives. The pre-treatment patient 'work-up' and staging of breast cancer is also covered in topic two, where contemporary tools which are used in diagnosis and staging are investigated. The management of breast cancer is presented in topic three, exploring surgical, cytotoxic and radiation therapy interventions. The psycho-social issues experienced by patients, their carers and families are covered in topic four. In this topic an emphasis is placed on 'patient centred care' and the role of the multi-disciplinary team in the care of the patient with breast cancer. Whilst studying these topics, you will be encouraged to critically reflect, analyse and synthesise relevant information from the literature with experiences from clinical practice.

By the end of this unit you will be able to:

1. Describe in detail the anatomy, physiology and pathology of the breast
2. Critically discuss oncology of the breast
3. Describe the procedures and techniques involved in the diagnosis of breast cancer
4. Critically analyse and synthesise the factors affecting the management of tumours arising in the breast
5. Critically analyse the role of radiation therapy, cytotoxic chemotherapy, surgery and hormone therapy in the management of patients with breast cancer
6. Critically discuss and reflect on the clinical significance of the relationship between anatomy, physiology, the malignant disease process and oncological management
7. Critically evaluate the psycho-social issues that patients with breast cancer may experience and describe the support systems available to them
8. Critically analyse the role of the multi-disciplinary team in relation to the care of patients with breast cancer

### **Advanced Clinical Practice: Breast Localisation and Simulation 1 (Clinical Unit)**

Duration	13 weeks
Delivery	February - June Off campus supported by Moodle (online interactive education delivery platform) and one introductory teleconference Clinical competencies undertaken in the clinical centre where the practitioner is employed
Category	Certificate of completion
Fee	\$500

This unit comprises three topics. The first topic is the clinical practice framework, and will guide you through the development of your advanced skills alongside your radiation oncology mentor. The second topic will introduce you to the medico legal and ethical principles as they relate to the advanced practitioner. The final topic will provide you with an insight into reflective practice and portfolio development, to encourage you to critically evaluate your practice and consider your personal and professional development needs.

By the end of this unit you will be able to:

1. Critically analyse, reflect upon and work within the legal and ethical constraints of "The Advanced Practitioner"
2. Critically discuss the role of reflective practice and portfolio development with respect to the development of advanced practice roles
3. In relation to the evidence base discuss a range of patient case notes and histories to determine suitability for radiation therapy to the breast.
4. Critically discuss contraindications which may affect the decision to proceed with radiation therapy planning.
5. Evaluate individual patient status (suitability to proceed to planning) communicating any issues to the relevant member of the multidisciplinary team
6. Critically discuss and justify the rationale for radiation field placement on a 'case by case' basis for patients with breast cancer and demonstrate emerging competence to the level of Advanced Beginner in clinical/virtual field border delineation.

7. Critically discuss and reflect on the clinical significance of the relationships between anatomy, physiology, the malignant disease process and radiation therapy technique
8. Critically discuss contemporary approaches to the management of breast cancer relating to each case which is encountered during the localisation process
9. Critically reflect on your development as an advanced practitioner and identify development needs and strategies for achieving these

### **Semester 2 Units (July – November)**

#### **Principles of Radiation Oncology for the Breast**

Duration	13 weeks
Delivery	February - June Off campus – supported by Moodle (online interactive education delivery platform) and one introductory teleconference
Category	Certificate of completion
Fee	\$500

#### **Advanced Clinical Practice: Breast Localisation and Simulation 2**

Duration	13 weeks
Delivery	July - November Off campus supported by Moodle (online interactive education delivery platform) and one introductory teleconference Clinical competencies undertaken in the clinical centre where the practitioner is employed
Category	Certificate of completion
Fee	\$500