



IAEA

Atoms for Peace: The First Half Century

1957-2007

Enhancing nuclear medicine in Havana, Cuba

The challenge...

Every year, some 5000 people are diagnosed with cancer in Cuba. This project aimed to enhance nuclear medicine services and medical therapy procedures, focusing on improving the quality of life of patients.

The project...

Working together with the Centre for Clinical Research in Havana, Cuba, the IAEA provided expert services, fellowships and scientific visits on beta source dosimetry. It also conducted a national workshop on beta dosimetry and the use of radiopharmaceuticals.

Impact...

- A significant increase in clinical studies performed per year (between 2000 and 2006, the number of patients treated doubled).
- A greater number and quality of clinical investigations.
- A wider variety of nuclear medicine studies performed.
- Improvement in the quality control of therapy machines.
- Strengthening of the radiological safety of patients and workers (the equivalent dose to personnel has been reduced by 33%).
- A significant increase in the training provided to specialists from other institutions (doctors, medical physicists, radiological pharmacists, technicians and others).

This project achieved not only its stated objectives, but also led to several important donations of specialized equipment to the Cuban Centre for Clinical Research. These included a dose calibrator and a gamma camera, both donated by Sweden following a visit by a Cuban fellow under IAEA auspices to this northern European country.



The staff of the Centre for Clinical Research



A gamma camera, donated by Sweden



A dose calibrator, donated by Sweden