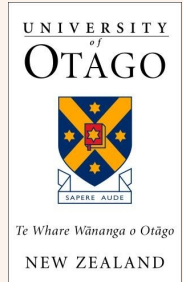


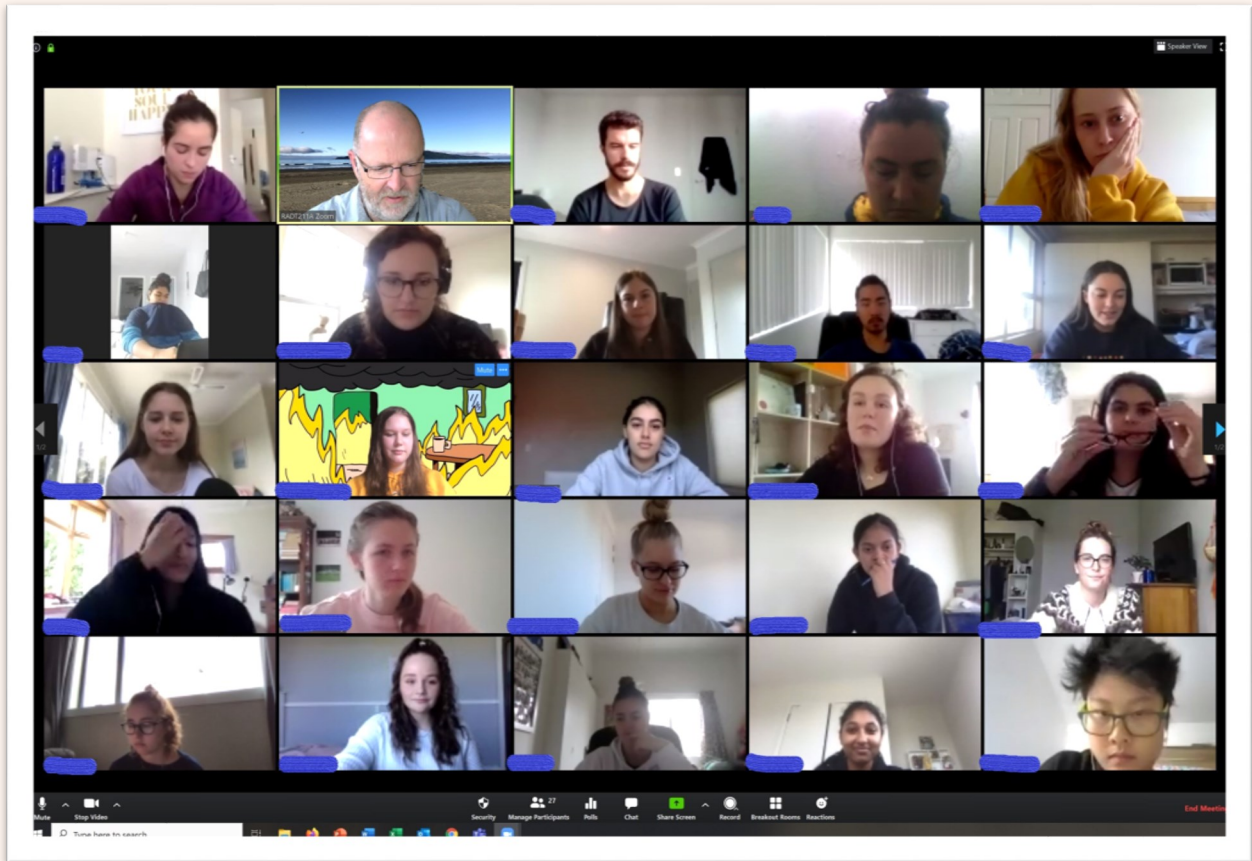
September 2020

Department of Radiation Therapy University of Otago, Wellington



Newsletter

RADT122 virtual class



Manual handling is always in the curriculum but there's nothing like a world pandemic to add to your skill set



Health and safety took on a whole new look for our 2020 Year two students

Thanks!

Thank you to all the departments for all your hard work in hosting cancer centre tours and answering prospective student queries, it's such a valuable experience for those students to assist with their decision making on future career paths. We had to get a bit creative in the wake of changing alert levels and the impact to cancer centre tours and we hosted a virtual open evening which was very well attended, if you're interested you can view it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?>

There a few special thanks I would like to make:

- The team at the Wellington Blood and Cancer Centre – after the first year clinical placement had to be cancelled due to lockdown, in semester 2 the WBCC hosted every stage one student, two at a time, for a day of clinical experience. The students are incredibly grateful that they were able to experience working with the teams and it has made a huge difference to their learning. I would particularly like to thank Hannah Brazier for coordinating all this and helping out with the two evening teaching sessions that we also did for the first year students.
- Bowen Icon Cancer Centre – for providing access for four evening teaching sessions for the year one students, thanks to Aidan Leong and Erika Burgess for their help; and for allowing us to film a cancer centre tour for the virtual open evening. Particular thanks to the stars of the show, Logan Seddon, Erika Burgess and Joe Southorn.
- Nadia Smith, who provides great information to the Maori and Pasifika students at Otago looking at a potential career in RT, as well as part of the team fronting the Health Science First Year Information Evening.
- Student mentions: our students are great ambassadors for the profession and the programme and every year many of our new cohort find out about the profession from existing students. A number of our students have gone above and I would like to acknowledge Georgia Hay and Ellie O'Keefe for doing such a great job with the virtual open evening; Tessa Sherlock, Charlotte McIntyre and Louise Pretorius for fronting the Health Science First Year Information Evening and Tessa again for the University Open day; Archana Arunthavarthas as a Schools Ambassador; Maitri Panchal and Soha Javaid for supporting the University's Information Evening in Wellington.

Billie Mudie

WELCOME to:

Conor Nolan,

Maria Gleeson and

Siobhan Barnes

- who this year have been seconded to the ADHB Trainer roles and oversee student training.

Welcome back to

Sarah McLeod at KKC.



Bachelor of Radiation Therapy Virtual Open Day

Research and Publications

[Mepitel Film is superior to Biafine cream in managing acute radiation-induced skin reactions in head and neck cancer patients: a randomised intra-patient controlled clinical trial](#)

Jing Yan, Ling Yuan, Juan Wang, Shuangshuang Li, Mengdi Yao, Kongcheng Wang & **Patricia M. Herst**

This Chinese trial conducted in Drum Tower followed on from a NZ trial run in Christchurch investigating radiation-induced side effects in 44 head and neck cancer patients. As with the Christchurch trial, this Chinese trial also saw a 30% reduction in the overall skin reaction severity and a 41% decrease in moist desquamation rates in skin protected from friction damage by Mepitel Film when compared to Biafine cream.

[Management of radiation therapy-induced vaginal adhesions and stenosis: A New Zealand survey of current practice. Journal of medical radiation sciences](#)

Summerfield J, **Leong A**

This study represents the first survey of New Zealand practice regarding the management of gynaecological side effects following radiation therapy. Eight of nine departments nationally participated in the survey, making this a valuable benchmark of current practice as well as a resource for future collaboration and development.

[A review of Image Guided Radiation Therapy in head and neck cancer from 2009–2019–Best Practice Recommendations for RTTs in the Clinic. Technical Innovations & Patient Support in Radiation Oncology](#)

Kearney M, Coffey M, **Leong A**.

This collaboration between the University of Otago and Trinity College Dublin reviewed ten years of literature to identify best-practice recommendations for head and neck IGRT.

[Cranberry capsules are not superior to placebo capsules in managing acute non-haemorrhagic radiation cystitis in prostate cancer patients: A phase III double blinded randomised placebo controlled clinical trial](#)

Patricia M Herst, Andre Aumata, **Vanessa Sword**, Rowan Jones, Gordon Purdie, Shaun Costello

This RCT was run in Dunedin (Hospital), Tauranga (KKC) and Auckland (ARO) and showed that taking daily cranberry capsules did not decrease the severity of radiation cystitis symptoms in 108 prostate cancer patients when compared to beetroot containing placebo capsules.

Congratulations to Vanessa Sword whose BRT (Hons) degree research thesis was based on this study.

[New Zealand radiation therapists' perceptions of peer group supervision as a tool to reduce burnout symptoms in the clinical setting](#)

Gay Dungey, Hazel Neser, Dalice Sim

This study investigated the learning styles and personality preferences of undergraduate Bachelor of Radiation Therapy (BRT) students at the UOW from 2014 - 2018. The implications of these findings for radiation therapy education and the profession were also explored. The study has indicated that the students currently studying radiation therapy at the University of Otago exhibit learning style and personality preferences that are well suited to radiation therapy clinical practice. However, some deficits could compromise a balanced professional profile, teamwork and future professional development.