Varian Medical Systems Establishes Radiotherapy Training Center in Mumbai, India

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MUMBAI, India, Sept. 1 /PRNewswire/ -- Varian Medical Systems (NYSE: VAR [1]), a world leader in radiotherapy equipment and software, has established its first education center in India to train medical physicists and technologists working on the company's advanced cancer treatment systems.

The center in Mumbai, equipped with 16 planning system workstations and the VERT* training system for radiotherapy treatment simulations, will enable the country's growing number of radiotherapists and medical physicists to train without having to travel overseas. The official opening, which was attended by Kanta Chokkra, president of the Association of Medical Physicists of India, was carried out by Kolleen Kennedy, Varian's VP Customer Support Services.

"Radiotherapy use is growing rapidly here and we want to do whatever we can to equip the increasing number of practitioners with the experience they need locally," says Michael Sandhu, Varian's regional head of operations. "This training center will give us the opportunity to customize our training solutions to the specific needs of Indian clinicians bringing, in the long term, added value to their practices."

Vivekanand Tathvadkar, Varian's India country manager, adds, "In the current economic climate people are not able to travel as extensively as they used to, so a facility here in India gives them the opportunity to get hands-on experience without leaving the country. We also hope to attract trainees from neighboring countries."

"There are fewer than 400 radiotherapy machines in India and almost half of these are outdated cobalt machines," adds Michael Sandhu, "but we are seeing a rapid investment in new equipment and many Indian hospitals are now able to offer the most advanced treatments available in the world, such as image-guided RapidArc radiotherapy and radiosurgery." RapidArc® delivers precise image
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