



The Royal College of Radiologists  
RCR-Cyclotron Trust Visiting Fellowships 2017/18 (Clinical Oncology)

### POST-VISIT REPORT

**PLEASE NOTE:** This report must be completed and emailed to the RCR within 2 months of the end of your visit.

<b>1. Name of Visiting Fellow</b>	Catherine Coyle	
<b>2. Name of joint Visiting Fellow (if applicable)</b>	Dr Julia-Claire Handley Head of Radiotherapy Physics	
<b>3. Institution(s) of Visiting Fellow(s)</b>	Christie Hospital NHS FT	
<b>4. Name of Host(s)</b>	Dr Viviana Vitolo Dr Mario Caccio	
<b>5. Institution(s) of host(s)</b>	CNAO, Pavia, Italy	
<b>6. Expenses claimed</b>	£ to follow estimate £2100	
<b>7. Visit Dates (ACTUAL)</b>	<b>a. Start Date</b> 06/05/2019	<b>b. End Date</b> 17/05/2019
<b>8. 2<sup>nd</sup> visit dates (if applicable)</b>	<b>a. Start date</b>	<b>b. End Date</b>
<b>9. Aims of the visit</b>		
To understand particles therapy applications Differentiating proton and carbon indications Outlining for chordoma and osteo.chondorsarcoma ( CC) Establish a relationship with a major European proton Centre Comparative experience of physics commissioning of a proton centre		
<b>10. Activities undertaken</b>		
New patient visits ( CC) Observation of immobilisation and scanning Outlining Planning observation Treatments IGRT Replanning Equipment and QA (JH)		

**11. Benefits of the visit (short term)**

Improved understanding of indication for protons and carbon ions  
Confidence that our own proton beam centre quality standard have been achieved  
Team working  
Importance of IGRT and indications for replanning  
Toxicity management  
Contributed to validation of our own CPD for proton therapy

**12a Envisaged benefits of the visit longer term (your own practice)**

Help us to clinically evaluate a paritnet for protons and answer questions more confidently given this experience  
Gained confidence in our procedural working and multi-professional approach  
As new indications arise looking at motion management- allowed us to appreciate how they proceeded and what future challenges we will need to face  
Seeing another health care system was useful and stimulated reflection on the NHS and the centralised proton panel system  
Appreciation of the RBE difference with carbon ions, protons and conventional radiotherapy

**12b. Envisaged benefits to the wider group (dissemination to others in your centre/clinical oncology community/multi-professional team)**

Established professional links with the clinical and physics team at CNAO which will be follow up with meeting them at PTCOG 2019 hosted in Manchester  
More confidence in discussing advantages/ disadvantages of carbon ions and proton therapy with our surgical referrers for bone sarcomas.  
Confidence in multi-professional approach to planning including OAR outlining and IGRT  
The CNAO team have harnessed links with research groups/ university resulting in clinical benefits and publications. On our return we can look at avenues for similar advances at NHSE proton centres and universities.  
We can share our experiences with the Christie Proton International School to ensure that visitors get a good experience within a busy clinical centre.

**13. Please outline any problems you encountered before, during or after your visit**

Although the CNAO team have many visitors, there was no formal timetable. At a combined cost of 1,000 euro for two weeks at least an introductory session would have been useful. Whilst we were made very welcome and an effort made by all groups, it was clear they were a busy clinical unit and we were perhaps overly conscious of asking too many questions, particularly when two languages involved.

**14. Any additional comments**

We were made very welcome by everyone in CNAO. The clinicians including the trainees, physicists, planners, radiographers, admin team and scientists were very generous with their time and enormous expertise. They made complex advanced radiotherapy appear easy because of their experience, which gave us confidence for our future. Thankfully their level of English was good.

Thank you to the Cyclotron Fellowship RCR for their support and to the Christie Proton clinical lead and our colleagues for holding the fort whilst we were away.

**15. Do you have any 'top tips' that you would like to share with prospective visiting fellows?**

Even a little Italian was extremely useful

Our airbnb was superbly hosted by Annamaria at <https://www.airbnb.it/s/Pavia-Italia> La tua casa a Pavia

La Certosa monastery is a must see

Be prepared for transport strikes!

**Signed:** Catherine Coyle **Date:** 19 May 2019

**Report approved by:** Clinical Oncology Professional Support and Standards Board (CO PSSB)

**Date** 05 Sep 2019

Please return this form to Mrs Emma Burgum, Professional Support and Standards Administrator at: [emma\\_burgum@rcr.ac.uk](mailto:emma_burgum@rcr.ac.uk)