



Alexei Moiseev

## Physics for Clinical Radiotherapy

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Course Director:

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This course began on Sunday in one of the oldest Russian towns - Tula. And despite the fact that it was weekend, the lecture hall was full. This was not altogether surprising because ESTRO courses delivered in Russia in recent years have attracted a capacity audience. Everyone anticipated an excellent educational experience and was certainly not disappointed!

One must admit that the course content seems very difficult to understand and learn, let alone teach, particularly over such a short period of time. But of course the desire of students to learn set against the persistence of the teachers is an excellent recipe for success. The audience was interested and lively and devoured every word, thanks in part to the high quality professional translation. Everybody was really pleased to learn and share clinical experiences with colleagues from Europe. This opportunity was perfectly realised in discussions on clinical cases from our "home task", where everyone was able to demonstrate the treatment technique used in his or her own department. And, although it

might seem impossible, I couldn't help but notice that the theory covered almost all of radiotherapy physics.

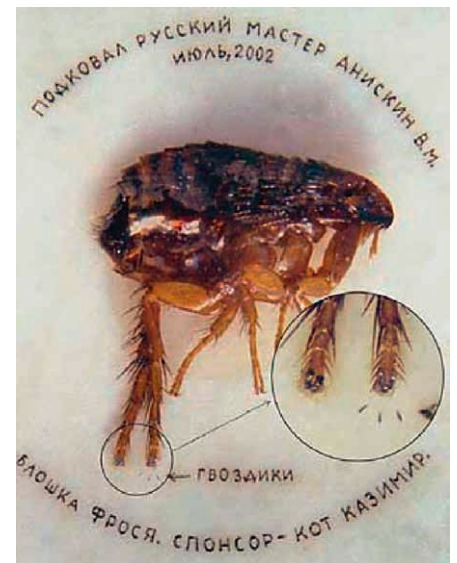
During our stay we were able to see the beautiful old town. And the course organisers showed us one of Tula's most famous places - the citadel and weaponry museum. One must admit that our common aim is human well-being and weapon production is controversial. But the pearl of the collection was the "shoed flea" which demonstrates amazing craftsmanship. And it's clear that modern radiotherapy techniques need similar mastery in physics and overall treatment. That is why it is always so important to be at the edge of advancing knowledge, to see all possibilities, all achievements and imperfections. It's the only way to guarantee the right treatment.

This confidence is needed above all in new approaches to treatment, like motion management, IGRT, stereotactic radiosurgery and radiotherapy, dose optimisation, and new calculation algorithms. And here physics - primarily quality assurance - plays a leading role. But without experience it's so easy to make mistakes. Thanks ESTRO for sharing experiences in numerous educational programmes. The level of radiation

therapy in Russia is not yet something to be proud of, but I want to thank ESTRO for affording the perfect opportunity to attend their courses here, in Russia. And I really hope to have this opportunity again in the future. ■

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The 'Shoed flea'

