

# THE SCOOP

THE OFFICIAL VIRTUAL NEWSLETTER

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## Message from the CEO

by Debra Leeves, CEO

The highlight for May was being able to attend ESTRO in person for the first time in over two years. It was an action packed week of meetings with our distributors, discussions with VERT users and demonstrations of all the new products we have been developing over the past two years. We introduced the 'VERT Flex', building on your feedback for more flexible training solutions to meet your needs. VERT Flex will be offered on an annual subscription basis and is designed for use by individuals on a laptop or similar.

In March we sold our first Compact VERT in Scotland to Ninewells Hospital, Dundee. It will be used for training, and to support patient information sessions.

We're noticing VERT Proton systems being used increasingly in training programs across the world. We have worked with VERT users in the Netherlands for many years and were delighted to hear that following the Dutch government's decision to invest in three new Proton therapy centres in the country, the InHolland University of Applied Sciences developed an International Post Graduate Proton Therapy course, thus ensuring sufficient qualified personnel in the future. The Proton VERT was installed at InHolland at the end of last year and we are supporting the university and their partners in the development of training content for both the post graduate course, along with training content for the undergraduate program in medical imaging and radiotherapy.

Finally, we have two new Product Specialists in the team, Tammy Vivian, and Oyinkansola (Honey) Ayeni-Yegbe who will be managing UK & Europe and Asia Pac. We also welcome two new Software Engineers to Virtual, Nathan Evans, and Jordan Dos Santos, who will develop the software used in the VERT products.

# Compact VERT in Dundee

by Kelsey Normand



The radiotherapy department at Ninewells Hospital in Dundee is delighted to be the first compact VERT in the UK and the first VERT in Scotland to take delivery of a compact VERT system. This was made possible by a generous donation to be used for educational purposes. Training was completed in April, and we've already had the privilege to showcase the system to the Chief Allied Health Professional Officer in Scotland Carolyn McDonald and the Director of Allied Health Professions in NHS Tayside Nicola Richardson.

Initial plans are to use the system to support existing educational initiatives- such as prostate pre-habilitation, junior doctor inductions, medical student education and Maggie's Kids Days. In each case, compact VERT will allow for reduction of clinical machine time needed to support the task while also ensuring patients, staff and relatives are still able to benefit from a realistic understanding of the radiotherapy treatment room.

The department is also keen to explore using the Virtual Presenter and workbook functions to support radiotherapy students on clinical placement, particularly with respect to independent and peer learning opportunities. It will also facilitate an expansion of our offering of radiotherapy information sessions to patients, their support systems and other health professionals along the cancer pathway.

Another area we have started looking into is how we can optimise the use of VERT to support the attainment and maintenance of staff clinical competencies.

Having the compact version of VERT means we can easily move both across to Maggie's Centre and throughout the hospital to facilitate all of our educational ambitions. Since many aspects of radiotherapy are difficult to conceptualise, we know that our VERT system will help bring radiotherapy to life for our audiences. This will not only enhance the overall radiotherapy experience that we offer our patients, but also allow us to more easily stretch across professional boundaries which are so often built up by a lack of understanding.

Cascade training to the rest of our team here in the radiotherapy department has already begun, with other members of the multidisciplinary team also keen to get involved. We want to facilitate VERT experience for as many staff as possible, as we know each individual will be able to pair their own experience and expertise with VERT's technical specifications to come up with new and innovative ideas to help us continue to deliver the safe, effective and patient-centred care that is at the heart of what we do.

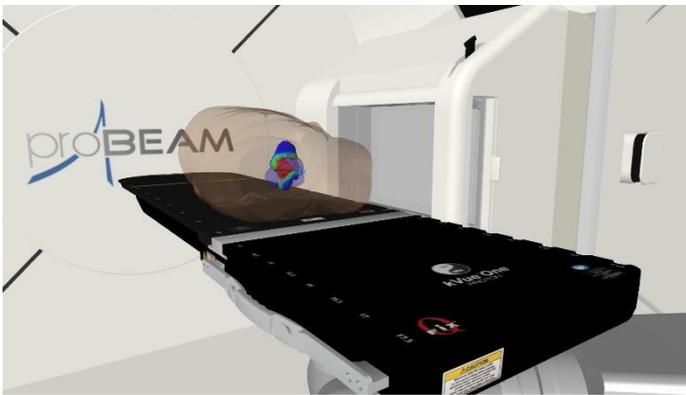
As Head of Therapeutic Radiography Damian Parr says, "VERT offers the radiotherapy department in Ninewells a wonderful opportunity to expand education and training to multi-disciplinary teams but the most exciting thing is the enhanced patient engagement and experience it will give us."



# Development of International Post Graduate Proton Therapy Courses at Inholland University of Applied Sciences

by Scheurleer J, Kuijper IT, Lamers, E, Bijwaard H

## Incorporation of Proton VERT interactive learning



### Need for proton education

Proton therapy has recently been introduced in the Netherlands in 3 centres (Delft, Groningen, and Maastricht). The Dutch government has invested approximately 450 million euros in these 3 centres. However, there is a struggle in finding enough qualified staff. This is partly because the four-year bachelor's program in Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy in the Netherlands hardly covers training in proton therapy.

In addition, to train future staff for proton therapy centres, there is also a need for training staff in regular photon radiotherapy departments to perform plan comparisons.

### Project developing post-graduate proton modules

To ensure sufficient qualified personnel in the future, the Medical Technology Research Group of Inholland University of Applied Sciences started in January 2020 in collaboration with the Holland Proton Therapy Centre, a project to develop four proton therapy education modules. The project was funded by the Rengelink fund, a local fund of Inholland University of Applied Sciences.

Four post-graduate courses with a total study load of approximately 35 European Credits are being developed within the project. The courses will also be internationally open for RTTs, Medical Physicists (in training), and Radiation Oncologists (in training). There are two basic and two advanced modules. The first Basic module covers the basic concepts of proton therapy and ensures that at the end of the module a participant can compare a photon plan against a proton plan and discuss the pros and cons from different perspectives. The second Plus module that follows deepens the Basic course and allows participants to create simple proton therapy plans. These two modules (Basic and Plus will most likely start 2nd semester of next Academic Year (February 2023).

After these two basic modules, two advanced expert modules are being developed. The first will focus on treatment planning, the second will focus on treatment delivery and IGPT. Both advanced courses will aim at the more complex indications and patient cases. The assessment of all modules will focus on the actual (practical) skills of the participants. The VERT system can contribute to this.



## Proton VERT incorporated in modules

The proton VERT was installed at Inholland in December 2021, and we are developing the program of the courses in such a way that the proton VERT will be incorporated in the modules in several meetings and in preparation for the meetings. Not all is clear yet, but Proton VERT will be used for explaining the basic concepts of proton therapy and it can be used during the plan comparisons in the Basic and Plus module. In the expert modules, we expect that Proton VERT will be used as a scenario-based training platform.

At this moment the contours of the educational program become visible for the Basic and Plus modules. These first two modules will be offered in the second half of the coming academic year 2022/2023. More information will be in a VERT newsletter later this year.

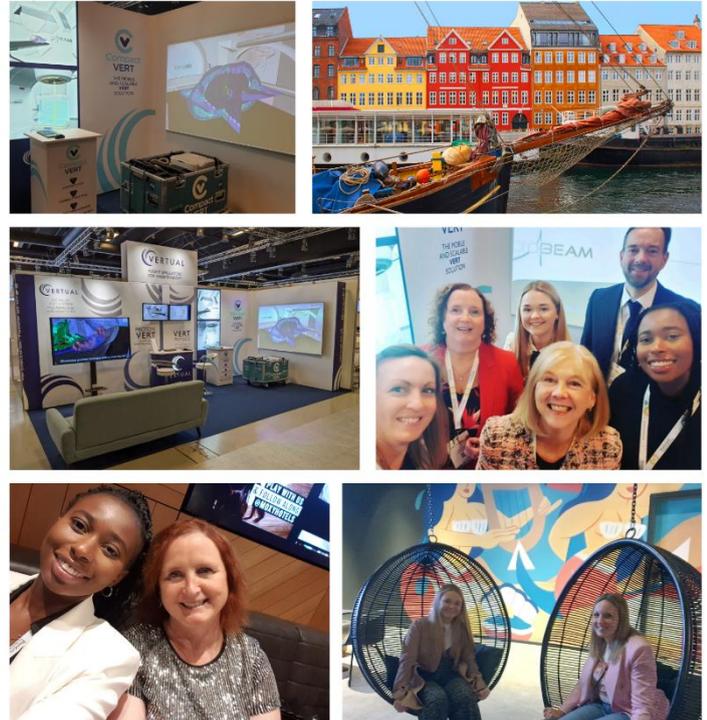
Apart from the above-described project, Proton VERT will also be used in a Proton Therapy minor module for the bachelor's program in Medical Imaging and Radiotherapy. This minor was also developed in cooperation with the Holland PTC and will run for the third time next academic year with great success.

## Conclusion

Summarizing, the next academic year (2022/2023) Inholland University of Applied Sciences will offer a basic proton therapy training in the bachelor program and four post-graduate courses aiming at basic and advanced levels. The post-graduate courses will be open also to international students and will be offered in a hybrid way, meaning that all teaching sessions can be attended online and physically. More information will be in the VERT newsletter at the end of this year!

## ESTRO 2022

By Jan Antons



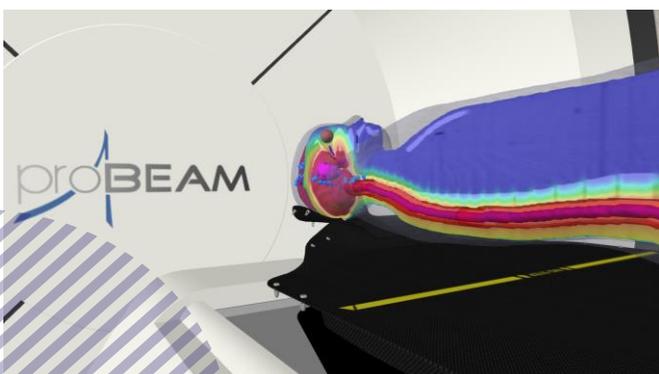
Two years without face-to-face conferences meant the Vertual team were excited to visit Copenhagen last month for ESTRO.

Compact VERT was released in 2020 but had never been shown at a conference. The system, projected onto a purpose-built screen was well received by our visitors who wanted to try the system for themselves.

Vertual has recognised that for some institutions, a full system is either not achievable through a lack of capital budget, not possible due to space availability or not the desired solution. Our Flex products were introduced at ESTRO as potential solutions. Flex products are provided as a licence for a laptop and are offered on a yearly subscription basis.

A sneak preview of VERT on Demand was shared with visitors and development is on track. Further news will be available soon.

The team enjoyed meeting our distributors, customers, vendors and friends in Copenhagen. We made great use of public transport to get around from our quirky hotel, visited the aquarium during (the SGRT Community event) an evening event and sampled some excellent Danish food!



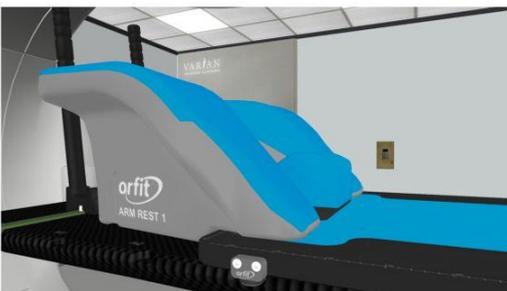
## Meet the Team

Welcome to our new product specialists Tamsyn Vivian (Tammy) and Oyinkansola Ayeni-Yegbe (Honey).



### Tamsyn Vivian

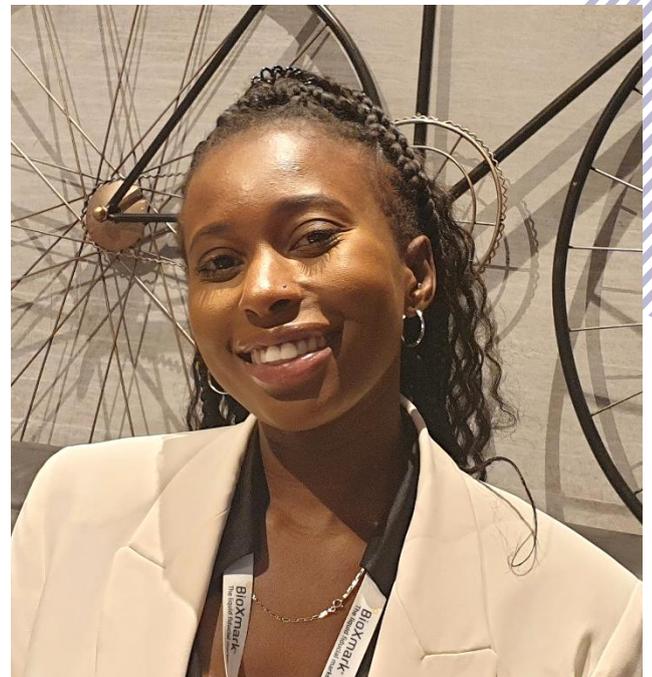
I joined Vertual in April 2022 as a Product Specialist. Before this I worked in Edinburgh Cancer Centre as a Therapeutic Radiographer. I have a BSc (Hons) in Radiotherapy and Oncology from The University of The West of England, Bristol where I trained for 3 years. During this time, I worked with VERT which really helped me gain confidence and learn valuable skills which benefited me in clinical practice. I am so excited to be a part of the Vertual team and look forward to taking over management of the European and UK region.



**orfit** The precision expert

### Oyinkansola Ayeni-Yegbe (Honey)

Hi, I'm Honey and started at Vertual just in time to attend my first ever ESTRO with the company (May 2022). Before joining Vertual I was working as a Therapeutic Radiographer for the past 5 years in the NHS and the private sector. I will be covering ASIA PAC and I am looking forward to travelling to the various regions in my territory. Using VERT as a student at the University of Hertfordshire added to a well-rounded learning experience and I am excited to show universities and clinics what VERT can do for them!



Two software engineers have also joined Vertual's development team. We are delighted to welcome Nathan and Jordan to the team!

## Orfit Collaboration

A collaboration with Orfit has integrated immobilisation devices into VERT. The first release of models, including the AIO board, was included with the VERT 5 software. Integration of further models is planned for VERT 6.

The team were pleased to see the real world Orfit AIO board launched and demonstrated at ESTRO 2022. It was great for the teams to meet too after many virtual meetings.