

Focus on Faculty #73

Horacio Patrocinio



Horacio Patrocinio is an Assistant Professor in the Medical Physics Unit of the Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology and a clinical medical physicist in the Department of Medical Physics of the McGill University Health Centre's Cedars Cancer Centre. A native Montrealer of Portuguese roots, Horacio completed his undergraduate degree at Concordia University in 1990 and his graduate degree at McGill University in 1993. Prior to returning to the Medical Physics Unit in 1997, he was a clinical medical physicist at the Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal – Hôpital Hôtel Dieu and a chargé d'enseignement in Université de Montréal's département de Radiologie.

Horacio is especially proud of his role as teacher of medical physics throughout his career. He became involved with teaching in the Medical Physics Unit's (MPU) Master of Science program on his return to McGill and with the Radiation Technology Program at Dawson College in 1999. To date he has taught hundreds of graduate medical physics students, radiation technology students, radiation oncology residents and medical physics residents. Since 2010, the year he received his current academic appointment, he has been the clinical coordinator for the MPU's radiation oncology physics residency program, one of the largest in the world with 67 graduates thus far, most since his appointment. Horacio has also taught nationally through pan-Canadian courses for radiation oncology residents and internationally through International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) missions and invited professorships in Central and South America, the Middle East and Europe. In 2012, he developed, along with two McGill colleagues, multi-disciplinary treatment planning workshops that have since been held in Brazil, Portugal and at the MUHC.

Horacio's research interests include stereotactic radiosurgery, image-guided radiotherapy and brachytherapy and he has supervised seven graduate medical physics students in these areas. His current projects include examining treatment uncertainties in prostate cancer and researching the impact of organ motion in various clinical sites.

Horacio has been active in medical physics advocacy for over twenty years mostly through volunteer work in provincial, national and international organizations. He has been both treasurer and president of the Association Québécoise des Physiciens Médicaux Cliniques. He was involved in the certification programs of the American Board of Radiology and the Canadian College of Physicists in Medicine, the latter for which he served as Board member from 2010 to 2016. From 2003 to 2006 he was treasurer of the Canadian Organization of Medical Physicists (COMP) and since 2016 has held successive appointments as vice-president, president and finally past-president of COMP, his current role. During his tenure as president of COMP he worked towards an increased participation of medical physicists outside of radiation oncology by fostering teaching activities in imaging and encouraging participation of medical physicists in joint ventures on accreditation with the Canadian Association of Radiologists.

At home, Horacio and his wife are the proud parents of two high-schoolers, and together enjoy family activities such as travelling, cooking and entertaining. He has a passion for flying, holding both glider and private pilot licenses.