

THE SCOOP

THE OFFICIAL VERTUAL NEWSLETTER

September 2022

Vol. 6



Message from the CEO

by Debra Leeves, CEO

As the summer comes to an end in the UK, I am reflecting on a very busy three months at Vertual. Our three new Product Specialists, Tammy, Honey, and Dan completed their induction training and began demonstrating the VERT software solutions to new and existing VERT users across the world. Thank you for the warm welcome they received at your universities and hospitals.

Product development work was completed, and commercial activities in the form of marketing and product launch planning have kept the team busy, supported as always by the business and finance team.

We are in the final stages of planning for the upcoming ASTRO conference in San Antonio, it's been two years since the last one, so we have a lot of new products and new features in the software to show you. I am looking forward to your feedback, so if you are attending the conference then do stop by for a demo or a chat. We will be showcasing two very new concepts for training; VERT on Demand and the VERT Flex range of products, I know you're going to like them.

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VERT in Australia

by Honey Ayeni

Two of our product specialist team, Honey and Claire travelled to Australia and New Zealand to visit some of our customers on a roadshow organized by one of our distributors AlphaXRT.

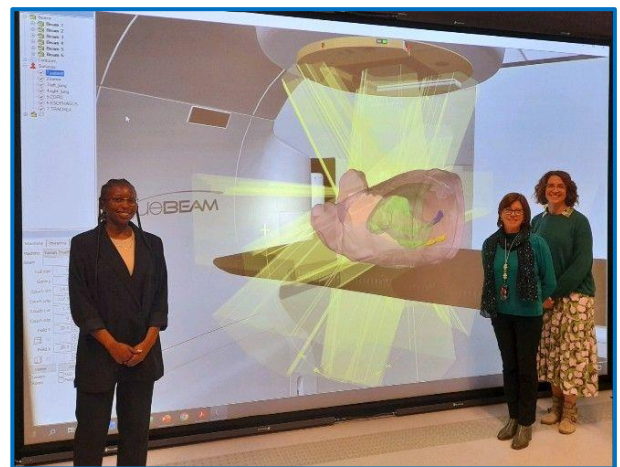
Our first stop was our reference site in Australia – QUT, we were accompanied by Nis from AlphaXRT. The staff at QUT showed us various parts of the campus, we settled in their VERT suite, and they gave us an overview of their course and how they use VERT as an integral part of their learning including during student's assessment. My colleague and travel buddy for the trip, Claire also delivered some update training to the staff and get feedback on what they would like to see in VERT 6 which was due to be released a few months after our roadshow.



Our second stop on was Charles Sturt University, unfortunately bad weather meant that we were unable to make it to the University, so we arranged to deliver the update training online that day instead. Despite not being able to make it to the campus in person, it was lovely to get to meet the staff online and deliver update training virtually.

The next day we were on a flight to Wellington, New Zealand to meet our customers at the University of Otago. This stop on our trip is particularly memorable to me for two reasons firstly, it was the first time that I delivered update training. Secondly their VERT system itself was memorable because it had been secured to the floor due to the frequency of earthquakes in Wellington.

Next, we flew to Adelaide to visit the University of South Australia. The VERT suite also had a functioning linac treatment couch which during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic they were able to use alongside the VERT system for student's practical assessments. The assessment format was enjoyable for both the students and the retired radiographers, and the university hopes to continue assessing students in this manner. In addition to using VERT to gain practical skills they also used the image matching interface to help students apply their theoretical knowledge to practical scenarios and help develop their decision-making skills.



After spending the day at the University of South Australia we flew to Melbourne to visit RMIT with our distributor. After delivering the update training at RMIT we could see how excited the staff were to use features of VERT they may not have been familiar with previously, this for me was the highlight of delivering update training, seeing how staff were excited to use the training in their teaching. We not only saw the VERT suite but got a tour on the different teaching areas the radiotherapy students use. One being an x-ray suite so the students would be able to follow a patient's journey from diagnosis through to treatment in the VERT suite.

Our penultimate stop was the University of Newcastle, where the VERT suite also had a Linear Accelerator that is fully functional aside from delivering any dose. The students are able to practice using the pendant and moving the Linear Accelerator in the VERT suite, making any mistakes like crashing the gantry in a safe simulated environment and once they could demonstrate their competence in the VERT suite they could then operate the Linear Accelerator.

Our final stop was Curtin University, by this point I was able to deliver update training confidently and picked up on all the different ways VERT is being used by the different Universities we had visited. All in all, the roadshow for me reaffirmed that working for Vertual is a great opportunity and I'm excited to see what else is in store.

ASTRO 2022



Vertual is exhibiting at the upcoming ASTRO conference in San Antonio, Texas. If you are attending, visit us at booth 2603.



NYC

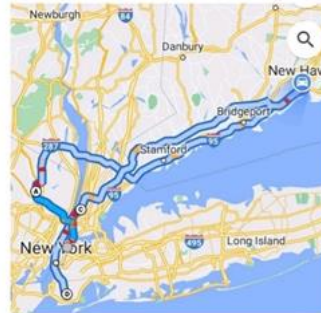
By Daniel Owen

In July, our product specialists Dan & Claire, completed an American road trip around New York. The first stop was to visit our customers at the world leading Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre (MSK CC) in Manhattan. We delivered VERT 5.0 refresher training. It was fantastic to see the way that the staff at MSK CC incorporate their VERT system into their teaching, and lovely for our new product specialist Dan to meet the team for the first time. We look forward to working with and helping the team at MSK CC use their VERT system to its full advantage.

After our visit to the team at MSK CC, it was time to leave Manhattan and venture out to New Jersey to see a prospective customer. We gave the team a demonstration of the newest features of VERT and told them all about our upcoming products including Vert on Demand, VERT 6.0 and Vert Flex. We look forward to working with the team in the future to show how advantageous the VERT system is to their teaching.

The next stop on our trip was to the beautiful New Haven. Home to our new customers at Gateway Community College. They were incredibly excited to be trained on their brand-new installed VERT system. Our team at Vertual were with them over a two-day period delivering training on every part of their new system. It was amazing to see them so eager to learn all about how they can utilize VERT in so many ways. Whilst we were in New Haven we simply could not have missed the opportunity to try their world famous pizza. It definitely did not disappoint!

After a weekend of seeing the sights from China town and the Brooklyn bridge to 5th avenue and central park, we travelled across the East River down to visit our customers at the Center of Allied Health Education (CAHE) in Brooklyn.



CAHE were one of the first customers in the United States to order our Compact VERT system. It was wonderful to hear the fantastic feedback about how they utilize their system in their teaching, and how helpful it is to have such a versatile and flexible piece of equipment. They were extremely happy to have an adaptable piece of equipment that could move from one classroom to another so that they could always make full use of their system. We delivered refresher training with the team, and they were incredibly excited and intrigued to put some of the advantages we showed them into practice.

Our final stop on this brilliant trip was to visit our customers at Manhattan College. Manhattan have recently had a change in staff, so it was fantastic to meet the new team and show them everything their VERT system has to offer! It was brilliant to see them so excited by our product, we can't wait to hear how they use the system to train the next generation of Radiation Therapists.

Meet the Team

Sinead, Carly and Claire Finance Team



Our finance team works as an integral part of the business. They will soon be managing the subscription for our new products, Physics Flex, VERT Flex, Patient Flex, and VERT on Demand.

The team consists of Sinead Green, who is responsible for the purchase ledger, Carly Wood who is responsible for the sales ledger and Claire Handforth who is responsible for managing the finance and operations for Vertual. They provide essential services to the management, commercial and development team, are customer-focused and ensure our finance operations run smoothly.

If you have any questions for the team about an order, an invoice or other financial matter they can be contacted at finance@vertual.co.uk.

Fiona Law Business Manager



As part of the commercial team I am a strategic business partner to the CEO and

other senior colleagues and provide an essential multi-disciplined role spanning the whole business.

I'm responsible for the smooth daily operation of the company by overseeing the administrative operations of the business by planning and coordinating procedures and systems and devising ways to streamline processes.

My role requires me to wear many hats covering myriad of different tasks including Business Administration, Facilities Management, HR, Shipping & Logistics, Events and Conference management.

Away from the office and in my spare time I love anything creative making handmade cards. I'm Proud to call myself a shoe lover, and firmly believe life is too short to wear boring shoes! 😊

Swansea Case Study

By Dan Murray

Dan Murray from Swansea University has completed a case study on the effectiveness of using VERT within their Medical Physics Practitioner Training Programme (PTP). Dan has also presented this case Study at a recent SESAM conference. You can view video of his presentation here:

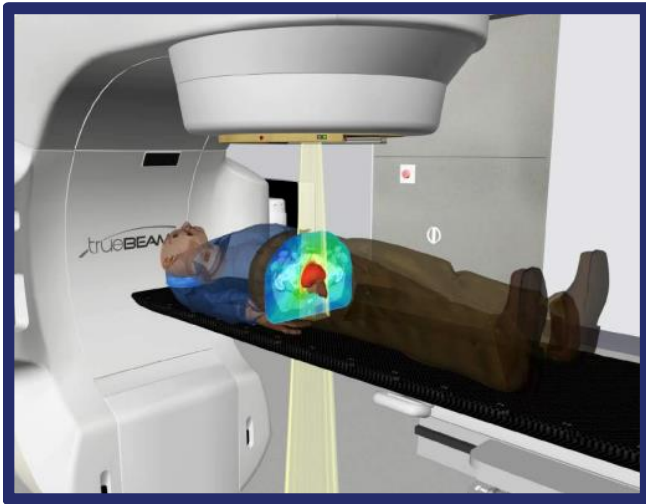
<https://youtu.be/vXBLQq5ynZg>

Please view a summarized version of Dan's article below.

Background

Trainee medical dosimetrists at Swansea University are undergraduate students completing a 3-year degree in Healthcare Science while gaining clinical competence in medical dosimetry and radiotherapy physics. At the University, we are one of the only Medical Physics Practitioner Training Programme (PTP) courses in the UK, with our graduates gaining 50 weeks of clinical placement experience alongside an academic degree. Many of our graduates secure Dosimetrist/ Treatment Planning roles in the NHS or continue with postgraduate study or higher

clinical qualifications, e.g. the Scientist Training Programme.



As part of their clinical training, Summative Case-Based Discussions (CBD) are delivered by clinical mentors to assess the student's clinical knowledge and understanding of radiotherapy treatment planning. For these CBDs, an anonymised clinical case is reviewed by the student and then presented to the academic faculty. Student-created treatment plans are central to this assessment, where they are presented using VERT.

Methodology

A simulated clinical scenario was prepared by academic staff and given to the student in advance of the CBD. A case brief is provided three weeks before the assessment, containing an anonymized patient history and the patient's treatment plan information.

VERT was used to present and discuss concepts in a virtual environment, relating them to the patient's case. Using VERT's error simulation tools, routine radiotherapy quality control tests can be influenced by a percentage error, which will closely replicate typical errors seen within clinical practice.



Discussion

Clinical mentors have a significant onus to assess students and determine clinical competence within many clinical programmes whilst completing their clinical responsibilities. For example, clinical pressures such as high patient numbers, complex treatments, and shortened treatment pathways can all impact the time dedicated to student assessment. In addition, infrequent assessment can lead to mentors lacking the confidence and experience to appropriately assess students at the required level and hesitance to deliver constructive criticism. All the points above can directly impact assessment rigor within a clinical setting.

We recently presented this work at the Society for Medical Simulation in Europe (SESAM) annual conference meeting in Seville, Spain. Please visit the **'BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science (Radiotherapy Physics) page on the Swansea University website for a recording of the presentation.'**

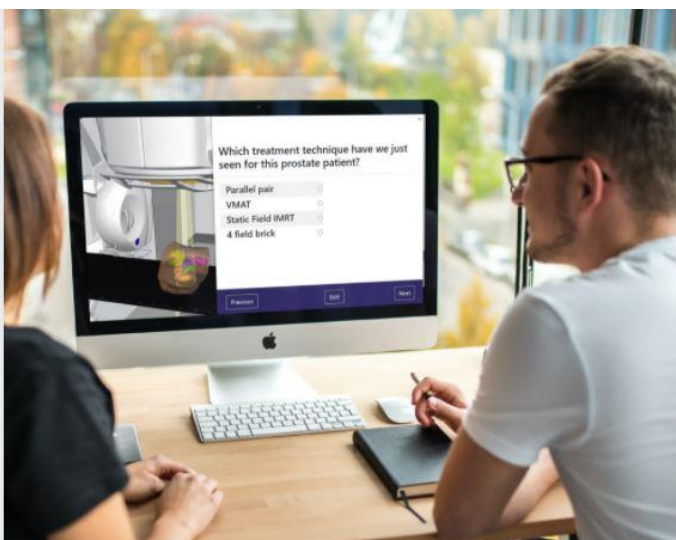
New Product Releases!

By Jan Antons

Development is progressing well for VERT on Demand. The software, accessed from the cloud provides 24/7 access to the VERT software, from almost any device, without the need for high performance hardware. It is an optional, subscription-based upgrade for your VERT system offering access to multiple concurrent users. Students can use the software to consolidate their learning, progressing at their own pace and in their own time. It comprises a front end where users are added, groups set up, modules and activities are created and assigned, and cloud-based VERT access.

VERT on Demand customers will be able to create interactive slides with integrated with VERT scenes to provide context and to help understanding. Over 40 virtual presenters will be supplied with the system developed by Vertual. The pre-built content has been created by our clinically trained product specialist team to align with curricula across the world.

The software will be released soon and we will provide regular updates and news of the release as development continues. If you want to know more about VERT on Demand, including how to add it to your system, please get in touch.



Part of Vertual's mission for radiation therapy training is that our products are accessible to a wide range of teaching institutions, educators, and students. Installed VERT systems remain the gold standard, offering a life-size 3D experience of a Linac room and patient data and with a perpetual VERT license. For programs who do not have space, budget, or the requirement for a full system, Vertual now offers alternatives. Compact VERT is a mobile solution with different feature levels and includes a perpetual license for the Compact VERT level 1, 2 or 3 software.

At ESTRO, Vertual launched VERT Flex. The software includes all VERT features and is available on subscription. This enables new customers to pay for VERT access with a yearly charge to access the system.

Physics Flex is due for imminent release and was announced at the European Congress of Medical Physics in Dublin. The software has features tailored specifically for dosimetry and physics training programs. The software is available on subscription.



Finally, news of the next VERT release. Vertual releases software every 12 months and VERT 6 is scheduled for release in November 2022.