

Q&A Coffee Sessions

with EDGE super users



Super User Q&A: Oct 22

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- Fabio Di Maria, Research Radiographer, Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS FT



USER PROFILE

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EDGE user since: 2015

01

How and why did you move into your current role within clinical research?

I started my career as radiographer in Nuclear Medicine, and then I moved to Radiotherapy. I worked in treatment for many years. I worked in stereotactic treatment at Harley Street in London, but I had always been interested in research. In 2017 I started my job in the Radiation Oncology Research team at the Royal Surrey Foundation Trust in Guildford.

02

What does your role as Research Radiographer at Royal Surrey County Hospital (RSCH) NHS FT entail on a typical day?

I work in Oncology. My priorities are patients and their safety within the trial participation. I work in connection to many figures such as researchers, consultants, nurses, or secretaries. I attend clinics, meetings, and treatment units. I work with collection of data every day.

03

What does the patient and research landscape related to radiography currently look like at RSCH?

We have a large portfolio of trials involving different areas like prostate, H&N, breast, and bladder cancer. Our activities are focused in more than 30 trials between setting-up, opening to recruitment and following-up. We assist hundreds of patients through their participation in the studies.

04

You've been using EDGE for over 5 years. How do you personally utilise EDGE in your daily role?

I use EDGE every day for many activities. One of the most important tools is the Global Calendar as an individual and as a team. The patient's page is where I focus my attention to achieve the best quality of data. It contains details like demographic, trial identification numbers, appointments, notes, and documents. EDGE facilitates my work by ensuring the management of quantity and quality of the data.

05

As a Research Radiographer, how does the use of EDGE make your job easier?

I keep the Global Calendar updated all the time, which makes keeping track of trial appointments easier and facilitates the communications with the team. I also use the File

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section in the patient page to upload and access data in a quicker and easier way.

06

What is your favourite functionality to use in EDGE and why?

Reports to me is the best functionality on EDGE. I use it for managing appointments and clinical data. The quality of Reports is connected to the quality of data on the system. This is the Power of Data.

07

In the past few years, your team has focused on putting EDGE at the centre of your workload at RSCH. How have you done this, and what challenges and successes have your team encountered?

In 2018 I attended the EDGE conference for the first time. After that experience I started suggesting the use of EDGE in a more functional way. Talking to other sites and knowing their use of EDGE inspired me and gave me a vision of how the RSCH research team could improve their daily workflow. I shared my experience with my own team first and then with other teams in the Trust, and I have trained many colleagues in the last few years.

08

What are your/site's plans for using and developing EDGE over the next 12 months?

I introduced the financial tracking system on EDGE at the RSH this year. I want to thank Steven Barre, Mat Davis and Beth Caruana, and all the staff involved in the financial project. Their dedication and work are extremely important for all of us. R&D at the Royal Surrey are doing extraordinary work sharing this new feature with all of the

teams and I am sure it will help the unit to grow. The RSH has recently moved to an electronic record and I believe EDGE will help research during this transition.

09

What is your "bigger picture?" That is, what do you find most fulfilling about your role?

PAPERLESS. The amount of paperwork in research is a limit and the reduction of paper documents will reduce risk of mistakes and will reduce the stress improving communication and EDGE has a huge potential.

10

Describe one of your team's greatest achievements:

The best achievement for my team is patient satisfaction. We try to make their experience easier, improving their treatment, or making sure they are assisted with high quality of care. It is the biggest reward that we can achieve.

11

One clinical research superpower that you wish you possessed:

I would like to master telepathy so I can understand people's thoughts and wishes better.

12

One challenge that you think clinical research faces within radiography trials:

Most of the studies in radiotherapy are looking at improving tumor control whilst reducing side effects by using different doses and fractionations. The new technologies will bring new challenges and possibilities and will make the future of radiotherapy research successful.

13

One thing that people might not know about you:

I like sports in general, but my passion is golf. I am actually addicted – obsessed with it.

14

One motto or niggle of advice that you live by:

Always get things done.

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