

5th European Congress of Medical Physics

11th-14th September, Munich, Germany

Thanks to PIANOFORTE, from 11th -14th September, I had the opportunity to attend and participate with a poster at the 5th European Congress of Medical Physics. This was in the scope of my PhD, which is focused on the development of a novel approach to beam monitoring for FLASH Radiotherapy (RT) in LIP (Lisbon, Portugal) and CERN (Geneve, Switzerland).

Our poster, entitled “A Novel Approach to Beam Monitoring for FLASH Therapy”, presented the main features of our device. FLASH requires real-time monitoring and minimal impacts on the beam. Our device, which is suitable for charged particle beams, can provide information on a nanosecond scale and its impacts on the beam are of millimeter order.

This congress was also particularly valuable for my training for several reasons:

- It provided an overview of the Medical Physics field and the work currently being developed. Since I am a first-year PhD student, I am very eager to learn about the field, and different topics, such as imaging and radiotherapy, were covered. As such, I could take notes of knowledge gaps, while expanding my knowledge.
- It had dedicated sessions to FLASH RT. With these lectures, I was able to get to know the main research groups and what they are working on. Their ideas were inspiring, and I was capable of incorporating one of them in my research.
- Networking. This congress was a wonderful opportunity to establish potential international collaborations. Since it had lots of social events, it provided an informal and casual environment in which people could connect and get to know each other, while discussing their research interests. On a side note, during one of the visits to the research facilities near the congress, I met someone who is working on the same topic, and we could share our findings in an interesting conversation.
- Industry. Different companies attended the congress and presented their products that are used in research facilities.

In summary, this congress was fundamental to my PhD, since I had the opportunity to share my findings with a poster and to develop a network that can be crucial for my career and research. I would like to end by, once again, extending my gratitude to this program that made all this possible.

Gonçalo Ribeiro