



## Original Development Team Reunite to Celebrate 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UK's First Combined Radiotherapy/Radiology Managed Equipment Service

19 March 2016

The original team responsible for development and implementation of the Medipass Managed Equipment Service (MES) and their colleagues at the Northern Ireland Cancer Centre recently reunited to celebrate the project's 10th Anniversary. One of the first projects of its kind in the UK, the Cancer Centre at Belfast City Hospital opened its doors in 2006 with a fully comprehensive radiology and radiotherapy MES that has continued to provide the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust with the latest in advanced technology for 10 years.

Medipass staff members were the first to occupy the new building back in the early 2000's prior to its opening, and from this position were able to manage the completion of the facilities and the transition from the old site to the new site. The winner of numerous architectural awards, the Cancer Centre has been lauded for its design, which houses radiotherapy, brachytherapy, radiology, nuclear medicine, and inpatient beds, and uses natural daylight to provide a therapeutic and harmonious atmosphere to benefit and improve the patients' progress and well-being.

This 25-year MES contract pioneered the concept of a combined radiology and radiotherapy MES by applying known project management techniques gained from years of cancer centre development in the US and the UK, and by providing crucial locally-based management resources when and where needed. The project involved a Phase I effort whereby Medipass staff scoped, managed, designed, and implemented the installation of 2 linacs at the then current facility (a 100-year old former fever hospital site), whilst beginning development of Phase II which consisted of a multi-million pound, state-of-the-art cancer centre on a new site.

Through tight project and risk management control as well as strong partnering between the Trust staff and Medipass staff, this award winning project came in on time and to budget. The initial Medipass project manager, Robin Rezende, is still involved with this project as the Operations Director for all of the Medipass UK MES sites. Ms Rezende's involvement has greatly contributed to the current consistency and stability of the MES in Belfast as well as contributing to the Trust's overall satisfaction and confidence in the scheme.

Ms Rezende said, "With the help of Medipass Healthcare's flexibility and strong partnership approach, the Trust have been able to expand the scope of the MES to meet continued growth and demand and the Cancer Centre now boasts a full fleet of 10 linear accelerators." She added, "The addition of a 10th linear accelerator, which has brought a new treatment modality to Northern Ireland, and the marking of 10 years of partnership with the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust are true milestones that we are extremely proud to celebrate."



Colleagues from the Cancer Centre and Members of the original Cancer Centre Project Team mark the 10th anniversary. From Left: Debbie Wightman, Cancer Treatments Manager, Gillian Traub, Co-Director Cancer Services, Gaile Smyth, MES Manager for Medipass Belfast, Jenny Morgan, Project Design Team.



Original project team members responsible for development of the Northern Ireland Cancer Centre celebrating the 10th Anniversary. Left: Kieron Smyth, Project Design Team, Denise Stockman, Project Lead Manager, Robin Rezende, Director of Operations for Medipass Healthcare, and Leslie Frew, Head of Radiotherapy Physics.