

Alumni of the Double-Degree Master's Program "Clinical Medical Physics", offered by the Pontifical Catholic University in Santiago de Chile (UC) and Heidelberg University, Germany (UHD)

Karen Romero Sanchez

Who are you and what's your current position?

My name is **Karen Romero Sanchez** and I am Mexican. I work as a Medical Physicist at the Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social (Mexican Institute of Social Security) in Puebla City.

Why did you choose Medical Physics and why did you decide to study at UC and UHD?

In the early stages of my life I realized that I had a penchant for wanting to help people and also for understanding how nature works. As I entered the faculty of Physics, one of these aspects was fulfilled.

During my Bachelor studies in Mexico I met a medical physicist who told me about this area of Physics (unknown for me at that time) and it turned out to be very interesting for me. I immediately noticed Medical Physics could offer a path to help people. From that moment I started searching about Medical Physics. The more I learned, the more I was into this area, so I decided to take the Medical Physics electives and to get involved with the clinical environment at the hospital where I currently work at.

After 1 year in touch with this field, I was completely sure I wanted to keep studying and deepening my knowledge in Medical Physics, therefore I looked for a master's program. As a result of a thorough search, I was convinced the Double-Degree Master's program "Clinical Medical Physics" offered by the UC and UHD was the best option for me since it met high educational quality and the possibility of having an approach to other cultures.

Could you explain your reasons for your own career pathway?

Since the first approach to the clinical area I felt I just had found what I was meant to do in my professional life. It became tangible how a Physics application helps people on a daily basis, and that made me feel happy and satisfied with my career choice.

Which advice do you have for young students or scientists thinking about their own career pathways

I think the best advice would be to follow your instincts and always be loyal to what you want and what you expect from yourself. Fight for your goals no matter how unattainable you may think or others make you think they are. Passion and dedication will always lead to good endings and will always be followed by personal and professional growth.



Marcos Ali Vasquez Reyes

I am a Medical Physicist at the Radiation Oncology Department of Centro Medico Nacional “Manuel Avila Camacho” located in Puebla, Mexico (since August 2018).

It all started with one question: How?

During my Bachelor studies (BSs Applied Physics) in Mexico *I wondered how Physics could be applied to improve the health of people.* I attended undergraduate lectures on Medical Physics and a Clinical Internship in the Radiation Oncology department of a public hospital: since that moment I was truly decided to focus my career in the clinical field of Medical Physics, especially in the radiation oncology area which I found the most interesting one.

After my undergrad studies I applied for the Master’s program in “Clinical Medical Physics” (UC+UHD) because this was organized by one of the top universities worldwide (UHD) and one of the top universities in Latin America (UC) and this was very interesting.

As Mexican I thought about UC as a bridge before attending UHD lectures as it would be a smoother way to approach German culture. During that time, I was awarded a full scholarship by the National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT Mex Gov) and a partial scholarship by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) during the first semester of studies. I consider enrolling in this program the best decision regarding my career and personal life, since during this time I learned a lot from excellent teachers, I made very good friends and met other fascinating cultures.

After I finished my Master’s Studies a job position as Medical Physicist was offered to me in Puebla, Mexico. Despite starting a PhD was engaging enough, I decided for the clinical position since I was committed to repay Mexican people for the CONACYT scholarship and I wanted to gain more clinical experience.

I want to encourage students/ young scientists to choose the Radiation Oncology field in the clinics, which I found the most exciting, since it includes both healthcare and experimental skills. Moreover, people with this interest may apply for Heidelberg postgraduate programs and summer schools, since what is taught is highly useful in the clinic field.



PHOTO GALLERY

Santiago/Heidelberg times



Pic 1: Group Members in Heidelberg at DKFZ



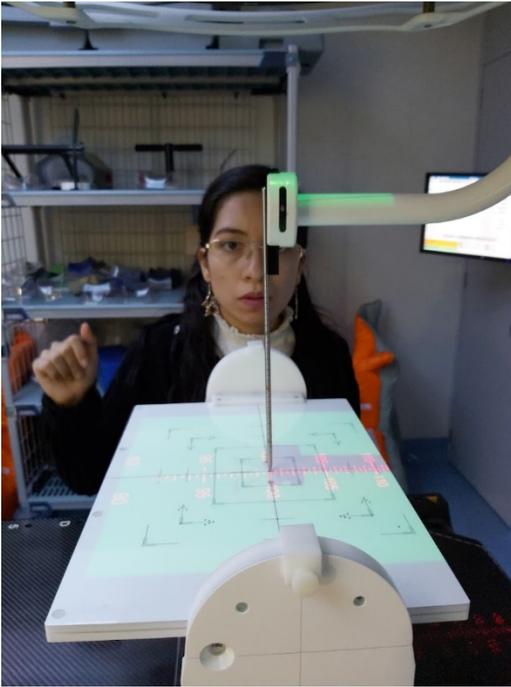
Pic 2: Working in Heidelberg at DKFZ during Master's Thesis



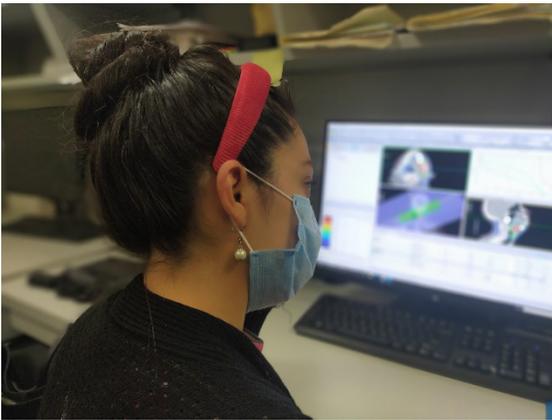
Pic 3: Working in Heidelberg at DKFZ during Master's Thesis



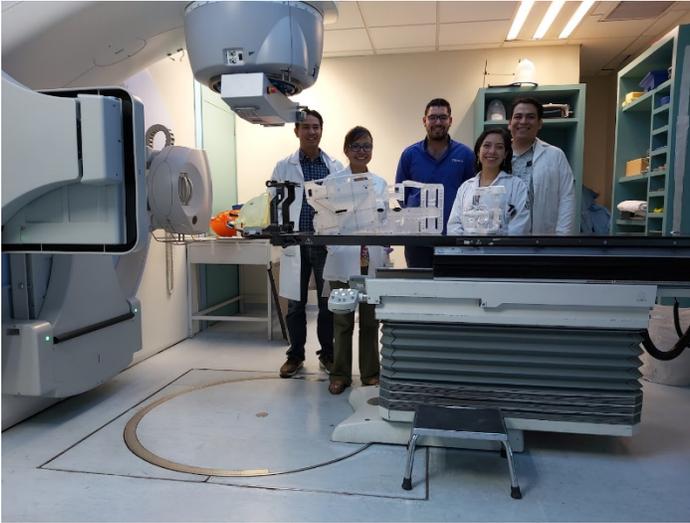
CURRENT POSITIONS



Pic 4: Working in Mexico



Pic 5: Working in Mexico



Pic 6: Group Members in Mexico



Pic 7: Working in Mexico