

Dear colleagues,

Since 2016, SASCRO has conducted an annual census of Clinical and Radiation Oncologists (Rad Onc), as well as of Medical Oncologists (Med Onc) who treat solid tumours.

RESULTS:

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Rad Onc Private sector	126	141	147
Specialist Rad Onc Academic / State sector	42	40	38
Total	168	181	185
Med Onc (Excluding Clinical Haematologists)	22	24	26
Total	190	205	211
Registrars Rad Onc Academic / State sector	43	51	47
Supernumerary Rad Onc Academic / State sector	18	23	27
Total	61	74	74
Retirees	11	13	14

COMMENTS:

- Clinical and radiation oncologists comprise **88%** of the total (185/211). This percentage has remained constant since 2016.
- There has been a progressive decrease in specialist clinical and radiation oncologists in the Academic/State sector. This has decreased from **25% in 2016** (42/168) to **20.5% in 2018** (38/185).
- There has been an increase in radiation oncologists in the private sector from 126 in 2016 to 147 in 2018. The private practice subcommittee believes that there is nonetheless a relative shortage of practising oncologists countrywide.
- There has been an increase in the percentage of supernumerary registrars from **24% in 2016** (18/61) to **36% in 2018** (27/74)

The most significant challenge is addressing the decrease in specialist radiation oncologists in the Academic / State sector. The SASCRO Committee believes that this is not directly related to salaries in this sector. There are known pathways to enable employment in the Academic/ State sector to be professionally more rewarding. It has been proposed for discussion purposes that the use of agreed national protocols for the public sector would allow oncologists in both the private and public sector to contribute to the care of state patients as well as teaching and research which is anchored around those protocols. Data on activities would also be prospectively gathered and jointly reviewed by management and the responsible oncologists every 3 to 6 months.

SASCRO will be pleased to work constructively with all stakeholders to in the interests of patients and academic activities in Oncology.

Raymond Abratt
 SASCRO Chair

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