



TV

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

UN IN ACTION

Release Date: November 2016

Programme: 1530

Length: 5'18"

Languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish

URUGUAY: CANCER ON THE RISE

VIDEO

CROWDS IN STREETS
SMOKING

MORE PEOPLE

DR ALONSO ON-CAMERA
MANAGING DIRECTOR, CUDIM

DR. ALONSO WALKING THRU CENTER

STREETS/SMOKING

AUDIO

NARRATION

Uruguay in South America, with a population of three million, is witnessing a spike in cancer rates. (6)

One quarter of its population is affected by cancer – a leading cause of death in the 21st century. (6)

DR. OMAR ALONSO: (In Spanish) M
"We have rates of cancer incidence that are among the highest in the world, and right now, we have the highest rates in Latin America." (11)

NARRATION

The Uruguayan Centre of Molecular Imaging, CUDIM, is focusing on diagnosing and treating patients with cancer using nuclear medicine. (9)

A large part of the problem is tobacco use.

(3)

NARRATION

PATIENTS
DOCTORS/STAFF AT WORK

CUDIM is the only centre in the country with a PET/CT machine – or a high-tech body scanner which uses radioactive substances called tracers to detect illnesses such as cancer. (12)

IAEA

IAEA/ARCAL

Committed to assisting countries in Latin America such as Uruguay in the battle against cancer, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the IAEA based in Vienna, is providing technical cooperation and training. (13)

TECHNICIANS AT WORK ETC.

It is also introducing new high-tech equipment such as those already available in developed countries to diagnose and treat the disease using nuclear medicine. (10)

DR. EDUARDO SAVIO ON-CAMERA
IINJECTING PATIENTS

DR. EDUARDO SAVIO: (In Spanish) M
“Nuclear medicine is a specialized area that uses radioactive substances, which are administered to a person and distributed to specific organs and tissues. Using this distribution of substances, // we can determine what’s the best way to treat the patient.” (26)

NARRATION

DR. SAVIO AT HOME WITH HIS FAMILY

Patients such as Susana Montero whose

CHEMICAL PHARMACIST, URUGUAY

doctor found a nodule last week during an examination after she complained of back pain. He referred her to the center to undergo a PET scan to determine whether it was cancerous. (14)

CYCLYTRONE ROOM
MACHINES

SUSANA: (In Spanish) F

SUSANA IN WAITING ROOM
CALLED BY RECEPTIONIST/NURSE
CONSULTATION

"I am feeling anxious because it's the first time I am doing this exam. I couldn't do a biopsy because the nodule is too close to the vascular area." (19)

NATSOT – PET SCAN

We asked Susana what was running through her mind during the test... (4)

SUSANA ON-CAMERA
WALKING THRU CENTER
GETTING READY FOR SCAN

SUSANA: (In Spanish) F

"I thought of my family, my children, and my grand-children. I thought about many things." (8)

MACHINE/SCANS

NATSOT – SUSANA & DOCTORS

"The idea is that we are seeing the nodule, but it isn't lit up. What we see when the radioactive material is captured, when the nodule is malignant, it lights up. It changes to let's say a bright color. But it's not lighting up." (18)

IMAGES OF SUSANA UNDER MACHINE

NARRATION

This means that Susana's nodule is benign, a relief for her. (4)

LAB TECHS WORKING ON MEDICINE
PRODUCTION
PATIENT

But nuclear medicine isn't restricted to the diagnosis and treatment of cancer only. It's also critical in pin pointing cardio vascular and other diseases at the onset. (11)

MICE QUARTERS

Dr. Savio is overseeing experimentation with mice for Alzheimer's disease. It's a project spearheaded by graduate student, Ingrid Kreimerman. (10)

DR. SAVIO AND SILVIA CHECK MICE
INGRID IN LAB WORKING

INGRID ON-CAMERA
GRADUATE STUDENT

INGRID: (In Spanish) F

"My thesis is based on the development of new radio-tracers for the detection of Alzheimer's by means of marking astrocytes. Astrocytes are phenomena that appear in Alzheimer's as well as in other neuro-degenerative diseases. // Right now we're at the transition phase." (27)

ALZHEIMER'S PATIENTS
WITH VICTORIA
COFFEE TIME/DISCUSSIONS

NARRATION

Ingrid hopes to find a cure for Alzheimer's in a few years – something that Victoria Ibanez had been waiting for when her late mother was diagnosed with the disease. (10)

VICTORIA ON-CAMERA

VICTORIA IBANEZ: (In Spanish) F

"This would be fantastic because they have been looking for a cure for years, but until now there is none." (6)

CROWD IN STREETS

NARRATION

Currently some eight million people die each

PATIENTS/MASKED FACES

year from cancer. But according to medical experts and the IAEA, with early detection, through the use of nuclear medicine, some 30% of these deaths could be avoided. (13)

NUCLEAR MEDICINE
SICK PATIENTS IN INJECTING ROOM

A reason to master the development of nuclear medicine to accurately diagnose and treat cancer in patients who desperately need help to beat the disease. (11)

UN LOGO

This report was produced by Mary Ferreira for the United Nations.