



## **Radiotherapy and its physics**

*How to become a medical physicist*

**Andrew Duggart (talking to Paul Whittard)**

...interlocked grouping because that is actually.

**Paul Whittard**

It depends, if you have problems with the machine you'll probably want to get into control group eight...

**Paul Whittard**

I'm Paul Whittard, I'm the head of Radiotherapy Physics here at the Royal Berkshire Hospital and that basically means that I manage the radiotherapy physics section providing technical support to the radiotherapy service here.

The way into hospital physics is by a first degree in physics; thereafter one might go on and do higher degrees or come straight into the NHS at that point. Then one would do a diploma of the IPeM and also undertake at the very least a MSC in an appropriate physical science. There are then further diplomas one has to acquire before one can become a registered professional in this field.

The Institute of Physics and Engineering Medicine known as IpeM, is the professional body that supports the work of physicists in the NHS. It's active in all areas of physicists as applied to health care science really, so that's radiotherapy, diagnostic radiology, nuclear medicine, magnetic resonance imaging, the list quite long.