



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**EXPERTS GATHER TO EXPLORE GROUNDBREAKING DEVELOPMENTS IN CANCER CONTROL, OCTOBER 10-13, 2007 AT THE SHERATON CENTRE TORONTO HOTEL**

**Toronto, ON:** A staggering 72,700 Canadians will die and an estimated 159,900 new cases of cancer will occur in Canada this year according to the Canadian Cancer Society. In an ongoing attempt to combat cancer, the **Canadian Association of Radiation Oncology** and the **Canadian Organization of Medical Physicists** will host their first integrated annual scientific meeting at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel, from October 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

The joint conference themed, "**Image Guided and Adaptive Radiation Therapy**" is expected to draw over 650 attendees including radiation oncologists and residents, medical physicists and physics residents, radiation therapy technologists, scientists, allied health care professionals and industry representatives from Canada's leading cancer care and research centers, hospitals and businesses.

The annual scientific meeting includes sessions on innovative new technology, patient care and new research technologies. Among the many highlights of this year's conference is the **CARO-COMP Joint Public Lecture - Innovative Radiation Treatment for Breast Cancer Patients** on **Thursday, October 11, 2007 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.** Radiation oncologist at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, **Jean-Philippe Pignol, M.D., Ph.D.**, will share how recent dramatic improvements in radiation treatments directly benefit patients by greatly reducing painful skin burns in women with breast cancer.

**About CARO:**

The Canadian Association of Radiation Oncology is a professional association dedicated to the promotion of high standards of patient care in the practice of radiation oncology, support of excellence in professional standards, promotion of radiation oncology research and continuing education.

**About COMP:**

The Canadian Organization of Medical Physicists (COMP), the voice of medical physicists in Canada, is the main professional body for medical physicists practicing in Canada. Its vision is to champion medical physicists' efforts to support and advance the science of medical diagnosis and therapy through innovation, technological development and assurance of quality and safety.

## Papers of interest and speaker schedule:

\*Please note that lead authors are available for interviews by request

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

**11:40 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. Development of a Small Bore Linac-MRI System for Real Time Image Guided Radiotherapy, B.G. Fallone**

Discussion on the design and implementation of a novel small-bore linac-MRI system which provides real-time 3-D tracking of tumour and soft tissue during treatment irradiation. The result of this development will be improved cure rates with less side effects on cancers commonly treated with radiation, and for cancer sites not commonly treated by radiation such as lung, liver stomach and pancreas.

**1:30 p.m. – 1:40 p.m. 3D MR Image Guidance for Brachytherapy in Cervical Cancer, Kari Tanderup**

In brachytherapy for cervical cancer, radioactive sources are placed in close proximity to the tumour, and the radiation dose is delivered from the inside. This makes it possible to deliver a high focal dose to the tumour. Three-dimensional assessments of tumour and patient anatomy can be performed in MRI, and the radiation dose can be individually tailored to the cancer target. Multiple MRI scans allow for a dynamic adaptive approach where tumour regression and organ movement is taken into account. We have shown that the dose coverage of the tumours could be significantly increased while at the same time reducing over dosage to surrounding normal tissues. This technique will improve radiotherapy treatment of cervical cancer by increasing tumour control and decreasing unwanted side effects.

Thursday, October 11, 2007

**2:00 p.m. – 2:12 p.m. Report of a Multicentre Canadian Phase III Randomized Trial of Three Months versus Eight Months Neoadjuvant Androgen Deprivation Prior to Standard Dose Radiotherapy for Clinically Localized Prostate Cancer J. Crook**

Long-term follow-up on a Canadian randomized study shows that the combination of eight months of hormone therapy with radiation yields improved disease free survival at five and eight years post treatment as compared to a shorter three month course of hormone therapy for men with localized but aggressive prostate cancer.

**2:36 p.m. – 2:48 p.m. Developing Advanced Practice Roles in Radiation Therapy: Letting the Evidence Speak N. Harnett**

Funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, this pilot project was designed to investigate new models of care in the radiation medicine field capitalizing on the unique skills set of the Radiation Therapist. The first study of its kind in Canada, the "Advanced Practice for Radiation Therapy Development Project" examined if the implementation of a newly created "advanced practice radiation therapist" (APRT) could help Ontario's cancer centres overcome existing challenges to decreasing wait times, increasing access and continuous improvement of the health of Ontarians.

**Other Papers of interest:**

**Improving the Results of Intermediate Risk Prostate Cancer Treated with High Dose Rate (HDR) Brachytherapy and Hypofractionated External Beam Radiation Therapy** F. Cury, Friday, October 12, 8:00 a.m. – 8:12 a.m.

**Intervals Longer than Twenty Weeks from Breast Conserving Surgery (BCS) to Radiation Therapy (RT) are Associated with Inferior Outcomes for Patients with Early-Stage Breast Cancer Not Receiving Chemotherapy** I. Olivotto, Friday, October 12, 2:00 p.m. – 2:12 p.m.

**The Impact of Acute Skin Toxicity and Breast Radiation Technique on Quality of Life: Results of a Phase III Trial** T.T.T. Vu, Friday, October 12, 2:36 p.m. – 2:48 p.m.

**Acceptance of Extended Hormonal Therapy with Letrozole After Five Years of Adjuvant Tamoxifen in Post-Menopausal Breast Cancer Patients** T. Trotter, Friday, October 12, 3:12 p.m. – 3:24 p.m.