



## Backgrounder

In 1988 the Canadian Association of Radiation Oncology (CARO-ACRO) was incorporated under the Canada Corporations Act with "the objects of providing a national organization of Radiation Oncologists in Canada to promote the interests of Radiation Oncology in Canada and to represent the specialty to governments, The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and other national and international societies".

### **CARO-ACRO Mission Statement/Énoncé de mandat**

The mission of the Canadian Association of Radiation Oncology - Association canadienne de radio-oncologie (CARO-ACRO) is to: represent and support its membership nationally and internationally through the promotion of high standards of patient care in the practice of radiation oncology; to support excellence in professional standards: and to promote radiation oncology research and education.

CARO-ACRO is a partner with other disciplines in seeking to improve the outcome of cancer patients and provides a consultative authority to oncology related agencies, academic institutions and to the public in all matters pertaining to radiotherapy and oncology in Canada.

### **Membership**

Currently there are 320 radiation oncologists and 1,190 radiation therapists practicing at 35 centres across the country. CARO-ACRO has a total membership of 687 members from a variety of specialties within the field: radiation oncologists (physicians with specialized training in the care of patients with cancer and the use of radiation treatment), physicists, therapists, radiobiologists, fellows and residents.



## **The Canadian Radiation Oncology Foundation (CROF-FCRO)**

Established in 2007 the Canadian Radiation Oncology Foundation (CROF-FCRO) is a not-for-profit charitable organization, working with the public and the oncology community through a broad educational program to enhance public awareness of the crucial role of radiation oncology in cancer patient care nationally.

The Foundation's support of professional education and scientific research in radiation medicine is aimed to provide Canadians with the highest standard of radiation treatment, reducing the burden and suffering of all Canadians diagnosed with cancer.

The founding president of CROF-FCRO is Dr. Ida Ackerman, a radiation oncologist practicing in Toronto at the Odette Cancer Centre.

Dr. Ackerman shares her enthusiasm for her field: "I have been passionate about the specialty of radiation oncology because, over the years, I have realized that it is the best single agent for the treatment of cancer at any stage. It can cure; it can prevent recurrence; and it can alleviate suffering with decreased toxicity."

"There is a major need for public education about our specialty, about its benefits, about the improved technologies, and the need to debunk many myths," explains Dr. Ackerman. "An expanded public awareness of the value and safety of radiation therapy will allow newly diagnosed cancer patients to speak to their doctors, and ask them whether radiation treatment might be good for them."

The Foundation is in the very early stages of recruiting board members and assembling its web site and other informational materials.

The Foundation email address is: [crof@rcpsc.edu](mailto:crof@rcpsc.edu)