

News Release

National Collaborative Program in Radiation Therapy Quality to be Announced

Canadian Partnership for Quality Radiation Therapy (C-PQR) will be launched at Vancouver September 22 – 25 Annual Scientific Meeting of the Canadian Association of Radiation Oncology – Association canadienne de radio-oncologie (CARO-ACRO)

Vancouver, September 10, 2010: Dr. Michael Milosevic, radiation oncologist, Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto, and past president of the Canadian Association of Radiation Oncology (CARO-ACRO), will chair an inter-disciplinary steering committee of leaders representing the three major Canadian radiation treatment disciplines in planning and implementing a national quality program in radiation therapy (C-PQR). Project partners include:

- Canadian Association of Radiation Oncology – Association canadienne de radio-oncologie (CARO-ACRO)
- Canadian Organization of Medical Physicists (COMP)
- Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (CAMRT)

“The project, which has been orchestrated in collaboration with the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC), has a two-year, renewable mandate,” explains Dr. Milosevic. “Our objectives are to strengthen communication and cooperation amongst those involved in delivering radiation treatment to Canadians; coordinate and align national radiation treatment quality efforts and strategies; and, develop and maintain a Canadian radiation treatment quality program. Our plans involve a series of coordinated short and long-term initiatives.”

“Radiation therapy saves and prolongs lives,” continues Dr. Milosevic, “and is one of the safest, most effective areas of modern medicine. Each year in Canada over 100,000 cancer patients receive almost two million radiation treatments. The radiation oncology community in Canada is a world leader in the development of new approaches to improve the effectiveness of radiation treatment, leading to a greater number of cures with fewer side effects.”

“These continual improvements, the increasing complexity of treatment, evolving high technology equipment, and the trend towards providing individualized patient care, demands a parallel increase in quality standards and quality control to assure that treatment is always delivered as intended,” he states.

According to Maggie Keresteci, director, Quality Initiative Implementation, CPAC, “The Canadian radiation therapy community is ideally suited to undertake this initiative. The project builds on an existing foundation of work done around the development of standards for quality assurance at Canadian radiation treatment centres, and the quality control standards for use with radiation therapy equipment. Once standards are developed and implemented, it is helpful to assess and better understand the level of compliance with the



standards in the radiation community – this project will develop a tool that will provide this information, thereby assuring the highest quality and safest treatment for Canadians.”

Dr. Milosevic will chair the steering committee for the project’s first year, after which one of his colleagues will assume the role.

Interview Opportunities:

Dr. Michael Milosevic, CARO-ACRO

Ms. Maggie Keresteci, CPAC

CARO-ACRO 2010 ASM Online Newsroom at: http://www.caro-acro.ca/Meetings_Education/Annual_Scientific_Meetings/24th_Annual_Scientific_Meeting_September_22_-_September_25_2010_Vancouver_BC/2010_ASM_Media_Kit.htm

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About the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC)

<http://www.partnershipagaincancer.ca/Who>

The Canadian Partnership Against Cancer is an independent organization funded by the federal government to accelerate action on cancer control for all Canadians. Bringing together cancer experts, government representatives, the Canadian Cancer Society and cancer patients, survivors and their families through the Canadian Cancer Action Network to implement the first pan-Canadian cancer-control strategy, the vision is to be a driving force to achieve a focused approach that will help prevent cancer, enhance the quality of life of those affected by cancer, lessen the likelihood of dying from cancer, and increase the efficiency of cancer control in Canada. For more information about the Partnership and Canada’s cancer control strategy, visit partnershipagaincancer.ca. The Canadian Partnership Against Cancer is also the driving force behind cancerview.ca, an online community linking Canadians to cancer information, services and resources.





About the Canadian Association of Radiation Oncology – Association canadienne de radio-oncologie (CARO-ACRO) (www.caro-acro.ca)

CARO-ACRO is a national organization representing Canadian radiation oncologists, and other professionals in the radiation therapy field, 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. The mission of 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 outcomes 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. 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.