

## THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY AND ELEKTA AWARD RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

*The third annual CARO-Elekta Research Fellowship awarded to Dr. David Palma to further conduct research around Stereotactic Radiotherapy for Lung Cancer*



**Ottawa, ON, September 8, 2009** - The Canadian Association of Radiation Oncology (CARO), along with international medical-technology group Elekta, are pleased to award the 2009 CARO-Elekta Research Fellowship to Radiation Oncologist, Dr. David Palma. The \$75,000 fellowship, provided by Elekta, will enable Dr. Palma to conduct research with the Uro-Oncology Unit at the VU Medical Centre, Amsterdam Radiation Oncology with Dr. Suresh Senan. His research will revolve around **Stereotactic Radiotherapy for Lung Cancer**. This research began in July 2009.

Dr. Palma is originally from London, Ontario, and is currently a final-year resident in Vancouver. He holds degrees in Life Sciences from Queen's University and in Medicine from the University of Western Ontario. He and his wife Cheryl are both avid runners and triathletes, and both completed Ironman Canada in 2007. They welcomed the arrival of their daughter Kiara last year.

While in residency, his research interests have included several prostate cancer outcomes projects, along with the evaluation of new radiotherapy techniques (VMAT). David's fellowship will take him to Boston and Amsterdam, continuing his focus on outcomes research and emerging technologies. As well as his fellowship in Amsterdam, he will be completing a Master's Degree in Epidemiology at Harvard University. Following his fellowship, he will be returning to London, Ontario to practice Radiation Oncology in an OICR clinician-scientist position.

"In creating this fellowship, CARO and Elekta have provided an outstanding opportunity for new radiation oncology graduates who wish to pursue further research training.", said David, "This fellowship will allow me to gain research experience from two different institutions abroad. Dr. Senan's group at the Vrije University Medical Centre in Amsterdam has a strong lung cancer radiotherapy program, focused on clinical trials and the evaluation and implementation of new radiotherapy delivery technology. This training will fit well with the academic program in Boston, hopefully providing a strong foundation for a future research career."

This is the third year that the CARO-Elekta Research Fellowship Program has been awarded. The fellowship will provide research and salary support to Dr. Palma for a period of one year. His research is endorsed by both CARO and Elekta as being directly relevant to the current and future practice of radiation oncology, both in Canada and abroad.

"We are thrilled that CARO has been able to continue offering this fellowship in conjunction with Elekta for a third year." said Dr. Michael Milosevic, CARO President, "This fellowship program enables deserving individuals such as Dr. Palma to conduct important research and further their training and development in radiation oncology in a manner that will directly benefit Canadians with cancer in the future."



#### **About CARO**

Canadian Association of Radiation Oncology (CARO) - Association canadienne de radio-oncologie (ACRO) is a not-for-profit association with a mandate to represent and support its membership nationally and internationally through 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 education.

CARO 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.

For more information about CARO, please visit [caro-acro@rcpsc.edu](mailto:caro-acro@rcpsc.edu)

#### **About Elekta**

Elekta is a human care company pioneering significant innovations and clinical solutions for treating cancer and brain disorders. The company develops sophisticated state of the art tools and treatment planning systems for radiation therapy and radiosurgery, as well as workflow enhancing software systems across the spectrum of cancer care.

Stretching the boundaries of science and technology, providing intelligent and resource-efficient solutions that offer confidence to both healthcare providers and patients, Elekta aims to improve, prolong and even save patient lives, making the future possible today.

Today, Elekta solutions in oncology and neurosurgery are used in over 5,000 hospitals globally, and every day more than 100,000 patients receive diagnosis, treatment or follow-up with the help of a solution from the Elekta Group.

Elekta employs around 2,500 employees globally. The corporate headquarter is located in Stockholm, Sweden, and the company is listed on the Nordic Exchange under the ticker EKTAb. For more information about Elekta, please visit [www.elekta.com](http://www.elekta.com)

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