



President's Message, June 2008

Dear Colleagues:

It is my pleasure to invite you to attend the 22nd Annual Scientific Meeting of the Canadian Association of Radiation Oncology (CARO) to be held September 10-13, 2008 at Le Centre Sheraton in Montreal. The theme of the meeting this year is "Targeting the Tumour Microenvironment in Radiation Oncology". The tumour microenvironment is the anatomic and physiologic space around cancer cells, which is typically characterized by irregular blood flow, low oxygen levels (hypoxia) and accumulation of toxic metabolic end-products. Canadian Radiation Oncology researchers and clinicians are world-leaders in advancing the science of how the tumour microenvironment influences cancer progression, the development of metastases and response to radiotherapy. New drugs that attack the abnormal microenvironment to improve radiation effectiveness are now available, and are being intensely studied in Canada both in the laboratory and in

early clinical trials. These new biologic treatments, in combination with image-guided intensity-modulated anatomic targeting of tumours, are the future of our discipline and will revolutionize how we treat cancer over the next few years.

Pam Catton and the ASM Committee have developed an exciting meeting agenda that I believe will interest everyone. There will be a pre-conference theme symposium on Wednesday September 10 organized by Rob Bristow and the CARO Translational Research Advisory Group that will explore the tumour microenvironment and new targeted treatment strategies in relation to the future of radiation treatment through keynote lectures, review seminars and scientific paper sessions. The Canadian Brachytherapy Group will host a parallel pre-conference symposium on the same day, and the popular Residents' Refresher Course will continue as in previous years. The general meeting will run from Thursday September 11 to Saturday September 13. It will be of interest to all clinicians, physicists and radiation therapists, with a variety of symposia and workshops and over 250 scientific podium and poster presentations. For the first time this year, key sessions will be recorded and later posted on the new and improved CARO website (have look if you haven't yet had a chance – www.caro-acro.ca). The meeting will culminate in the annual CARO Awards Dinner at Le Windsor, one of downtown Montreal's most prestigious and historic landmarks.

Overall, the 2008 CARO ASM will provide an exceptional opportunity to learn about new developments in Radiation Oncology science and practice, establish new friends and collaborations and catch-up with old friends from across the country. Registration will open shortly, and will be entirely electronic this year – a significant enhancement compared to previous years again reflecting the functionality of our new web site. I very much hope that you will be able to attend. I look forward to seeing you in Montreal.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike".

Michael Milosevic
President, Canadian Association of Radiation Oncology (CARO)