

ASTRO DAILY NEWS

SUNDAY AND MONDAY | ISSUE 1

63RD ANNUAL MEETING | OCTOBER 24-27, 2021



Welcome to ASTRO's 63rd Annual Meeting!

BY LAURA A. DAWSON, MD, FASTRO, ASTRO PRESIDENT

IT IS MY GREAT PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU — in person — to ASTRO's 63rd Annual Meeting! I hope you all navigated the new travel rules and arrived safely.

The theme of the meeting is Embracing Change: Advancing Person-Centered Care and is designed to encourage us to come together as a field to embrace new ideas to help shape the future of the specialty and advance compassionate care. This theme will be reflected throughout sessions over the course of our time together these next four days.

Pre-meeting programming was underway yesterday with our weekend PRO program, ARRO Annual

Seminar and the Master Class on radiopharmaceuticals. Today, we waste no time in kicking off the official start of the meeting with a welcome from a passionate rising star in our field, Fumiko Chino, MD, from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Dr. Chino will greet attendees and share some of what's new during this year's annual meeting. I will then begin an exciting Presidential Symposium, featuring an array of world-renowned speakers who will present on various aspects of the theme: Advancing Person-Centered Care Through Innovation. The first three sessions will discuss scientific innovations in the field, digital health

and future possible new applications of radiation therapy. The symposium will conclude with a lively debate on the merits of randomized clinical trials versus real world data. And new for ASTRO, each session will also feature a patient who will share their valuable perspective. The schedule of sessions and presenters is on page 7. Later today, you will not want to miss the Clinical Trials and Innovations session featuring nine scientifically important trials. See a preview of the studies by Andrea Ng, MD, FASTRO, chair of the Annual Meeting Scientific Program Committee on page 6.

Continued on page 5

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**Sunday – Wednesday
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Walk-ins welcome.**

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**PRESIDENTIAL
SYMPOSIUM**

Schedule Inside!
Page 7



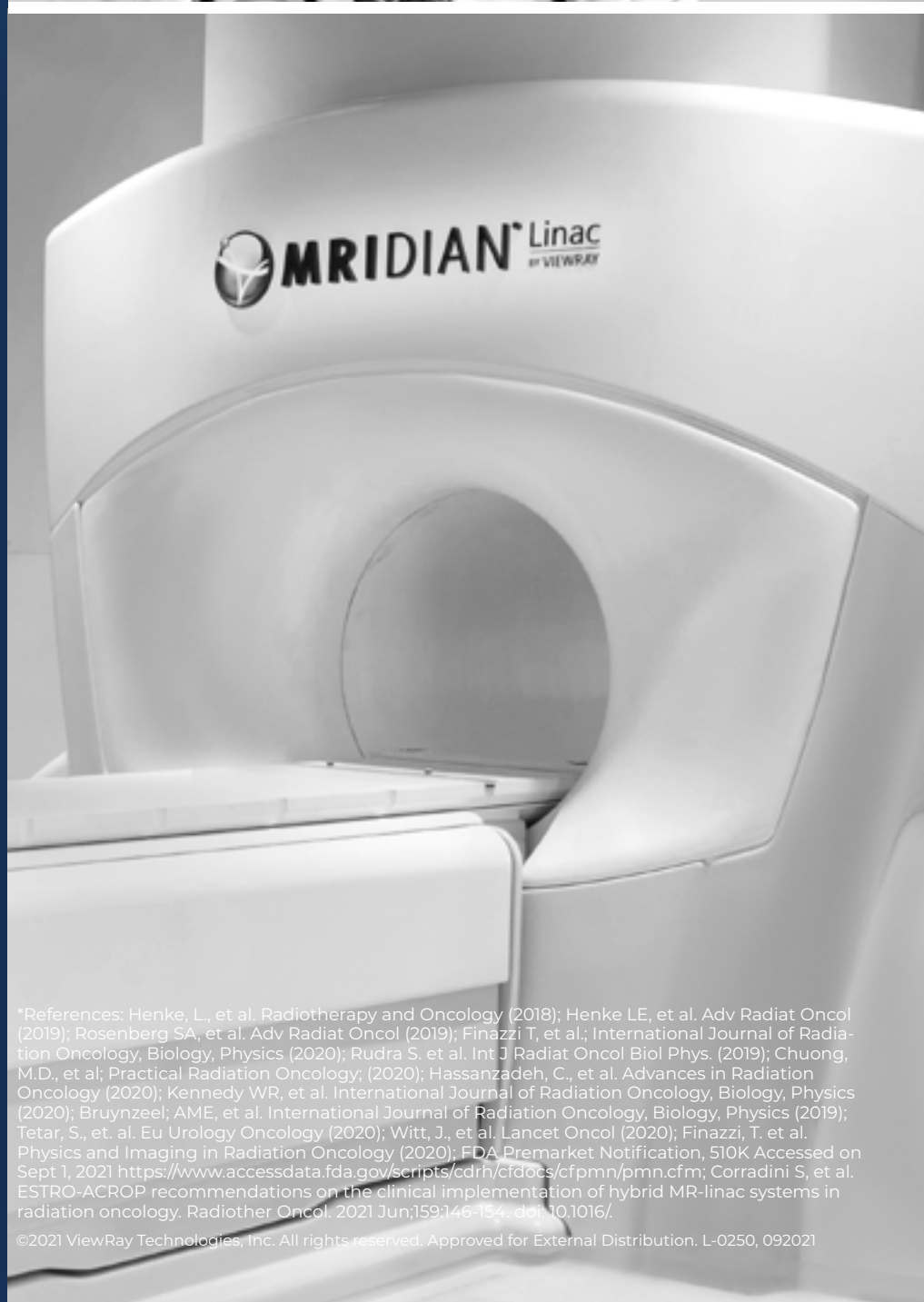
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*References: Henke, L., et al. Radiotherapy and Oncology (2018); Henke LE, et al. Adv Radiat Oncol (2019); Rosenberg SA, et al. Adv Radiat Oncol (2019); Finazzi T, et al.; International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics (2020); Rudra S. et al. Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys. (2019); Chuong, M.D., et al; Practical Radiation Oncology; (2020); Hassanzadeh, C., et al. Advances in Radiation Oncology (2020); Kennedy WR, et al. International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics (2020); Bruynzeel; AME, et al. International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics (2019); Tatar, S., et. al. Eu Urology Oncology (2020); Witt, J., et al. Lancet Oncol (2020); Finazzi, T. et al. Physics and Imaging in Radiation Oncology (2020); FDA Premarket Notification, 510K Accessed on Sept 1, 2021 <https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfpmn/pmn.cfm>; Corradini S, et al. ESTRO-ACROP recommendations on the clinical implementation of hybrid MR-linac systems in radiation oncology. Radiother Oncol. 2021 Jun;159:146-154. doi: 10.1016/

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SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Monday, October 25, 2021

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
EDU 04 – Radiation Oncologists' Role in Promoting Person-Centered Care in the Curative and Palliative Settings
 LIVESA-CME
 Room W184 a/b/c/d 1.0 CME

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
SS 04 – Phys 4 – Imaging for Response Assessment
 Room W192 a/b/c 1.0 CME

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
SS 05 – GYN 1 – Advancements in Gynecological Treatment in the Era of Personalized Medicine
 Room W181 a/b/c 1.0 CME

8:15 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.
EDU 05 – Improving Quality of Life and Outcomes for Patients with Upper GI Cancers with Advancements in Treatment Technology
 Room W196 a/b/c 1.0 CME

8:15 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.
QP 05 – Breast 3 – Breast Cancer
 Room W178 a/b 1.0 CME

8:15 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.
Science Highlights 1 – Genitourinary Cancer
 Room W175 a/b/c 0.50 CME

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
International 04 – Novel Educational Opportunities in the IT-enabled World
 Room W185 a/b/c/d 1.0 CME

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Poster Q&A 03 – Professional Development/Medical Education, Patient Reported Outcomes/QoL/Survivorship, Pediatrics, and Nursing and Supportive Care
 Outside Room W375 e 0 CME

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
QP 06 – Patient Safety 2 – Communication, Telehealth and Safety in a Pandemic and Beyond
 Room W179 a/b 1.0 CME

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Leadership Coffee Break
 Room W177

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Science Highlights 2 – Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Health Care
 Room W176 a/b/c 0.50 CME

9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
Keynote Address – Moral Injury and Choosing Change
 • Speaker: Wendy Dean, MD
 Room W375 a/b/c/d 1.0 CME

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Exhibit Hall Open
 Halls F1–F2

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Zen Den 05 – Essential Oils for Busy Professionals
 Room W180 0 CME

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
EDU 06 – Radiation in the Multidisciplinary Management of Thymic Malignancies
 Room W187 a/b/c 1.25 CME

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Poster Q&A 04 – Biology and Breast Cancer
 Outside Room W375 e 0 CME

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
QP 07 – DHI 2 – Evolution of Machine Learning Guided Decision Frameworks in Clinical Practice and Research
 Room W178 a/b 1.0 CME

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
SS 06 – Phys 1 – Best of Physics
 Room W184 a/b/c/d 1.25 CME

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
EDU 07 – Quality Payment Program Update
 Room W192 a/b/c 1.25 CME

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Joint Session 02 – ASTRO/IOTN – Radiation/Immunotherapy Combinations: Clinical Highlights and Case Discussion LIVESA-CME
 Room W196 a/b/c 1.25 CME

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Panel 06 – ASTRO's First Evidence-based Guideline on Soft Tissue Sarcoma in Adults: Case-based Implementation of Recommendations
 Room W186 a/b/c 1.25 CME

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
SS 07 – CNS 1 – Clinical Trials and Novel Approaches to Malignant Brain Tumors
 Room W194 a/b 1.25 CME

11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Panel 07 – Quantitative Imaging for Support of Radiation Oncology-Focused Clinical Trials in the U.S. and Abroad
 Room W185 a/b/c/d 1.25 CME

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
QP 08 – Palliative 2 – Improving Symptoms Through Supportive Care and Palliative Radiotherapy
 Room W179 a/b 1.0 CME

11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Special Session 01 – The Science of Hope: Why and How to Approach the Most Difficult Situations in Oncology
 Room W375 e 1.25 CME

11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
SS 08 – DEI H 1 – Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Health Care
 Room W181 a/b/c 1.25 CME

12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.
Innovation Hub 03 – The Future is Now: Safety and Quality for Real-time Adaptive RT
 ASTRO Innovation Hub 0 CME

12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.
AAWR ASTRO Women's Luncheon
 Room W183 a/b/c, 1.0 CME

12:45 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.
Zen Den 06 – Top Ways to Overcome Burnout
 Room W180 0 CME

1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Coffee Break
 Exhibit Hall

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.
EDU 08 – 2022 Radiation Oncology Coding and Coverage Update
 Room W192 a/b/c 1.25 CME

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Master Class 03 – Human First, Clinician Second
 Room W190 a/b 2.0 CME

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.
Panel 08 – AI-Empowered Clinical Decision Support for Better Treatment Outcomes
 Room W176 a/b/c 1.25 CME

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.
Poster Q&A 05 – Genitourinary Cancer, Hematologic Malignancies, and Sarcoma and Cutaneous Tumors
 Outside Room W375 e 0 CME

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
QP 09 – HSR 2 – Global Oncology
 Room W178 a/b 1.0 CME

1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
EDU 09 – The New Virtual Reality: Improving Care Through Telemedicine and Understanding Its Impact on Patients, Policy and Payment
 Room W187 a/b/c 1.25 CME

1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Panel 09 – PENTEC: Pediatric Normal Tissue Effects in the Clinic: An international Collaboration – Task Force Results, Knowledge Gaps and the Path Forward
 Room W175 a/b/c 1.25 CME

1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.
QP 10 – Bio 5 – Immunotherapy, Immune Response and Inflammation II
 Room W179 a/b 1.0 CME

1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
SS 09 – Phys 2 – Ultra-high Dose Rate Radiotherapy (FLASH)
 Room W184 a/b/c/d 1.25 CME

1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
SS 10 – H&N 1 – Improving Outcomes for Head and Neck Cancer Patients
 Room W196 a/b/c 1.25 CME

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.
International 05 – ASTRO/RUSSCO Joint Session
"Medice, cura aegrotum, sed non morbum": Emotional and Mental Health of Cancer Patients Undergoing Treatment
 Room W185 a/b/c/d 1.25 CME

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.
Panel 10 – Mitigating Bias in Recruitment: Attracting a Diverse, Dynamic Workforce to Sustain the Future of Radiation Oncology
 Room W181 a/b/c 1.25 CME

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.
SS 11 – GI 1 – Trust but Verify: Quality Assurance and Quality of Life in GI Cancers
 Room W375 e 1.25 CME

2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Zen Den 07 – Tips and Apps for Productivity & Time Management
 Room W180 0 CME

3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Zen Den 05 – Essential Oils for Busy Professionals
 Room W180 0 CME

3:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.
Presidential Address
The Time for Change is Now
 Room W375 a/b/c/d 0.50 CME

3:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.
Plenary Session
 Room W375 a/b/c/d 1.5 CME

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Beverage Break
 Exhibit Hall

5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.
EDU 10 – Debating the Best Treatment for Early Prostate Cancer: Surgery, Radiation or Neither LIVESA-CME
 Room W375 e 1.0 CME

5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.
EDU 11 – Creating Equitable and Inclusive Spaces for Black, Indigenous and Latinx Trainees, Residents and Faculty: Opportunities and Pathways
 Room W181 a/b/c 1.0 CME

5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.
QP 11 – Lung 3 – Cardiac Dose Effects in Locally Advanced Lung Cancer Patients
 Room W178 a/b 1.0 CME

5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.
SS 12 – Sarcoma 1 – Individualization of Radiotherapy Based Treatment for Sarcoma and Cutaneous Malignancy
 Room W175 a/b/c 1.0 CME

5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.
Storytelling 1 – Parental Leave: Navigating the Pressures of Starting a Family and Radiation Oncology Practice and/or Training
 Room W192 a/b/c 1.0 CME

5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.
Zen Den 02 – Practicing Gratitude for the Present: The Power of Gratitude
 Room W180 0 CME

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
EDU 12 – Innovative Biologic Approaches to Personalize RT for Metastatic Breast Cancer
 Room W184 a/b/c/d 1.0 CME

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
QP 12 – Bio 6 – Normal Tissue Injury
 Room W179 a/b 1.0 CME

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Special Session 02 – Paint by MRI: A New Era in Biologically-driven Adaptive Radiotherapy
 Room W185 a/b/c/d 1.0 CME

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
SS 13 – DHI 3 – The U-Net & You: Is Segmentation a Solved Problem?
 Room W176 a/b/c 1.0 CME



Don't forget! Your in-person, full registration includes access to all Digital XP content.

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President's Welcome CONTINUED

The learning continues Monday when we welcome our first Keynote speaker, Wendy Dean, MD, CEO and co-founder of The Moral Injury of Healthcare, who will show us how to reframe current challenges, choose change and start with a foundation of empathy and curiosity to lead us to a better, more sustainable health care environment for everyone. Later, the special session Science of Hope will explore why and how to approach the most difficult situations in oncology. A preview of this session is to the right. On Monday afternoon, I invite you to my Presidential Address titled The Time for Change is Now, where I will share my views on why the time is now for us to shape the change of the future to improve patient outcomes in a meaningful way, improve experiences for patients and ourselves and elevate the profile of radiation oncology. I will share some lessons that I have learned as I have tried to move liver cancer radiation therapy from being a niche research focus to a standard of care treatment. The much anticipated Plenary Session closes out our Monday programming, featuring four abstracts chosen for their scientific significance.

On Tuesday, we welcome Barry Schwartz, PhD, Dorwin P. Cartwright Professor of Social Theory and Social Action at Swarthmore College, who will discuss how medical professionals should seek the “sweet spot” to give patients enough autonomy but not so much that it produces paralysis and dissatisfaction, in his talk entitled The Choices that Matter. Our third Keynote speaker, Fei-Fei Li, PhD, inaugural Sequoia Professor at Stanford University, and co-director of Stanford’s Human-Centered AI Institute, presents via Digital XP on how advances in machine learning and contactless sensors have given rise to ambient intelligence. She will introduce how this technology could improve our understanding of the metaphorically dark, unobserved spaces of health care. An Annual Meeting tradition, the Awards Ceremony will recognize the distinguished leaders who have had profound impact on radiation oncology. The 2020 and 2021 Class of Fellows will be honored, as well as our 2020 and 2021 Gold Medal award winners and the 2021 Honorary Member.

Our last day together will provide another full day of scientific and education sessions, anchored by the popular Cancer Breakthroughs session, featuring Lori Pierce, MD, FASTRO, representing ASCO; Magdalena Bazalova-Carter, PhD, representing AAPM; and Antoni Ribas, MD, PhD, representing AACR. Each will share groundbreaking studies from their meetings over the past year.

We have more than 300 abstracts being presented during the Oral Scientific and Quick Pitch sessions as well as 1,300 digital posters, many with narration, covering all major disease sites as well as physics, biology, palliative care and digital innovations. The Exhibit Hall is full of energy as our more than 160 exhibitors are thrilled to be meeting with you all once again. Be sure to stop by to see the latest innovations and technologies.

And for those of you joining us through Digital XP, we are pleased to offer many livestreaming opportunities so we can all feel more connected to one another throughout the meeting. Today’s Presidential Symposium and Clinical Trials session, the Plenary and Cancer Breakthroughs sessions and the Keynote addresses will all be livestreamed to Digital XP attendees.

I am so thrilled to welcome you to this Annual Meeting. I am excited to come together once again to learn from and network with each other. For everyone who attends the meeting, whether in person or virtually, I hope you enjoy it and leave the meeting ready to take action — feeling rejuvenated, reenergized and ready to embrace change and implement more person-centered care techniques in your daily practice. 🦋

Special Session – The Science of Hope: Why and how to approach the most difficult situations in oncology

HOPE IS AN APPROPRIATE, NECESSARY AND CRITICAL COMPONENT of quality care, and the loss of hope is among the most despairing feelings a human can experience. This Special Session, moderated by Yale Associate Professor Suzanne B. Evans, MD, starts at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, October 25. Comprising four presentations — each of which examines an aspect of hope — and closing with a Q&A, this 75-minute session is eligible for 1.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™.

The first session, on why hope matters, will be presented by best-selling author and podcast host Kate Bowler, PhD. Next, Anna Ferguson, OCN, BSN, RN, will give a working definition of hope, which is followed by exploration of the psychoneuroimmunologic basis of hope and the dichotomy of “soft emotion, hard science,” led by Susan Lutgendorf, PhD.

Presenting the final session, Cultivating and Sustaining Hope in Clinical Practice and in Clinical Trials, Benjamin Corn, MD, FASTRO, said he is “very excited for the opportunity to speak to colleagues about hope.” The session proposes that hope represents a cognitive construct, which can be taught and learned as a skill. “I’ll argue that hope is not just mystical and romantic but rather operationally defined and measurable,” said Dr. Corn. “Techniques will be presented for ‘hope augmentation’ among patients and health care providers.”

The Science of Hope is designed to foster a common understanding of what hope is and is not and to understand the science behind it. Join us to re-think your view of hope and the role it can play in your practice. 🦋



MESSAGE WALL

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We invite you to visit the Radiate Positivity wall in the Central Concourse, across from the Ask ASTRO booth on Level 3 to pick up a lapel pin to show your positivity and share a message of hope and inspiration on the wall.



Join us for today's Clinical Trials and Innovation session

BY ANDREA NG, MD, MPH, FASTRO, CHAIR, ANNUAL MEETING SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM COMMITTEE



EACH YEAR, THE CLINICAL TRIALS AND INNOVATION SESSION highlights research with scientific importance submitted from significant clinical trials as well as trials in progress, including interim results. Today's Clinical Trials and Innovation Session will feature nine important studies covering a range of interesting topics and disease sites.

Leading the session is the patient reported outcome results of the NRG Oncology/RTOG 0815 Randomized Trial, addressing androgen deprivation therapy in the setting of dose-escalated radiotherapy, presented by Benjamin Movsas, MD, FASTRO, (the efficacy and toxicity outcomes of this highly anticipated trial will be unveiled at the Plenary Session tomorrow). We will then hear about the first global individual patient data meta-analysis of randomized trials assessing the impact of ADT use and duration with definitive radiotherapy in localized prostate cancer, presented by Amar Kishan, MD.

In patients with stage 3 non-small cell lung cancer, we will learn from a phase I/II trial, presented by Casey Liveringhouse, MD, whether we can safely combine ipilimumab with chemoradiation followed by maintenance nivolumab. Gilles Crehange, MD, PhD, will inform us on the role of radiation dose escalation as part of chemoradiation therapy in patients with esophageal cancer in the context of modern imaging and radiation techniques, through results of the multicenter phase II/III randomized trial CONCORDE from France.

Today's session will also include an elegant, well-designed pre-clinical study, presented by Diana Shi, MD, identifying a potential therapeutic target for the treatment of glioma, offering hope of potentially effective future treatment options for patients with the diagnosis. In patients with HPV-associated oropharyngeal squamous cell cancer, toxicity outcomes of primary reduced-dose radiotherapy versus primary transoral surgery

plus neck dissection with reduced-dose adjuvant therapy will be reported in the phase II randomized ORATOR2 trial, a late-breaking abstract to be presented by David Palma, MD, PhD.

The session will conclude with early results of two trials on SBRT in patients with metastatic disease: In one, Robert Olson, MD, MS, will present on SBRTs role in patients with up to five oligometastases, including toxicity data (SABR-5 trial), and another, presented by Jillian Tsai, MD, PhD, MS, on its role as consolidation in patients with oligoprogressive metastatic cancers of the lung and breast. Steven Chmura, MD, PhD, University of Chicago, will be our discussant, providing his perspectives on the clinical implications of the findings from these two abstracts.

Please be sure to join my co-moderator, Felix Feng, MD, and me today — either in person in room W375 a/b/c/d, or virtually — at the Clinical Trials and Innovation Session! 📺

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Presidential Symposium

SCHEDULE AND SPEAKERS

ADVANCING PERSON-CENTERED CARE THROUGH INNOVATION

8:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. | Introduction

Introductions	Laura A. Dawson, MD, FASTRO, ASTRO President, Princess Margaret Hospital
Innovating with Compassion	Shekinah Elmore, MD, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

8:15 a.m. – 9:25 a.m. | Session I: Harnessing Scientific Innovation to Improve Person-Centered Care

Moderators: Curtiland Deville, MD, and Kristy Brock, PhD

Harnessing Innovation to Drive Patient-Centered Care	Kristy Brock, PhD, MD Anderson Cancer Center
AI Improving Person-Centered Care	Hugo Aerts, PhD, Brigham and Women's Hospital
Innovations in Radiation Delivery: Real-Time Planning and Image Guidance	Carri Glide-Hurst, PhD, University of Wisconsin
Transforming Radiotherapy with Ultra High Dose Rates (FLASH)	Magdalena Bazalova-Carter, PhD, University of Victoria
Advanced Imaging for Bioadaptive Radiotherapy	Cynthia Ménard, MD, Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM)
Patient-Centered Radiopharmaceutical Therapy	Ana Kiess, MD, PhD, Johns Hopkins University
Personalizing Radiation Therapy Using Molecular Biomarkers	Felix Feng, MD, University of California, San Francisco
Patient Perspective	Barney Morris, Patient Speaker

9:25 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | Session II: Digital Health to Improve Patient Outcomes and Experience

Moderators: Adam Dicker, MD, PhD, and Karen Winkfield, MD, PhD

Key Actors – Patients and Crowdsourcing	Jen Horonjeff, PhD
Reducing Disparities with Digital Innovation	Edmondo Robinson, MD, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute
(e) PROMs/PREMs as the True North – Why/When/How	Deborah Schrag, MD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Implementing: From “Code” to “Clinic”	Ale Berlin, MD, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre
Panel Discussion and Reflections and Lessons Learned	Full Panel and Nitin Ohri, MD, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. | Session III: Aiming to Improve Patient Outcomes with Paradigm Changing Applications in RT

Moderators: Sue B. Evans, MD, and Iris Gibbs, MD, FASTRO

Patient Perspective	Ginger Powell, Patient Speaker
Beyond Oligometastases: New Frontiers for Stereotactic Radiation	David Palma, MD, PhD, London Health Sciences Center
Innovative Immune Targeting/TME/RT as Vaccine	Chandan Guha, MD, PhD, Montefiore Medical Center
Radiation as a Curative Therapy in Hepatocellular Carcinoma	Jinsil Seong, MD, PhD, Severance Hospital of the Yonsei University Health System
Rethinking Radiation Timing and Surgical Perturbation Failure	Stuart Burri, MD, Levine Cancer Institute
Beyond the Cancer: Targeting Pain with Radiation	Yaacov Lawrence, MD, Sheba Medical Center

11:30 a.m. – 12:25 p.m. | Session IV: Obtaining Evidence for Change (Debate)

Moderators: Gita Suneja, MD, and Jeffrey Bradley, MD, FASTRO

Pro: Randomized Controlled Trials	Søren Bentzen, DSc, PhD, FASTRO, University of Maryland School of Medicine
Pro: Real World Data	Corinne Faivre-Finn, MD, PhD, The University of Manchester
Rebuttal: Randomized Clinical Trials	Reshma Jagsi, MD, PhD, FASTRO, University of Michigan
Rebuttal: Real World Data	Dave Fuller, MD, PhD, MD Anderson Cancer Center
Audience Vote and Panel Discussion	Jill Feldman, lung cancer patient advocate and survivor joins the panel for the concluding discussion.



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At the Multidisciplinary Thoracic Cancers Symposium, you'll hear from experts in thoracic oncology who will present the latest research on clinical and translational initiatives. Learn about:

- The advantages and disadvantages of the latest research in surgery, radiation oncology, radiology, pathology, molecular pathology, pulmonary medicine and medical oncology related to thoracic malignancies.
- The appropriate integration of these advancements in daily practice, including indication, patient selection, combinations of different therapeutic modalities, prevention and management of common toxicities in the context of potentially improved clinical outcomes.

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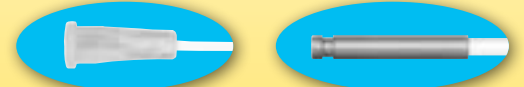
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Flexi Needle with Female Hub

15G Flexi Needle with SS Sleeve (Click Fit)

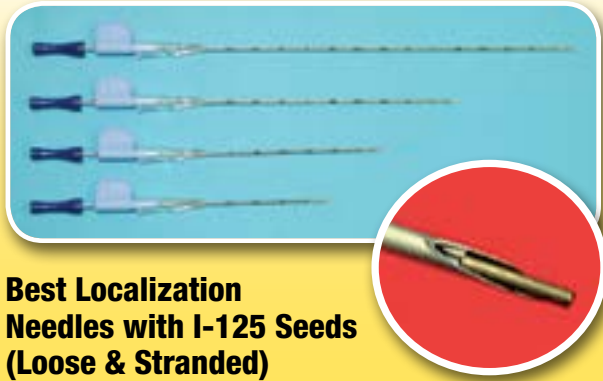


15G Flexi Needle

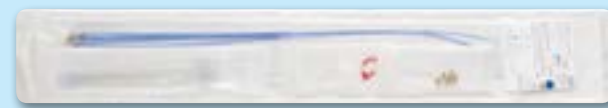
16G Flexi Needle

17G Flexi Needle

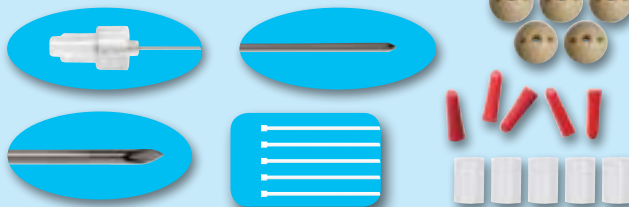
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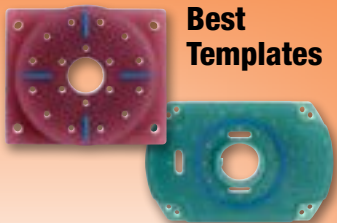
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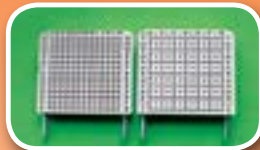
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Why we chose APEX: An interview

BY RANDI KUDNER, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR,
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT, ASTRO

To learn more about practice accreditation, attend the Main Stage presentation today at 2:30 p.m. in the Innovation Hub (back left of Exhibit Hall).



Learn more
about APEX!



Colleen A. F. Lawton, MD, FASTRO, is a professor and vice chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology, and the clinical director of Radiation Oncology at Froedtert and Medical College of Wisconsin Clinical Cancer Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She is also ASTRO's 2021 Gold Medal recipient. Randi Kudner, assistant director of Quality Improvement at ASTRO, sat down with Dr. Lawton to discuss the importance of quality and safety in radiation oncology practices and how ASTRO's APEX – Accreditation Program for Excellence® has enhanced an already strong practice.

Randi Kudner: To begin, what is the accreditation history of Froedtert and Medical College of Wisconsin?

Dr. Lawton: We've always felt that accreditation was really important. I actually think accreditation is something our specialty has done a really good job with. It was not always ubiquitous, like it has a tendency to be today; radiation oncology jumped onto the accreditation bandwagon very early on. We really need to do things the right way. We need to document what we do and want to meet to make sure we have quality. And accreditation was, I would say, equivalent to quality. We originally started accreditation with the ACR and started the APEX process in 2018 and were accredited in 2019.

RK: Why did you decide to switch to APEX?

CL: We really liked the idea that the program [APEX] was based on Safety is No Accident. APEX is a radiation oncology program that was born out of a really important safety document, and so it just was the natural thing to do.

RK: What was your experience going through APEX accreditation?

CL: I would say that it was somewhat painful, but it was so worth it at the end. We thought that it would be easy because we had been accredited before, but we were wrong. APEX compelled us to document things that we just weren't doing well. You know, if somebody came and said, how do you do chart rounds? How do you accredit machines annually? How do you do it every day? We would answer, because everybody knows how we do it, but it really wasn't written down in detail. So, the process forced us to go through every single line item and make sure we had it written down. Some things we had, but they needed updating. It's challenging, but the end product is so worth it. Now we're close to starting the APEX reaccreditation process. We know there will be some tweaking, but we have the foundation that we kind of thought we had before, but we really didn't have.

RK: Who was involved in the APEX process at your practice?

CL: I have to say everyone from the top down was involved. We have Froedtert and Medical College of Wisconsin, and we work intimately together. We had a lead person on both sides. We had nursing and the front desk involved on top of the radiation oncologists, dosimetrists, therapists and physicists. I mean literally every touch point in the department was involved. Our department is about 150 people and, while there were some leads, I would say, easily, dozens of people were part of this process.

RK: Was that a positive experience for the practice staff?

CL: I guess my bias is that that's a good thing. If you have only a couple people involved, I'm not sure that we really accomplish what it is we're trying to accomplish. We are trying to make sure that the bar is high at every level in the department, at every touchpoint for the patient, every touchpoint for the doctors. You know, it's kind of like safety in general. We have safety rounds. We walk around and ask the front desk if they see anything that's unsafe. People had a voice in this process, and I think that's important.

RK: What were the practical outcomes from APEX that you saw for the patients, team members and the practice overall?


CL: I think that it is a good thing for patients to see that a practice is accredited. I think it's a good thing for my colleagues in other departments to see that, too. We are showing that we operate at a very high level. We take pride in it for sure. I think that from a patient's perspective, they benefit from the continuous quality improvement we learned from APEX. For example, we're doing some prospective work in chart rounds. We changed some of the things that we were doing, and I think they were important tweaks. These small changes move us forward as technology changes. We want to be sure that we're up to snuff in the way that we're addressing technology in the safest way possible.

I know I keep mentioning documentation, but I do think that was a big piece of it. We're documenting what we all know we do. Now, when we have a new person who comes into the practice, a resident, physician, physicist, dosimetrist or therapist, and they ask how do you do cranial spinal? We can say we do it like this, and it is documented, and we can show you.

RK: What are the benefits of APEX accreditation?

CL: I think first and foremost the fact that we're accredited makes all of us in the department from the top down feel proud that we're doing a really good job for our patients. I feel a definite pride in attaining the accreditation. It means that we have excellent quality of care which we thought we had before, but now it's elevated and that's a good thing.

Every time a human being has a touchpoint, we have a chance of making a mistake, and automating systems is a good thing. And one of the things that APEX forces you to do is to think about if there is a better way and document what that better way is.

Maybe it's not important to every physician to be accredited, but as a patient, I would want to see it. I would want to know that you're actually doing all the things that accreditation requires, because that would make me feel better about the care that I'm going to get. 

ASTRO Career Center

The #1 Career Destination to find Radiation Oncology Jobs!

THE NEW ASTRO CAREER CENTER launched in early September to better connect employers with radiation oncology professionals. The new Career Center uses your ASTRO credentials (username and password) to log you into the platform. Current user information was transferred to the upgraded site prior to launch, so you don't have to start all over in your job search. The improved

and redesigned Career Center has more features and enhancements than ever before!

Job seekers will see a redesigned job search page to allow you to view jobs with improved search filtering such as salary, location radius and more without ever having to leave the search results. ASTRO members will see new job postings three days in advance of other

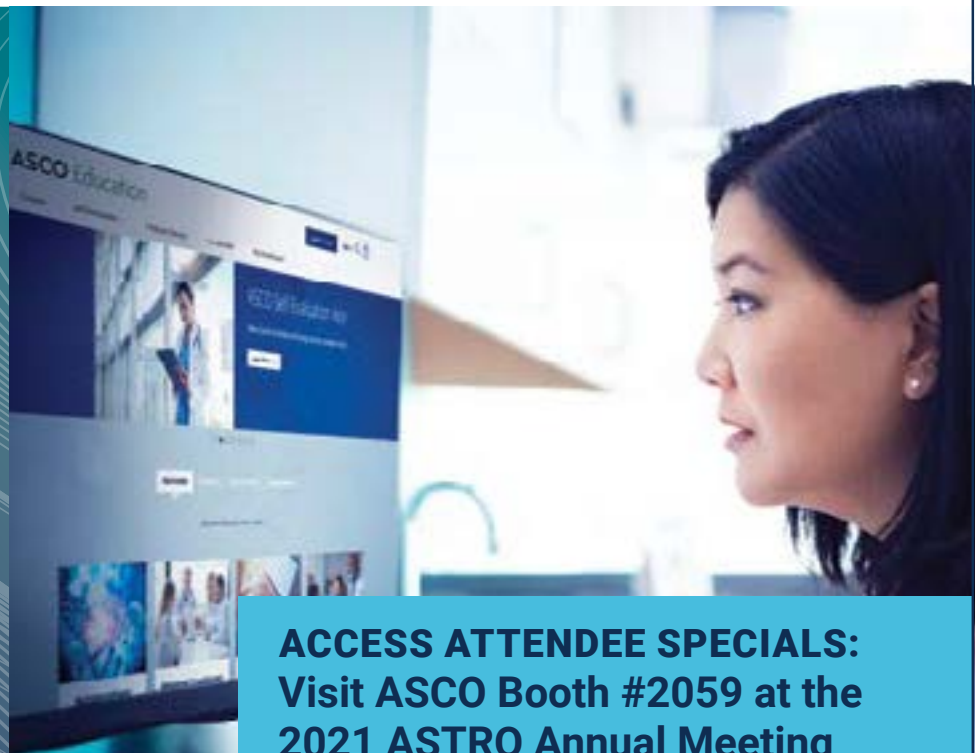
users (must be logged in for advance preview).

Employers will enjoy a user-friendly experience, including a new Resume Bank with enhanced filters to hone your candidate search. Job and applicant activity can be managed right on the site, with increased visibility for your job postings.

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Visit ASCO Booth #2059 at the
2021 ASTRO Annual Meeting**

WHERE KNOWLEDGE CONQUERS CANCER

The American Society of Clinical Oncology and the Association for Clinical Oncology (collectively, ASCO) work to:

- ▶ Connect oncology professionals to the latest education and research – and each other – to improve the patient experience.
- ▶ Advance access to high-quality cancer care and increase funding for cancer research by bringing evidence-based authority to shape cancer policy.
- ▶ Support breakthrough research and share cutting-edge cancer knowledge with oncology professionals worldwide.

Connect with us at ASCO Booth #2059 at the 2021 ASTRO Annual Meeting and learn more about our resources for the entire oncology community at every career stage, including free membership for oncology trainees.

▶ **Learn more at [asco.org](https://www.asco.org)**

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The Zen Den offers a variety of wellness resources and programming. Stop by to enjoy the variety of sessions offered daily.



Room W180, Level 1

All presented by:
DAHLIA+Agency

Sunday, October 24, 2021	
12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Conversation Starters by Energy Types
1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Practicing Gratitude for the Present: The Power of Gratitude
3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Relaxation Techniques: Simple Steps to Unwind
4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	5 Ways to Squash Imposter Syndrome
Monday, October 25, 2021	
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Essential Oils for Busy Professionals
12:45 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Top Ways to Overcome Burnout
2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Tips and Apps for Productivity and Time Management
5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.	Practicing Gratitude for the Present: The Power of Gratitude REPEAT
Tuesday, October 26, 2021	
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Conversation Starters by Energy Types REPEAT
11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Tips and Apps for Productivity and Time Management REPEAT
12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Meditation Techniques to Increase Focus
12:45 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Top Ways to Overcome Burnout REPEAT
1:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	Top Ways to Evaluate Your Posture and Ensure Great Health
3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Essential Oils for Busy Professionals REPEAT



Discover ROI's New Funding Opportunity and Awards


MAKE TIME TO VISIT the Radiation Oncology Institute's booth #113 in the Exhibit Hall to find out the latest updates on ASTRO's research foundation and to share your thoughts on future directions. The ROI recently released the request for proposals, Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Radiation Oncology, and is hosting two sessions at the booth for researchers who are interested in applying. On Sunday, October 24, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., residents can speak with Fumiko Chino, MD, and David Byun, MD, who both received ROI awards as trainees, to get advice on submitting a successful proposal. Malcolm Mattes, MD, and other investigators pursuing new research pathways with support from the ROI will be at the booth on Monday, October 25, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., to answer questions for prospective applicants at all stages of their careers. Members of the ROI Research Committee will also be available to provide insight on the new funding opportunity during these sessions.

The ROI is guided by its Research Agenda, which prioritizes the topics of safety and quality, toxicity management, communication, comparative effectiveness and value. To ensure the research being funded is meeting the current needs of the field, the ROI is beginning a process of updating the Research Agenda and is seeking input from stakeholders attending the Annual Meeting. Join members of the ROI Board of Trustees and Research Committee at the booth on Tuesday, October 26, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., to share your ideas about the research topics that need to be addressed to meet today's challenges and ensure radiation oncology remains a leader in the cancer care of tomorrow. Alternatively, you can complete the form on the reverse of this article and drop it off at the ROI booth during the Exhibit Hall hours.

At the Annual Meeting, the ROI is honoring the 2021 Publication Award winner, Julian Hong, MD, MS, of the University of California, San Francisco.

He is lead author of the manuscript System for High-Intensity Evaluation During Radiation Therapy (SHIELD-RT): A Prospective Randomized Study of Machine Learning-Directed Clinical Evaluations During Radiation and Chemoradiation, which was published in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology* in September 2020. The prospective randomized study demonstrated that a machine learning approach based on electronic health record data could successfully triage patients to reduce acute care and is one of the first of its kind in the emerging field of artificial intelligence. This patient-centered research has the potential to transform practice by improving quality, managing toxicities and reducing health care costs.

ROI Publication Award Honorable Mentions are being presented to Michael S. Binkley, MD, MS, of Stanford University School of Medicine as the lead author of KEAP1/NFE2L2 Mutations Predict Lung Cancer Radiation Resistance that can be Targeted by Glutaminase Inhibition, published in *Cancer Discovery*, and William A. Hall, MD, of the Medical College of Wisconsin as the lead author of NRG Oncology Updated International Consensus Atlas on Pelvic Lymph Node Volumes for Intact and Postoperative Prostate Cancer, published in the *International Journal of Radiation Oncology • Biology • Physics*. The ROI is thrilled to recognize these three outstanding early career researchers at the Celebration of Giving reception for ROI donors on Sunday evening.

The ROI looks forward to welcoming you to booth #113 to participate in one of our special events, to learn about the investigators you are helping to support, including new videos of the 2020 Biomarkers for Radiation Oncology Award winners, and to make your gift to sustain radiation oncology research in the future. 



ASTRO offers in-depth classes on radiopharms and communications skills for self-care and clinical practice

FIRST ADDRESSED AT ASTRO 2019, use of radiopharmaceuticals as a therapeutic option for the treatment of malignancies is growing. According to Jeff Michalski, MD, MBA, FASTRO, ASTRO president-elect, “The Master Class on radiopharmaceutical therapy is a timely event for ASTRO. Recent clinical trials results demonstrate dramatic clinical benefit from targeted systemic radiotherapy.”

A half-day Master Class, held yesterday, featured the development of standard operating procedures for clinical implementation, billing and troubleshooting theranostic delivery, and use of Radium-223, Lutetium-177 Dotatate and Lutetium-177 PSMA-617 specifically. The overarching goal of the class was to increase the attendees, who ranged from physician and physicist to billing and administration, understanding of effectively and safely developing a radiopharmaceutical program.

Richard Wahl, MD, PhD, introduced the session and set the stage for the other physician experts, who spoke in eight sessions specific to the type of radiopharmaceutical and disease site treated. In anticipation, Dr. Wahl expressed his enthusiasm for introducing this class. “There is immense excitement regarding radiopharmaceutical therapies of cancer. Several randomized trials have shown improved survival in patients with prostate cancer as well as neuroendocrine tumors treated with these emerging approaches.”

Among the topics discussed was the relevant principles of physics, pharmacology and radiobiology for radiopharmaceutical therapies. Dr. Wahl highlighted

one such therapy: “‘Theranostic Pairs,’ where a nuclear imaging test such as PET identifies tumors expressing suitable targets can identify patients who are likely to benefit from a radiopharmaceutical therapy. Quantitative imaging before and/or after the therapy can determine the projected/actual radiation dose delivered to tumors to further optimize the treatment effect while minimizing toxicity,” he said. “These truly ‘targeted’ therapies are expected to be game changers in several types of cancer.”

A panel question and answer session followed, addressing the participants’ questions on specific issues. Among other topics, practice implementation was discussed specific to the participants’ clinical settings. This was followed by a wrap-up by Ana P. Kiess, MD, PhD.

The goals for the session were to discuss the relevant principles of physics, pharmacology and radiobiology for radiopharmaceutical therapies; discuss the clinical indications for radiopharmaceutical therapies that are currently approved for clinical use; and to identify barriers and logistical steps for implementing their use in the participants’ clinical practices.

“The radiopharmaceutical class of cancer therapies is a ‘hot topic.’ And, if you are unfamiliar with their emergence, Saturday’s radiopharmaceuticals Master Class was high yield,” said attendee Krisha Howell, MD. “This quickly advancing field of therapeutic radiation is an opportunity for cancer patients under the care of a radiation oncologist.”

This Master Class was chaired by Ana P. Kiess, MD, PhD; John Buatti, MD, FASTRO; and Hyun Kim, MD. 

You can still add this ticketed event!

The second Master Class, Human First, Clinician Second, will be held on Monday from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in room W190a/b. Under the premise that you are a human first and a clinician second, presenters will seek to use comedic improv — yes you read that right — as a tool for self-care and as part of clinical practice. It’s showtime!

The basic fundamentals of improv can help you move from isolation to connection by lowering your guard and being comfortable with doing so. Overcome self-judgement and pre-conceived notions of what you should do and become more comfortable with collaboration, communication and connection with others. Learn to take care of yourself so that you can take care of others through interactive activities and group discussions.

Does that make you nervous? Good! You are exactly who should join us! Chaired by Ashley M. Whitehurst, BS, this Master Class will be available for three hours of *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*.

Register and pay online at www.astro.org/annualmeeting.



The Radiation Oncology Institute is ASTRO’s Research Foundation and works to heighten the critical role of radiation therapy in the treatment of cancer. The ROI awards grants to support patient-centered, practical research to advance the field of radiation oncology.

What research topics should the ROI consider for future funding opportunities?

NAME

EMAIL ADDRESS

SHARE YOUR GREAT IDEAS WITH THE ROI BY DROPPING OFF THIS FORM AT BOOTH #113.

Leadership Pipeline Program participants report on first year activities

AT YESTERDAY'S ASTRO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, recipients of the 2020 Leadership Pipeline Program (LPP) reported on year one of their LPP experience.

The ASTRO Leadership Pipeline Program (formerly known as the Pipeline Protégé Program) is a career development program aimed at increasing diversity among ASTRO leadership, which supports ASTRO's core value of diversity and inclusion. The two-year program is designed to develop the next generation of ASTRO leaders and is spearheaded by ASTRO's Committee on Health Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (CHEDI), which has a mission to advance the status of minorities and the underserved in oncology through educational and professional opportunities, advocacy and awareness.

Curtland Deville Jr., MD, a previous protégé and current Ex Officio member of the ASTRO Board representing CHEDI, introduced the protégés. Each protégé is matched with an ASTRO Council. During their first year, the protégés learn about ASTRO structure and the council they are assigned to and receive

mentorship from ASTRO leadership. Each protégé engages with a project and reports to the ASTRO Board of Directors during the Fall Board Meeting.

Meet the 2020 Protégés:

- **Kosj Yamoah, MD, PhD**
ASTRO Council: Health Policy
Project: Health Equity Achievement in Radiation Therapy – HEART
Goal: Establish a HEART score for each Medicare FFS beneficiary who seeks treatment at an RO Model participant facility.
- **Debra Nana Yeboa, MD**
ASTRO Council: Science
Project: Research-Oriented Career Knowledge and Support (ROCKS)
Goal: Help to develop the quantitative metrics for the ROCKS program; Led a ROCKS web session on the topic of “Transitioning from Mentored to Independent Research.”
- **Dayssy Alexandra Diaz Pardo, MD**
ASTRO Council: Education
Project: Health Disparities Mini Con series
Goal: Continued contributions to CHEDI; education planning for the 2022 Mini Con Series; Diversity Equity and Inclusion in Radiation Oncology Social Series, and the 2022 ASTRO Annual Meeting
- **Julianne Pollard-Larkin, PhD**
ASTRO Council: Government Relations
Project: Embracing change and advancing government relations and health equity
Goal: Identify data and develop media campaign material to target interest amongst politicians to support health equity work in radiation oncology.

The protégés expressed appreciation of their LPP experience and look forward to continuing their work during year two. 



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The battle against Medicare payment cuts

BY CONSTANTINE MANTZ, MD, FASTRO, HEALTH POLICY COUNCIL VICE-CHAIR

IMPENDING MEDICARE PAYMENT CUTS to radiation therapy services included in the 2022 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) and the RO Model have become the most pressing advocacy priorities for the radiation oncology community for good reason.

As it currently stands, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has proposed payment cuts to radiation therapy services of \$160 million in the MPFS and \$140 million for facilities slated to participate in the RO Model beginning in 2022. These cuts, if implemented, would mark the culmination of a 25% reduction in radiation oncology payments in the MPFS over the last 10 years. For all radiation oncology providers, the aggregate effect of these cuts, if finalized, will place enormous pressure on facilities and physician groups to forego capital improvements to equipment and software, restrict access to treatment services and reduce supporting technical and clinical staff. For our patients today and tomorrow, whose best outcomes will become increasingly dependent on cutting-edge, high-quality treatment, these cuts represent a huge step backwards.

This threat to patients' access to care becomes even more frustrating as one takes in the whole picture. With a president committed to "ending cancer as we know it" and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) supposedly approaching Alternative Payment Models (APMs) with a focus on "encouraging lasting transformation and a broader array of quality investments, rather than focusing solely on each individual's cost and quality improvements," one would think that increasing payment cuts and mandating participation in an untested APM would be the last course of action. Instead, radiation oncologists still recovering from COVID-19 related financial setbacks now face another gauntlet of payment cuts and bureaucratic hoops to jump through.

Additionally, outside of the general issue of keeping the doors to much needed cancer care facilities open and providing the best treatments, ever present disparities in care will only continue to widen if CMS proceeds with the proposed 2022 MPFS and RO Model. A recent publication comparing rural to urban radiation therapy facilities reported a nearly 2-to-1 deficit among rural providers having access to stereotactic and brachytherapy


services. A separate analysis reported that minority patients are 30% less likely than white patients to initiate a course of radiation therapy despite having completed treatment planning. It is impossible to imagine how providers can help close these access gaps without sufficient reimbursement to support needed equipment upgrades and transportation and social services for those patients who would greatly benefit from them.

In the end, I am disappointed that, while the administration has clearly stated an agenda to address health inequity among disadvantaged patient groups, CMS has issued proposed fee schedules that would work against this commitment to close current gaps to the access of quality radiation therapy. My colleague Malika Siker, MD, sums up CMMI's mistake perfectly: "As we strive to make innovative changes in our payment models to improve high

value care, we cannot neglect our communities with the greatest need. The proposed payment cuts will disproportionately harm our rural and vulnerable communities, making it more difficult to access local high-quality care." In short, CMMI got so engulfed in saving money that they failed to see the negative effects of their changes.

You may be thinking, then, what can really be done? Cuts keep coming despite years of good

faith outreach from our radiation oncology community to build an APM that fosters true value-based payment transformation, and our countless pleas for systems to promote health equity seem to never yield truly meaningful programs. But we owe it to our patients to not give in. As Dr. Siker says, "It is critical that we continue to fiercely advocate for health equity in clinical cancer care," because if not us, then who?

ASTRO has provided us the framework to engage our federal representatives on these issues, but our voice remains the all-important catalyst to realizing actual change. It's on us to go to ASTRO's Advocacy Day and urge our members of Congress to protect patient access to care and to send email after email explaining how excessive payment cuts disproportionately affect underserved and rural patient populations. Without using our collective voice, our patients and our specialty will never get the federal support we need to fight cancer and ensure the best outcomes for all of our patients. 

As Dr. Siker says, "It is critical that we continue to fiercely advocate for health equity in clinical cancer care," because if not us, then who?


Grassroots engagement leads to congressional support

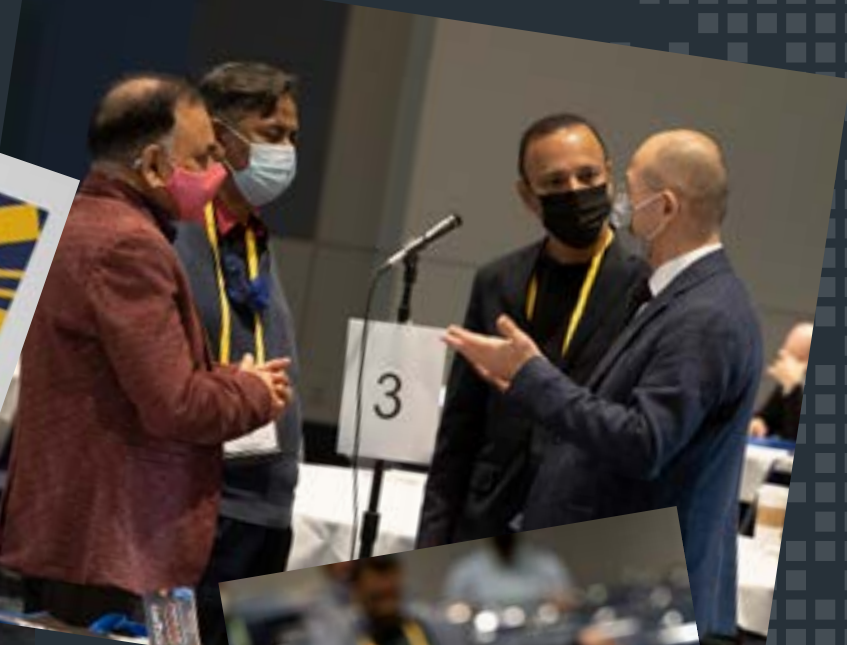
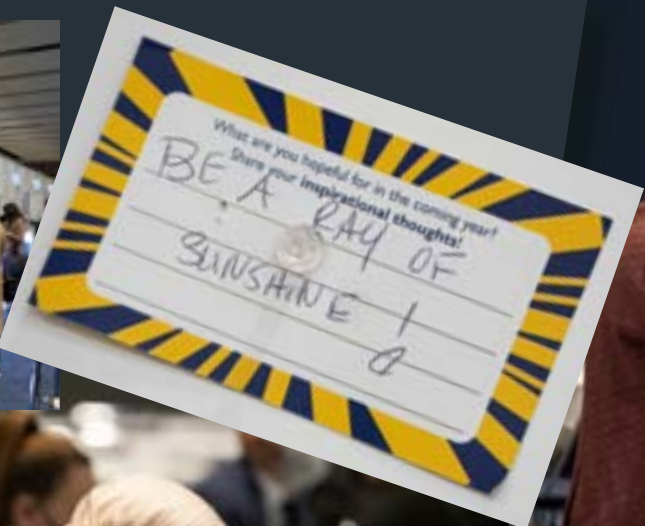
ALL YEAR LONG, ASTRO members have been supporting the efforts of the Advocacy team by sending messages to their members of Congress that share the priorities of the radiation oncology community, and these grassroots messages really work!

ASTRO members have sent more than 1,400 messages to their representatives and senators, urging them to sign letters in the House and Senate calling on the Centers for

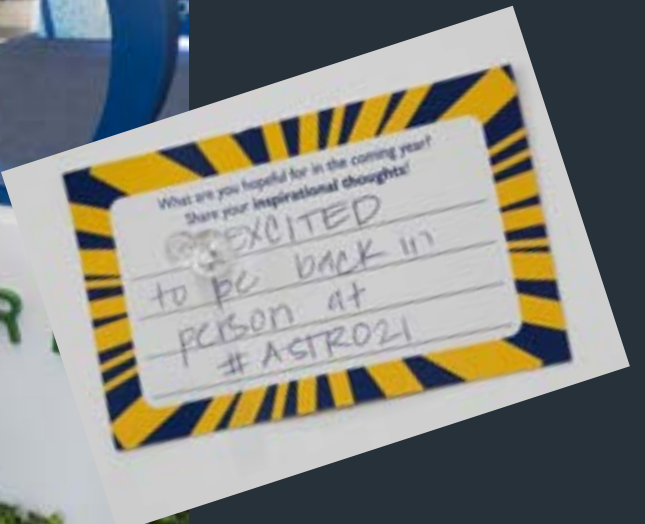
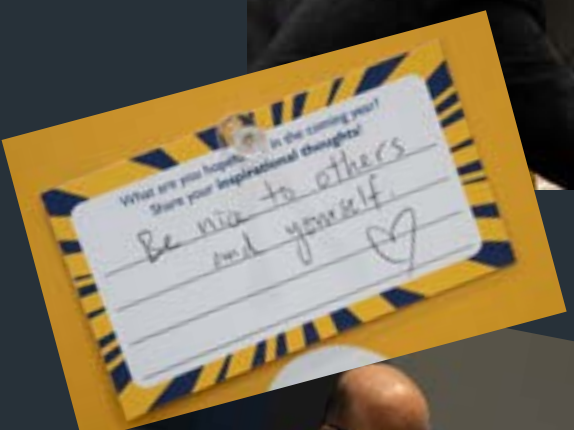
Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to scale back the excessive payment cuts in the 2022 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) and RO Model. **When the letters closed, 82% of the 104 congressional signers had been contacted by ASTRO members through our grassroots advocacy platform.**

Let's carry that grassroots momentum into our advocacy efforts on the newly introduced Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act

(S. 3018). If passed, this prior authorization bill will take critical first steps in reforming the broken prior auth system, which is why we need your help. A constituent's voice — your voice — makes the biggest impact in Washington, so please visit astro.org/advocate to make sure your members of Congress know how to help the radiation oncology community. 



Images of ASTRO 2021



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2021 Graduating Resident Survey results presented at the ARRO Annual Seminar

BY AUSTIN J. SIM, MD, JD, ARRO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR,
ON BEHALF OF THE ARRO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

YESTERDAY, DURING THE ARRO ANNUAL SEMINAR, we presented the results of the 2021 Graduating Resident Survey. For the second year in a row, we secured an exceedingly high response rate, with a total of 86% of graduating residents completing the survey between May and July 2021. From this nearly complete sample of graduating residents, 89% reported having a signed contract, not including an additional 4% pursuing additional fellowship training. Over half indicated the effects of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, citing scarcity of positions, hiring freezes, hiring delays, inability to attend on-site interviews and even some withdrawn offers.

Of the residents who had accepted positions, 42% were in academic systems, 16% were employed by hospitals and 35% were in private practices. Of the residents who accepted a fellowship position, all but one noted it was their ideal, or one of their, ideal position(s). Only 14% of accepted positions were rural and 98% of accepted positions were full-time. Nearly two-thirds of positions were considered generalist and nearly two-thirds came with some sort of non-compete provision. The geographic distribution of positions roughly mirrored that of residency positions, except for the Mid-Atlantic region.

Overall expected first year compensation among those residents who reported and excluding fellowship (N=139) ranged from \$175,000 to \$650,000, with a median of \$360,000. This median increased to an expected \$382,500 in the second year. Both academic and private practice position first year median expected salaries was \$350,000, and that of hospital employees was \$435,000. Of the private practice respondents, 18% were not eligible for partnership, a third reported a financial buy-in requirement and the median time to partnership eligibility was three years. After achieving partnership, the median expected salary rose to \$600,000.

Seventy percent of positions provided annual educational funds (median \$4,500), while 65% provided for moving expenses (median \$10,000),

and 51% provided for a signing bonus (median \$25,000). Only a third of positions provided for parental leave for a median of four weeks. Fifty-eight percent of positions overall provided for academic/administrative time (median one day per week), including 79% of academic positions, 46% of hospital-employed positions and 38% of private practice positions. The overall median number of vacation days was 21.5.

Educational indebtedness continues to be a growing problem among radiation oncology resident graduates. Prior data had estimated the median indebtedness of graduates at \$100,000 between 2012-2017,¹ which ballooned to a median of \$205,000 in 2020 based on last year's survey presented at ASTRO 2020. Although the median was slightly smaller this year at \$200,000, a greater proportion of graduates reported indebtedness (58% in 2020 versus 63% in 2021), with a staggering maximum reported amount in excess of half a million dollars.

Despite the trials and tribulations of the 2020-2021 job search season, 91% of respondents were overall Satisfied or Very Satisfied with their accepted position. Specific domains with higher levels of dissatisfaction included geographic location (8%), opportunities for partners/spouses (8%) and compensation (6%). Free text responses also highlighted a lack of ability to adequately negotiate offers as another driver of dissatisfaction. Overall, 70% of respondents either Agreed or Strongly Agreed that it was yet another tough year for the job market.

We would like to sincerely thank the participating graduates of the class of 2021 for bearing with us and providing a wealth of information to help inform current residents and serve as a bellwether of job market trends for our specialty. We also urge the current class of 2022 to pay it forward by completing the next iteration of this survey next year.

REFERENCE

- Royce TJ, Doke K, Wall TJ. The Employment Experience of Recent Graduates From U.S. Radiation Oncology Training Programs: The Practice Entry Survey Results From 2012 to 2017. *Journal of the American College of Radiology* : JACR. 2019;16(6):878-885.

BD Brachytherapy Offerings

At BD, we're committed to being your total resource while providing you convenient, reliable access to brachytherapy products.



Our brachytherapy product portfolio features BrachySource™ I-125 Implant Seeds and TheraSeed™ Pd-103 Seeds in addition to needles and systems allowing for the assembly and delivery of treatment to localized prostate tumors.



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Connectors

Please Consult Instructions for Use for Indications, Contraindications, Warnings, Precautions, Adverse Events, and Instructions for Use.

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INDUSTRY SATELLITE SYMPOSIA

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Implementing Synergistic Multimodal Approaches With Tumor Treating Fields to Extend Survival in Aggressive Cancers

Venue Location: Hyatt Regency McCormick Place, Regency Ballroom A
Dinner will be provided starting at 6:00 p.m.

📍 **For more information or to register for our live symposium in Chicago, please visit www.peerview.com/Chicago21-Live.**

Accreditation: This activity will be planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the providership of Medical Learning Institute, Inc. Medical Learning Institute, Inc. is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

This activity is developed with our educational partner, PVI, PeerView Institute for Medical Education.

CME Credits: Medical Learning Institute, Inc. designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.5 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*[™]. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

This activity is supported by an educational grant from Novocure.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Next Generation PSMA-targeted PET Imaging in the Detection of Prostate Cancer and Impact on Patient Management

Venue Location: Hyatt Regency McCormick Place, Regency Ballroom AB
Dinner will be provided.

📍 **RSVP Online: www.mycme.com/PSMA_TargetedProstateCancer
Toll Free: (877) 210-5355**

Participants With Special Needs: If you require any special dietary or ADA accommodations, please contact Christie Kavanagh at 1-800-379-6048 X4893.

Accreditation: This activity will be planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the providership of Haymarket Medical Education. Haymarket Medical Education is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians. In support of improving patient care, Haymarket Medical Education is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

This activity was planned by and for the healthcare team, and learners will receive 1.5 Interprofessional Continuing Education (IPCE) credits for learning and change.

CME Credits:

Physicians – Haymarket Medical Education designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.5 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*[™]. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Nurses – This activity is awarded 1.5 contact hours.

This activity is supported through an educational grant from Lantheus Medical Imaging, Inc.

INDUSTRY-EXPERT THEATERS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24

📍 **Theater 1, Innovation Hub** | Blue Earth Diagnostics, Inc.
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
The Role of PET in Post-Prostatectomy Radiotherapy

📍 **Theater 2, Innovation Hub** | Novocure
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Transforming the Treatment Landscape with Tumor Treating Fields

📍 **Jackson Park Room, Hyatt Regency McCormick Place** | ViewRay
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
The Future is Now: Safety and Quality for Real-Time Adaptive RT

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25

📍 **Theater 1, Innovation Hub** | Seagen
10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
TUKYSA® (tucatinib): Clinical Trial Data

📍 **Theater 2, Innovation Hub** | GT Medical Technologies, Inc.
10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
GammaTile Therapy: Brain Brachytherapy Powerfully Reimagined

📍 **Jackson Park Room, Hyatt Regency McCormick Place** | Natera, Inc.
10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.
Can a Personalized MRD Assay Help Clarify Indeterminate Scans?

📍 **Theater 1, Innovation Hub** | AstraZeneca
12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.
Treatment in Unresectable Stage III Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer: Treatment for Unresectable Stage III NSCLC Following Concurrent Chemoradiation Therapy

📍 **Theater 2, Innovation Hub** | Boston Scientific
12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.
How Hydrogel Spacing with SBRT, CT Visibility and Procedural Excellence Will Impact the Future of Prostate Cancer Radiotherapy

📍 **Theater 1, Innovation Hub** | TAE Life Sciences
2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.
New Era in Biologically-targeted Radiation Therapy: Clinical Application and Technical Advancement in Boron Neutron Capture Therapy

📍 **Theater 2, Innovation Hub** | Merck Healthcare KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany
2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.
Opportunities in Head and Neck Cancer: combining radiotherapy with IAPs

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26

📍 **Theater 1, Innovation Hub** | Naveris, Inc.
10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
Clinical Evidence of Novel Blood Test for HPV-Driven Cancer Detection and Monitoring

📍 **Theater 1, Innovation Hub** | Accuray
12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.
Go ITV-free and Gating-free with Accuray

📍 **Theater 2, Innovation Hub** | Canon Medical Systems, USA
12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.
CT Simulation - Old News or Future Paradigm Canon and RaySearch unite for the future of CT Sim

📍 **Jackson Park Room, Hyatt Regency McCormick Place** | Merck & Co. Inc.
12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.
Personalizing Your Approach with First-Line Treatment Options in R/M HNSCC

MAIN STAGE PRESENTATIONS

All Main Stage presentations located in the Innovation Hub are not accredited for continuing education credits.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24

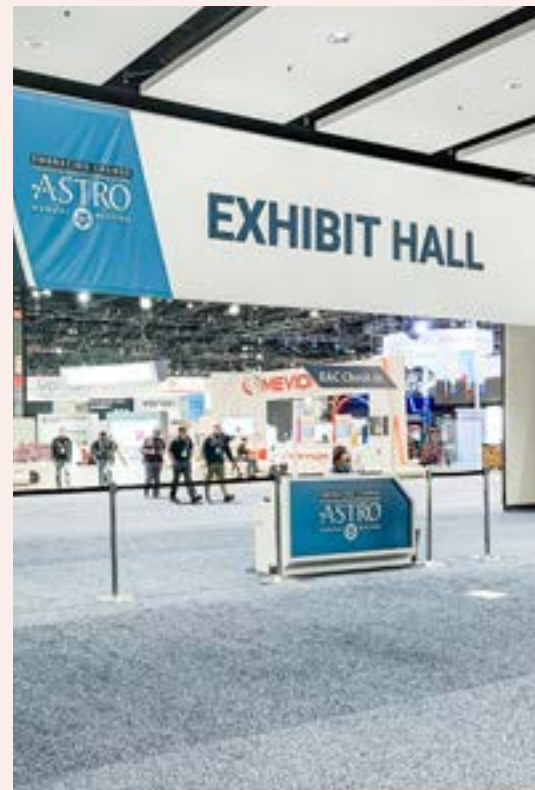
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Quality Surveillance in Radiation Oncology: Lessons Learnt from America's Largest Health Care System Presenter: John H. Park MD
2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Practice Makes Perfect: How APEX Accreditation puts Quality and Safety at the Heart of Patient-centered Care Presenters: Jean L. Wright MD Colleen A. F. Lawton, MD, FASTRO Christin A. Knowlton, MD, MAEd

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25

12:45 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.	The Future is Now: Safety and Quality for Real-time Adaptive RT Presenters: Raymond H. Mak, MD Bin Cai, PhD
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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26

12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.	HyTEC: NTCP Overview and Representative Site-specific Examples Presenters: Lawrence B. Marks, MD, FASTRO Vitali Moiseenko, PhD Jimm Grimm, PhD Lawrence R. Kleinberg, MD Anand Mahadevan, MD, FRCS, FRCR
2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Future of FLASH Presenters: Billy W. Loo Jr., MD, PhD, FASTRO Costas Koumenis, PhD Michele M. Kim, PhD



VISIT THE EXHIBIT HALL AND INNOVATION HUB

See the latest products in cancer treatment and care in the Exhibit Hall. Visit with approximately 165 exhibitors, see product demonstrations, hear from industry during an Industry-Expert Theater session and see Main Stage presentations, all in the Exhibit Hall!

Hours:

Sun., October 24 – Tues., October 26
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Beverage Breaks: Select booths are offering coffee and other beverages during the scheduled breaks at 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Sunday and Monday.

CORPORATE AMBASSADORS

ASTRO PROUDLY RECOGNIZES THE ONGOING COMMITMENT OF OUR CORPORATE AMBASSADORS FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING YEAR-ROUND LEADERSHIP AND PROMOTIONAL SPONSORSHIP OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY.



ASTRO 2021 UNRESTRICTED EDUCATIONAL GRANT SUPPORTERS

AstraZeneca

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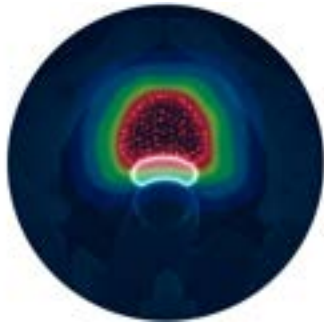
Decision Dx^{SCC}

Identifying the risk of metastasis in cSCC patients with one or more risk factors

Come visit us at booth 546 to learn more about genomic testing for skin cancers



The Product Showcase is prominently displayed in the registration area directly outside the Hall F1 entrance to the Exhibit Hall. Attendees can search for and learn about any of the products featured in the Product Showcase. Search products by category to view photos, videos and detailed information about each product. You can also view the Product Showcase via the MyASTROApp, the official meeting app, and the Conference Planner at www.astro.org/conferenceplanner.



Boston Scientific
Advancing science for life™

Company Name:
Boston Scientific

Booth Number: 1529

Product Name:
SpaceOAR Vue™ Hydrogel



Company Name:
MIM Software

Booth Number: 2203

Product Name:
Contour ProtégéAI



Company Name:
Radii Medical

Booth Number: 1940

Product Name:
Serenity Series SBRT



Company Name:
ViewRay, Inc.

Booth Number: 1003

Product Name:
ViewRay MRIdian



Are you getting emails from ASTRO?

If you are not receiving emails from ASTRO, including your weekly ASTROgram, quarterly *ASTROnews* eTable of Contents and updates on Medicare reimbursement and more, stop by the Ask ASTRO booth on Level 3, Center Concourse, and a representative can help. You can also direct talk with your IT team to be sure that astro.org is on your safe sender list.

For more information, visit www.astro.org/safesender.

CONGRATULATIONS

to the 2021 Abstract Award Winners!

International Scientific Abstract Award

This grant is designed to foster continuing medical education, assist in career development and help to establish relationships with leading ASTRO members who may serve as scientific mentors to each recipient. One award of \$4,000 will be used to support a radiation oncologist in a developing country to attend the ASTRO Annual Meeting and to spend additional time at a comprehensive cancer center within the United States. The award also includes a certificate of recognition. It is awarded to the highest-rated abstract submitted by those who applied and provided their CV and letter of recommendation.



VIBHAY PAREEK, MBBS, DR

Clinical Outcomes and Toxicity Profile with IMRT or Brachytherapy Boost in Oropharyngeal Malignancies: A Randomized, Open Label Study

Nurses' Abstract Award

This award is designed to promote clinical research among radiation oncology nurses. Two awards of \$1,000 will be presented to the highest rated abstracts with a nursing designation. The winners receive a certificate of recognition and complimentary registration to the Annual Meeting.



HENRY INEBENOSUN, DNP

Implementation of a Depression Screening Tool at the Department of Radiation Oncology

Steven A. Leibel Memorial Award

ASTRO, in partnership with the ABR Foundation, created the Steven A. Leibel Memorial Award in 2018. This award is given to two principal investigators who must be ABR board certified, or board-eligible individuals who have completed training in radiation oncology or medial physics no more than 10 years prior.



DANIEL MA, MD

MC1675, a Phase III Evaluation of De-Escalated Adjuvant Radiation Therapy (DART) vs. Standard Adjuvant Treatment for Human Papillomavirus Associated Oropharyngeal Squamous Cell Carcinoma



JILLIAN TSAI, MD, PHD, MS

Consolidative Use of Radiotherapy to Block (CURB) Oligoprogession — Interim Analysis of the First Randomized Study of Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy in Patients With Oligoprogressive Metastatic Cancers of the Lung and Breast

Resident Clinical/Basic Science Award

This award is designed to promote clinical research by young scientists. The award is granted to the top three resident authors of significant abstracts in biology, clinical practice and physics. The award includes a \$1,500 honorarium, a trophy of recognition and complimentary registration to the Annual Meeting.

- **DIANA SHI, MD** – *Identification of De Novo Pyrimidine Synthesis as a Targetable Vulnerability in a Novel IDH1 Mutant Engineered Astrocytoma Model*
- **CASEY LIVERINGHOUSE, MD** – *Prospective Phase I/II Study of Radiation and Chemotherapy with Ipilimumab followed by Nivolumab for Patients with Stage III Unresectable NSCLC*
- **HALEY PERLOW, MD** – *68(GA)DOTATATE PET-based Radiation Volumes Demonstrate Increased Precision Compared to MRI Based Volumes for Meningioma Patients*

Annual Meeting Travel Award

This award is designed to recognize outstanding abstracts submitted by early career scientists, biologists and physicists. Up to 15 awards are given (5 in each category) to offset travel expenses to the meeting. The award includes a \$1,000 honorarium, a certificate of recognition and complimentary registration to the Annual Meeting.

- **DOUGLAS HOLT, MD**
- **JEFFREY CHAPMAN, BS**
- **AMAR KISHAN, MD**
- **ANDREW COOK, MD**
- **TYLER ROBIN, MD, PHD**
- **ANDREA PESCH, BS**
- **PRIYANKA GOPAL, PHD, MS**
- **HYUNSOO NO, MD, CMD**
- **DANIEL ALEXANDER, MS, BS**
- **VINAYAK MURALIDHAR, MD, MS, MSC**
- **NICHOLAS RYDZEWSKI, MD, MPH**
- **CAMERON CALLAGHAN, MD, MS, MPH**
- **JIAN-YUE JIN, PHD**
- **FARNOUSH FORGHANI, PHD**
- **JOSEPH HARMS, PHD**

Resident Recognition Awards

This award recognizes the highest-rated abstracts submitted by residents and accepted as a Digital Poster presenter or as an oral session presenter in the Quick Pitch sessions. The award is granted to the top three resident authors of significant abstracts in each category: biology, clinical practice and physics; up to nine trophies are awarded.

Resident Quick Pitch Oral Abstract Recognition Award

- **KRYSTEL TRAN, MBBS** – *An International, Multi-centre Study of Radiotherapy for Bilateral Indolent Orbital Adnexal Lymphomas (IOAL)*
- **JENNIFER KWAN, MD** – *Therapeutic Targeting of PPAR Signaling in Cancer Treatment-related Lymphedema*
- **MATTHEW MILLS, MD** – *Radiomic Feature Changes in Adrenal Lesions Treated with MR-Guided Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy*

Resident Poster Viewing Abstract Recognition Award

- **ADAM JOHNSON, MD** – *“Brachy-mergency!”: Developing and Implementing an Effective HDR Emergency Response Training Course*
- **TIMOTHY GRIFFITH, MD** – *Risk of Secondary Breast Cancer in Female Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma Survivors: 40 Years of Follow-up Assessed by Treatment Modality*
- **KATHRYN TRINGALE, MD, MS** – *Second Cancer Risk in Childhood Cancer Survivors Treated With Intensity-Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT): An Updated Analysis of More Than 10 Years of Follow-Up*
- **MATTHEW COUSINS, MD, PHD** – *Age, Race, and Digital Divide Index are Associated with Video Visit Completion for Patients Seen in Radiation Oncology*
- **VANGIPURAM SAI SHREYA, MBBS** – *Post SRS Reversal of Masticator Muscles Atrophy in Idiopathic Trigeminal Neuralgia*
- **HARISH VASUDEVAN, MD, PHD** – *Multiplatform Genomic Profiling and Immunohistochemistry Identify Prognostic and Predictive Signatures in Malignant Peripheral Nerve Sheath Tumors (MPNSTs)*
- **ELIZABETH ZHANG-VELTEN, MD, PHD** – *Early In Vivo Detection of Radiation-induced Cardiotoxicity with Hyperpolarized C-13 Pyruvate Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy*
- **NIKOL MLADKOVA, MD, PHD, MPH** – *Methylome Analysis of Rare Sinonasal Malignancies: Novel Venues for Clinical Applications*
- **MICHAEL WANG, MD** – *Dosimetric Comparison in Malignant Glioma Patients Clinically Treated on Hybrid Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)-Linac (MRL) Versus Conventional Linac*
- **HASSAN JASSAR, PHD** – *Real-time Motion Tracking Based on Orthogonal Cine MRI During MR-guided Radiation Therapy for Prostate Cancer*

Basic/Translational Science Award

This award is designed to encourage participation in the ASTRO Annual Meeting by basic and translational scientists. Up to 12 awards are given to applicants having the highest-rated abstracts in clinical, biology or physics categories. Four awards are given in each category to a mix of junior and senior investigators. The award includes a \$1,000 honorarium, a certificate of recognition and a complimentary registration to the Annual Meeting.



PHILLIP PIFER, MD, PHD

Focal Adhesion Kinase Drives Resistance to Therapy in HPV-negative Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma in a p53-dependent Manner



MARIA THOR, PhD, MS

Pre-treatment Immune-related Markers Predict Disease Outcomes in Non-small Cell Lung Cancer Patients Treated with Chemoradiation and Durvalumab



HONG-JIAN WEI, PHD

Focused Ultrasound-mediated Blood-Brain Barrier Opening Enhances Panobinostat Efficacy in a Murine Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma Model



HAIDY NASIEF, PhD, MS

Automatically Determining Necessity of Online Adaptive Replanning Based on MRI Wavelet Multiscale Texture Features for MRI-guided Adaptive Radiation Therapy



DAVID KONIECZKOWSKI, MD, PHD

Impact of AR-V7 and Other Androgen Receptor Splice Variant Expression on Outcomes of Post-prostatectomy Salvage Therapy



SHUPENG CHEN, PhD, MS

Predictive Capability and Dynamic Characteristic of Tumor Voxel Dose-Response Assessed Using 18F-FDG PET/CT Imaging Feedback



ESTHER VICENTE, PHD

Accounting for Serial and Parallel Functionality of the Lung may Minimize Post-radiotherapy Loss of Respiratory Function in Lung Cancer Patients



SCARLETT ACKLIN, MD

SIRT2 Promotes Murine Melanoma Progression Through Natural Killer Cell Inhibition



YING ZHANG, PHD

A Deep Learning-based Automatic Contour Quality Assurance Pipeline for Complex Anatomy on MRI



MOHAMMAD REZAEI, PHD

Orthovoltage X-Ray Irradiator for Preclinical FLASH Studies

Monday, October 25, 2021
12:45 – 1:45 pm, Theater 2

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

**Boston
Scientific**
Advancing science for life™

Industry-Expert Theater

How hydrogel spacing with SBRT, CT visibility and procedural excellence will impact the future of prostate cancer radiotherapy.

MODERATOR



Brian J. Davis, MD, PhD
Professor of Radiation Oncology
Rochester, MN

SPEAKERS

SBRT for Prostate Cancer. Is There an Optimal Dose or Regimen?



Michael J. Zelefsky, MD

Professor of Radiation Oncology, Chief, Brachytherapy Services, Co-Leader GU Disease Management Team, Greenberg Chair of Prostate Cancer Research, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY

Rational for Utilization of SpaceOAR Vue™ in Prostate SBRT Dose Escalation



Sean Collins, MD

Associate Professor in Radiation Medicine, Director, CyberKnife Prostate Program, Member, Prostate Program, Georgetown, University Hospital, Lombardi Cancer Center, Washington, DC

Technical Recommendations to Achieving Consistent Rectal Spacer Placement Quality



Marcio Fagundes, MD

Medical Director, Radiation Oncology, Medical Director, Photon Therapy, Miami Cancer Institute at Baptist Health South Florida, Miami, FL

Visit Booth #1529

If you accept a box lunch, you are subject to reporting under the Federal Sunshine Act (the "Open Payments Program") or other state laws.

The Industry-Expert Theater content and views expressed therein are those of the Exhibitor and not of ASTRO.

CAUTION: US Federal law restricts this device to sale by or on the order of a physician.

SpaceOAR Vue Hydrogel is intended to temporarily position the anterior rectal wall away from the prostate during radiotherapy for prostate cancer and in creating this space it is the intent of SpaceOAR Vue Hydrogel to reduce the radiation dose delivered to the anterior rectum.

Prior to using these devices, please review the Instructions for Use for a complete listing of indications, contraindications, warnings, precautions and potential adverse events.

As with any medical treatment, there are some risks involved with the use of SpaceOAR Vue Hydrogel. Potential complications associated with SpaceOAR Vue Hydrogel include, but are not limited to: pain associated with SpaceOAR Vue Hydrogel injection; pain or discomfort associated with SpaceOAR Vue Hydrogel; needle penetration of the bladder, prostate, rectal wall, rectum or urethra; injection of SpaceOAR Vue Hydrogel into the bladder, prostate, rectal wall, rectum or urethra; local inflammatory reactions; infection; injection of air, fluid or SpaceOAR Vue Hydrogel intravascularly; urinary retention; rectal mucosal damage, ulcers, necrosis; bleeding; and rectal urgency. URO-989810-AA

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