



WINTER SCHOOL January 25 - 28, 2010 – Banff, Alberta

QUALITY & SAFETY IN RADIATION ONCOLOGY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Monday, January 25, 2010

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EXPERTS GATHER TO EXPLORE QUALITY AND SAFETY IN RADIATION ONCOLOGY JANUARY 25 – 28, 2010 AT THE BANFF PARK LODGE

Banff, Alberta: While advances in radiation therapy can offer new cures, the complexity of new technology requires specialized training to prevent errors. To address this need, the **Canadian Organization of Medical Physicists (COMP)** hosted its inaugural Winter School at the **Banff Park Lodge, from January 25 to January 28, 2010.**

The Winter School, themed “**Quality and Safety in Radiation Oncology**”, was targeted to medical physicists, radiation oncologists, radiation therapy technologists and scientists from leading cancer care and research centers and hospitals in Canada and the United States. Given recently growing concern in this arena, the school is proving to be particularly timely.

The objective of the Winter School is to teach modern methods for quality programs of the highest caliber in radiation oncology. As well, legal and ethical issues regarding quality in radiation oncology were discussed. The faculty was comprised of medical physicists, quality and software engineers as well as legal and ethical specialists. *Please see attached list of presentations and faculty.*

About COMP:

The Canadian Organization of Medical Physicists (COMP), the voice of medical physicists in Canada, is the main professional body for medical physicists practicing in Canada. Its vision is to champion medical physicists’ efforts to support and advance the science of medical diagnosis and therapy through innovation, technological development and assurance of quality and safety.

Presentations of interest and faculty schedule:

Monday, January 25, 2010		
8:30 am – 9:30 am	Welcome	Marco Carlone, Ph.D., University of Toronto
10:00 am – 11:00 am	Keynote Speech: <i>If It's Worth Doing, It's Worth Doing Well: Improving Radiotherapy Outcomes by Optimizing Current Practice</i>	Bill MacKillop, M.B., Queen's University
11:00am – 12:00pm	Perspectives on Quality and Safety	Peter Dunscombe, Ph.D., University of Calgary
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	Human Factors I & Data Measurement	Jean-Ives Fiset, Ph.D. Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Software for Medical Devices - Why Testing is Not Enough	Alan Wassyng, Ph.D., McMaster University
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	The Ethics of Medical Errors	Kerry Bowman, Ph.D., University of Toronto
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Legal aspects of Medical Errors	Cynthia D. Clarke, L.L.B., Borden Ladner Gervais LLP
Tuesday, January 26, 2010		
7:00 am – 8:00 am	Error and near miss reporting in radiotherapy	Sasa Mutic M.S.
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Retrospective analysis of incidents & a classification scheme	Jean-Pierre Bissonnette, Ph.D., University of Toronto
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Image Guided Brachytherapy: The Status of Current Quality Assurance Guidance and the Application of Risk Analysis to Quality Management	Jeffrey Williamson, Ph.D. Virginia Commonwealth University
8:00 pm – 9:00 pm	QA Issues for computer-controlled IMRT	Benedick Fraass, Ph.D., University of Michigan
Wednesday, January 27, 2010		
8:00 am – 9:00 am	The Role of Failure Mode and Effects Analysis (FMEA) In Developing a Quality Management System	Frank Rath, M.S., University of Wisconsin
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Root Causes, Precursors, and Error Captures: Human Factors Issues in Healthcare Performance Improvement	Barrett Caldwell, Ph.D., Purdue University
10:30 am – 11:30 am	Process Control: background and application to the IMRT process	Todd Pawlicki, Ph.D. University of California at San Diego
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Quality and Safety: putting it all together	Bruce Thomadsen, Ph.D. University of Wisconsin
Wednesday afternoon: Break out workshops/Group learning sessions		
Workshop	Title	Facilitator(s)
A	How to start and run an error management program at your centre	Dunscombe & Thomadsen
B	Failure modes & process control	Rath
C	Process Control & IMRT	Pawlicki
D	Human Factors	Fiset & Caldwell
E	Avoiding Errors in the IMRT Planning/Delivery Process	Fraass & Williamson
F	Incidents involving many individuals	Clarke & Bowman
G	Reporting issues	Mutic & Bissonnette
H	Medical dilemmas	MacKillop
I	Software for Radiation Oncology	Wassyng