

ONE WEEK HDR BRACHYTHERAPY TRAINING EXPERIENCE **Sponsored by ABS and Nucletron**

General Description and Purpose: An intense one-week program is offered for clinical and didactic training of residents in training and junior staff members in Radiation Oncology in the methodologies of High Dose Rate (HDR) brachytherapy. The purpose of this experience is to expose young radiation oncologists to the depth and breadth of the uses of HDR brachytherapy, hopefully stimulating interest in this versatile modality, and developing skills for career-long use of this valuable treatment tool in their clinical practice. This brief course of training is similar to the very popular prostate LDR training program for prostate cancer conducted in Seattle for the last several years. However this experience is not limited to a single disease site.

Eligibility: Residents in training and attending physicians within two years of completion of training are eligible to apply for this fellowship training. *Applicants must be a current member of the ABS to qualify. More information on membership can be found at: <http://www.americanbrachytherapy.org/aboutabs/membership.cfm>*

Sponsorship: As industry sponsor of this program, Nucletron will provide \$1,500.00 for travel and living expenses associated with this program, including airfare, hotel, meals, and ground transportation. In addition, a \$1,000 stipend is provided. No Federal funds are used for this program.

Selection Process: Eligible applicants are required to complete the brief online application on the ABS website, request a letter of recommendation from their program director, and write a brief essay describing their interest in HDR brachytherapy. Selectees will be chosen by a selection committee comprised of members of the ABS board of directors as well as representatives from the training sites. Winners will be recognized at the annual ABS meeting with a plaque and in the ABS newsletter.

Selection Criteria: 20 individuals will be selected. Preference will be given to those individuals demonstrating the greatest interest and motivation to learn and use HDR brachytherapy in clinical practice, as well as potential to excel in the field. Past performance, the brief statement, and the program director letter will be used to rank candidates. Those who are more senior in training or recent graduates will be given highest priority. Preference will be not be given to individuals from any particular type of training program except for those individuals not receiving significant HDR exposure as part of their residency experience. Candidates with greater flexibility in their schedules are more likely to be accepted than those with more restrictive availability.

Training Sites: The sites identified to participate in the 2012 HDR Training program include: Arizona Breast Cancer Specialists in Scottsdale, AZ, Sunnybrook Medical Center in Toronto, Canada, Tacoma Valley Radiation Oncology Center in Tacoma, WA, and Gamma West in Salt Lake City, UT. The sites chosen to host this training experience are all facilities with an outstanding reputation within the brachytherapy and

radiotherapy communities as centers of excellence for HDR brachytherapy. They all have state of the art services featuring the most advanced HDR brachytherapy technology available in the world. All have radiation oncology and physics teams with extensive experience in the most advanced techniques and uses of HDR brachytherapy. The staffs at these facilities have a background in HDR training and a demonstrated dedication to teaching. Selectees should come prepared to be immersed in brachytherapy procedures, treatments, dosimetry, as well as lectures covering the rationale, background, and physics/clinical fundamentals of advanced HDR brachytherapy.

Staff:

Each site is fully staffed with a full contingent of HDR brachytherapy team members including radiation oncologists, physicists, dosimetrists, nurses, therapists, and surgeons.

Rotation:

Each rotation will begin on Monday morning with the selectee expected to attend the full week. The week begins with one-on-one time with the clinicians and physicists, reviewing the schedule for the week and determining special interests of the participants. HDR procedures will vary among the training institutions and are subject to patient load and timing. The procedures may include HDR treatment of the breast, prostate, AccuBoost, gynecological organs, skin, and other body sites, again, subject to availability. It is the intention of this one week rotation to expose the selectee to a breadth of HDR techniques and body sites. The selectee will be involved in patient selection, treatment planning, performance of the procedure itself, treatment, and critique of the plan.

Application Deadline: All application materials must be completed and submitted (reference letters postmarked) by midnight EST, January 16, 2012. Winners will be notified by February 2, 2012.

Contact Information:

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