

2011 ABS Ulrich Henschke Award: W. Robert Lee, M.D., M.S., M. Ed.



Dr. Lee completed his undergraduate education at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia where he received degrees in Chemistry and Classical Studies. He received his medical degree from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville; the lovely academic village in which he met Colleen, his wife of 20 years. After internship, he completed his radiation oncology residency at the University of Florida in 1993. He subsequently accepted a junior faculty position at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia and remained there until 1996. During this period he worked closely with Dr. Gerald Hanks and published numerous papers on the early use of three-dimensional conformal radiotherapy for the treatment of prostate cancer.

In 1996 he was recruited to the Wake Forest School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, North Carolina by Dr. Ed Shaw. He would remain at Wake Forest for ten years. At Wake Forest, with the assistance of Al deGuzman, a clinical physicist, Dr. Lee initiated a low-dose prostate brachytherapy program. During this period he trained several residents (and three urologists). He also developed an HDR program for prostate cancer with the assistance of a clinical physicist, Mahta Mirzaei. During the decade in Winston-Salem he completed coursework for two Masters' Degrees; one in Clinical Epidemiology from Wake Forest University and another in Adult Education from Pennsylvania State University (which was completed on-line). In 2006 Dr. Lee was recruited by Dr. Chris Willett to Duke University and has remained there for the last five years. He is currently Professor of Radiation Oncology, Associate Professor of Urology and also the Program Director for the Duke Radiation Oncology Residency Training program. Dr. Lee's clinical efforts are focused on the treatment of prostate cancer with radiotherapy (brachytherapy and external beam).

His current clinical research interests include: novel fractionation schedules in the treatment of prostate cancer and measures of quality in prostate brachytherapy. He is the PI of a recently completed NCI-supported Phase III trial comparing hypofractionated external beam radiotherapy (70 Gy in 28 fractions) to conventionally fractionated external beam radiotherapy (73.8 Gy in 41 fractions) and he is the PI of an in-house stereotactic body radiotherapy (SBRT) protocol for early stage prostate cancer protocol (5 fractions in 2.5 weeks). He is also the PI of a Phase II RTOG trial examining the efficacy and toxicity of LDR brachytherapy combined with external radiotherapy for intermediate risk prostate cancer.

He is the current Chair of the Residency Review Committee of the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) which oversees the accreditation of all Radiation Oncology training programs in the United States. His educational research interests focus on the responsible integration of educational technologies into the training of residents and fellows. He is currently developing a curriculum devoted to improving medical decision making for patients and health care professionals.

Dr. Lee has been an active participant in the ABS serving on the Board of Directors, Scientific Program Chair for the Annual Meeting and ABS President in 2007. He continues to be involved in the ABS Prostate schools and the ABS Annual Meeting. He is also the Editor-in-Chief of Practical Radiation Oncology, a new peer-reviewed journal.

Dr. Lee lives in Chapel Hill with his wife, Colleen, and their four children; Hannah, Zachary, Abigail and Adam. He spends his free time skiing/hiking/vacationing with his family, reading (cognitive psychology of late) and watching his children play soccer. He is an avid fan of college basketball and college and professional soccer.

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