ONE WEEK LDR PROSTATE BRACHYTHERAPY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Sponsored by ABS and Eckert & Ziegler

General Description and Purpose: An intense one-week program is offered for clinical and didactic training of physician residents in training and junior staff members in radiation oncology in the methodologies of Low Dose Rate (LDR) permanent prostate brachytherapy. The purpose of this experience is to expose young radiation oncologists to all of the critical steps in performing high quality prostate seed implants. These steps would include appropriate patient selection, prostate gland assessment by ultrasound, pre-planning the implant, performing the procedure in the operating room, post-implant dosimetric assessment of implant quality, patient management of side effects and potential complications, and patient follow-up. The goal of this experience is to demonstrate to the selectees the state-of-the-art in this important treatment modality so that they may have the interest and desire to develop the correct skills for career-long use in their clinical practices. This brief course of training is the successor to the very popular prostate LDR training program for prostate cancer conducted in Seattle and sponsored by Oncura for the last ten years. However the structure of the training will be updated to follow the format of the very successful HDR Brachytherapy Scholarship Training Program administered by the American Brachytherapy Society and sponsored by Nucletron for the past four years. And instead of a single training site, multiple training centers of excellence will be offered.

Eligibility: Residents in their last two years of training and physicians who are up to two years post-training are eligible to apply for this Scholarship Program. 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: All travel and living expenses for the one week training for each selectee will be provided. No Federal funds are to be 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 LDR prostate brachytherapy. Selectees will be chosen by a selection committee comprised solely 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: Preference will be given to those individuals demonstrating the greatest interest and motivation to learn and use LDR prostate 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 not be given to individuals from any particular type of training program except for those individuals who have not had a significant opportunity for exposure to LDR prostate brachytherapy as part of their residency training 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 2014 LDR Prostate Brachytherapy Scholarship Program include: MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX, the Chicago Prostate Center, the British Columbia Cancer Agency, and North Shore University Hospital, NY. These sites were chosen solely by the ABS to host this training experience, all have programs with an outstanding reputation within the brachytherapy and radiotherapy communities as centers of excellence and are led by world experts in the use of LDR prostate brachytherapy. They all have state of the art services featuring the most advanced LDR brachytherapy technology available in the world. All have radiation oncology and physics teams with extensive experience in the most advanced techniques of LDR prostate brachytherapy. The staffs at these facilities have a background in conducting training and a demonstrated dedication to teaching. Selectees should come prepared to be immersed in prostate brachytherapy procedures, techniques, and dosimetry, as well as lectures.

**Staff:** Each site is fully staffed with a full contingent of LDR prostate brachytherapy team members including radiation oncologists, physicists, dosimetrists, nurses, therapists, and urologists.

**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. It is the intention of this one-week rotation to expose the selectee to numerous prostate implant procedures and prostate cancer patients in both pre-operative assessment and post-operative follow-up. The selectee will be involved in patient selection, treatment planning, performance of the procedure itself, and the evaluation and critique of post-operative dosimetry.

**Application Deadline:** All application materials must be completed and submitted (reference letters postmarked) by midnight EST, January 4, 2014. Applicants should apply for either the LDR Prostate Brachytherapy Scholarship Program or the HDR Brachytherapy Scholarship Program for 2014, but not both. Winners will be notified on January 18, 2014.
Responsible Parties:
Bradley Prestidge, MD, MS – Program Director, ABS President
Juanita Crook, MD – Site coordinator, BCCA. ABS Chairman of the Board
Steven Frank, MD – Site coordinator, MD Anderson, ABS Board Member
Brain Moran, MD – Site coordinator, Chicago Prostate Center
Louis Potters, MD- Site coordinator, North Shore University Hospital
Melissa Pomerene – Program Manager, ABS Administrator

Contact Information: Melissa Pomerene, Program Administrator, American Brachytherapy Society Phone: (703) 437-4377 x 4085 Email: mpomerene@drohanmgmt.com www.americanbrachytherapy.org

Bradley R. Prestidge, MD, MS. Program Director, ABS President: (210) 364-2191 brad@prestidgemd.com