It is a great honor to have assumed the presidency at the ABS annual meeting in April in New Orleans. The meeting was a great success and thank you to our Scientific Program Chair Myra Keys and our chairman Brad Prestidge for running an outstanding meeting. We had special presentations which brought forward issues of education and training. Education is one of the key missions of our Society. To that end, the ABS will continue to provide teaching programs reporting cutting edge developments in the field. This July, the ABS Gyn Brachytherapy School expanded its program to cover all gynecologic malignancies, and there were specific lectures providing “state of the science” updates in cervical, endometrial and vulvar cancer. The ABS Gyn Brachytherapy School also had the first ever nursing program, covering fundamentals of patient management unique to the brachytherapy setting. In 2014, we will co-sponsor the school with ASTRO for the first ABS-ASTRO-SGO Gyn School. This will be immediately followed by the ABS Prostate Brachytherapy School, for a combined 4-day event.

Our committees continue to work hard to advance the interests of Society members. Thank you to all of the committee chairs for their tireless efforts. In 2013, the Socioeconomics Committee has been chaired by David Wazer, MD; Brad Prestidge, MD worked on External Relations and resident education. Zoubir Ouib, MS serves as chair of the Physics Committee, and Steve Frank, MD chairs the Cost Effectiveness Committee.

Most recently, the chair of our Bylaws Committee, John Hayes, MD, has stepped down and will join the newly formed International Committee. John’s successor, Sushil Beriwal, MD, has already made efforts to ensure that changes to the Society are reflected in our bylaws. In order to address our multiple interactions with colleagues around the world, a new International Committee has been established, and Beth Erickson, MD has kindly agreed to chair this new effort.

We continue to work closely with our industry partners and appreciate their great support. The Nucletron resident week-long training program continues, as does their continued support of our contouring programs at the schools. Varian has been a strong supporter of our annual meeting and of our schools, also supplying computers for contouring workshops. Thank you to all of the vendors attending our meetings and providing services for our membership.

We look forward to the advances and challenges of 2014, knowing that the ABS continues to advance science and education in the area of brachytherapy.

Akila N. Viswanathan, MD, MPH
President
The Need to Tell “Our Story”
Daniel G. Petereit, MD, FASTRO

The ABS 2013 spring meeting was one of the best radiation oncology meetings I have attended in years. It was well organized, informative, and practical. A special thanks to the scientific program committee for their time and dedication.

The development and maintenance of brachytherapy skills is an ongoing goal and challenge for the ABS. I found the debate between Drs. Kuske and Smith intriguing and provocative. The 2012 JAMA publication by Smith et al using SEER data demonstrated a 4% mastectomy rate for patients undergoing APBI vs 2% for those treated with whole-breast radiation (WBI).1 In addition, Presley et al (JCO 2012), reported a doubling of the complication rates for women treated with APBI vs WBI.2 Both publications and the ABS debate highlight relevant issues such as implementation of new technologies, physician and patient motivation, and ultimately, providing the best treatment and options for our patients. Similar to the implementation of permanent seed prostate brachytherapy in the 1990s, what factors influence the practicing radiation oncologist to begin offering these new services, especially, if they emerge after one’s training?

I found the geographic map, Figure 1, in the Presley article most intriguing as it appears to accurately depict brachytherapy practice patterns in the US.3 Even more intriguing, it accurately reports the evolution of APBI where I live: western, South Dakota and the adjacent states. So, at the risk of sounding self-serving, I would like to “tell my story”.

After spending 10 years of the University of Wisconsin-Madison where I did my training and was on staff for 5 years as the gynecologic radiation oncologist, I decided to move back to my home state of South Dakota for both personal and professional reasons. The western part of South Dakota is medically underserved with a high percentage of medicare and medicaid patients, greatly influenced by the presence of 3 of the largest Indian Reservations where 80,000 to 100,000 American Indians live — the Lakota Sioux Nation. This area has historically had one of the highest mastectomy rates in the nation (>98%, Dartmouth Report 1996),3 driven in part by distance from the cancer center, 150 miles or more for many, lack of cancer screening and lack of access to innovative technologies such as APBI. In 2002, we successfully competed for an NCI grant where one of the primary objectives was to offer shorter courses of radiation using IMRT and brachytherapy for prostate and breast cancer, as well as other objectives including the identification of barriers to cancer screening and treatment, comprehensive patient navigation at the cancer center and the reservations, and an ATM trial to decipher a potential molecular explanation for apparent higher acute and late toxicities for American Indians undergoing radiotherapy. 4–5

The personal challenge was to develop brachytherapy skills for both prostate and breast cancer. The collaboration with UW-Madison was paramount in learning interstitial and intracavitary breast brachytherapy. Dr. Robert Kuske, Dr. Rakesh Patel and their staff provided the necessary training, as well as proctoring cases in Rapid City. The ABS schools and the Seattle Prostate Institute were also key resources. After two years of training, the first breast brachytherapy patient was treated using the interstitial technique. The majority of patients were treated this way until the intracavitary technique became more widely used. All patients were treated on a phase II clinical trial where detailed assessment of dosimetry, peer review, and clinical outcomes were assessed. To date, nearly 100 patients have been treated with clinical outcomes comparable to other institutions (formal analysis underway).

In parallel with the implementation of comprehensive brachytherapy services, an extensive cancer screening program was developed by our patient navigators, including a dedicated breast navigator. To date, our program has facilitated over 1,700 cancer screenings for screen detectable cancers. Our mastectomy rates have dropped from over 98% in the early 1990s to less than 20%.

While patients in our region were offered participation in the B-39 study, the majority chose to enroll in our phase II breast brachytherapy trial, as for many, the option was a mastectomy or APBI due to the distance they lived from the cancer center. Patient satisfaction scores are high, infection rates are much lower than those reported by Presley, and no one has had a mastectomy for a treatment failure or complication.

While one cannot assess physician or patient motivation from the SEER database (Smith GL) or the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Chronic Condition Warehouse database (Presley CJ), my personal experience over the last 10 years suggests APBI is an excellent option for well selected patients. We in the ABS need to maintain our high standards for offering quality brachytherapy services, and to make certain “our story” is being told so as to advocate for our patients.

REFERENCES


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The Need to Tell “Our Story”

continued


ABS Physics Corner

Zoubir Ouhib, MS, Physics Committee Chair

The 2014 Winter School on Quality Management in Brachytherapy will be held February 7–8 at the Renaissance Orlando. This will be our third QA School. We are currently working on some great new topics to maintain and improve everyone’s patient safety program in brachytherapy. Please check the ABS website for further information and make sure you save those dates. This School is for physicists, Dosimetrist and radiation oncologists. Perhaps you can also build-in a family vacation in warm Orlando before or after the School — as you know there are endless family parks and entertainment options to enjoy.

We are also working on the Q.A. forms for brachytherapy. Some of these forms have been downloaded (GYN and prostate) and can be seen on the ABS website. We intend to complete all of them before the end of the year. We welcome any member to send us comments (any) regarding these forms. Keep in mind these are still a work-in-progress and we thank you for your patience. Please check the ABS website for more information under the Physics Corner section.

We are looking forward to a great School next February in warm Orlando AND we invite our physics colleagues to send in your abstracts for the ABS 2014 Annual Meeting in San Diego (April 3 – 5) — the abstract deadline is November 14 — see the ABS website to complete your abstract submission (www.americanbrachytherapy.org).

Best,

Zoubir Ouhib, MS
ABS Physics Committee Chair
ABS Activities and Operations

By Rick Guggolz, Executive Director

2013 ABS Annual Meeting in New Orleans — Success in the Crescent City

The ABS Annual Meeting in April was a success with nearly 500 participants from around the world at the Hyatt Regency in New Orleans. We extend our thanks to Dr. Myra Keyes from the BC Cancer Agency in Vancouver for serving as this year’s Scientific Chair. The 2013 Annual Meeting had domestic attendees from 39 states and international attendees from 20 countries:

- Australia
- Brazil
- Canada
- China
- Columbia
- Germany
- India
- Ireland
- Japan
- Mexico
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Puerto Rico
- Russia
- Saudi Arabia
- South Africa
- Spain
- UK
- United States
- Venezuela

We would like to thank the Annual Meeting Scientific Program Committee (Drs. Sushil Beriwal, Elizabeth Bloom, Jeff Demanes, Steven Frank, David Gaffney, Atif Khan, Mark Rivard, and Eric Vigneault), along with Dr. Bradley Prestidge, then-President of the ABS, as well as all of our moderators, panelists, speakers, and journal and national office staff, for their efforts and participation in this year’s meeting.

Annual Meeting Highlights Included:

- international moderators and speakers
- presentation of the Ulrich Henschke Award by the ABS to Dr. Frank Vicini (sponsored by Best Medical International), the most prestigious award offered by the ABS
- special invited lecturer on “Teaching and Learning Brachytherapy” by Dr. Robert Lee with Duke University
- sessions covering prostate, breast, and gynecologic brachytherapy, as well as dedicated physics sessions
- lunch on Thursday in the exhibit hall, sponsored by Hologic
- opening reception Thursday night in the exhibit hall, including a New Orleans jazz band
- Resident Travel Grants awarded, sponsored by GE Healthcare
- dedicated exhibit hall for vendors of brachytherapy equipment, supplies and seeds, including abstract posters
- dedicated Poster Discussion sessions
- Thursday Resident’s Luncheon, sponsored by Biocompatibles and GE Healthcare
- Friday ABS Membership Meeting and Membership Luncheon, sponsored by Theragenics
- poster sessions, proffered paper sessions, panels, interactive audience participation for general session and breakout session panels
- contouring workshops on Friday for breast, prostate and gyn cancers (thank you to Varian and to Elekta for supplying the laptops for attendee use)
- networking opportunities
- CME, CEU, MDCB, CAMPEP credits offered
- presentation of the Judith Stitt Best Paper Awards, sponsored by Elekta
- “Education and Mentoring” panel included Harlan Sparrow, Manager of the National Simulator Program (NSP) in Atlanta
- the ABS welcomed ACR representative Dr. Albert Blumberg, who joined ABS Vice President Dr. David Wazer in a panel entitled “ABS and ACR: Forging Friendship in a Changing World”

This year the Annual Meeting included a mobile app which listed meeting, exhibitor and hotel details as well as the meeting abstracts. The mobile app was well-received given the number of attendees making use of it during the sessions. Frank A. Vicini, MD, Receives ABS 2013 Ulrich Henschke Award Congratulations to Dr. Frank Vicini for being awarded the 2013 Ulrich Henschke Award, presented April 17th in New Orleans at the ABS Annual Meeting. The Ulrich Henschke Award is the highest honor that the American Brachytherapy Society can bestow on a practitioner of brachytherapy, awarded for contributions to the field of brachytherapy, the radiation therapy community, and to the ABS. Dr. Henschke is considered the father of modern-day brachytherapy for his initial work in the 1950’s, including his technology advancements that are still in use today. We extend our thanks as well to Best Medical for sponsoring the award. Regarding this year’s recipient:

Dr. Frank A. Vicini, M.D. FACR, is the Chief Academic Officer for Michigan Healthcare Professionals and 21st Century Oncology as well as Professor of Radiation Oncology. He received his medical degree from Wayne State University School of Medicine.
ABS Activities and Operations

continued

Medicine and is board-certified in therapeutic radiology. He is a former breast cancer fellow at Harvard Medical School where he was also on staff before returning to Michigan in 1990. He has done extensive research primarily for targeting radiation with greater precision for women with early-stage breast cancer and on reducing short and long-term morbidities associated with these treatments.

Dr. Vicini has been involved in numerous national clinical studies involving breast and prostate cancer and has designed and developed numerous phase I/II trials to evaluate low-dose rate and high-dose rate brachytherapy as the sole method of radiation therapy for selected patients with Stage I & II breast carcinoma as well as 3D conformal external beam RT APBI. He was the Principle Investigator for RTOG 0319 which was a phase II study exploring the use of 3D conformal external beam irradiation to the lumpectomy cavity alone for selected patients with early stage breast cancer. He is currently the Principal Investigator for the national NSABP B39/RTOG 0413 phase III study comparing partial breast irradiation (PBI) versus whole breast irradiation. He is also the PI for a second phase III trial from the NCI to investigate accelerated whole breast irradiation with a concurrent boost versus standard therapy for women with early stage breast cancer. His research continues to focus on improving therapeutic outcomes for all stages of breast cancer and to reduce treatment times and minimize damage to healthy tissue and vital organs. Innovations have included the development of breath hold techniques to reduce or minimize long-term cardiac toxicity in women treated with left-sided breast cancer and the use of IMRT to reduce acute radiation toxicities to the skin and late toxicities to prevent breast and arm edema, lung and heart related morbidity in women treated for breast cancer. Dr. Vicini has authored over 200 articles on breast and prostate cancer which have been published in numerous different scientific, peer-reviewed journals and has presented his research at national and international meetings as well as a Visiting Professor in the United States and Europe. He has also authored multiple chapters in textbooks and is on the editorial board of several oncology journals including Cancer, the Journal of Clinical Oncology and the Journal of the National Cancer Institute. Dr. Vicini has also

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been a frequent author of notable Lymphedema publications. These have included a comprehensive, peer-reviewed publication that summarizes the key relevant supporting documentation on Breast Cancer Related Lymphedema, as well as a systematic review of his eight years of experience as the Medical Director for the Lymphedema Program at William Beaumont Hospital. Recently, at the 2012 Annual Breast Cancer Coordinated Care Conference (BC3), sponsored by Georgetown University Hospital, Dr. Vicini presented critical new data on key clinical findings from a multi-site registry study for which he served as Principal Investigator, titled “Multi-Institutional Analysis of Bioimpedance Spectroscopy (BIS) in the Early Detection of Breast Cancer Related Lymphedema.”

Dr. Vicini’s previous positions have included:
Chief of Oncology, Beaumont Hospitals
Professor, Oakland University William Beaumont

School of Medicine
Director, Radiation Oncology Residency Program
Director, Brachytherapy/hyperthermia Fellowship Program
Director, Radiation Therapy School

His academic appointments have included:
Clinical Instructor, Harvard Medical School
Clinical Professor, University of Michigan Medical School and Professor at the Oakland University

A collective congratulations to Dr. Vicini on behalf of the ABS leadership and membership.

2014 ABS Annual Meeting Returns to Sunny San Diego
The ABS will conduct its 2014 Annual Meeting in New Orleans at the Hyatt Regency, April 18 – 20, the same site as the 2011 Annual Meeting. Our theme will be: Great Expectations — Efficient, Effective and Economical: …Brachytherapy. Dr. Catheryn Yashar with the University of California, San Diego, will serve as the Scientific Program Chair. Included again next year will be:

• an extensive exhibit hall with brachytherapy product vendors
• CME and CAMPEP credits for attendees, as well as credits for dosimetrists
• Diverse topics on all disciplines presented in debates, workshops, contouring sessions, and panels, featuring distinguished experts and practitioners
• Audiotaping of presentations, coupled with speaker PowerPoints, for purchase pre-meeting, at the meeting and post-meeting
• Conference mobile app to keep track of details on your mobile device
• Special Invited Lecturer(s)
• Interaction with panelists via Twitter during sessions

Section Chairs will be:
Breast: Jarek T. Hepel, MD
GYN: Anuja Jhingran, MD
Miscellaneous: Joe Hsu, MD
Physics: Daniel J. Scanderbeg, PhD
Prostate: Mark K. Buyyounouski, MD, MS

You can visit the ABS website to make your room reservation at the Manchester Grand Hyatt. A preliminary agenda and registration material will be sent to you when available in early 2014. Be sure to book your hotel room early as the spring is always a busy time in San Diego. Note that the ABSTRACT DEADLINE will be November 14, 2013. The Abstract program is now live on the ABS website.

ABS New Officers Announced for 2013-2014
As announced at the 2013 ABS Membership Meeting on April 17th, Dr. Akila Viswanathan will serve as the 2013 – 2014 President of the ABS and Dr. David Wazer will serve as the 2013 – 2014 Vice President. Dr. Firas Mourtada is the new ABS Treasurer, while Dr. David Gaffney joins the Board of Directors as Secretary. The two new Director-at-Large positions were filled by Dr. Myra Keyes and Dr. Subir Nag, joining Directors-at-Large Dr. Gerard Morton and Dr. Steven Frank. We thank Dr. Bradley Prestidge for serving as President this past year, as well as outgoing Chairman of the Board Dr. Juanita Crook, Directors Dr. Frank Vicini and Dr. Josh Yamada, and Treasurer Dr. Mark Buyyounouski.

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ABS Activities and Operations

2013 – 2014 ABS Committees
If you are interested in serving on an ABS Committee, please contact ABS Executive Director Rick Guggolz (rguggolz@drohanmgmt.com). Current committees include:

- Bylaws (Sushil Beriwal, MD)
- Value/Cost Effectiveness (Steven J. Frank, MD)
- Emerging Technology (Mark J. Rivard, PhD)
- External Relations (Akila N. Viswanathan, MD, MPH, and David E. Wazer, MD)
- International (Beth A. Erickson, MD, FACR, FASTRO)
- Membership (Peter F. Orio, DO)
- Patient Safety (Steven J. Frank, MD, and Zoubir Ouhib, MS)
- Physics (Zoubir Ouhib, MS)
- Residents (Seth Miller, MD)
- Socioeconomics (David E. Wazer, MD)

ABS Socioeconomic Committee Update
The ABS is seeking a more active role on current socioeconomic issues such as third-party reimbursement, the aggressive reemergence of capitation, and RBOM’s entering the brachytherapy market. Avenues to have the ABS serve as an advocate for policies favorable to brachytherapy were recently approved at ABS Board Meetings, including the hiring of a part-time healthcare consultant who specializes in reimbursement and legislative issues. The committee includes the involvement of industry representatives as well (via the collaborative organization CAB), at the same time managing any conflicts of interest. The committee is currently led by Dr. David Wazer, and those with applicable experience and input should contact Dr. Wazer to join the committee (dwazer@tuftsmedicalcenter.org). Currently the committee is reviewing the CMS 2014 proposed rules, which again are not favorable for radiation oncology, including brachytherapy, freestanding centers and hospitals as well.

ABS GYN School Held in Chicago
The 2013 Summer GYN School was successful in July, drawing over 150 participants to Chicago. Thanks once again to Scientific Chairs for Drs. Beth Erickson and Akila Viswanathan. Attendees were from 30 states as well as from Brazil, Canada, Mexico, the Netherlands and New Zealand.

Once again, a special thanks to Nuclertron and Varian for donating the laptops used for the contouring sessions. We would like to recognize and thank our 2013 Summer School exhibitors for their support.

- Best Medical International
- MIM Software
- Nuclertron, an Elekta Company
- Varian Medical Systems
- Xoft, a Subsidiary of iCAD

ABS October 2013 Breast Brachytherapy School Returns to Las Vegas
The ABS Breast School will return to the beautiful Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Las Vegas this October 24 – 25. Drs. Douglas Arthur, David Wazer and Frank Vicini will serve as co-chairs for the School. Once again, the ASBS will serve as a co-sponsor, as we look to attract more surgeons to our meetings. Register on-line now to attend and review the agenda and speakers on-line as well.

ABS Planning February 2014 Physics School on QA in Brachytherapy
The ABS the AS will conduct its second QA School February 7 – 8, 2014 in Orlando at the Renaissance Seaworld. Zoubir Ouhib will serve as Chair. While physics-oriented, this is a School for radiation oncologists as well.

Future ABS Meetings

Annual Meetings
2014: Manchester Grand Hyatt, San Diego, CA, April 3 – 5
2015: Renaissance Seaworld, Orlando, FL, April 9 – 11
2016: World Congress (city, hotel and dates TBD)

Schools
2013: Mandarin Oriental, Las Vegas, NV, October 24 – 25 (Breast Brachytherapy)
2014: Renaissance Seaworld, Orlando, FL, February 7 – 8 (Quality Assurance in Brachytherapy)
2014: Westin North River, Chicago, IL, July 11 – 14 (Prostate and GYN Brachytherapy)

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ABS HDR Brachytherapy Resident Scholarship Program: Elekta Increases Support for Both Radiation Oncologists and Physicists

The ABS HDR Brachytherapy Resident Scholarship participants for 2013 have been selected and are matriculating through one of the various sites currently offered by the ABS. The program receives financial support from Elekta and additional funding for 2013 allowed for the expansion of participants to 20, as well as the start of a Physicist Scholarship Program. Visit the ABS website at http://www.americanbrachytherapy.org/fellowship/index.cfm to see information on the program. Our collective thanks go to Elekta for increasing their educational support this year to assist younger ABS members, emerging practitioners that will greatly benefit from the mentoring of experience and well-known experts in this segment of brachytherapy. We thank those ABS members who host our participants during this week of training.

This year’s participants include:

Harold C. Agbahiwe, MD
Johns Hopkins Hospital
Baltimore, MD

David M. Berlach, MD, FABR, FRCPC
Maimonides Medical Center
Brooklyn, NY

Tracy S. Bray, MD
Loyola University Medical Center
Maywood, IL

Kevin C. Bylund, MD
University of Rochester Cancer Center Affiliate Hospital
Rochester, NY

Adam Chichel, MD, PhD
Greater Poland Cancer Centre
Szczynikni, Poland

Edwin F. Crandley, MD
University of Virginia Health System
Charlottesville, VA

Tina Dasgupta, MD, PhD
University of California San Francisco
San Francisco, CA

Lana M. de Souza Lawrence, MD
Johns Hopkins Hospital
Baltimore, MD

Daniel W. Golden, MD
University of Chicago Medical Center
Chicago, IL

Surbhi W. Grover, MD
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia PA

Charles C. Hsu, MD, PhD
University of California San Francisco
San Francisco, CA

Klaudia U. Hunter, MD
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI

Pavan M. Jhaveri, MD
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, TX

Aparna H. Kesarwala, MD, PhD
National Cancer Institute
Bethesda, MD

Frances Lantin-Penano, MD
St Luke’s Medical Center
Manila, Philippines

Christine Min, MD
New York University
New York, NY

Vinod M. Mullassery, MD, MRCP, FRCR
Guys and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust
London, United Kingdom

Brendan M. Prendergast, MD
University of Alabama – Birmingham
Birmingham, AL

Sonali Rudra, MD
University of Chicago Medical Center
Chicago, IL

Ellen A. Wiegner, MD
Mercy Cancer Center
Sacramento, CA

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The inaugural selections for the ABS Physicist Scholarship Program are:

Stephen Davis, PhD
McGill University Health Center
Montreal, QC, Canada

Justin Ducote, PhD
UC Irvine Medical Center
Orange, CA

Patrick Hill, PhD
University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA

Zhanna Lebedeva, MSc
Pavlov St Petersburg State Medical University
Saint Petersburg, Russia

Jaclyn Marcel, MS
Geisinger Medical Center
Danville, PA

Julie Raffi, PhD
Regions Hospital Radiation Therapy Center
Saint Paul, MN

Gurpreet K. Sandhu, PhD
Allan Blair Cancer Centre
Regina, SK, Canada

Paige Summers, MS
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center
Houston, TX

Fabiola Vallejo, PhD
CICL
Laval, QC, Canada

Christopher Veale, MS
Billings Clinic
Danville, PA

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2014 ABS Annual Meeting Abstract Deadline
November 14, 2013
*Don’t Miss Out!*

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2013 ABS Resident Travel Grants Sponsored by Oncura, a GE Company

We extend our thanks to Oncura for its sponsorship of the ABS 2013 Resident Travel Grants. This year’s selections are listed below along with their abstract title.

Shahed N. Badiyan, MD
Washington University
St. Louis, MO
INCIDENCE AND TREATMENT OF TOXICITY FOLLOWING I-125 EPISCLERAL PLAQUE BRACHYTHERAPY FOR UVEAL MELANOMA

Peyman Kabolizadeh, MD, PhD
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
Pittsburgh, PA
FEASIBILITY OF DIFFUSION WEIGHTED IMAGING IN ASSESSING TUMOR RESPONSE IN PATIENTS WITH CERVICAL CANCER UNDERGOING 3D MRI GUIDED HIGH DOSE-RATE BRACHYTHERAPY

Rachit Kumar, MD
The Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, MD
EFFICACY OF RADIOEMBOLIZATION TREATMENTS WITH YTTRIUM-90 MICROSPHERES FOR LIVER METASTASES

Adam Liss, MD
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI
VARIATION IN EXTERNAL SPHINCTER EXTENSION WITHIN AND BEYOND THE PROSTATE: IMPLICATIONS FROM MRI BASED POST IMPLANT SEGMENTAL DOSIMETRY

Benjamin Maas, MD
British Columbia Cancer Agency
Vancouver, BC, Canada
PROSTATE BRACHYTHERAPY TOXICITY AND DOSIMETRY: COMPARISON OF 20 GAUGE ThinSeed[trade] (9011) VS. 18 GAUGE OncoSeed[trade] (6711)

Sagar C. Patel, MD
University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics
Iowa City, IA

Arshin Sheybani, MD
University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics
Iowa City, IA
DOSE-VOLUME EFFECT OF BLADDER AND RECTAL FILLING DURING INTRACAVITARY HIGH DOSE RATE BRACHYTHERAPY

William Y. Tong, MD
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
New York, NY
VALIDATION OF REAL TIME INTRAOPERATIVE ULTRASOUND-BASED PLANNING FOR PROSTATE BRACHYTHERAPY WITH INTRAOPERATIVE CT-BASED DOSIMETRIC ASSESSMENT

Yun Yang, PhD
Duke University Medical Center
Durham, NC
DOSIMETRIC DESIGN OF A SHIELDED D-SHAPED BREAST BRACHYTHERAPY APPLICATOR

Biocompatibles to Serve as New ABS LDR Brachytherapy Resident Scholarship Program Sponsor

Beginning in 2013, Biocompatibles will begin sponsoring the ABS LDR Brachytherapy Program. This year’s recipients for training at the various sites are:

Brandon Barney, MD
Mayo Clinic
Rochester, MN

Oswaldo Broncano, MD
Hospital Edgardo Rebagliati Martins
Santa Beatriz, Peru

Sheena Jain, MD
University of Texas South Western
Dallas, TX

Amir Lavaf, MD
New York Methodist Hospital
Brooklyn, NY

William C. Lorentz, MD
University of California, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, CA

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2013 Membership Renewals
If you have not renewed your membership for 2013, please do so now to ensure that your membership stays current.
Please contact a national office staff member if you need assistance, including how to renew on-line via credit card (see staff listing below).

August and December Board of Directors Meetings
The next Board meeting will be held via webinar on August 16th, followed by a meeting in Chicago on December 6th. The Executive Committee has a monthly conference call.

Additional ABS Brachytherapy Guidelines to Be Completed and Published
The goal for the remaining ABS Guidelines is to have them published by the end of 2013 in Brachytherapy, including Guidelines on 1) sarcoma, 2) skin, 3) breast, 4) ocular, and 5) penile brachytherapy.

Membership Recruitment
For colleagues that may wish to join, refer them to the website to print out an application (www.americanbrachytherapy.org). Resident memberships are complimentary, as is attendance at our ABS educational meetings. What a deal!

ABS To Support MD Anderson Cancer Center December Conference in Houston
For a second consecutive year, the ABS is providing financial support to the December MD Anderson Conference, serving as a co-sponsor. A link to the conference brochure will be made available in the future on the ABS website, in the meetings section.

Membership Committee Participation
The ABS Membership Committee is looking for volunteers for regional membership recruitment efforts — if you are interested please contact committee chair Peter Orio (porio@lroc.harvard.edu).

ABS Staff
Should you need assistance from the National Office staff, you may contact:
Rick Guggolz, Executive Director
rguggolz@drohanmgmt.com; extension 4070
Melissa Pomerene, Program Manager
mpomerene@drohanmgmt.com; extension 4085
Colleen MacCutcheon, Administrative Assistant
cmaccutcheon@drohanmgmt.com; extension 4071

What Can YOU Do For the ABS?
As a member of ABS, what can you do to support your association?

- recruit new members both locally and at national meetings that you attend during the year
- contact the national office with the names of potential corporate members, potential exhibitors and sponsors, based on the various vendors that you come into contact with on an annual basis
- participate on an ABS committee
- submit an article for publication in Brachytherapy, the official journal of the Society
- renew your membership each year in a timely fashion
- submit topics and speaker suggestions for the next Annual Meeting, or for a future ABS School
Session recordings from ABS events are available online through the **ABS Live Learning Center**

The ABS Live Learning Center connects you to session recordings from ABS events so you can catch up on sessions you didn’t have time to attend and review new developments in brachytherapy presented by leaders in your field.

**Add the Meeting Recordings Package** to your 2013 Annual Meeting registration to receive post-meeting access to session recordings for the discounted pre-meeting price.

Visit the Live Learning Center now to view a complimentary session and to browse through sessions from past ABS events.

[ABS.sclivelearningcenter.com](http://ABS.sclivelearningcenter.com)