

Are you organising an annual meeting or conference which you would like to tell our readers about? Or would you like to write a report on a meeting or conference of particular interest? If so, contact Patricia McDonnell at Oncology News on T/F: +44 (0)288 289 7023, E: patricia@oncologynews.biz

CyberKnife Symposium

Date: 17 September 2016. **Venue:** Dublin, Ireland.

In the past 20 years there have been great advances in computer speed & radiological imaging which has allowed stereotactic radiosurgery to be delivered throughout the body. This capability was used by John Adler to invent the CyberKnife, probably the most versatile way to deliver radiosurgery anywhere in the body. The accuracy of CyberKnife treatment delivery is due to frequent X-rays being performed during treatment delivery which allows the robot to correct for any patient and target movement thereby avoiding any head frames or other restraints, this allows an accuracy of 0.2mm during treatment delivery. Moving targets can be accurately tracked by the CyberKnife while treatment is being delivered which reduces the delivery of radiation to healthy adjacent tissues compared to other platforms for stereotactic delivery, and other manoeuvres such as breath holding during treatment delivery for lung cancer is unnecessary when using CyberKnife, this allows for an accuracy of 0.7mm when treating such targets.

Following the setting up of CyberKnife in the Hermitage Clinic, the initial programme concentrated on neurological pathologies, e.g. acoustic neuroma, meningiomas, pituitary tumours, AVMs, trigeminal neuralgia, metastasis and spinal tumours. The results are as expected in comparison with reported studies from other centres and audits of responses to treatment are being carried out. These topics were presented by Mr Danny Rawluk, neurosurgeon, & Dr Clare Faul, radiation oncologist, at a recent symposium held in the Hermitage Medical Clinic.

Prostate and lung cancer cases have been treated with equally good results and patient feedback has been very supportive and complimentary after treatment delivery. The short duration of treatment for prostate cancer was a significant factor in patient appreciation of the advantages of CyberKnife treatment versus alternative treatments and this topic was addressed by Dr Ian Fraser, director of Radiotherapy in the Hermitage. This aspect has been reflected in patient preference in Harvard where



Eamonn Fitzgerald CEO, HMC, Dr Osama Salib, Radiation Oncologist, Dr Ian Fraser, Radiation Oncologist, Dr Patrick Maguire, President CyberHeart, Mr Danny Rawluk, Clinical Director, CyberKnife Programme, Dr Anand Mahadevan, Radiation Oncologist, Boston and Dr Clare Faul, Radiation Oncologist.

CyberKnife is the preferred option over brachytherapy expressed by patients presenting with prostate cancer.

Dr Osama Salib, radiation oncologist presented initial experiences in the treatment of lung cancer cases, and following the introduction of the latest software upgrade in the near future, very few cases will need fiducial implantation to track & treat their cancer. During this symposium, the results of treating liver and pancreatic tumours was presented by Dr Anand Mahadevan from Harvard. The main advantage again appeared to be reduction of treatment times compared to other standard treatment modalities with equal results.

We also were introduced to the use of CyberKnife to treat cardiac rhythm disorders by Dr Patrick Maguire, cardiac surgeon & CEO of CyberHeart, from Palo Alto in California. Such conditions are usually treated by cardiac ablation, however this is a promising alternative, especially in those patients unfit for standard cardiac ablative procedures. The use of CyberHeart software to plan & deliver cardiac ablation externally is much less invasive than standard techniques although a cardiac catheter fiducial is required during treatment delivery. He

also described the potential of using CyberHeart to perform renal nerve ablations to treat refractory hypertension.

Some centres are returning to consider using stereotactic radiosurgery to treat functional neurological conditions such as epilepsy or some psychiatric conditions refractory to medical treatments e.g. certain depressive or obsessive conditions. These options are still under evaluation but could expand the indications for stereotactic radiosurgery in the near future.

The introduction of CyberKnife into Ireland has increased the therapeutic options in offering treatment to patients with cancer & other benign conditions and holds out a potential promise to extend the indications to treat other conditions. This can be achieved in an outpatient setting in a short time frame which is very appealing to most patients striving to maintain their quality of life for as long as possible. It is important that decisions on suitability of cases for treatment should be made through appropriate MDMs given the current options available to treat the spectrum of conditions with radiosurgery & all our cases treated in the Hermitage are discussed in our monthly meetings.

ECCO2017 European Cancer Congress

Date: 27-30 January 2017. Venue: Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

[Preview](#)

ECCO2017
EUROPEAN CANCER CONGRESS

ECCO2017 European Cancer Congress is the only truly multidisciplinary cancer congress in Europe. It is the annual meeting of ECCO as the umbrella of 24 major scientific societies committed to multidisciplinary cooperation in oncology.

In a fast-paced environment of ever-increasing complexity, clinical trials change, the way cancer care is delivered evolves and ECCO gathers all stakeholders at this meeting to outline the best way forward for cancer patients in Europe.

The ECCO2017 programme provides a wealth of opportunities to get engaged and informed by the best experts in Europe and worldwide. You will get answers to the questions that interest you most and have the greatest impact on your work:

- Learn about the most recent developments in monodisciplines from a multidisciplinary perspective and you will find out how these developments impact your clinical practice.
- The Congress is annual so your interdisciplinary clinical knowledge is always up-to-date.
- Benefit from top-notch educational programmes developed by a leading team of multidisciplinary experts.
- Be part of the hot discussions on the cost and organisation of cancer care in Europe.
- Find out which trials and outcomes research are truly shaping the way we manage cancer.
- You are in the right place for

multidisciplinary networking with peers from Europe and the world.

• Grow in your career through leadership programmes, targeted ECCO member societies' programmes and much more. At ECCO2017, the focus is on the patient situation and this is from a multidisciplinary perspective. "If you work in the cancer community, then you should attend ECCO2017." These are the words of Professor Peter Naredi, ECCO President.

ECCO2017 will change the paradigm of oncology, be part of this change!

For further information visit:
www.eccocongress.org

National Colorectal Cancer Nurses Network Conference

Date: 12 September 2016. Venue: London, UK. Report by: Charlotte Dawson, Beating Bowel Cancer's Head of Nurse Advisory

The annual NCCNN conference took place at The Royal College of Physicians in London in September. Beating Bowel Cancer has supported the NCCNN for several years now and acts as the secretariat for the group which is chaired by Dr Claire Taylor, Macmillan Nurse Consultant in Colorectal Cancer.

The annual meeting brings together colorectal clinical nurse specialists from across England and Wales (a separate one for Scottish nurses is held in Edinburgh) to listen to presentations, share best practice and network with colleagues.

At this year's meeting there were talks on new approaches in treating rectal cancer, emerging interventions in endoscopy, what is new in chemotherapy treatment as well as how to involve patients and other service users in service development. Robert Thomas, who spoke at our Patient Day in April, gave another fascinating talk on lifestyle choices after cancer and self-help



Dawn Stiff, CNS from Colchester Hospital led a debate on what is best for rectal cancer patients. Dawn, who is retiring after 43 years as a nurse and who is a former Chair of the NCCNN, was presented with a bouquet from the Committee.



Due to the fine weather the delegates were able to enjoy lunch on the grass in the College's Physic Garden.

strategies.

The day was rounded off with presentation of the Gary Logue Colorectal Nurse Awards. Gary worked as a colorectal nurse and was a member of the charity's nurse advisory service up until his death in 2014. The awards were presented by our trustee Sir Christopher Pitchers and Gary's partner Cristian Leon. The awards were won by Tracy Naughton, colorectal clinical nurse specialist at Lewisham

hospital, Candy Coombe and Clare Ferris from Royal Cornwall Hospitals.

For more information on
the conference visit
<https://www.beatingbowelcancer.org/health-professionals/nccnn/nccnn-conference-2016-review/>

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BTOG 2017 – 15th Annual BTOG Conference

Date: 25-27 January 2017. Venue: Dublin, Republic of Ireland.

[Preview](#)

British Thoracic Oncology Group (BTOG) is the multi-disciplinary group for professionals involved with thoracic malignancies in the UK and Ireland. BTOG's mission is to support and educate health care professionals, creating a professional community to exchange ideas, information and innovation and to foster the development of research – with the overall aim to represent patients and improve outcomes.

The flagship BTOG educational event is the BTOG Annual Conference held each year in the last week of January. This event has become known within the UK and Irish thoracic oncology specialty as the thoracic oncology educational event to attend in the calendar year and now attracts around 800 attendees.

BTOG 2017 – the 15th Annual BTOG Conference will be returning to the beautiful city of Dublin and the city and the hotel always give delegates a very warm welcome. The conference aims to update attendees on the state of the art management of lung cancer and



mesothelioma, increase understanding on the nature of clinical practice and research and facilitates networking for the development of new national and international clinical research studies in lung cancer and mesothelioma.

BTOG's Chair, Dr Sanjay Popat says, "BTOG is thrilled to be returning to Dublin to welcome delegates from the UK and Ireland and speakers from the UK, Ireland, Europe, USA and Australia. BTOG 2017 provides an excellent opportunity for everyone involved in thoracic oncology to come together to network and share information and

to see the latest developments in the specialty presented by national and international experts."

Around 200 abstracts are expected to be submitted where health care professionals showcase their research and audit and these abstracts are published in a supplement to Lung Cancer.

Dr Popat continues "BTOG's vision is for effective and accessible treatments to exist for all thoracic malignancies and the patient is at the centre of everything we do. This is no more evident than at the annual conference where colleagues come together from all over the UK and Ireland and beyond with that shared ethos".

Further information for BTOG 2017 can be found at: www.btog.org or by emailing dawn.mckinley@btog.org

IX Congress of Oncologists and Radiologist of CIS and Eurasia

Date: 15-17 June 2016. Venue: Minsk, Belarus. Report by: Mikhail Reutovich.

The IX Congress of oncologists and radiologists of Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Eurasia was held in Minsk. The Congress was attended by more than 3,000 participants from the CIS countries, Lithuania, Latvia, Australia and USA. The basic concept of the Congress – "From early diagnosis to effective treatment." The traditional focus of discussion was the timely diagnosis of cancer, introduction of effective screening programs. Creating an effective system of management of cancer service was a cutting edge issue, as well as development of national cancer registries, as a tool for objective and comparable assessment of the results achieved on the basis of international standards. In addition the focus of the delegates – screening, multi-disciplinary approach to achieve a fundamental oncology management issues. With the participation of experts of the National Cancer Institute of USA was held a Panel Session "Central Asia Cancer



Control Planning and Implementation (CCPI).

Opening the conference director of the N.N. Alexandrov National Cancer Center of Belarus prof. Sukonko said that present-day oncology in CIS countries involves various western technologies, but it is necessary to introduce achievements of national researchers. Further progress in this direction should be associated with the identification of trends and most perspective research areas and ways of



their implementation, in extension of the information field and interaction between scientific, medical and pharmaceutical organisations.

The Congress scientific programme included not only the scientific presentations, satellite symposia and discussions, but it was an exhibition of modern scientific achievements in the field of drug treatment of cancer, as well as specialised medical equipment.

During the Congress, a memorandum of cooperation was signed by the International Agency for Research on Cancer and N.N. Alexandrov National Cancer Center of Belarus. Director of the International Agency for Research on Cancer, Christopher Wilde, noted that the partnership is expected in the field of cancer control and multi-center research. Now Belarusian doctors will have access to the experience of world experts, in particular, in the field of genetic and molecular diagnostics. An important aspect of teamwork - management efficiency Belarusian screening programs.