News update

Latest developments on products and services from the industry. To have your news included contact Patricia McDonnell on patricia@oncologynews.biz or T/F: +44 (0)288 289 7023.

New paper free pouch for Berner Gloves

Berner remains the glove of choice for those handling cytotoxics within an aseptic environment and the new upgrade to poly packaging enables them to be used in paper free environments.

Berner gloves are CE marked and aseptically presented in a clean peel pouch printed with lot number and expiry date and the poly pouches can be liberally sprayed with alcohol for aseptic transfer.

The gloves fully comply with European PPE category III, EN374 chemical and bacteriological and EN388 mechanical standards. Full breakthrough data for a range of cytotoxics including carmustine, cisplastin and methotrexate together with other technical support information is available on request.

For more information on how to safely manage cytotoxic substances in your department, please call Helapet on 0800 0328 428, or visit our website on www.helapet.co.uk to view our full range.

European center begins treatments using brachytherapy devices and software from Varian

One of Europe's leading hospitals offering brachytherapy treatments for cancer patients has commenced treatments using three advanced computer-controlled afterloader devices and a full suite of planning software from Varian Medical Systems. French cancer patients will benefit from advanced brachytherapy treatments following the decision by Institute Gustave-Roussy (IGR) in Paris to install Varian's GammaMed™ PDR (pulsed dose rate) afterloaders to replace five aging low dose rate brachytherapy devices.

Dr. Christine Haie-Meder, head of brachytherapy at IGR, said three gynaecological cancer patients had been treated on the new equipment so far. "These new devices and software enable us to increase our optimized 3D-based brachytherapy procedures, especially in gynecological tumors, as well as enabling us to replace low dose rate with pulsed dose rate treatments, " said Dr. Haie-Meder. "For patients, this means we can potentially increase the quality of the treatments."

Brachytherapy involves treating cancer by temporarily placing radioactive sources within or adjacent to the tumor. Pulsed dose rate brachytherapy involves short pulses of radiation, typically once an hour, twenty-four hours per day, to simulate the overall rate and effectiveness of low dose rate treatments. Typical tumor sites treated by PDR brachytherapy are gynecological, head and neck, anal canal and penile cancers, as well as pediatric tumors such as rhabdomyosarcoma.

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Gen-Probe launches the ELUCIGENE™ KRAS.BRAF Kit

Gen-Probe Incorporated has launched in Europe the ELUCIGENETM KRAS.BRAF kit, a highly sensitive, singletube assay designed for the simultaneous quantitative detection of seven common KRAS mutations and the V600E BRAF mutation. The CE-marked assay provides valuable information regarding mutation status that can help clinicians determine the most appropriate treatment course for patients with metastatic colorectal cancer.

Treating metastatic colorectal cancer with anti-epidermal growth factor receptor (anti-EGFR) antibody inhibitors such as cetuximab and panitumumab has been shown to increase survival over treatment by chemotherapy alone. However, the therapy is ineffective in patients whose tumours demonstrate a KRAS or BRAF mutation. The ELUCIGENE KRAS.BRAF assay can help clinicians identify patients who will not benefit from anti-EGFR therapies, thereby reducing unnecessary expense and risk of toxic exposure. Indeed, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) approval for the two major anti-EGFR therapies, Vectibix and Erbitux, is contingent on testing for KRAS mutations prior to treatment.

Designed for simplicity and ease of use, the ELUCIGENE KRAS.BRAF test is a single-tube, ARMS (Amplification Refractory Mutation System)-PCR based fluorescent assay that is performed on ABI genetic analyzers for high throughput and rapid analysis. The simultaneous detection of KRAS and BRAF mutations reduces laboratory workload, analysis time and the potential for sample mix-up. Minimal hands-on time is required. Since all reagents are supplied pre-mixed, performing the test requires only the addition of patient DNA. The test is highly sensitive, achieving a 1% detection sensitivity of mutant sequence in a normal background.

For more information, customers can contact Gen-Probe customer service
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GEN-PROBE

Swiss Cancer Centre Begins Treatments Using TrueBeam System from Varian

A leading cancer clinic has become the second in Switzerland to begin delivering advanced radiotherapy treatments using the new TrueBeam™ system from Varian Medical Systems. More than 30 patients have been treated using the new system for fast, precise radiotherapy and radiosurgery since clinical treatments began at Kantonsspital Winterthur in northern Switzerland.

A 75-year-old man with prostate cancer was the first patient to receive treatment on the TrueBeam system. "This treatment was very fast and it went extremely well," said Dr Urs Meier, the hospital's head of radiation oncology. "We have subsequently treated patients with CNS tumors, lymphoma and lesions in the head & neck, all with intent to cure."

"TrueBeam enables radio-oncology departments to perform precise image-guided treatments with unmatched speed, thereby allowing a greater number of cancer patients to benefit from advanced techniques in a more timely manner," added Dr. Meier.

Dr Carlos Calle, lead medical physicist, said, "Thanks to a smooth installation and commissioning process, we were able to begin TrueBeam treatments quickly."

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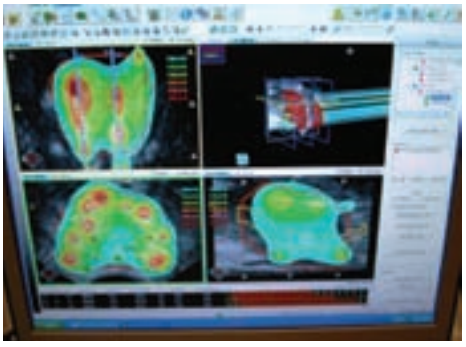
Leading Bulgarian Hospital Choose Prostate HDR Brachytherapy

Nucletron, a leading provider of state-of-the-art radiotherapy solutions for cancer treatment recently reported that The Specialised Hospital for Active Treatment in Oncology –SBALO-EAD in Sofia, Bulgaria, has treated its first patients using Nucletron's state-of-the-art solution for prostate HDR brachytherapy. This leading Bulgarian hospital is investing in precision cancer treatment and has decided to focus efforts on brachytherapy.



The Bulgarian Minister of Health, the Mayor of Sofia and leaders of Bulgarian cancer patient associations, together with the Bulgarian Medical Association, investigated prostate HDR brachytherapy treatment during a special Bulgarian event dedicated to the worldwide Breast Cancer Awareness month. The Minister of Health and the Mayor of Sofia also witnessed the first patients being treated using HDR brachytherapy at Örebrö University Hospital, Sweden.

Compared to other forms of radiotherapy, like external beam (EBRT), brachytherapy can deliver the required dose of radiation over a significantly shortened treatment time.

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T: + 44 (0)7764 831828.

Elsevier announces title change and new Editor-In-Chief for *Cancer Genetics and Cytogenetics Journal*

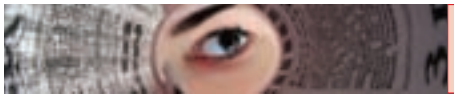
Elsevier announced recently that its *Cancer Genetics and Cytogenetics* journal is changing its title to *Cancer Genetics* and has named Dr Jaclyn A Biegel as editor-in-chief.

The changes reflect broader aims and scope for the journal, with a new focus on diagnostic applications as well as the genetic predisposition of cancer, and mark an important move by Elsevier to provide the STM community with a wider variety of original, clinically relevant information for the diagnosis, prognosis and risk evaluation of cancer patients and a greater understanding of how altered gene regulation will ultimately lead to new, targeted therapies for treatment. The first issue of *Cancer Genetics* will be published in January 2011, with a new cover and interior design.

Journal Editor-in-Chief Dr Biegel, said, "In addition to papers on the cellular, genetic and molecular aspects of cancer, I look forward to publishing a greater number of articles in the areas of genetic predisposition to cancer, personalised medicine, and new diagnostic approaches. We also welcome the submission of classical cytogenetic reports."

"This is an extraordinary time to work in the field of cancer genetics, as we continue to elucidate the genetic etiology of the many different diseases we call cancer, and enter the era of personalised medicine." she added.

For further information on Cancer Genetics visit: www.cancergeneticsjournal.org



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Varian to supply radiotherapy treatment machines to global hospitals in India

Advanced cancer treatments across India will become more widely available with the order of four state-of-the-art Varian Medical Systems medical linear accelerators by Global Hospitals, one of the nation's leading private hospital groups. Three TrueBeam™ STx systems and a UNIQUE™ accelerator will be installed at Global Hospitals sites in Bangalore, Chennai, Mumbai and Hyderabad in 2011.

Dr. Ravindranath said "Global Hospitals in Bangalore, Chennai and Mumbai were selected to receive new TrueBeam STx treatment machines because of the rapidly increasing cancer incidence in these major population centers, along with the strength of the neuroscience departments in those hospitals," He said "The TrueBeam STx systems, all of which are equipped with

BrainLAB iPlan planning systems, will enable Global Hospitals to offer the most advanced stereotactic and hypo-fractionated image-guided radiotherapy treatments available anywhere and would be shared by the group's oncologists and neurosurgeons. TrueBeam systems are capable of delivering treatments much more quickly than any other treatment machine and this enables cancer centers in these hospitals to treat more patients. The UNIQUE accelerator, which also features Varian's RapidArc® treatment technology for fast image-guided IMRT, is bound for the Aware Global Hospital in Hyderabad.

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Nucletron's partnership with Velocity Medical Solutions to offer advanced treatment planning tools

Nucletron recently announced a partnership with Velocity Medical Solutions to distribute Velocity Advanced Imaging (VelocityAI) products worldwide. VelocityAI technology complements any treatment planning system, including Nucletron's Oncentra platform, providing advanced visualisation, automated multi-modality image registration and quantitative imaging information, all at the fingertips of physicians via an intuitive and simple-to-use interface. Over seventy cancer centres worldwide use Velocity software for more accurate targeting of tumours.

VelocityAI provides a unique viewing and clinical decision-making platform that seamlessly incorporates the massive amount of diagnostic imaging and treatment information generated in clinical environments, allowing physicians to evaluate imaging data anywhere, at anytime. Clinicians have the flexibility to perform/review image registration and tumour contouring outside the department, including rapid fusion of diagnostic imaging modalities to create planning images, ensuring the best match for anatomical and biological modelling.

Velocity Advanced Imaging Solutions software enables physicians to use multi-modality imaging data to develop treatment plans, taking advantage of a variety of clinical applications including adaptive radiation therapy planning and assessment.

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World's first molecular MR system unveiled

For the first time, a Magnetic Resonance (MR) scanner and PET (Positron Emission Tomography) detection system have been combined to simultaneously capture tissue and cellular data from inside the human body. The Biograph mMR* system from Siemens Healthcare is a new concept in diagnostic imaging that will revolutionise whole-body scanning.

The 3 Tesla MR provides exquisite morphological and functional details in human tissue and PET goes further to investigate the human body at the level of cellular activity and metabolism. The innovative system has the potential to be a valuable tool for identifying oncological, neurological and cardiac conditions of disease.

Siemens Healthcare has unveiled the Biograph mMR, a Magnetic Resonance (MR) scanner and PET (Positron Emission Tomography) detection system combined for the simultaneous capture of tissue and cellular data from inside the human body.

Peter Harrison, Divisional Director, Imaging and Therapy at Siemens Healthcare in the UK states, "This is an exciting development in the field of medical imaging combining established and proven imaging techniques. Initial research also suggests that Molecular MR can scan the entire body in 30 minutes compared to one hour or more for sequential MR and PET examinations. This combination of speed, lower dose and greater anatomical data has the potential to improve the diagnosis and ultimate treatment of many conditions."

For further information visit:www.siemens.co.uk/healthcare

Treatments commence in Italy using Varian's TrueBeam Radiotherapy system


Dr Marta Scorsetti

A 54-year-old head & neck cancer patient has become the first person in Italy to be treated using a revolutionary new linear accelerator that can deliver radiotherapy twice as fast as conventional therapy machines. The Humanitas Clinic in Rozzano-Milan carried out the treatment last week, becoming only the third hospital in Europe to begin clinical treatments using TrueBeam™ from Varian Medical Systems.

The patient, suffering from cancer of the rhino pharynx, received the required dose of radiotherapy in five treatment sessions using 2-arc RapidArc® radiotherapy, after which clinicians said his symptoms had alleviated considerably. "We are very satisfied with the progress to date and the patient appears to be responding well," says Dr Marta Scorsetti, chief physician at the private clinic.

Dr Scorsetti said the TrueBeam accelerator will be used to treat 50 patients a day and treatments will focus on hypo-fractionated stereotactic body radiotherapy, in particular for liver and pancreatic cancer, non small-cell lung cancer and lymph-node metastases. "TrueBeam will enable us to offer treatments for different kinds of pathologies than have previously been possible with radiosurgery here at Humanitas." said Dr. Scorsetti.

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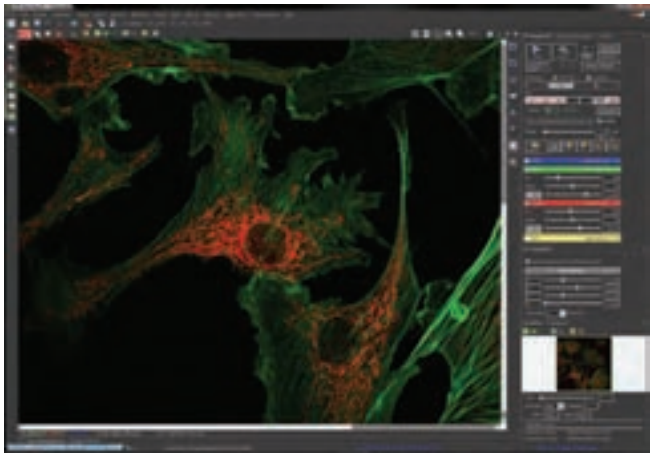
Updated software offers unrivalled imaging options



Nikon Instruments has introduced version 3.2 of its comprehensive imaging software, NIS-Elements. Following the launch of Microsoft's exciting new Windows® 7 operating system, Nikon has been able to offer unrivalled imaging performance by developing its software to incorporate many unique features. Nikon's commitment to continually expand the performance of its confocal and widefield imaging systems, combined with feedback and collaboration with its customers in the biosciences marketplace, has resulted in improved instrument control combined with enhanced image acquisition and data analysis. Version 3.2 includes updated core features to facilitate customised experiments and evolving protocols and comes with optional software upgrade agreements for easier access to future software updates.

NIS-Elements provides complete control over Nikon motorised microscopes and other devices in four distinct packages scaled to address specific application requirements: AR – optimised for advanced research applications, with fully automated 6D image acquisition and device control; BR – suitable for standard research applications, such as analysis and photodocumentation of fluorescent imaging through 4D image acquisition; C – enables full integration of confocal specific acquisition controls together with advanced image analysis functionality; and version D which supports colour documentation requirements in bioresearch, clinical and industrial applications with basic measuring and reporting capabilities.

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W: www.nikoninstruments.eu/niselements

Actor Sheila Hancock to launch £7m drive to address lack of brain tumour research

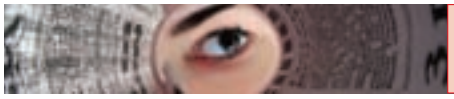
Brain Tumour Research
Funding the fight

In the UK, brain tumours kill more children than leukaemia or any other cancer ; more women under the age of 35 than breast or any other cancer; yet brain tumour research receives less than 1% of national cancer research spending.

Brain Tumour Research, a group of 18 brain tumour charities, have launched the £7m 'Centres of Hope' fundraising campaign to address the serious under-funding of research into the UK's biggest cancer killer of children and adults under 40. The campaign is being championed by Actor and Author Sheila Hancock, whose grandson Jack was diagnosed with a brain tumour, and Speaker of the House of Commons, John Bercow MP.

The 'Centres of Hope' campaign aims to raise £7m for seven centres of excellence to get seven times closer to a cure, the first of which is at the University of Portsmouth.

For further information visit:
www.braintumourresearch.org



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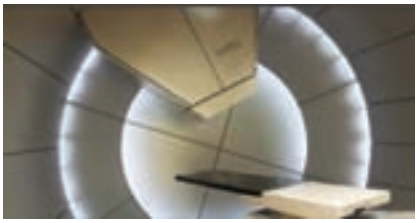
News update

Varian-equipped Proton Therapy Center becomes first hospital to offer IMPT cancer treatments



Rinecker Proton Therapy Center in Munich, Germany has become the first hospital in the world equipped to provide clinical treatments using intensity modulated proton therapy (IMPT), a precise and fast way to deliver conformal proton therapy treatments. The Center can provide advanced IMPT treatments thanks to improvements in the scanning delivery system enabled by equipment provider Varian Medical Systems. The hospital has also reached a landmark by bringing its fourth treatment gantry into clinical use.

"The advantage of IMPT over other forms of proton therapy is the potential for improved dose conformity and better sparing of dose to critical structures," says Dr Joerg Hauffe, chief executive officer of ProHealth, the center's operating company. "By including IMPT in our clinical program, we can be very flexible in planning our therapies and use the full potential of these advanced treatments for the benefit of our patients. Proton therapy is already recognized as a very effective way of targeting tumours while minimizing dose to surrounding healthy tissue and this allows even greater precision."

Varian has been at the forefront of advances in treatment precision including intensity modulated radiotherapy and image-guided radiotherapy. "We recognized the potential of IMPT when we entered the proton therapy field," says Moataz Karmalawy, head of Varian's particle therapy group.

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