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.

Swedish University Hospital orders four of Varian's TrueBeam™ radiotherapy systems

Varian Medical Systems has been awarded a contract to supply four TrueBeam™ treatment systems to Lund University Hospital in Sweden, one of the country's largest radiotherapy departments. The order is aimed at cutting treatment waiting lists in the Skåne region of Sweden and includes an option to acquire two further TrueBeam™ systems in 2014.

The TrueBeam™ devices will replace treatment machines from a rival manufacturer and Varian's ARIA software suite is replacing the incumbent software, as Lund University Hospital and its partner site at Malmö University – which combined under the banner Skåne University Hospital last year – switch to an integrated, single-vendor environment.

"We are looking to offer fast and advanced radiotherapy treatments at Lund and Varian was selected because it fulfils our quality demands," says lead radiation oncologist Dr Thomas Björk-Eriksson. "We need machines that can deliver very conformal radiotherapy in a fast and safe way, enabling us to offer advanced techniques such as RapidArc® volumetric radiotherapy and stereotactic radiosurgery.

"This region currently has waiting lists for radiotherapy of four to eight weeks and we want to reduce that to less than two weeks," adds Dr Björk-Eriksson. "We believe our new equipment and software will enable us to work towards that target."

For further information contact:
Neil Madle, Varian Medical Systems,
T: +44 (0)7786 526068,
E: neil.madle@varian.com

Optimal chemo-radiotherapy approaches in NSCLC – A proposal for a national trial

On the 13th of October a meeting was held to develop clinical trial proposals that aim to standardise chemo-radiotherapy in the UK. A recent Cochrane review[1] of radical chemo-radiotherapy demonstrated the benefit of a concurrent approach over a sequential treatment or radiotherapy alone. This is reflected in recent NICE guidelines, but an assessment of radiotherapy services offered in the UK showed that almost 40% of centres remain unable to deliver combined modality treatment.

The meeting was attended by a number of Consultant Oncologists, Radiographers, Statisticians, and included representation from Cancer Research UK (CR-UK) and patient groups. It was agreed that treatment recommendations should address all those patients with stage III disease receiving curative, non-surgical, treatment; those suitable for first definitive concurrent chemo-radiotherapy and those unsuitable, for reasons including performance status and pre-existing medical conditions.

A concurrent study would compare accelerated hypofractionated chemo-radiotherapy with conventional chemo-radiotherapy. For those patients unsuitable for concurrent treatment there are three CR-UK phase I/II trials currently recruiting to define a personal approach to radiotherapy dosing (CHART-ED, IDEAL and iSTART). Continued recruitment to these is encouraged and future studies in this population of patients will randomise the preferred/best approaches.

A consensus was agreed for further protocol development to proceed and the group will meet again at January's British Thoracic Oncology Group meeting to take a proposal forward to CR-UK.

This meeting was supported with an unrestricted medical grant from Pierre Fabre. For further information please contact:
E: nikki.roebuck@pierre-fabre.com

Reference
1. O'Rourke N et al. *Concurrent chemoradiotherapy in non-small cell lung cancer.* Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2010 Jun 16;(6):CD002140.

CureVac presents results of a Phase I/IIa trial in NSCLC with CV9201

CureVac, the mRNA vaccine company, recently presented the results of a Phase I/IIa trial in non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) with CV9201, an mRNA-based cancer vaccine, in patients with NSCLC stage IIIB/IV after first-line chemo-radiotherapy or chemotherapy, respectively. The trial strived to assess safety and toxicity of CV9201 as well as its ability to induce antigen-specific humoral and cellular immune responses in cancer patients. The results suggest that CV9201 is safe, well tolerated and biologically active. The trial evaluated a five dose regime of CV9201 delivered via intradermal injection in 46 patients.

The trial with CV9201 was the first to test an immunotherapy based on CureVac´s RNActive® vaccination technology in patients after heavy pre-treatment with chemotherapy. 65% of the phase IIa study patients responded to at least one antigen out of the five antigens in CV9201. "Importantly, CureVac's therapeutic mRNA vaccine CV9201 induces responses against multiple antigens in two thirds of immunologically responding patients. Moreover, we see profound B-cell activation in 61% of the patients. This makes an overall antigen-specific or B-cell response of 84%. We also see immune responses against all included antigens.

CureVac´s RNActive® tumour immunotherapy approach is independent of the HLA subtype. CV9201 is one candidate in CureVac's pipeline of RNActive®-derived molecules for the active immunotherapy of cancer. The vaccine comprises mRNA molecules encoding five different antigens of which three are cancer testis antigens.

All in all, these data are extremely encouraging and confirm our previous results in prostate cancer," said Dr. Kajo Kallen, CSO and CMO of CureVac.

For more information visit: W: www.curevac.com

Modular upright research microscopes for bioscience and medical research

The Nikon evolution in upright biological microscopes has advanced with the new Eclipse Ni series. Using core technology from Nikon's renowned Eclipse Ti inverted research microscope, the Eclipse Ni series offers multi-mode system expandability to meet the imaging needs of bioscience and medical research on one platform. The new Ni range also provides superior optical performance with new CFI Plan Apochromat Lambda series objectives, and the flexibility of assisted observation by motorisation. The range comprises the fully motorised Eclipse Ni-E flagship model with focusing nosepiece or focusing stage options, and the manual Eclipse

Ni-U with motorisation upgrade capability.

Nikon's highly acclaimed proprietary stratum structure in the Ni series opens up a vast range of imaging possibilities that can be upgraded at any time. Both models support research into the reactions and changes of stimulated cells with a newly developed photoactivation unit, a first for upright microscopes. The Eclipse Ni-E is also configurable for multiphoton imaging, as well as offering the option of fixed-stage configurations to meet the demands of experiments such as *in vivo* imaging for cardio vascular and neuroscience research applications.

For further information contact:
Nikon Instruments: T: +44 (0)208 247 1718,
E: info@nikoninstruments.eu
W: www.nikoninstruments.com/Ni-E

ICH selects Leica Microsystems to provide automated IHC platforms

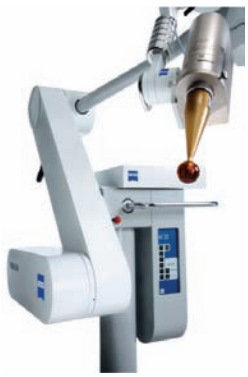
Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust has one of the largest immunohistochemistry / in situ hybridisation (IHC / ISH) workloads in the UK, performing almost 120,000 IHC slides a year. The Trust has selected Leica Microsystems' BOND platform to provide advanced IHC and ISH staining capabilities for cellular pathology services at its Hammersmith, Charing Cross and St Mary's Hospital sites. These hospitals are integrated with the Faculty of Medicine at Imperial College London, rated in 2011 as a top 10 global university by Times Higher Education in conjunction with Thomson Reuters.

The Trust has recently installed a total of 10 new Leica BOND systems, offering increased throughput and improved staining consistency for a wide range of assays. Donna Horncastle, Laboratory Manager for Cellular Pathology at Hammersmith Hospital, explained, "Cellular pathology services within the Trust are split across three separate laboratories, with each site covering a range of specialties. In order to standardise our practices we wanted to switch to fully automated immunostaining for both routine and research IHC and ISH. Following a comprehensive tender process, Leica Biosystems were able to offer the best solution for our needs, combining good staining quality with high throughput."

For more information contact:
Dr Kirstin Henze, Leica Microsystems GmbH,
T: +49 (0)6441/29 2550,
E: kirstin.henze@leica-microsystems.com
W: www.leica-microsystems.com

Zeiss Intrabeam®

Carl Zeiss (CZ) would like to announce the appointment of Alex Kypriotis as sales and business development manager for the Intrabeam® radiotherapy product portfolio. Alex has been appointed specifically to look after the Intrabeam® business of CZ in the UK and Ireland since the interest for this product has grown exponentially within the last two business years.



This radiotherapy device which is used for intra-operative radiotherapy (IORT) in breast cancer is a paradigm shift compared to conventional treatment technology and has a proven safety and efficacy profile in clinical practice since 1998 within the 'TARGIT' trial and beyond. Since the recently published article in *The Lancet* and associated data as well as other papers demonstrating quality of life and non-inferiority, new hospital departments have implemented this innovative technology and key opinion leaders are taking notice.

Alex will be supporting the current user base which has grown by 14% within the last year and using his extensive commercial and clinical background in radiotherapy to develop further partners within IORT.

For commercial and technical information
E: a.kypriotis@zeiss.co.uk
M: +44 (0)7557259655.

Wellington Hospital is first in southern hemisphere to offer patients TrueBeam™ treatments

Clinicians at one of New Zealand's leading hospitals have delivered more than 300 radiotherapy treatments using a newly-installed TrueBeam™ device in the first month of its implementation. The TrueBeam™ system from Varian Medical Systems adds to Wellington Hospital's radiotherapy capabilities and enables fast, precise and efficient treatments.

The first patient in the country – and the southern hemisphere – to be treated using the TrueBeam™ device was an 18-year-old man with Hodgkin's disease. "He commented on the speed with which the treatment was delivered and was enthusiastic to be our first patient treated on TrueBeam™," says Jennifer de Ridder, radiation therapist team leader at Wellington Hospital. "Many of our patients have commented on the speed of their treatments, which is a significant factor for those who are immobilised during treatment."

To manage treatment waiting times in New Zealand, the government recently introduced a target that all patients should commence radiotherapy within four weeks of a decision to treat. "We usually meet this target but need to be more efficient to continue meeting it in

future," says Carole Johnson, clinical leader of radiation oncology. "So more advanced treatment techniques must be incorporated without making treatment slots longer and without impacting our ability to meet this waiting time target. TrueBeam™ helps us to achieve this."

For further information contact:
Neil Madle, Varian Medical Systems,
T: +44 (0)7786 526068,
E: neil.madle@varian.com

The London Clinic launches new Advanced Therapies Centre

The Advanced Therapies Centre provides one of the first clinical trials programmes in the independent healthcare sector and will focus on Phase II and III clinical trials, offering patients access to the latest advances in treatments.

Housed in The London Clinic's new £90 million cancer centre, the first trials being undertaken focus on oncology including studies of immunotherapy agents in pancreatic and colorectal melanoma, amongst others. Further proposed studies include a comparison of the superiority of stereotactic radiosurgery with CyberKnife for cancers that have metastasised.

Alistair Gifford-Moore, Clinical Trials Manager states "Clinical trials are vitally important to

constantly improve the care of those with cancer. The new Advanced Therapies Centre is an exciting step forward for clinical research at the Clinic."

The programmes benefits include a rapid study set up time in 42 days, rapid patient recruitment with access via consultants' private practices and the Named Patient Programme allows equal access for private patients to unlicensed medication and off-label treatment in a controlled environment.

For more information, please contact:
Alistair Gifford-Moore, Clinical Trials Manager,
T: +44 (0)20 3219 3570,
E: atc@thelondonclinic.co.uk

Nucletron's VCMC applicator now in clinical use at Nottingham

Nottingham University Hospital recently purchased Nucletron's* Vaginal CT/MR Multi Channel (VCMC) Applicator and has now commenced clinical treatment using the new equipment. Initial feedback confirmed that treatment procedures are easier to perform with the applicator compared to current methods of delivery and that it is non-traumatic for patients. Dr Stephen Chan Clinical Oncologist comments, "Radiotherapy is the only curative treatment for the group of patients with cancer of the vagina. In the past we have used interstitial needles. This means the patient has a general anaesthetic for the insertion and remains immobilised in bed for three days. With the less invasive VCMC applicator we were able to treat the patient without an anaesthetic and on an outpatient basis. This was much more convenient for the patient and eliminated the trauma of needle insertion. It also removed the cost associated with theatre, anaesthetics and in-patient stays."

For further information visit:
W: www.nucletron.com
E: helen.hanratty@uk.nucletron.com
T: + 44 (0)7764 831828.

*Nucletron, an Elekta company

Nucletron's Vaginal CT/MR Multi Channel Applicator (VCMC).

Centre Val d'Aurelle first hospital in France to deliver advanced radiotherapy treatments using TrueBeam™

A 19-year-old brain tumour patient has become the first person in France to be treated using the highly advanced TrueBeam™ radiotherapy treatment system from Varian Medical Systems. The male patient's cerebral glioblastoma was treated quickly and efficiently at the Cancer Research Center of Languedoc-Roussillon at the Centre Val d'Aurelle, Montpellier. Following this initial treatment, dozens more patients have been treated using the newly-deployed device, one of three acquired by the hospital.

"We believe that the system's dose delivery speed and its unique ability to image the patient during the treatment will bring considerable benefits for our patients," says Professor Jean-Bernard Dubois, head of radiotherapy. "With TrueBeam™ we are able to image the tumour during the treatment and adapt the treatment delivery in 'real-time', which helps to better target the tumour and limit damage to surrounding healthy organs."

Dr. Pascal Fenoglietto, head of research of the hospital's physics department, said the TrueBeam™, which is now treating 20 patients a day, can deliver dose up to six times more quickly than other treatment devices, enabling much greater throughput at the busy hospital.

"We considered other systems but it was clear that TrueBeam™ can achieve the same treatment quality in a dramatically shorter time," he said.

For further information contact:
Neil Madle, Varian Medical Systems,
T: +44 (0)7786 526068,
E: neil.madle@varian.com

Hospital St John and St Elizabeth purchase Intrabeam®

The Hospital of St John and St Elizabeth is delighted to be one of the first private hospitals in the UK to have installed Intrabeam® by Zeiss for use in treatment of breast cancer. Intraoperative radiotherapy (IORT) involves giving a high dose of radiation therapy during surgery, precisely targeting the affected area with minimal exposure to the surrounding tissue during the lumpectomy procedure. This treatment can replace conventional postoperative external beam radiotherapy (EBRT) or is used in conjunction, with a reduced frequency of EBRT treatments.

Early results show that one dose of IORT has been proven to be as effective as 30-35 standard EBRT treatments by the large multicentre 'TARGIT' Trial.

Mr Mo Keshtgar, an internationally renowned Breast Surgeon who heads the team of consultants in The Breast Unit has helped to pioneer the use of IORT in the UK and is a world leading expert in breast cancer care. The Bupa registered Breast Unit is based at the unique charitable Hospital of St John and St Elizabeth in central London.

For further information, please visit the website: www.thebreastunit.org.uk

brainstrust charity awarded Information Standard Accreditation by the Department of Health

brainstrust's commitment to excellent patient information has been granted an official stamp of approval by the Department of Health which has awarded the charity with the Information Standard. This makes brainstrust the first dedicated brain tumour charity in the UK with this accreditation – the mark of high quality information. The purpose of this DoH sponsored scheme is to give members of the public an easy way to identify trustworthy health information on the Internet or in print.

With over 170,000 charities in the UK alone, brainstrust joins an elite band of just 126 to hold this accreditation.

Ingela Oberg, a specialist nurse at Cambridge University Hospitals Foundation Trust, finished with, "As a neuro oncology specialist nurse I am delighted to know that a UK brain tumour charity has achieved the highest standard of information accreditation. For the patients it means they have immediate access to trustworthy, evidence based information which is not only informative, but also concise as well as regularly updated. It means a lot to us as specialist nurses up and down the country knowing that we can signpost our patients and their families and carers to information, knowing they do not need to filter through any un-vetted information that may cause them undue stress and anxiety."

For further information visit W: www.theinformationstandard.org, or www.brainstrust.org.uk

Improving patient care takes more than just electronic prescribing

Elekta is the world leader in providing advanced clinical solutions for radiosurgery and radiation therapy, giving unmatched capability to aggressively treat tumours and functional targets with ultra-high precision. Elekta's sophisticated workflow enhancing software and treatment planning systems for Radiation Oncology and Medical Oncology provide state of the art tools and techniques across the spectrum of cancer care.

Leveraging more than 20 years of leadership and expertise, Elekta's MOSAIQ® Oncology Information System continues to set the standard for comprehensive patient charting, connectivity and usability across Radiation Oncology and Medical Oncology disciplines in a single system.

More than 1,400 global customers count on Elekta software to help them provide the safest and most efficient treatments in the fight against cancer.

From its multiple safety features, comprehensive electronic prescribing and dispensing, advanced scheduling, documentation and reporting capabilities, MOSAIQ is the tool of choice to effectively manage both Radiation therapy and Chemotherapy in cutting-edge treatment centres from a single database.

For further information contact: Patrick Greally, Elekta Limited, T: +44 (1293) 654 462, E: Patrick.Greally@elekta.com

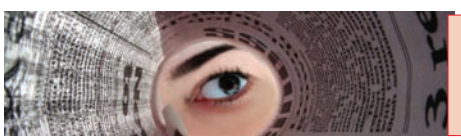
World-renowned cancer centre to become all-TrueBeam™ clinic in battle against cancer

One of Europe's leading cancer centres will be offering radiotherapy and radiosurgery treatments using fast and precise TrueBeam™ systems from Varian Medical Systems. The Maastro Clinic has acquired three TrueBeam™ systems for its main site in Maastricht and a satellite site in nearby Venlo as part of a project to replace all its equipment and software from an incumbent supplier.

"This will make a big improvement to the quality of cancer treatments for patients in this region and we are delighted to be able to introduce TrueBeam™ treatments in the Limburg area," says Maria Jacobs, managing director of the Maastro Clinic. "We intend to become the first cancer center in the world entirely equipped with TrueBeam™ systems."

Two further systems have been ordered for satellite site Venlo where installation is planned for 2012. Maastro has signed a contract for three additional TrueBeam™ devices which are intended to be installed in stages at the main clinic. The hospital has also ordered a full suite of Varian software for treatment planning and oncology information management.

For further information contact: Neil Madle, Varian Medical Systems, T: +44 (0)7786 526068, E: neil.madle@varian.com



To have your news item included in this section contact
Patricia on patricia@oncologynews.biz

CureVac, Sanofi Pasteur and In-Cell-Art collaborate on a $33.1m project

CureVac GmbH recently announced the signing of several agreements with Sanofi Pasteur SA, the vaccines division of Sanofi. Under these agreements, CureVac and Sanofi Pasteur will further develop and apply CureVac's proprietary RNActive® technology platform to the development of vaccines against several infectious diseases and several tumours.

A research proposal with total funding of $33.1 million involving a collaboration among CureVac, Sanofi Pasteur (including Sanofi Pasteur VaxDesign Corp.) and In-Cell-Art SAS, a French biotech company contributing its nanoparticle technology, has been selected by DARPA, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (an agency of the United States Department of Defense). In this four-year project, CureVac and the other parties to the collaboration will further advance key aspects of CureVac's RNActive® technology platform and will evaluate several vaccine candidates in a number of relevant disease models.

CureVac´s RNActive® tumour immunotherapy approach is independent of the HLA subtype. CV9201 is one candidate in CureVac's pipeline of RNActive®-derived molecules for the active immunotherapy of cancer. The vaccine comprises mRNA molecules encoding five different antigens of which three are cancer testis antigens.

For more information visit:
W: www.curevac.com

Zeiss Intrabeam® installed at The Princess Grace Hospital

The renowned pioneer of Inter Operative Radiotherapy, (IORT), breast surgeon Mr Jayant Vaidya, has joined the breast care team at The Princess Grace Hospital in central London.

Mr Vaidya co-developed IORT – a process whereby a single dose of radiotherapy is delivered directly into the breast following the removal of a tumour before the completion of the operation – in the late 1990s together with a distinguished team of cancer specialists, at University College Hospital London.

IORT avoids women having repetitive radiotherapy sessions over a three to six weeks period, some weeks after their operation. This novel approach, uses an Intrabeam® radiotherapy machine which was designed by Mr Vaidya and the UCH team. The procedure is called TARGeted Intra-operative radiotherapy (TARGIT). This procedure has been on trial for over a decade by breast cancer teams around the world with extremely favourable results recently published in *The Lancet*.

The Princess Grace hospital is one of the first private hospitals in the UK to install the Intrabeam® radiotherapy device with service commencement expected in early 2012.

For further information visit:
W: www.Zeiss.co.uk

OSL expands

Oncology Systems Limited is starting 2012 on a high with two new distribution contracts. OSL has signed a five year distribution deal with US-based fiducial marker manufacturer Cortex, the people behind the original ACCULOC markers; and secured a new distributor for its own ImSimQA software in the Netherlands, Medsuro Medical Equipment.

The Cortex contract will see OSL sell the company's advanced implanted marker line in the UK and Ireland. Stuart Baldwin, OSL's sales director said: "This revolutionary new range of advanced markers complements our existing offerings and gives us the flexibility to offer a complete solution for all treatment sites and imaging modalities, including new breast markers and markers that show up equally well in both CT and MR."

ImSimQA's most advanced functionality to date was launched on 19 December 2011, with more extensive QA tools for testing techniques such as deformable image registration and atlas-based auto contouring that are now essential for IMRT, ART, IGRT and SBRT. Dean Willems, OSL product specialist believes that Medsuro Medical Equipment is the perfect partner for the distribution of the software. He said: "Medsuro has vast experience in radiotherapy and we look forward to ImSimQA being in use across the Netherlands during 2012."

For more information contact,
Pam Schreier, OSL Marketing Manager,
T: +44 (0)1743 462694, or
+44(0)7595 650943,
E: pam.schreier@osl.uk.com