

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

Varian Medical Systems selected to equip two national proton therapy centers in England

Varian Medical Systems recently announced that it has been selected to equip and service the new multi-room HollandPTC in Delft with the Varian ProBeam® proton therapy system. The company will book the equipment part of the order in its fiscal 2015 third quarter.

HollandPTC is a key part of Medical Delta, the medical-technological collaboration of the universities and university medical centers of Leiden, Delft and Rotterdam. When completed, the center will feature two proton therapy treatment rooms with full rotational gantries as well as facilities for fixed-beam eye treatments and research. Equipment installation is expected to take place in mid-2016, with patient treatments expected to begin in the second half of 2017.



"We are pleased to be selected to supply our ProBeam system for this prestigious project," said Moataz Karmalawy, managing director of Varian's particle therapy business. "As well as offering pencil-beam scanning, the most advanced form of proton therapy, HollandPTC will be a key research site feeding into a national program to study the efficacy of protons."

Varian's ProBeam system with Dynamic Peak™ Scanning is uniquely capable of high-speed intensity modulated proton therapy (IMPT) which is the most precise form of proton therapy available.

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First collaborative UK brain tumour scientists' workshop run by charity fosters new levels of partnership

In an exciting step towards finding a cure for brain tumours, which kill more children and adults under the age of 40 than any other cancer, the charity Brain Tumour Research brought together leading scientists and clinicians to help accelerate research into this devastating disease.

A dozen researchers from the charity's four Research Centres of Excellence – Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, Plymouth University, Queen Mary University of London (in partnership with UCL in London) and the University of Portsmouth – met in Swindon at the end of May to present the latest developments from their research programmes.

The first workshop of its kind in the UK organised by a brain tumour charity was aimed at fostering pro-active partnerships. Sharing insights, the team looked at developments in research for low and high-grade brain tumours, adult and paediatric brain tumours, and multi-pronged targeting of brain tumours by attacking mitochondria controlling cancer cell growth and killing the stem cells that produce cancer cells. Surgical advances were revealed, including updates on the iKnife – a smart scalpel which provides real-time diagnostic information about tumour type.

Areas of prospective collaboration and interaction were identified to speed up the process of research translation from laboratory into clinical trials. These included developing initiatives and procedures around biobanking, obtaining and sharing brain tumour tissue samples. The need for greater funding to fast-track research translation from laboratory to clinic and to combine efforts to combat glioblastoma multiforme (GBM), the most



The Brain Tumour Research workshop brought together scientists from the charity's four Centres of Excellence (L to R) Oliver Hanemann, Jade Lyons Rimmer, Helen Fillmore, Richard Hill, Sue Farrington Smith, Claudia Barros, Karolinger Jaworek, Stephen Painter, Rob Hughes, Sara Ferluga, Sebastian Brandner, Silvia Marino, Wendy Fulcher, Nelofer Syed, Sam Murray, Rhiannon Lloyd, Babar Vaqas, Crispin Zeeman, Kevin O'Neill, Geoff Pilkington.

common and deadly form of brain tumour, were recognised.

Professor Geoff Pilkington, from the charity's first research Centre of Excellence at the University of Portsmouth, said: "This funding stream is enabling us to look at many diverse areas of research. Repurposing drugs, new drug delivery systems, paediatric neuro-oncology, cancer metastases, the brain tumour micro-environment and a mitochondrial and metabolic approach to brain tumours.

"This workshop was a step forward with a lot of challenging debate about what we wanted to prioritise in future collaborations. Having Brain Tumour Research facilitate the workshop meant we were challenged to identify the best areas of research where we felt we could advance and maximise results together."

Sue Farrington Smith, Chief Executive of Brain Tumour Research, said: "We have four

flourishing Brain Tumour Research Centres in the UK, meaning we are able to build on specialist expertise and experience and encourage cross-pollination of the very best thinking.

"Our ultimate vision is to find a cure for brain tumours through acceleration of research into this most devastating of diseases.

"Brain tumours kill more children and adults under the age of 40 than any other cancer... Yet just 1% of the national spend on cancer research is allocated to this devastating disease. This is unacceptable!

"We are striving to fund a network of seven dedicated research centres whilst challenging the government and larger cancer charities to invest more in brain tumour research.

"Help us fund the fight. Together we will find a cure."

For further information visit: www.braintumourresearch.org

Varian Establishes Local Entity in Saudi Arabia to Support Expansion in Middle East

Varian Medical Systems is expanding in the Middle East with the creation of a strategic operating entity in Saudi Arabia. Varian Medical Systems Arabia, the result of a joint venture with El Seif Development Group, was officially launched at a ceremony attended by local dignitaries and Varian's chief executive officer Dow Wilson.

"This move represents the next step in our commitment both to cancer patients and the medical community in Saudi Arabia," said Dow Wilson. "Radiotherapy plays a vital and cost effective role in treating cancer and we are committed to making more advanced treatment systems available to more patients across the region."

Varian Medical Systems Arabia will be home



to 35 sales, service and administrative employees supporting Varian's three business segments: Oncology Systems, Imaging Components and Particle Therapy. Varian has also established a spare parts depot in Riyadh.

Mazyad Al Utaibi, managing director of VMS Arabia said "Our expertise, experience, strengths and capabilities ensure we are well placed to continue offering our partners the latest technology and local service to fight cancer and help save lives."

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New technology trialled to respond to chemotherapy patients' side effects

The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre is to become the first centre in the North West to trial the use of a mobile phone system developed by researchers at the University of Surrey (The Advanced Symptom Management System) which offers a more effective way to respond to chemotherapy patients' side effects.

The Centre currently operates a 24 hour telephone triage service, to determine whether or not patients need urgent medical care. This trial is set to support the current service and help the centre's triage teams to react even quicker to alleviate side effects.

Patients are to be offered a specifically programmed smartphone to take home, which will help them keep track of their symptoms, and



get support when needed, by communicating directly with staff at the Centre through the mobile network.

Initially the trial will include patients undergoing one cycle of chemotherapy for breast and colorectal cancer. In the next stage this will be rolled out to more patients who will be asked to use the device for three cycles of treatment.

The study, which is led by Professor Roma Maguire from the University of Surrey follows on from similar trials testing this type of technology at a number of other locations across the country.

For more details T: 0113 887 3873 or
E: clatterbridge@finncomms.com

Queen's researchers in £5 million programme to improve bowel cancer survival

Researchers at Queen's University Belfast have launched a revolutionary personalised treatment programme to help improve bowel cancer survival rates.

The £5 million initiative aims to fundamentally change how we treat bowel cancer patients, both in the UK and around the world, by personalising their treatments and ensuring that each patient gets access to the most effective therapies.

The S-CORT Consortium, jointly launched and funded by Medical Research Council (MRC) and Cancer Research UK (CRUK), will employ the latest state-of-the-art techniques to define the genetic make-up of bowel cancer cells, collected from over 2,000 patients from large clinical trials, and use the information to develop personalised care plans for individual cancer patients.

Head of the S-CORT Consortium, Professor

Tim Maughan, based at the University of Oxford, said: "Bowel cancer survival has more than doubled in the last 40 years. But there is still a lot more work to do. Recognising this challenge, we have brought together key partners to develop new ways to tailor treatment to the patients who will benefit the most, and make a significant difference to their chances of beating this common disease."

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Cancer Fund for Children's successful partnership with Rory Foundation at Dubai Duty Free Irish Open

Cancer Fund for Children, the charity that supports families across the island of Ireland who are affected by cancer, joined up with The Rory Foundation in an extremely successful partnership at the Dubai Duty Free Irish Open 2015 in May.

The charity that provides practical, emotional and financial support as well as free therapeutic short breaks is thrilled to be benefitting from money that was raised by World #1 golfer and Cancer Fund for Children ambassador Rory McIlroy's charity.

Throughout the Open Week there were two major fundraising events that took place including a drinks reception at Daisy Lodge – the charity's therapeutic short break facility in Newcastle and a gala dinner. The amount of funds raised is thought to be in the region of £250,000.



Brothers Zach and Adam Braithwaite from Gilnahirk and their cousin Darcey Braithwaite from Bangor helped Cancer Fund for Children launch its working partnership with the Rory Foundation at the Dubai Duty Free Irish Open.

In addition to this, four children who are supported by the charity won a competition to design Nike shoes that Rory wore throughout the Irish Open. They also got to meet the man himself and were presented with their own pair of Nikes featuring their designs.

Cancer Fund for Children's CEO Gillian Creevy, said: "We were thrilled that Rory was back in Newcastle supporting a hard-working local charity that is close to his heart. In October, last year, Rory officially opened Daisy Lodge and donated £1m towards the running costs. Over 400 families have already enjoyed a relaxing break there. Money raised via the Rory Foundation will help us continue this work."

Visit: www.cancerfundforchildren.com

MRI-guided radiation therapy system is focus of Elekta seminar

Approximately 70 healthcare providers attended an Elekta seminar, titled "Elekta, Shaping the Future in MR Image Guidance," at the 8th UK Radiation Oncology Conference in Coventry. The seminar focused on Elekta's work-in-progress high field magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) guided radiation therapy system (MR linac).

Elekta's Jill Stief described the MR linac's design and how Elekta has opened five new MR linac bunkers at its Crawley headquarters to enable construction of units for clinical MR Linac Consortium partners.

In her talk, the Christie Hospital's (Manchester) Dr Ananya Choudhury outlined how a multidisciplinary team approach is



contributing to the MR linac's development, and discussed the disease sites that could benefit from MR image guidance of radiotherapy.

Dr Simeon Nill, of the Royal Marsden Hospital and ICR (London) explained how Agility™ multileaf collimator – Elekta's advanced beam-shaping technology that will be integrated in the MR linac – is equipped to cope with dynamic tracking delivery techniques of the MR linac.

For further information Email: andre.silveira@elekta.com

The MRI-guided radiation therapy system is a works in progress and not available for sale or distribution.

Leading doctor hits the right notes for charity

One of Northern Ireland's leading oncologists is swapping his stethoscope for a guitar, all to raise funds for Friends of the Cancer Centre.

Professor Joe O'Sullivan, clinical director of oncology at the Cancer Centre at Belfast City Hospital, has written and recorded an album inspired by his patients and his work as an oncologist. The album, *Take a Deep Breath* features ten tracks covering some of the memorable encounters Joe has had with his patients throughout his career.

Commenting on the album, Joe said: "The inspiration behind the album comes from the courageous people I've had the privilege of meeting and treating over the years. When I began the writing process I started to reflect on some of the wisdom I have learned from my patients, especially learning how to appreciate the important things in life and living in the moment."

In a fitting partnership, Joe is donating the proceeds from the album to one of Northern Ireland's leading cancer charities, Friends of the Cancer Centre.

Take a Deep Breath is available to buy from www.friendsofthecancercentre.com and iTunes now.



Professor Joe O'Sullivan, clinical director of oncology at the Cancer Centre at Belfast City Hospital joins Colleen Shaw, chief executive of Friends of the Cancer Centre. Photo by

New resources encourage people to talk about end of life care

A new training pack has been launched to increase awareness and further understanding of the importance of professionals working together to support people at the end of their lives.

The training resource was developed as part of the 'Working Together, improving end of life care through better integration' project, which concluded that people involved in delivering end-of-life care find it helpful to talk to other workers and people with the experience of using those services, as it helps them understand how they could work together to provide better support.

Led by Skills for Care in partnership with Skills for Health and the National Council for Palliative Care, the project brought together



a range of people from different backgrounds including professionals and people with experience of end-of-life care.

The training resources are all available to download at www.skillsforhealth.org.uk/eolc and include:

- 'It helps to talk', a film looking at the importance of communication.
- PowerPoint ready-made presentation for individuals to conduct their own training
- 'Practical messages for frontline workers'- an interactive PDF
- Educational project resources including key messages hand-out, project summary and project guidance