

# News update

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

## Alacris Theranostics enters agreement with GSK to use ModCell™ System for early stage cancer research

Alacris Theranostics has entered into an agreement with GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) to apply Alacris' proprietary ModCell™ System, developed at the Max Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics and licensed exclusively to Alacris, for drug stratification using data from early stage cancer drug discovery at GSK.

GSK will provide to Alacris pre-clinical biology data from a drug discovery project in oncology. Alacris will exploit its proprietary Systems Biology model to determine the in silico effect of the inhibitor in its 'virtual clinical trial' system. Alacris will then suggest which cancer cell lines as well as which cancers are more likely to respond to the inhibitor. This will be based on whole genome and transcriptome data that is

**ALACRIS**  
Theranostics GmbH

integrated in the Alacris' cancer model ModCell™.

Alacris Theranostics is a company specialising in developing new approaches in personalised medicine for cancer patient diagnosis, treatment and drug stratification. It applies a systems biology approach exclusively licensed as ModCell™ to Alacris. Based on genome and transcriptome information obtained by next generation sequencing and including kinetic pathway information, mutation and drug databases, the systems biology approach is providing a 'Virtual Patient' model.

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## Varian is selected by Russian Development Foundations to take part in high-profile supplier event

Varian Medical Systems is reinforcing its commitment to the Russian Federation by actively seeking Russia-based suppliers and local R&D collaborations. At the Open Innovations Forum in Moscow, Varian held a joint supplier conference with local organisations the Skolkovo and Rusnano Foundations to explain its strategy for the Russian market and seek local partners. "The Russian government is determined to improve the access of its people to modern, advanced radiotherapy equipment and, as the market and technology leader in this field, Varian wants to support this initiative," says Kolleen Kennedy (pictured), head of Varian's global Oncology Systems business. "We are delighted to have been selected by the Skolkovo and Rusnano foundations to work with them on this first such event to support the country's program of greater healthcare access, industrial modernization, R&D, and in-country investment. We want to work together and be present to leverage Russia's technological strengths into a global network of supply and development." The Skolkovo Foundation is a not-for-profit, government-funded organisation that was launched in 2010.



For more information, visit [www.varian.com](http://www.varian.com) or follow us on <https://twitter.com/VarianMedSys>

## Northern centre for cancer care acquires two TrueBeam™ devices from Varian

Cancer patients in the north-east of England will be able to receive modern radiosurgery treatments without having to travel for up to two hours. The Northern Centre for Cancer Care (NCCC) at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle-upon-Tyne is acquiring two TrueBeam™ STx medical linear accelerators from Varian Medical Systems.

The NCCC, currently equipped with eight linear accelerators from Siemens, intends to replace its older machines over time placed orders for two TrueBeam STx machines which are capable of the full range of modern radiotherapy treatments, including advanced radiosurgery. The machines are slated to be installed at the centre in 2013. "We want to introduce stereotactic ablative body radiotherapy (SABR) and stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS) programs, which are becoming the standard of care for many cancer treatments," says Gill Lawrence, head of radiotherapy physics. "The SABR program will be available initially for lung cancer patients and the SRS program for treating conditions in the brain; subsequent developments include plans for liver and pancreatic cancer treatments." SABR is offering early-stage non-small-cell lung cancer patients – including those who are inoperable or elderly – a non-invasive treatment option.

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## Wear A Hat Day 2013 – The UK's premier brain tumour awareness event

Brain Tumour Research dedicate 100% of its' fundraising activities into supporting continuous, sustainable scientific research into brain tumours, the biggest cancer killer of children and adults under 40. We need your help. Much more money is required if we are to achieve our vision and find a cure for this devastating disease once and for all. Less than 1% (0.7%) of national cancer research spend is on brain tumours. Think this unacceptable? So do we. That's why we created Wear A Hat Day, a fun event that anyone can get involved in. On Thursday March 28th 2013, you can help fund the fight and join



thousands of people up and down the country being sponsored to wear a hat to raise funds for Brain Tumour Research.

We will be producing a fundraising pack detailing further fundraising ideas, celebrity involvement, how to publicise your day and most importantly how to ensure vital funds.

Register today by emailing [sarah@braintumourresearch.org](mailto:sarah@braintumourresearch.org). Take a look online: [www.braintumourresearch.org/wear-a-hat-day](http://www.braintumourresearch.org/wear-a-hat-day). Don't forget to share your fun pics with us on Facebook and Twitter.

## Varian unveils EDGE™ Radiosurgery Suite – A comprehensive solution for non-invasive surgical procedures

Varian Medical Systems has unveiled its next move against cancer, the new EDGE™ Radiosurgery Suite\* – a fully integrated dedicated system for performing advanced radiosurgery using new real-time tumour tracking technology and motion management capabilities.

“Our new EDGE radiosurgery suite represents the first really disruptive technology in radiosurgery in close to two decades, combining state-of-the-art linear accelerator technology with real-time tracking and patient positioning,” said Kolleen Kennedy, president of Varian's Oncology Systems business. “We designed the EDGE to facilitate fast, accurate delivery of stereotactic radiosurgery to treat any condition



amenable to this type of treatment, including tumours of the lung, prostate, brain, spine, and other indications throughout the body.”

As a non-invasive option, radiosurgery utilisation has been growing steadily over the last decade for the treatment of cancer and other conditions, and predictions are that it will continue to grow as research accrues about the benefits to patients.[1] Radiosurgery involves the use of sophisticated software and hardware to ablate tumours or other abnormalities with high doses of radiation while minimizing exposure of surrounding healthy tissue.

For more information, visit <http://www.varian.com> or follow us on <https://twitter.com/VarianMedSys>

1. Pan H, et al. A survey of stereotactic body radiotherapy use in the United States. *Cancer*. 2011;117(19): 4566-72.

## Elekta's open connectivity expansion delights customers with the widest choice of delivery and planning systems available

Elekta's MOSAIQ® v 2.50 now includes connectivity with its Nucletron microSelectron® Digital afterloader. This added connectivity allows the treatment record and chart information, in addition to dose and structure sets, to be part of the complete patient record. MOSAIQ-microSelectron Digital connectivity is the latest in Elekta's history of providing interfaces with virtually any radiotherapy delivery device or treatment planning system.

St Anthony Hospital (Oklahoma City, USA) became the first centre to use a MOSAIQ interface for its Accuray® CyberKnife® radiosurgery system. According to St Anthony Lead Physicist,



Cindy Parry, MS, the MOSAIQ-CyberKnife interface presented an opportunity to streamline their radiosurgery process and consolidate all patient information in a single location. “To me, the greatest value is that the treatment is directly transferred to MOSAIQ through the interface. In this way, the physician seeing a patient for follow up can readily note that a CyberKnife patient got his fractions done in 'x' amount of time, or can see if this patient also had an HDR or linac treatment.”

Learn more at [www.elekta.com/MOSAIQ](http://www.elekta.com/MOSAIQ).

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## Nairobi Hospital commences treating cancer with advanced radiotherapy delivery using Varian Equipment and Software

A modern medical linear accelerator has been installed at The Nairobi Hospital in Kenya. The hospital hopes to treat up to 50 patients a day on the newly-installed Clinac® DMX machine from Varian Medical Systems. “There are very few cancer centres in the east and central African region so we are pleased to be able to offer precise and efficient treatments on our new system,” said Dr Cleopa Mailu, chief executive officer of The Nairobi Hospital.

“We selected Varian equipment and software because we felt it was best suited for our needs as a modern cancer treatment centre.”



Patients at the private clinic will initially be treated using 3-D conformal radiotherapy and clinicians at the hospital intend to introduce more advanced treatments such as intensity-modulated radiotherapy and stereotactic radiosurgery treatment in the near future. The Varian Clinac DMX is equipped with an advanced beam shaping device to help match the dose distribution to the size, shape, and location of tumours.

For more information, visit <http://www.varian.com> or follow us on <https://twitter.com/VarianMedSys>

## brainstrust announces dedicated counselling service for brain tumour patients

The charity brainstrust now offers a dedicated counselling service for brain tumour patients. This is in addition to their unique coaching-led support which has helped thousands of brain tumour patients and carers get back on top of things following a diagnosis. Helen Bulbeck, brainstrust's Director of Support Services says, “Counselling comes into play in brainstrust when there is too much distress and a psychological intervention is needed. It has a broader focus and greater depth than coaching. Both Coaching and Counselling are transformative – and we are delighted to be able to offer both absolutely free as part of our



extensive support offer”.

Jill Praver, the trained counsellor who will be working with brainstrust's patients qualified in 1994, and has brought with her some very focused aims for the service. Jill says, “I want to give individuals who are affected in any way by a brain tumour the opportunity to talk through their feelings in a safe and confidential place, and to help them develop strategies for managing their future.”

To find out more simply call brainstrust on T: +44 (0)1983 292405 or E: [hello@brainstrust.org.uk](mailto:hello@brainstrust.org.uk)

## World-class neuroscience centre treats first patient with Elekta's Leksell Gamma Knife Perfexion Radiosurgery System

A 60-year-old male patient with an acoustic neuroma became the first person to receive Gamma Knife® radiosurgery at The National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery (NHNN, London). NHNN clinicians gave the treatment on October 29, officially inaugurating its radiosurgery service at its new Queen Square Radiosurgery Centre (QSRC). NHNN's Leksell Gamma Knife® Perfexion™ will serve as the platform on which to launch a full-scale program of radiosurgery research and clinical activities. QSRC is the United Kingdom's sixth operational Gamma Knife centre.

Gamma Knife radiosurgery is a gentler alternative to traditional brain

surgery for illnesses such as acoustic neuromas and metastatic disease, which is cancer that has travelled to the brain from elsewhere in the body. With pinpoint accuracy, the system delivers up to thousands of low-intensity radiation beams to one or more targets in a single session. Perfexion provides even greater speed and ease of use than previous models.

According to NHNN neurosurgeon, Neil Kitchen, MD, the hospital's acquisition of radiosurgery technology supports the UK government's efforts to improve access to advanced clinical techniques, and will reinforce research and clinical efforts focused on neurological disorders.



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## Varian Receives Regulatory Clearance in India for Use of High Intensity Mode on TrueBeam Medical Linear Accelerators

Varian Medical Systems has received regulatory clearance from the Indian Atomic Energy Regulatory Board for the use of its unique TrueBeam™ High Intensity Mode for advanced radiosurgical treatments. The company's market-leading range of radiotherapy and radiosurgery equipment and software, including the TrueBeam medical linear accelerator, are on display in Kolkata this week at AROICON 2012, the country's primary radiation oncology exhibition.

Dr Vivek Bansal, director of radiation oncology at HCG Cancer Hospital in Ahmedabad – the first hospital in India to commence treating patients using the TrueBeam high intensity mode – said, "We have used this modality for prostate, head & neck



and lung cancer patients, enabling quicker dose delivery and therefore shorter treatments. Higher dose rates appear to offer considerable benefits in organ motion management – for example, larger dose fractions have been delivered in a single breath-hold at our centre."

"We feel high intensity modes may become necessary for most stereotactic ablative body radiotherapy and stereotactic radiosurgery treatments in future," said Dr Bansal. "Our experience is showing that high intensity mode treatments offer particular advantages when treating the smaller field sizes normally seen in such treatments."

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## Brachytherapy practitioners gather to share current work, future advances at Elekta Brachytherapy UK & Ireland Users Meeting

Approximately 100 Elekta brachytherapy users and UK and Ireland Elekta personnel convened at London's Institute of Physics in October, 2012 to participate in the company's Brachytherapy Users Meeting, UK & Ireland. An increasingly important treatment option for individuals with cancer, targeted and precise brachytherapy enables doctors to treat their patients' cancer from the inside – either as a standalone therapy or combined with external beam techniques.

Symposium attendees are all users of brachytherapy solutions manufactured by Nucletron, an Elekta company, whose brachytherapy afterloaders, applicators and treatment planning software systems are used by 60 percent of hospitals worldwide.

The annual conference featured presentations on a wide variety of brachytherapy applications, including brachytherapy for cancers of the



skin, breast, prostate and cervix.

Arjen van't Hooft, Elekta's Vice President Brachytherapy Solutions, Region Europe, Africa, Latin America gave a talk titled "Brachytherapy: Future Developments," which included information on connectivity with Nucletron's microSelectron Digital afterloader.

"This added connectivity allows the treatment record and chart information – in addition to dose and structure sets – to be part of the complete patient record, saving time, simplifying workflow and creating a

paperless flow of brachytherapy practice information," he says.

The Elekta brachytherapy users meeting was very well received among participants, van't Hooft adds.

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