THE Visionary

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ROI RADIATION ONCOLOGY INSTITUTE

ROI Research Begins to Roll Out

Work is progressing rapidly on ROI's research initiatives and excitement is building as plans turn into tangible products. The Institute is well on its way to being recognized as a solid research organization in the field of radiation oncology and here are some highlights.

JOINT ROI/RTOG INITIATIVE: FUNDING ANALYSIS OF RTOG 0126 CLINICAL TRIAL DATA

The ROI recently completed a collaborative study with RTOG comparing IMRT vs. high-dose 3D-CRT in patients treated for localized prostate cancer. The analysis, conducted on an existing RTOG data set from an NCI-funded, randomized phase III clinical trial, compared standard-dose radiation therapy (70.2Gy) to high-dose radiation therapy (79.2Gy) while investigating toxicity and quality-of-life endpoints for men with intermediate risk prostate cancer. The analysis included 1,532 patients who were enrolled over a six-year period from March 2002 - August 2008. The high-dose arm is believed to be critical for evaluation because it represents a dose associated with improved biochemical, disease-free survival but with a greater risk of toxicity when treated using 3-D techniques, compared to IMRT. Specifically, the trials collected data to measure:

- **Toxicity levels with each type of treatment:** Whether treatment with high-dose IMRT is associated with lower rates of grade 2 or higher GI, GU or other normal tissue toxicity compared to 3D-CRT delivered at the same radiation dose.
- **Quality of life at different post-treatment intervals:** Whether treatment with high-dose IMRT is associated with a higher quality of life (as measured by erectile, bowel and bladder function) and less negative change in Patient Reported Outcomes compared to 3D-CRT.
- **Correlations among dosage, toxicity, treatment plans and Patient Reported Outcomes:** The most complex part of the analysis, correlations among CTC toxicity criteria, Patient Reported Outcome (absolute scores and changes in scores) and treatment plan dosimetry, are being assessed, especially the effects of treatment on adjacent, at-risk organs and any correlations with effects on normal tissue.

Jeff Michalski, MD, MBA, member of the ROI Research Committee and the ROI Registry Data Dictionary Committee, has played a key role in this project as a liaison between ROI and RTOG. "I greatly appreciate the support that the ROI has provided to conduct this early analysis of prostate cancer patients treated with high-dose radiation therapy. This research will not only help us understand the differences in outcome that we might see with 3D-CRT and IMRT, it will also provide valuable information about how to best minimize the risks of side effects with the thoughtful application of modern technology," Dr. Michalski said.

(continued on Page 3)

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY TED S. LAWRENCE, MD, PHD, FASTRO

What a difference a year makes. As we get ready for another ASTRO Annual Meeting, the ROI is excited to participate in this year's educational sessions to unveil our "hot" new research findings. This issue of *The Visionary* highlights these activities so that you can plan to attend and learn about our growth, progress and future direction.

We were extremely pleased that the Abstract Selection Committee chose one of our abstracts to be in the Plenary Session. It is titled Preliminary Analysis of 3D-CRT vs. IMRT on the High Dose Arm of the RTOG 0126 Prostate Cancer Trial: Toxicity Report. ROI collaborated with RTOG to analyze data collected over a six-year period involving 1,532 patients. Without ROI's initiative and support, this analysis, which provides critical data demonstrating the value of IMRT, would not have been undertaken for many years, if ever.

You won't want to miss our panel presentation on the results of the National Radiation Oncology Research Needs Assessment. The Assessment successfully gathered perspectives from a broad constituency using a systematic, scientifically valid collaborative process to determine the needs of our field. It has been translated into a prioritized, national research agenda that will be the basis for our research agenda.

Also, the Radiation Oncology Registry Poster will be on display all week that depicts the design of the registry and the pilot that will be launched the first part of 2012. This registry, when fully funded by your and other contributions, will be crucial to developing the data needed to support the value of radiation therapy in the treatment of cancer patients.

Once again, the ROI VIP Donor Lounge will be open all week. Look for all the details on Page 5.

What's that? You still haven't made your investment in the ROI? I would like to appeal to every ASTRO member to step up now and do so. As my close colleague and ROI Development Chairman, Dr. Frank Wilson says, "Don't sit idly under the shade of the oaks that grow from the acorns others have planted." As long as our profession's value and future integrity continue to be challenged, none of us can afford to sit idly.

A donation form is included. Send it back today or stop by the Donor Lounge in Miami Beach and complete it there. I anticipate your generous support.

Sincerely,
Ted

P.S. There is still $1 million in ASTRO matching grant funds remaining. Double the value of your pledge (minimum $12,500 or more) now before it is too late.

ROI Mission Statement

To enhance and promote the critical role of radiation therapy in the treatment of cancer by supporting research and education that demonstrates the life-saving and quality-of-life benefits of radiation therapy.

(continued from Page 1)

ROI Research Begins to Roll Out

ROI RESEARCH AGENDA FOR RADIATION ONCOLOGY

The ROI Research Committee, chaired by Stephen Hahn, MD, and co-chaired by Reshma Jagsi, MD, has worked hard to develop the first ROI Research Agenda for radiation oncology that includes priority issues considered to be the most pressing for the field. The ROI Board of Trustees has approved the Research Committee's recommendations and the ASTRO Board of Directors will be asked to ratify it. The ROI Research Agenda is anticipated to be translated into research projects of varying sizes and scopes over the next 3-5 years. RFPs will be developed for approved projects and proposals invited from qualified researchers.

NATIONAL RADIATION ONCOLOGY REGISTRY (NROR)

The NROR is developing the first registry of observational clinical data for radiation oncology with the guidance of four committees that oversee the development of the registry's data dictionary and database infrastructure. An RFP to build the registry's database infrastructure was distributed in July 2011 and the company selected is expected to begin work in the fall.

A pilot of the registry is planned to launch in early 2012 to 'test drive' its technical structure and operational procedures. Approximately 25 institutions will participate and patients will be those treated for prostate cancer. An article written by the NROR Executive Committee, featuring the vision for the NROR, appears in the October 2011 issue of *Practical Radiation Oncology (PRO)*, ASTRO's new clinical practice journal. The first phase of this project will be funded through ROI and a generous grant from The Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) Fedshare. Jason Efstathiou, MD, DPhil, is serving as Principal Investigator of the MGH Fedshare program.

It is difficult to estimate the amount of time and brain power that has been devoted to this tremendous initiative by ROI and ASTRO committee and Board members. ROI extends heartfelt thanks and enormous gratitude to the NROR Executive Committee and the Data Dictionary, IT Infrastructure, Legal and Regulatory Affairs and Pilot Prostate Registry committee chairmen: Jatinder Palta, PhD, Executive Committee co-chairman; Christopher Rose, MD, FASTRO, Executive Committee co-chairman; Colleen Lawton, MD, FASTRO, Executive Committee; Anthony Zietman, MD, Executive Committee; Jason Efstathiou, MD, DPhil, Pilot Prostate Registry chairman; Justin Bekelman, MD, Data Dictionary chairman and Pilot Prostate Registry co-chairman; Carl R. Bogardus Jr., MD, FASTRO, Data Dictionary co-chairman; Sasa Mutic, MS, Data Dictionary co-chairman; Todd McNutt, PhD, IT Infrastructure chairman; Peter Gabriel, MD, IT Infrastructure co-chairman; and Terry Wall, JD, MD, Legal and Regulatory Affairs chairman.

Jeff Michalski, MD, MBA

CHAIRS OF CURRENT NROR COMMITTEES:

Left to right, first column:
Justin Bekelman, MD
Carl R. Bogardus Jr., MD, FASTRO
Jason Efstathiou, MD, DPhil
Peter Gabriel, MD (not pictured)
Todd McNutt, PhD

Left to right, second column:
Sasa Mutic, MS
Jatinder Palta, PhD
Christopher Rose, MD, FASTRO
Terry Wall, JD, MD

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Lawton talks to us

WHY IS THE ROI SO IMPORTANT TO YOU?

ROI presents an opportunity to foster research that will not happen without ROI funding. At least half of all cancer patients should receive radiation as part of their treatment, yet utilization of our field continues to decrease. We need the research for the field to progress. Often, cancer patients never hear about radiation and ROI gives an opportunity to get the word out.

WHY SHOULD OTHERS DONATE TO ROI?

Radiation oncologists are well-educated and well-compensated. I believe that for those who are given much, much is expected. It's a gift to be able to give back. With declining research dollars, donations help fund much needed research. After all, the ultimate goal is to help the patients and that's what the donations are doing.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES FOR THE FUTURE OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY?

My hope is to be able to cure more patients with less toxicity.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES FOR ROI?

It is my hope that the ROI will be associated with pioneering research, which has already begun and will be showcased at the ASTRO Annual Meeting in Miami Beach. I hope that people realize this is only the beginning and won't be possible going forward without more ROI dollars. It is imperative that ROI continues to make things happen in a timely way and increasing ROI donations will allow that to happen.

WHAT IS SOMETHING ABOUT YOU NOT EVERYONE KNOWS?

I come from a large, traditional Catholic family with seven brothers and no sisters! Needless to say, I'm comfortable in the male world. It is very easy for me to advocate strongly for prostate cancer given my background. In addition, my father had this disease.

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO GO INTO THE RADIATION ONCOLOGY FIELD?

I enjoy getting to know my patients and their families and find the long-term relationships that we build very rewarding. I find it particularly gratifying to use a tool like radiation to fix cancer as we often do cure patients without the mutilating side effects of other cancer treatments.

Dr. Lawton is the Vice-president of the Radiation Oncology Institute and the incoming President-elect of ASTRO. She is also a Benefactor in the ROI Founder's Circle.

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Gifts received from January 1, 2010 – December 31, 2010

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ROI at the 53rd ASTRO Annual Meeting

ROI DONOR LOUNGE

Convention Center, Room C223-224

All Radiation Oncology Institute (ROI) donors are welcome to take advantage of the amenities offered in the ROI Donor Lounge. Stop in to check email, grab a snack and meet with your colleagues and fellow donors. The lounge will also feature information on the ROI, including current research initiatives and ways you can get involved and show your support.

Hours of operation:

Saturday, October 1	10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 2	8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Monday, October 3	8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 4	8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 5	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 2

5K RUN FOR THE FUTURE TO BENEFIT THE ROI

6:30 a.m.

Crandon Park, Key Biscayne, Fla.

Sponsored by RBS

Join us at Crandon Park, located in beautiful Key Biscayne, for the 2nd Annual 5k Run for the Future to benefit the ROI. A specially designed course located along the Atlantic Ocean has been prepared for our race participants. To make the race more exciting, premier sponsor and race organizer, Radiation Business Solutions (RBS), is offering both individual and corporate challenges. Once again, 100 percent of all proceeds will go to the ROI. Are you up for the challenge? Visit **www.roi5k.com** to register.

Monday, October 3

PLENARY PRESENTATION

2:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Convention Center, Hall B

Preliminary Analysis of 3D-CRT vs. IMRT on the High-Dose Arm of the RTOG 0126 Prostate Cancer Trial: Toxicity Report

Jeff Michalski, MD, MBA, will present the results of this joint study between ROI and RTOG. Data gathered over a six-year period from phase III randomized clinical trials was analyzed to compare toxicity levels with each modality using standard to high-dose radiation therapy.

EDUCATIONAL PANEL

3:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.

Convention Center, Ballroom A

ROI's National RO Research Needs Assessment

Members of the ROI Research Committee will unveil the top three research topics identified by more than a year of gathering opinions and building consensus; the status of each in the field; and strategies for implementing them.

POSTER

Convention Center, Hall A

National Radiation Oncology Registry (NROR)

The first registry of its kind for the field of radiation oncology, the NROR is being designed to enable identifying linkages between treatment and outcome for various types of cancer. The 2012 pilot of the NROR will focus on patients with prostate cancer. A poster depicting this important initiative will be on display during the following hours:

Sunday, October 2	10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday, October 3	10:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Poster Reception	*5:15 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.*
Tuesday, October 4	10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 4

ASTRO ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Convention Center, Room B214/215/217/218

ROI President, Theodore S. Lawrence, MD, PhD, FASTRO, will provide an ROI annual report to the ASTRO membership at their annual Business Meeting. To learn more about the important work conducted by the ROI, plan to attend this important lunch meeting. Open to ASTRO voting members only.

Founder's Circle Investors

The Founder's Circle is a giving club for those who have elected to ensure the infrastructure of the ROI by investing in ROI's permanent endowment. With grateful appreciation we acknowledge the generosity of our distinguished investors.

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ROI RADIATION ONCOLOGY INSTITUTE

Improving Cancer Care Through Research and Education

Ways to Donate

Make your commitment to the ROI while in Miami Beach by stopping by the ROI Donor Lounge and speaking with a representative. You will enjoy immediate access to the Donor Lounge amenities with your commitment. We look forward to meeting you!

ROI RADIATION ONCOLOGY INSTITUTE

Improving Cancer Care Through Research and Education

The Founder's Circle

The Founder's Circle is a giving club for those who have elected to ensure the infrastructure of the ROI by investing in our permanent endowment. We welcome you to join the many distinguished individuals, corporations, private practice groups and academic institutions that have made commitments of $12,500 or more payable over multiple years. Exclusive for ASTRO individual members, giving at this level qualifies you for a dollar-for-dollar matching contribution from ASTRO.

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PATRON	**$50,000+**
MENTOR	**$25,000+**

☐ YES!

I would like to make a pledge to the ROI's endowment.

My gift amount: $ _____

Initial payment: $ _____

Balance: $ _____

ASTRO match amount: $ _____

Total gift value: $ _____

Annual Giving Society

ROI's Annual Giving Society is a giving club of annual donors. Annual contributions support the research operation. Contributions of $100, $250 or more help guarantee that ROI's goals will not be hindered by a lack of resources.

☐ YES! I would like to make a contribution to the Annual Giving Society.

__ $5,000 __$2,500 __$1,000 __$500 __$250 __$100 __ $_____

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ROI will contact you to obtain the gift recipient's mailing address so we can notify them of your generosity.

_____ I am interested in learning about the ROI's Estate and Planned Giving program.
ROI will contact you with additional information on this giving opportunity.

Contact/Payment Information

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Improving Cancer Care Through Research and Education

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Check out ROI at the 53rd ASTRO Annual Meeting!

October 2-6, 2011 | Miami Beach Convention Center

VISIT THE ROI DONOR LOUNGE

Room C223-224

Hours of operation:

Saturday, October 1	10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 2	8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Monday, October 3	8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 4	8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 5	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

See Page 5 for more information about ROI's presence at the 53rd ASTRO Annual Meeting.