

WESCAN Theme Day

“Providing Perspective”

Friday March 26th 2010

Friday, March 26th, “Theme Day”, was designed to provide Medical Physicists and Radiation Therapists an opportunity to gain insight into some of the important issues associated with treating cancer patients that are peripheral to their primary roles and responsibilities. It is hoped that increased knowledge in these areas will prove to be beneficial in identifying the future goals of these professions, in particular by helping to address relevancy and effectiveness.

8:30 – 9:30: **Why are target boundaries so difficult to define?**

Presenter: Dr. S. Demeter – WRHA Medical Director Diagnostic Imaging

Dr. Demeter’s presentation will discuss the problems associated with accurately determining the boundaries of cancer in an imaging study, an important step in the radiation therapy process.

9:30 – 10:30: **An introduction to the clinical side of radiation oncology.**

Presenter: Dr. A. Cooke – Senior Radiation Oncologist, CancerCare Manitoba

Dr. Cooke will provide an overview of the workings of clinical radiation oncology including the nature of the disease, goals of treatment, patient workup and on-treatment care. This presentation is for a non-radiation oncologist audience.

11:00 – 12:00 **Radiation therapy success and technology.**

Presenter: Dr. E. Lyn – Head Department of Radiation Oncology, CancerCare Manitoba

Dr. Lyn will review radiation treatment success over the years and examine whether or not improvements can be attributed to advancements in technology. Differences in patterns of cancer spread and patterns of treatment failure also will be discussed.

1:30 – 2:30: **Cancer Risk Factors.**

Presenting the results of an epidemiology study designed to determine the risk factors associated with the four main cancers in Canada.

2:30 – 3:30: **Normal tissue tolerances.**

Presenter: Dr. A. Ong – Radiation Oncologist, CancerCare Manitoba

Dr. Ong will investigate the origins of the normal tissue tolerances used presently in designing radiation treatments. He will include a discussion of the problem associated with this data and propose areas for improvement.