

For Immediate Release

London, England, 14 October 2010

Protection of the Patient in Radiotherapy



L-R Dr Ellen Donovan (NIHR Research Fellow, Royal Marsden Hospital), Professor Roger Taylor (Professor in Oncology, Singleton Hospital), Dr Sarah Gulliford (Post Doctoral Training Fellow, Institute of Cancer Research and Royal Marsden NHS Trust), Dr Helen Morgan (Consultant Physicist, Royal United Hospital) and Dr Roger Harrison (Chairman, EURADOS Working Group 9: Radiation Protection Dosimetry in Medicine).

The British Institute of Radiology hosted a well-received radiotherapy event at the BIR's headquarters in Portland Place on 13 October 2010.

This meeting was organised by Dr Helen Morgan and Mrs Susan Huckstep on behalf of the Institute's radiation protection committee.

The improvement in radiotherapy techniques and methods has led to an increase in survival but also an increase in the late term effects in normal tissue. This meeting reviewed current knowledge and helped delegates to understand the implications of their successes. The meeting also raised awareness of the potential problems of technological advances.

Some of the highlights included a talk by Prof Roger Taylor (Singleton Hospital) on *The Advantages of Protons for Treatment of Children with Cancer* along with Dr Roger Harrison (EURADOS Working Group 9) on *Dosimetry for Second Cancer Risk Estimation*.

Meeting organiser, Dr Helen Morgan comments: "The event covered a diverse range of topics from advantages of proton therapy to IGRT brachytherapy and late effects of radiation toxicity and secondary cancers. The final discussions identified the need for a national database for all radiotherapy clinical trial patients."

To find out more about the BIR's diverse programme of topical scientific meetings please visit www.bir.org.uk.

-ends-

Notes to Editors:

The British Institute of Radiology (BIR) is an independent member-based charity bringing together all the professions in radiology and allied medical and scientific disciplines to share knowledge and educate the public, thereby improving prevention and detection of disease and management and treatment of patients. The BIR is the oldest radiological society in the world. The origins of the BIR can be traced back to a first meeting held in 1897 to form "The X-ray Society".

For more information please contact:

Tina Giddings
Marketing and Fundraising Coordinator
The British Institute of Radiology,
36 Portland Place, London, W1B 1AT.

020 7307 1400

Tina.giddings@bir.org.uk
www.bir.org.uk