

FIRST-TIME RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM AWARDED

Radiation oncology and medical technology groups partner to award \$50,000 research fellowship to radiation oncology specialist

The Canadian Association of Radiation Oncology (CARO), along with international medical-technology group Elekta, are pleased to award the first ever CARO-Elekta Research Fellowship to Radiation Oncologist Dr. Jason René Pantarotto. The \$50,000 fellowship, provided by Elekta, will enable Dr. Pantarotto to conduct research at Vrije University in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, related to new technologies being used in the treatment of lung tumours.

The CARO-Elekta Research Fellowship Program is the first award being offered by the Canadian Association of Radiation Oncology, in association with Elekta. The award will provide research and salary support to Dr. Pantarotto for a period of one year, with the potential to renew for a second year. His research is endorsed by both CARO and Elekta as being particularly relevant to the current and future practice of radiation oncology.

“CARO is thrilled to have Elekta partner with us in awarding this fellowship,” said Dr. Tom Pickles, President of the Canadian Association of Radiation Oncology. “The research results expected of a program such as this will be extremely relevant to the provision of radiation oncology treatments and clinical services. Without the support of Elekta, awarding this fellowship would not have been possible.”



The fellowship program will enable its recipient, Dr. Pantarotto, to work with world leaders in 4-dimensional radiotherapy (4DRT) for lung tumours using respiration-gated radiotherapy (RGRT). “The

group at the Vrije University, led by Professor Suresh Senan, has one of the greatest tenures in the planning and delivery of this type of therapy,” said Dr. Pantarotto. “I am excited at the prospect of gaining hands-on experience in these highly innovative techniques, and conducting some of the leading research on gated PET-CT (Positron Emission Tomography and Computed Tomography) and its use in radiation planning.”

Dr. Pantarotto holds a medical degree from the University of Western Ontario (2002), and has recently completed a residency in radiation oncology at the University of Ottawa. His research interests include the application of tomotherapy for GI (gastrointestinal) malignancies and palliative radiotherapy, in addition to methods to account for respiration-induced mobility of tumours.

Despite being the premiere research fellowship awarded jointly by these two organizations, Dr. Pickles anticipates that this will lead to further funding. “We feel that this is only the beginning,” said Dr. Pickles. “We expect this fellowship to be only the first of many in a series of funding opportunities for radiation oncology. This program will allow us to remain at the forefront of new technologies, and will benefit all cancer patients undergoing radiation therapy.”