



CARDIOVASCULAR AND INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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Interventional Oncology: From Benchtop to Bedside
*CIRREF, Society of Interventional Radiology's Research and Education Foundation,
Convenes Multi-Disciplinary Oncology Meeting*

Fairfax, VA (September, 18, 2002) – Today clinicians, basic scientists, physician-scientists and trainees from academia, private practice, government and industry will come together at a multi-disciplinary interventional oncology meeting. The meeting provides an opportunity for cross-fertilization between researchers in interventional radiology, functional imaging, oncology, basic science, clinical science and related disciplines to share information about potential applications of imaging and image-guided therapies among basic researchers in tumor biology.

“The treatment of cancer today requires teamwork and interventional radiology offers many advances, such as delivering chemotherapy directly to the affected organ (chemoembolization), killing the tumor with heat via radiofrequency ablation, and other applications that can target and treat the cancer without harming the healthy cells in the body. Generally, these treatments are easier on the patient than traditional chemotherapy, and also allow for localized, higher dosing,” says Michael Soulen, MD, interventional radiologist and conference co-chair. “Continued research in interventional radiology and collaboration is the key to new advances and better patient care,” says Soulen.

Over the past five years, interventional oncology has been one of the fastest growing areas within the field of interventional radiology. New discoveries are made on an almost daily basis in areas such as tumor biology, genetics, immunology, and therapeutic agents that target factors involved in tumor initiation, progression, growth and metastasis. Because of the introduction of many new therapies and additional research in the pipeline in an array of areas, a coordinated research effort is needed across scientific disciplines to develop the best treatment approaches. Thought leaders in basic science, imaging, translational research, interventional radiology, surgical oncology, and all the co-sponsors listed below, will develop a coordinated strategic research plan for interventional oncology at a research roundtable to take place following the meeting.

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The meeting is sponsored by the Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiology Research and Education Foundation (CIRREF), the research and education foundation of the Society of Interventional Radiology, and co-sponsored by the:

- ? National Cancer Institute (NCI)
- ? National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB)
- ? American Cancer Society (ACS)
- ? American College of Radiology Imaging Network (ACRIN), and
- ? American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM).

The meeting will be held in Tyson's Corner, Virginia, September 18-19, 2002, at the Ritz-Carlton hotel. It is the first in a new educational conference series from CIRREF, *Innovation and Research in Interventional Radiology (IR²)*. The program is designed to provide a forum for members of the interventional radiology community to be exposed to cutting-edge basic science research and therapies in the many clinical areas in which interventional radiologists are involved. The conference takes place in conjunction with the Society of Interventional Radiology's (SIR) clinical interdisciplinary meeting, *Current Strategies in the Treatment of Hepatic Malignancies: A Team Effort*, which will be held September 20-21.

About Interventional Oncology and Interventional Radiology

Interventional oncology treatments provide palliative and curative treatments for cancer patients. Techniques such as chemoembolization, radiofrequency ablation, cryoablation, ethanol or acetic acid injection, and selective transarterial delivery of gene- and immuno-therapy are new frontiers in cancer therapy provided by interventional radiologists. Interventional radiologists use their expertise in reading X-rays, ultrasound and other medical images to guide small instruments such as catheters (tubes that measure just a few millimeters in diameter) through the blood vessels or other pathways to treat disease percutaneously (through the skin).

Interventional radiology procedures do not require large incisions, and offer less risk, less pain and shorter recovery times compared to surgery. Advances in interventional radiology include the pioneering of angioplasty, the peripheral stenting technique, and the invention of the first catheter-delivered stent — state of the art medical treatments that are common place today.

About the Cardiovascular Interventional Radiology Research and Education Foundation (CIRREF)

CIRREF is a scientific foundation dedicated to fostering research and education in interventional radiology for the purposes of advancing scientific knowledge, increasing the number of skilled investigators in interventional radiology, and developing innovative therapies that lead to improved patient care and quality of life.

