

News Release

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ONCURA™ Elevated to the Status of Ambassador Supporter by the American Society of Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ASTRO)

Philadelphia (October 28, 2004) — As a global leader in minimally invasive prostate cancer treatment ONCURA has been a long-term supporter of ASTRO. In recognition of its commitment to ASTRO over the years, ONCURA was elevated to 'Ambassador' status at this year's annual meeting. The meeting was also notable for a number of excellent abstracts describing ongoing clinical evaluation of prostate brachytherapy.

"We congratulate ASTRO on the success of their Annual Meeting," said Andrew Bright, ONCURA's Vice President of Strategic Marketing. He added, "We were particularly pleased to note a number of abstracts reporting experience with RAPID Strand™. RAPID Strand has been available for almost ten years and it's the only prostate brachytherapy product of its type to benefit from long-term clinical evaluation."

One study presented by Dr. Daniel Reed from the Puget Sound V.A. (Seattle) demonstrated that RAPID Strand offers a statistically significant decrease in the number of seeds that migrate, a fact that has been previously reported by other investigators. This feature has been shown to correlate with more accurate delivery of therapy. Another abstract describes The H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center's (Tampa) experience with 463 patients treated with RAPID Strand.

ONCURA was also pleased to recognize the presentation of a number of other key abstracts; in particular one in which Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG) provided evidence that consistent and excellent results can be achieved by multiple centers as part of a collaborative endeavor.

"It's clear that in this multi-institutional study brachytherapy offers patients an excellent chance for long-term cure," said James McGlone, ONCURA's President and CEO. He added, "Having supported this study ONCURA's pleased to see RTOG concluded that they can develop further collaborative group studies with an emphasis on quality assurance; something we strongly identify with."

There were also a number of long-term experience presentations, notably data describing 12-year follow-up of over 1500 patients that was presented by Dr. Louis Potters (New York Prostate Institute). The study demonstrated that 94% of prostate cancer patients had not succumbed to their disease 12 years after being treated, and that the quality of the brachytherapy implant is a crucial factor in achieving successful outcomes.

ONCURA was created through the merger of Amersham plc's brachytherapy business and Galil Medical Ltd.'s urology business. Galil is a subsidiary of Elron (ELRN). Headquartered in the United States, ONCURA operates as an independent business, with a major presence in the treatment of prostate cancer. On April 8, 2004, General Electric (GE) completed its previously announced acquisition of Amersham.