

News Release

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Long-term Data Presented by the New York Prostate Institute and Utilizing ONCURA's OncoSeed™ Reinforces the Value of Prostate Brachytherapy

Philadelphia (October 5, 2004) — As a global leader in minimally invasive prostate cancer treatment ONCURA™ continues to support the publication and presentation of long-term data that demonstrates the value of prostate brachytherapy. Data describing 12-year follow-up of over 1500 patients were presented by Dr Louis Potters (Medical Director, New York Prostate Institute) at the annual meeting of the American Society of Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ASTRO) in Atlanta (Oct 3 - 7).

"It's clear that brachytherapy offers patients an excellent chance for long-term cure," said Dr. Potters. He added, "Our broader data set demonstrates that 94% of our 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."

This study demonstrates the effectiveness of prostate brachytherapy in patients with clinically localized disease. It also shows the importance of brachytherapy implant quality, and when this is well done the addition of other therapies, such as hormones or external radiation does not offer the majority of patients any added benefit.

"These data, presented as they were at the end of prostate cancer awareness month, are great news for men diagnosed with prostate cancer," said Andrew Bright, ONCURA's Vice President of Strategic Marketing. He added, "Data on such a significant number of patients provides valuable insight into the decision making process all patients and their physicians must go through, allowing them to consider pre-treatment factors and the associated chances of cure."

The New York Prostate Institute (www.nyprostate.org) is a nationally recognized center of excellence for prostate brachytherapy that offers leading edge care and treatment, under the direction of Louis Potters, M.D., F.A.C.R. Located in Oceanside, on the campus of South Nassau Communities Hospital, it is the only center that is entirely dedicated to the care of patients with prostate cancer in the metropolitan region.

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.