

# BOOSTER CLUB

NEWSLETTER

## CEO'S CORNER



In light of ever-increasing scrutiny toward capital budget outlays, and considering the uncertainties with reimbursement, fewer and

fewer options are available to radiation oncology administrators for expanding their treatment options. The concept where AccuBoost will work with centers to introduce a new treatment modality without any up-front expense is gaining traction as we start the new calendar year.

This newsletter issue reports on the new additions, plans to participate in trade shows, and user quotations. It also provides information on treating AccuBoost patients with pacemakers and graphic arts requested by a user to explain the benefit of AccuBoost, in a simple visual display.

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## ACCUBOOST LAUNCH AT DEPAUL MEDICAL CENTER



*AccuBoost launch at DePaul Medical Center, from left: Bradley Prestidge, MD; Shannon Scott, Radiation Therapist; patient in pink; Atef Omari, Physicist; Melinda Smith - Radiation Therapist*

Bradley Prestidge, a thought leader in radiation oncology and noted brachytherapy expert, has recently launched AccuBoost at DePaul Medical Center in Norfolk, VA. Dr. Prestidge is not only one of our newest users, but also was **the first user**. He treated the first AccuBoost patient in July 2007 in San Antonio, later introduced AccuBoost to Memorial Hermann Cancer Center in Houston in 2010 and this year brings AccuBoost to the Virginia Coast.

In his assessment of the technology during the recent launch of AccuBoost at DePaul Medical Center, part of the Bon Secours Health System, Brad observed, “I continue to be impressed with the

constant upgrades and improvements that AccuBoost has achieved since the early days – when we treated our first patient.” He adds, “I have noticed that a lot has changed with the equipment. The procedure is more refined and the length of the treatment time has been steadily reduced – to about half of what I remember. I especially like the new generation of applicators and the ‘wedge feature’ that allows for enhanced coverage of posterior lesions – that I was concerned with in the early days. Also, I am pleased with the supporting clinical results and broader range of use with the procedure, now for monotherapy in addition to boost.”

## ACCUBOOST FOR EX-USA

The focus for AccuBoost up to now has been, exclusively, the US market. There appears to be a significant interest in AccuBoost in countries outside of the US, as demonstrated by the visits to our exhibit at the recent ASTRO show. At ASTRO we met with a number of foreign visitors inquiring about representation for AccuBoost in various part of the world. Notable in this list were distributors from developing economies – where they seem keen to search for, and import, the latest and best technologies for their patients. AccuBoost intends to expand its focus to include selected foreign countries starting with 2016.



## ACCUBOOST AT ABS

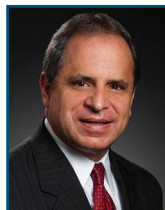
Visit us at the  
**World Congress  
of Brachytherapy,**  
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San Francisco

## UPDATE ON 5-FRACTION APBI PROCEDURE BY ACCUBOOST



“Accrual for the FAST NIBB protocol, that delivers APBI dose in 5-fractions of 5.7 Gy, has been going extremely well, already reaching the half-way point. In addition, we are in the process of opening this protocol at the University of California, San Diego. I anticipate we will be presenting early results in the near future.” *-Jaroslaw T. Hepel, MD, principal investigator of the BrUOG-291 study*

## THERAGENICS INITIATIVES



Starting with this issue, Theragenics Corporation, the sales and distribution partner for AccuBoost, will be reporting on their activities and observations in the marketplace. Frank Tarallo, Chief Executive Officer of Theragenics, reports: “We have now visited many of the AccuBoost user groups. We have been impressed with the enthusiasm, commitment and especially the satisfaction of the AccuBoost users.”

He adds “In our interaction with the present users, we have identified several initiatives where we believe that we can bring our considerable experience and knowledge in field to support increased awareness and usage of AccuBoost. We are convinced that we can help to better inform patients and educate users on ways to connect with their patients

to serve them better”. Our initiatives include:

- ❖ *creating patient awareness,*
- ❖ *cultivating and supporting the referral chain, outreach to primary care physicians, referring breast surgeons, and others,*
- ❖ *providing clinical support to improve work-flow and reduce treatment time,*
- ❖ *disseminating the latest clinical results,*
- ❖ *organizing workshops to facilitate making the users aware of “the best industry practice options,” and*
- ❖ *attending trade shows.*

The planning for many of our initiatives is already underway and we intend to implement these initiatives in the new year.

## ACCUBOOST REDUCES CHEST-WALL DOSE



“I have learned from my observations that the nagging rib cage pain, customary in patients treated with breast radiation therapy, is sharply reduced in those boosted with AccuBoost.” *-Anand Kuruville, MD, FACRO, Cancer Center of Putnam*

## Q&A ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF ACCUBOOST FOR PATIENTS WITH PACEMAKERS

*With David Wazer, MD, Medical Advisory Board Chair*

Patients with pacemakers present a challenge for radiation therapy. The problem is exacerbated for breast cancer patients as the pacemaker is often in or near the radiation field. The contribution and suitability of AccuBoost for this group of patients, as part of the continuing best industry practices, is posed to David Wazer:

**Q:** *Should one be concerned when treating a patient with pacemakers?*

**A:** Radiation therapy patients with pacemakers deserve special attention and it's wise to err on the side of caution when treating these patients. As such, we always communicate our plan for radiation therapy to the patient's cardiologist and work directly with them to ensure that the patient is safely managed.



*The tattoo on the patient marks the location of the pacemaker while treated along the C-C axis with AccuBoost. The pair of opposing tungsten applicators provide considerable shielding.*

**Q:** *Are there clearly defined specifications for safe/acceptable dose to the pacemakers?*

**A:** The safe dose to pacemakers varies widely with different manufacturers. Generally speaking, most modern pacemakers can safely operate as long as the dose is below 50 cGy. However, it is important to clarify the threshold dose for each specific device prior to the start of treatment. That said, we routinely coordinate the radiation therapy plan with a cardiologist. Oftentimes, the pacemaker is interrogated after each fraction to verify that it is still in proper working

order. For certain high risk cases, the cardiologist (or his designate) will be present in the department during each fraction - to intervene if a malfunction occurs.

low according to the measurements that we have performed and certainly a lot lower than a typical XBT exposure. As a cautionary step – just to be absolutely safe – we place a TLD over the pacemaker to monitor and record the dose

**Q:** *How does the pacemaker dose for AccuBoost patients compare with those designated to receive external beam?*

**A:** To my knowledge, the dose received to pacemakers with AccuBoost procedure is exceedingly



ACCUBOOST  
AT ACRO

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**2016 ACRO Annual Meeting**  
March 17-19 at Buena Vista  
Palace Hotel in Orlando

# A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS: ACCUBOOST LOWERS UNDESIRABLE EXPOSURE TO THE HEART AND LUNGS

In explaining the benefits of AccuBoost to patients, there can be no doubt of the validity of the old adage: “a picture is worth a thousand words”. Based on an AccuBoost user’s request, a visual aid has been developed that shows the conceptual differences between the AccuBoost approach and electron or photon boost designs. With the patient in an upright position, AccuBoost delivers the dose parallel to the chest wall as opposed to alternatives with the patient in supine position where a portion of the external beam exposes the heart, lungs and chest wall. These graphics are available to AccuBoost users, in poster or data sheet format, to aid in explaining the benefits of the procedure.

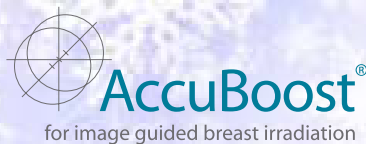
**ELECTRON BOOST**      **PHOTON BOOST**

**ACCUBOOST**

*Info-graphic for conveying the benefits of AccuBoost compared to alternatives.*

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*Happy New Year!  
From AccuBoost!*

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