



The Institute of Cancer Research is latest center to join Elekta and Philips research consortium to develop MRI-guided therapy system for cancer treatment

LONDON, June 5, 2014 – Elekta (NYSE:EKTA) and Royal Philips (NYSE:PHG, AEX:PHIA) announced today that The Institute of Cancer Research, London, a world-leading cancer research institution, working with its clinical partner The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust, will join the Elekta MR Linac Research Consortium, a group with a mission to develop an integrated magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) guided radiation therapy system. Uniting an advanced digital linac with an MRI system would greatly enhance real-time visualization of cancer targets during the delivery of therapeutic radiation.

“The addition of The Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) to the consortium further strengthens this growing partnership of clinical centers,” says Niklas Savander, Elekta President and CEO. “The ICR is a prominent cancer research institute and has contributed significantly in this arena for over a century. Its unique partnership with The Royal Marsden and ‘bench-to-bedside’ approach allows the ICR to deliver exceptional results. All of these factors make the ICR and The Royal Marsden a perfect fit as we advance MRI-guided radiotherapy.”

“The development of MRI-guided radiation therapy establishes a new vision for clinical radiation oncology for the treatment of cancer,” says Prof. Uwe Oelfke, MCCPM, FInstP, and Head of the Joint Department of Physics at The Institute of Cancer Research, London and The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust. “The translation of this novel technical approach into clinical practice faces a number of challenges ideally addressed by a group of world leading radiotherapy centers, each contributing with its specific expertise. Being a member of the consortium is a prerequisite to shape this exciting future of radiation therapy.

“Our current Cancer Research UK-funded research program on adaptive and image guided therapy,” he continues, “together with the activities on MRI within our Cancer Research UK imaging center, are an excellent research environment to make leading contributions to the joint efforts of the consortium.”

The ICR’s initial research focus for MRI-guided radiation therapy will be on pelvic malignancies, where the excellent soft tissue contrast of MR images directly before or during treatment will substantially enhance treatment options and quality, he adds.

The ICR is the sixth member to join the research consortium that assesses the novel technology, which brings together state-of-the-art radiation therapy and MRI in a single system. The consortium also includes the University Medical Center Utrecht (Utrecht, the Netherlands), The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center (Houston, Texas), The Netherlands Cancer Institute-Antoni van Leeuwenhoek Hospital (Amsterdam, the Netherlands), Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre (Toronto, Ontario) and The Froedtert & Medical College of Wisconsin Cancer Center (Milwaukee, Wisconsin).

“MRI-guided radiation therapy has the promise to become a highly targeted treatment for cancer,” said Gene Saragnese, CEO Imaging Systems at Philips Healthcare. “The realization of this promise requires the collaboration between leaders in interventional imaging and radiation therapy delivery, as well as clinical innovators in oncology. We are convinced that the deep clinical knowledge and expertise of the Institute of Cancer Research will be a strong asset to the growing research consortium.”

Major progress

Since its launch in 2012, the research consortium has taken several steps toward its goal.



On April 5, the University Medical Center Utrecht began installing the first generation MRI-guided radiation therapy system for non-clinical testing, which includes the performance evaluation of MRI pulse sequences, testing of different adaptive delivery methods, establishing quality assurance techniques and defining workflow. Several of the sites are now undertaking treatment planning evaluation using the Monte Carlo based MRI-corrected algorithms in a research version of Elekta's Monaco® treatment planning system. In addition, A number of the consortium centers have active research programs linked to the MRI-guided radiation therapy system and have submitted abstracts to the American Association of Physicists in Medicine [AAPM] Annual Meeting (July 20-24, Austin, Texas) where some specific sessions will be covering the latest advances in MRI-guided radiotherapy.

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For further information, please contact:

Gert van Santen, Group Vice President Corporate Communications, Elekta AB
Tel: +31 653 561 242, e-mail: gert.vansanten@elekta.com
Time zone: CET: Central European Time

Johan Andersson, Director, Investor Relations, Elekta AB
Tel: +46 702 100 451, e-mail: johan.andersson@elekta.com
Time zone: CET: Central European Time

Steve Klink, Philips Group Communications
Tel: +31 6 10888824, e-mail: steve.klink@philips.com
Time zone: CET: Central European Time

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About Elekta

Elekta is a human care company pioneering significant innovations and clinical solutions for treating cancer and brain disorders. The company develops sophisticated, state-of-the-art tools and treatment planning systems for radiation therapy, radiosurgery and brachytherapy, as well as workflow enhancing software systems across the spectrum of cancer care. Stretching the boundaries of science and technology, providing intelligent and resource-efficient solutions that offer confidence to both health care providers and patients, Elekta aims to improve, prolong and even save patient lives.

Today, Elekta solutions in oncology and neurosurgery are used in over 6,000 hospitals worldwide. Elekta employs around 3,500 employees globally. The corporate headquarters is located in Stockholm, Sweden, and the company is listed on the Nordic Exchange under the ticker STO:EKTAB. Website: www.elekta.com.

About Royal Philips



Royal Philips (NYSE: PHG, AEX: PHIA) is a diversified health and well-being company, focused on improving people's lives through meaningful innovation in the areas of Healthcare, Consumer Lifestyle and Lighting. Headquartered in the Netherlands, Philips posted 2013 sales of EUR 23.3 billion and employs approximately 112,000 employees with sales and services in more than 100 countries. The company is a leader in cardiac care, acute care and home healthcare, energy efficient lighting solutions and new lighting applications, as well as male shaving and grooming and oral healthcare. News from Philips is located at www.philips.com/newscenter.