



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CANADIAN RESEARCHERS LEADING THE WAY IN PROSTATE CANCER
TREATMENT INNOVATION RESEARCH**
International Clinical Trial Moving Forward

TORONTO (September 28, 2015): The Prostate Cure Foundation (PCF) is pleased to announce that the Canadian arm of an international clinical trial of Stereotactic Ablative Body Radiotherapy (SABR) will move forward thanks to support from Ride For Dad as well as pharmaceutical companies led by Astellas, Janssen and Astra Zeneca. The support comes after promising early research indicated that SABR, which requires only 5 sessions, has the potential to deliver better cure rates with fewer side effects than the standard 39-session radiotherapy protocol.

Headed by Dr. William Chu, Radiation Oncologist and Clinician Investigator, at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, this new larger SABR Prostate Cancer Trial will take place at 11 cancer centres across Canada and is expected to demonstrate the validity of Sunnybrook's earlier clinical trials, which took place from 2006 to 2014. The trial is part of the international Prostate Advances in Comparative Evidence (PACE) study.

"SABR has the potential to become the new standard of care for favorable-risk prostate cancer patient in that it delivers more effective treatment with fewer side effects, allows for more men to be treated more quickly, and it is less expensive than the 39-session protocol, brachytherapy or surgery," says Dr. Loblaw, President of the Prostate Cure Foundation; Clinician Scientist and GU site Group Lead, Department of Radiation Oncology at Sunnybrook, and a Professor of The Department of Radiation Oncology at the University of Toronto. "We are very excited about what the preliminary trials have shown us and grateful to our funding partners for their wholehearted support of this important next phase of the research."

Both Drs. Chu and Loblaw, leaders in innovation in image-guided radiotherapy, will conduct education and training sessions with Radiation Oncologists (Principal Investigators of the trial), Medical Physicists and Radiation Therapists from each of the participating 11 cancer centres in Toronto on October 1st and 2nd at Sunnybrook. The goal is to accrue 200 eligible prostate cancer patients for the trial which will run from 2015 to 2020 and includes five years of patient follow-up.

The SABR treatment involves high-precision, higher-dose-per-day radiotherapy and is specifically suited for men with favorable-risk prostate cancer. The image-guided technique spares healthy tissue surrounding the tumor. "We see SABR as being the way of the future for the treatment of early stage prostate cancer," says Dr. Chu. "With the incidence of prostate cancer rising each year, SABR will allow us to treat more men more effectively."

KEY FINDINGS OF EARLY SABR RESEARCH:

Preliminary findings from the SABR Prostate Cancer Trial have shown the following:

- i) **Reduced Side Effects in Sexual Functioning:** 96 percent of SABR patients retain normal sexual function compared to baseline.

- ii) **High Rates of Remission Five Years After Treatment:** SABR-treated patients showed a 99 percent remission rate amongst low-risk patients and 93 percent amongst intermediate-risk patients.
- iii) **More Efficient:** SABR treats patients in 5 sessions vs 39 with standard radiotherapy. For example, the cost for 5-session SABR is \$1,470 as compared to \$6,987 for 39-session radiotherapy.
- iv) **Lower Treatment Cost Per Patient:** Fewer sessions equates to considerable savings for the patient (less visits to the hospitals) and for the health care system.
- v) **Increased Efficiency:** Fewer per patient treatments allows for a 600 per cent increase in system capacity allowing more prostate cancer patients to be treated more quickly.

The SABR Prostate Cancer Trial is taking place at the following cancer centres: Tom Baker Cancer Centre, Calgary; Juravinski Cancer Centre, Hamilton; London Regional Cancer Centre, London; Jewish General Hospital and Central Sud, Montreal; Ottawa Regional Cancer Centre, Ottawa; Northeast Cancer Centre, Sudbury; Odette Cancer Centre and Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, Toronto; Windsor Regional Cancer Centre, Windsor; and CancerCare Manitoba, Winnipeg.

Men with favorable-risk prostate cancer who are interested in participating in the SABR Prostate Cancer Trial should contact their oncologist to see if they might qualify for the trial. For further information on the Prostate Cure Foundation and SABR, visit www.prostatecure.ca

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ABOUT PROSTATE CURE FOUNDATION

The Prostate Cure Foundation (PCF) is a national charitable organization that was started by three Canadian oncologists whose mission is to undertake treatment innovation research, a form of clinical research that has, as its goal, generating breakthroughs for men with prostate cancer within four to six years. Unlike 'discovery' research, which may not produce results that can be introduced into the clinic for 20 years, the work of PCF is captured by their mission, "For a cure without compromise". Research funded by PCF is conducted by clinical oncologists across Canada.

INTERVIEW AND PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: Media are welcome to attend the opening remarks of the SABR educational session on October 1st:

DATE: Thursday, October 1st 2015
LOCATION: Vaughan Estate (at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre)
ROOM: Academy of Medicine Room
TIME: 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Before attending, please call in advance to confirm attendance and to schedule an interview with Drs. Loblaw and Chu or other oncologists participating in the trial.

MEDIA CONTACT:

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