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April 14, 2010

FROM: SATRO® Planning Committee

Dear Colleagues,

Please mark your calendar to join us at the upcoming SATRO® 12 conference, "Facing Challenges, Forging Solutions", April 29-30 in Atlanta, rated as one of America's 'Safest Cities' by *Travel and Leisure.com*. Located in northeast Atlanta, our hotel, the Crowne Plaza Ravinia, is adjacent to the Perimeter Mall, which offers over 200 stores and restaurants (<http://www.perimetermall.com/>).

This year our program offers twelve (12) sessions, including seven general and four breakout sessions. Two of the latter will include focus group discussions for those in either freestanding or hospital settings, to be facilitated by billing and coding consultants, and those discussions will focus on important and emerging issues of interest. We hope that you will find this a helpful addition to our conference programming.

Along with presentations by some of the preeminent billing and coding consultants in radiation oncology, we will again offer a 1.5 hour consultant panel to answer your submitted and contemporaneous questions. Billing and coding topics will include: "Coding the Patient Encounter", "Billing for Services under the Performing M.D.", "Coding and Documenting Simulation", and "Compliance Goals for Radiation Oncology." Consultant D. Scott Simmons will also offer "Problem Management: Patients, Staff and MDs", sure to be a helpful topic.

J. Leonard Lichtenfeld, MD, MACP, Deputy Chief Medical Officer for the American Cancer Society which is headquartered in Atlanta, will offer the initial session, a discussion of the latest in "Cancer Treatment Issues and Trends".

We are pleased to announce that Maureen 'Mo' Tracy, Director, Federal Affairs, Varian Medical Systems, will offer an *additional* session, a "Washington Update from Varian", at the end of our Thursday programming, and immediately prior to the evening reception.

On Friday morning, we will kick off with "HITECH 'How To' – Opportunities and Risks", offered by Tynan Olechny, MBA/MPH, Senior Consultant, Gates Moore & Company and H. Carol Saul, J.D., Member, Epstein Becker Green, who will review the important aspects of the *ARRA* and *HITECH* legislation affecting us all in healthcare.

Following this overview, presenters from Elekta Oncology (Sima Aziz and Ginger Cardona) and from Varian Medical Systems (Maureen Tracy and Mark Kaye), will specifically discuss vendor readiness for *ARRA* and *HITECH*, and how we may best partner with them for related solutions.

Richard Wild, M.D., J.D., MBA, Chief Medical Officer for CMS Region IV, which covers nine southern states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North and South Carolina and Tennessee, will present “CMS Value Based Purchasing Initiatives”.

Following our Friday luncheon, another *special addition* to our program will be a short talk by Dr. Tim Williams, ASTRO Board Chair, who will provide an update of some of the current threats and opportunities now facing our specialty.

In uncertain economic times such as these, SATRO® offers you one of the most cost-effective continuing education solutions available. We have worked diligently to present an overview of important and timely topics which impact not only radiation oncology, but also the business of healthcare. In addition, we are offering CEU credits from several professional associations, including AAPC, ASRT, MDCB and ROCC®. We think that the range of topics and speakers this year makes SATRO® 12 one of our strongest conferences to date.

Instead of incurring high travel and ever higher registration costs for distant conferences, we think that you will agree that Atlanta is easy to access (drivable for many), that the registration and hotel costs are appreciably less than those of many other radiation oncology conferences, and that our ‘compressed’ schedule (1.5 days) permits your time away from work to be quite manageable.

To maximize your ‘investment value’, we are pleased to announce that Coding Strategies, Inc. will offer a one-half day pre-conference workshop on Thursday morning, and that Revenue Cycle, Inc. will offer a full day post-conference workshop on Saturday (both require separate registration). A *new offering* this year is a one-half day pre-conference session on Thursday morning, offering a range of free vendor presentations to interested parties (see our website for details).

To access program information, updates about speakers and the conference schedule, as well as lodging and registration specifics, please visit our website, www.satro.org. You may also wish to join our chat group of nearly 500 radiation oncology professionals on Yahoo (<http://groups.yahoo.com/>), for the latest billing and coding information.

Nearly 225 from 27 states, D.C. and Puerto Rico have already registered, but we are holding a space for you. Because of the important topics which will be discussed at our conference, the board has elected to waive the late registration fee.

Please join us!

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Your help is appreciated by passing this on to a colleague if you have already sent in your RSVP. If you wish to unsubscribe, [please click here](#). Thank you.