



Radiation Oncology Consultants

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ROC July 2014 Newsletter

Homeland Security Medal Recipient Speaks at Advocate Lutheran General



C. Norman Coleman, M.D.

C. Norman Coleman, M.D. spoke at The 14th Annual Ana Speranza-Miller, M.D. Symposium on **Friday, June 6th from 7 to 8 a.m. in the Olson Auditorium at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital**. He addressed the best practices for responding to a nuclear or radiological disaster. The title of his talk was: "Responding to a Nuclear or Radiological Disaster: From Underlying Science to **What Do I DO!!??**". He also touched on local Chicago response issues and concerns.

Dr. Coleman was the fourteenth annual lecturer in honor of Dr. Ana Speranza-Miller. Ana was a beloved radiation oncologist in Radiation Oncology Consultants (ROC), who unfortunately passed away from cancer.

Norman Coleman was the prior Chairman at the Harvard Joint Center, is an ASTRO Gold Medalist (the highest award in the radiation oncology society), and is currently a Senior Medical Advisor at the NCI who advises on Homeland Security.

Dr. Coleman has received the 2011 Homeland Security Medal for his work on an emergency response plan in case of a nuclear attack. After the 2011 9.0 earthquake and tsunami in Japan, Coleman flew to Japan with a team of experts to assess levels of radiation that threatened the population of Fukushima. He provided advice on how to handle the medical risks of radiation and various future responses to a similar dilemma. Coleman was able to use the knowledge he gained in Japan to create an emergency response plan for the United States. He is now the Associate Director of the Radiation Research Program at the National Institutes of Health.

Since 2004 he has also been a Senior Medical Advisor in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) in the Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. Coleman's talk was particularly illuminating for demonstrating how to tackle, tough, intangible problems by breaking the process down in a scientific way into smaller pieces that makes the problem more concrete and manageable. Dr. Coleman's focus is on radiological and nuclear preparedness and planning, but the approaches described apply to all-hazards.

After the lectureship, Dr. Coleman took an additional two hours of time for a **"Meet the Professor" academic session with the Chicago area radiation oncology residents**. Residents attended from the University of Chicago, Northwestern, Loyola, and Rush.

Much of this session with the residents was spent discussing yet another vexing problem facing all of us: the rising burden of global oncology, particularly in the developing world. Globally, one in five men and one in six women will develop cancer before the age of 75, and one in eight men, and one in twelve women will die from the disease. Cancer is the leading cause of economic loss (WHO 2010 estimates of \$1.16 trillion) through premature death and disability worldwide due to treatment costs, but also in lost economic and social activity.

Dr. Coleman introduced the idea of developing a Cancer Expert, "Peace Corps"—a task force involving academia and private practice that could help coordinate oncology care worldwide and address these issues before they become more overwhelming.

ROC is proud to have brought Dr. Coleman to Chicago to address these two important issues: radiation disaster safety and combating the global cancer epidemic. His lectures challenged ROC and our broader medical community to "think outside the box" and see how we can make an even greater contribution to the public good.

To learn more about Dr. Coleman and his accomplishment, visit http://servicetoamericamedals.org/SAM/recipients/profiles/hsm11_coleman.shtml