Fourteenth Gray Medal Awarded to Dr. Albert van der Kogel

The ICRU is pleased to announce that the Fourteenth Gray Medal was presented to Dr. Albert van der Kogel at the European Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology meeting held August 30 - September 3, 2009 in Maastricht, Netherlands.

At an early stage of his career, while a postdoctoral fellow at the Radiobiological Institute TNO in Rijswijk, The Netherlands, Dr van der Kogel received the high honor of being supported as a fellow of the Dutch Cancer Society's "Koningin Wilhelmina Fond", an honor also bestowed on him many times in his later illustrious career.

After his postdoctoral fellowship he was appointed to the staff of TNO, one of most outstanding radiobiology centers in the world, from 1975 to 1984. "Bert" van der Kogel then moved to the USA and became an Associate Professor at the Cancer Center in Albuquerque, NM. During that time he was also a Guest Scientist at Los Alamos National Laboratory and also became a Faculty Affiliate in the Department of Radiology and Radiation Biology at the Colorado State University in Fort Collins. In 1987 he returned to his native Netherlands as Professor of Clinical Radiobiology and Head of the Laboratory for Experimental Radiation Oncology at the University Medical Center, Nijmegen, a position he holds to the present time. During his career his expertise has been widely sought and he has served for many years as a consultant in Experimental Radiotherapy and Radiobiology at the University Hospital of Leuven, Belgium and at the Radiotherapeutic Institute Limburg in Heerlen in addition to maintaining ongoing affiliations with US research laboratories.

Bert's systematic research on all facets of radiation response and injury of CNS tissues has made him truly the ultimate authority in the field. The depth and breadth of his investigations are astounding, involving multiple radiation qualities including photons, neutrons, pi mesons, and ions, and the study of dose, time and volume effects, interactions with chemotherapeutic agents, sensitizers, protectors and bioreductive drugs. He has studied the influence of drug delivery and blood-brain barrier disruptions, angiogenesis and tumor-bed effects. His recent publications on the ‘bath and shower effect’ which evaluate the sensitizing effect of a large low-dose field on a small high-dose field in the rat cervical spinal cord, is yet another example of his meticulous scientific method and his influence on clinical applications. His work has contributed insights into the calculations of isoeffect relationships that have become more and more important in today’s clinical practice where multiple modalities or types of radiation are often used.

His work has been supported by numerous grants from a variety of funding agencies and has resulted in more than 200 publications, in addition to numerous invited presentations...
and lectures, conference chairmanships, and international teaching roles, including a key role in the ESTRO radiobiology teaching program. In addition, he has served in various advisory roles and is currently a member of numerous professional societies.

Bert's honors include the Breur ESTRO Gold Medal, the Charles Botstein Memorial Visiting Professorship at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, the Emmanuel van der Schueren Memorial Lecture of the Belgian Society of Radiation Oncology, the John S Laughlin Visiting Professorship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Institute, New York, the Bacq & Alexander Award by the European Society of Radiation Biology, the Gilbert H Fletcher Lecture at the Fletcher Society and an honorary membership in the Polish Radiological Society.