

04 November 2016

Innovation acknowledged at awards

Seed Tracker, an innovative technique to improve the accuracy of radiation therapy for patients undergoing prostate cancer treatment at Liverpool Cancer Therapy Centre, has received the prestigious Bob Leece Transforming Health Award at the NSW Health Awards.

Liverpool Hospital Medical Physics specialist Dr Sankar Arumugam said the team were honoured to have been recognised for their role in developing and implementing the SeedTracker in patients undergoing prostate stereotactic radiotherapy.

“Stereotactic radiation therapy, uses pin point precision technology to deliver targeted radiotherapy beams, shaped to attack prostate cancer cells, while keeping the dose delivered to normal organs such as the bladder and bowel relatively low,” Dr Arumugam said.

Liverpool Radiation Oncologist Dr Mark Sidhom who was also involved in the project said the innovative treatment is not only effective, it is also highly accurate.

“Using a new technique we developed called SeedTracker, we can now watch the prostate as it is being treated, so even if there is a tiny movement, we can pause the radiation therapy, adjust the patient and re-start the treatment.

“This ensures the area we want to treat receives the right dose of radiation, resulting in more accurate and targeted radiotherapy and ultimately, better outcomes for our patients,” he said.

SWSLHD and the Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation were also recognised as NSW Health Award finalists in the Preventative Health category for their work in closing the gap in Aboriginal health outcomes through culturally appropriate services.

In addition, Fairfield Hospital's Whitlam Joint Replacement Centre attended the awards as finalists in the Collaborative Team category for their work - Equal Access for the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Community.

Liverpool Hospital also scooped the Improving Service Levels in Hospitals Award at the NSW Premier's Awards for Public Service. The Hospital was recognised for delivering enhanced services through a new model of care that helps patients navigate through the Emergency Department.

PHOTO 1: Liverpool Hospital Medical Physics Specialist Dr Sankar Arumugam and Radiation Oncologist Dr Mark Sidhom alongside colleagues: Liverpool Hospital's Director of Cancer Services Prof Geoff Delaney, Liverpool Hospital's Director of medical physics Mr Gary Goozee as well as radiation therapist Mark Udovitch and medical physics registrar Dr Daniel Truant.

PHOTO 2: Liverpool Hospital Emergency Department Nursing Unit Manager Katrina Smith, Liverpool Hospital General Manager Robynne Cooke, Liverpool Hospital Demand Management Unit Manager Scott McDonald.