

# Consortium in the News

## The Development of Radiation Oncology Services in Ireland

The Minister for Health and Children (Ireland) established an Expert Working Group on the Development of Radiotherapy Services in May 2000. The Group was tasked to assess radiotherapy services needs and, based on these needs, to make recommendations on the future development of radiotherapy services in Ireland. The Group considered recent developments in cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment; National Cancer Strategy provisions in relation to radiotherapy services; and best practice in the area. The Group's work plan included meetings, site visits, and independent research studies. To include consultants' input, the Group invited the Health Boards and the Eastern Regional Health Authority to submit their radiation oncology services development plans and also to meet in-person with the Group to provide updates.

The Group, chaired by Consortium member Professor Donal Hollywood, wrote and released a report *The Development of Radiation Oncology Services in Ireland* in which the TELESYNERGY® system was endorsed as a core technology in linking a proposed Supraregional Radiation Oncology units network. The entire document is available in PDF format on the Consortium Web site in the Publications section at [www.allirelandnci.org](http://www.allirelandnci.org).

## Radiation Therapists Linked by TELESYNERGY®

S. Hynds and Evelyn O'Shea, radiation therapists, co-authored an article titled "Radiation Therapists Linked by TELESYNERGY®" with assistance from Consortium member Professor Donal Hollywood. The article discussed the increased use of telemedicine by radiation therapists, because of the accessibility of the TELESYNERGY® system on the island of Ireland. The authors included details about a Consortium-sponsored TELESYNERGY® User Group meeting in Bethesda, Maryland United States in January and follow-up teleconferences following the User Group meeting. The entire article is available in the Publications section of the Consortium Web site at [www.allirelandnci.org](http://www.allirelandnci.org).