

The Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium

January 22-24, 2010

Leonard L. Gunderson, MD, MS, FASTRO

Chair, 2010 Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium Steering Committee

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American Society of Clinical Oncology



Dr. Leonard L. Gunderson, MD, MS, is the *President-Elect* of the *American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO)*. Dr. Gunderson has over 30 years of service to ASTRO with involvement in ASTRO Refresher Courses/Education Sessions, ASTRO panels and the scientific program committee. He was a member of the ASTRO Board of Directors from 2003-2008 as Treasurer/Secretary and Chair of the Finance/Audit Committee.

Dr. Gunderson has an *extensive history of leadership* with the *Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG)* as Chair of the RTOG Gastrointestinal (GI) Cancer Committee/GI Steering Committee (1987-94) and Vice-Chair for Disease Sites (1994-2001). During this time the RTOG GI committee was organized by Dr Gunderson to have strong tri-modality, multi-disciplinary leadership with involvement of Radiation Oncologists, Medical Oncologists and Surgeons at both the GI Cancer Steering Committee/Strategy Group meetings and the RTOG GI Cancer Committee. At the RTOG steering committee level, Dr. Gunderson was a strong proponent for GI cancer trials involving irradiation/systemic therapy \pm surgery as a component of treatment and for active participation of RTOG GI CA leaders in the NCI sponsored GI cancer intergroup mechanism.

In addition, Dr. Gunderson held *leadership positions with the Mayo Clinic* for more than 22 years. Positions included Vice-Chair of Radiation Oncology, Chair of Radiation Oncology, Vice-Chair Department of Oncology, and Chair of the Department of Oncology at Mayo Clinic in Rochester (MCR). Dr Gunderson was the only Radiation Oncologist to serve as Chair of the Dept of Oncology (Divisions of Radiation Oncology, Medical Oncology and Oncology Research[basic research]). His selection as Chair of this multi-disciplinary department was a reflection of his general leadership skills and ability to involve others in shared, multi-disciplinary patient care and clinical research. Dr. Gunderson also served as Chair of Radiation Oncology at Mayo Clinic in Arizona (MCA) and Deputy Director for Clinical Affairs at the Mayo Clinic Cancer Center- Arizona (2001-07). At the time of his arrival at MCA there were no functioning multi-disciplinary disease site groups and the only multi-disciplinary disease-site clinic was for patients with breast cancer. As Deputy Director for Clinical Affairs, MCCC-A, all of the disease-site groups became functional over a 2-3 yr time period, and additional multi-disciplinary disease-site clinics have been developed for GI, Gynecologic and thoracic (lung/esophagus) cancers.

Dr. Gunderson has conducted *clinical research* and has *significant patient care contributions* in *rectal, gastric, pancreas, biliary tract and anal cancers*, with regard to defining the indications for and results of external beam irradiation as a component of multi-modality treatment for patients with GI cancer alone or in conjunction with systemic therapy \pm surgical resection. In addition, he has teamed with surgical colleagues in evaluating the role of intraoperative irradiation plus maximal surgical resection for patients with locally advanced primary and locally recurrent GI and other cancers while on staff at Massachusetts General Hospital, Mayo Clinic in Rochester and Mayo Clinic in Arizona. Dr Gunderson has been Vice-chair of the lower GI Cancer Task Force for the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) and has had a significant role in modifying cancer staging for colorectal cancer for the 6th and 7th editions of the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual. To date, Dr. Gunderson has served as Sr editor (n=5) or co-editor on six textbooks on clinical radiation oncology (n=5) or colorectal cancer. Dr. Gunderson has been involved with the GI Cancer Symposium planning/leadership from 2004-10. He served as a representative of ASTRO on the *Program Committee* (2004-06) and *Steering Committee* – member (2006-09), Chair (2009-10)

Dr. Gunderson received his undergraduate degree from the Montana State University, his Master's Degree from the University of North Dakota and his Medical Degree from the University of Kentucky. He completed a surgical internship at the University of Utah Hospital and a residency/fellowship in Radiation Oncology at the Latter-Day Saints Hospital which included clinical rotations to MD Anderson Cancer Center, University of Utah, and University of Minnesota (clinical research to evaluate patterns of relapse following surgical resection in the re-operation series of GI cancer patients).

2318 Mill Road, Suite 800
Alexandria, VA 22314

571-483-1300
fax: 571-366-9530