

# Becoming a Y-90 Authorized User

**M**y journey to become an Authorized User (AU) began three years ago. At that time, my group was successfully building its interventional oncology practice and we realized that there was an opportunity and a need to begin offering yttrium-90 (Y-90) therapy. We hired Brian L. Dunfee, MD, a fellow of Riaad Salem, MD, MBA, FSIR, from Northwestern Hospital. Within six months we had Internal Review Board approval and Dr. Dunfee on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) license of one of our busiest hospitals. The hospital's interventional staff, Dr. Dunfee and I attended an industry-based training program and the ball started rolling.

Fast-forward two years, where the Y-90 program was becoming too busy for one AU. I was helping Dr. Dunfee with the mappings, but it was clearly not enough to keep up with the demand. I began to investigate how I could become an AU. At that time the NRC and Pennsylvania, an agreement state, required almost unattainable training goals for one to qualify for somebody who is more than seven years post fellowship, which sadly is the category into which I fell.

At the time, SIR was working with the NRC to make it easier for an interventional radiologist to become a Y-90 AU. I began hearing rumors of an SIR course that would help one to do just that. Eventually the *Y-90: Are YoU Ready?* course became available and I immediately enrolled. The course was extremely informative and educational even for someone already involved in a Y-90 program. The course was very well organized with a comprehensive mix of lectures on topics such as radiation biology, dosimetry, radiation safety, embolotherapy and clinical office management. The discussion of the two Y-90 products was even and free of commercial bias. The clinical case discussions with the national

experts were excellent in their descriptions of simple and complex treatments. The lectures on hepatic arteriography were beneficial in that they reinforced the importance of proper diagnostic imaging and treatment of hepatic arterial variants. The dosimetry, which some might find to be intimidating, was, in fact, presented in a simple and straightforward manner, so that attendees could confidently prepare a treatment plan. After taking the online postcourse test, I received my certificates of completion and credit.

In addition to the didactic portion of the course, there were "hands-on" sessions that allowed attendees to try various equipment and supplies necessary for performance of Y-90 treatments. I personally performed three mock setups of microspheres from the medical companies that then gave me certificates of completion from MDS Nordion and Sirtex Medical Inc.

When I returned to Philadelphia, I still wasn't sure whether I qualified. I contacted my residency director, who gladly provided a letter indicating that I had completed six months of nuclear medicine, which included the requisite amount of radiation therapy, safety and handling training.

In January 2011, the NRC, with some pressure from SIR, relaxed its requirements. I submitted my qualifications to the state of Pennsylvania, including one company's certificate, residency letter, mock administration letters and the *Y-90: Are YoU Ready?* certificate. Less than a week later, I had the amended license in my hand! Within two weeks, I was administering my first doses of microspheres. It was a very proud moment for me.

I believe that the pursuit of AU status is well worth the effort as it provides individual professional satisfaction and enhanced value to your practice. The referring oncologists and hospital administration



by Aaron  
Shiloh, MD

realize that you can provide cutting-edge, university level care at your institution.

While I take some credit for aggressively pursuing AU status, most of the recognition should be given to the SIR leadership, who lobbied to make it easier for interventional radiologists to become AUs and who organized a comprehensive course that facilitates qualification. I look forward to attending future Y-90 courses as they become available, and I would urge anyone with an interest in advancing their interventional oncology practice to do the same. SIR members should feel free to contact me with any specific questions at [ashiloh@diiradiology.com](mailto:ashiloh@diiradiology.com) or contact the Society at [Education@SIRweb.org](mailto:Education@SIRweb.org). ▸

### Mark Your Calendar for the 2012 Course!

*Online registration coming soon*

Y-90: Are YoU Ready? is back by popular demand. The meeting will take place Feb. 9–12, 2012, at the FireSky Resort & Spa in Scottsdale, Ariz. Contact Ashley Cole at [ACole@SIRweb.org](mailto:ACole@SIRweb.org) for more information.

### Y-90 2011 Proceedings Available

Y-90: Are YoU Ready? meeting proceedings provide full-motion streaming video Web presentations of the outstanding, informative lectures that took place in February 2011. Available on demand in the SIR Learning Center at <https://learn.SIRweb.org/>.

# Y90: Are you U ready?

## PROGRAM COORDINATORS

**MATTHEW S. JOHNSON, MD, FSIR**  
Indiana University School of Medicine  
Indianapolis, Ind.

**CHARLES W. NUTTING, DO, FSIR**  
Radiology Imaging Associates  
Greenwood Village, Colo.

**RIAD SALEM, MD, MBA, FSIR**  
Northwestern Memorial Hospital  
Chicago, Ill.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This three-and-a-half-day course, designed with lectures, panel discussions, case scenarios and hands-on workshops, will offer the most in-depth, comprehensive and challenging curriculum available for interventional radiologists interested in initiating or developing their practice in this exciting aspect of interventional oncology. This course incorporates the requisite training and testing for official SIR validation of the IR attendee as qualified to apply for Authorized User (AU) status for intra-arterial Y-90 in the treatment of hepatic malignancies and concludes with an onsite learning assessment. Upon successful completion of this course and assessment, learners will receive a course completion certificate outlining the educational course content.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the attendee should be able to:

- Compare and contrast current device platforms
- Discuss the current algorithms and outcomes for treatment of primary and secondary hepatic malignancies inclusive of surgical, medical and transarterial therapies and explore the ideal sequencing of radioembolization in those algorithms
- Explore trends in patient selection and outcome prediction and discuss the relative importance of cancer, cirrhosis, age, performance status, imaging and physical examination

- Review information on the treatment algorithm, the rationale for the two-stage approach, device delivery strategies and microcatheters, coiling and embolization techniques and describe issues in postprocedural care and follow-up
- Describe best practice in yttrium-90 (Y-90) radiation safety and dose management
- Describe advanced radiation physics and various methods of calculation of dosimetry and how they vary between available platforms
- Demonstrate an advanced knowledge of Y-90 administration procedure, including familiarity with both available administration systems
- Describe responsibilities and significance of AU status in the comprehensive management of radioembolization and identify the importance of a robust radiation safety program
- Identify state and institutional requirements for becoming an AU and demonstrate comprehension of the

elements and significance of a robust radiation safety program as it relates to intra-arterial Y-90 therapy

- Demonstrate hands-on advanced microcatheterization and embolization skills pertinent to device delivery
- Discuss appropriate follow-up and patient prognosis after radioembolization

## TARGET AUDIENCE

This course will provide focused educational opportunities for interventional radiologists. SIR encourages fellows-in-training to attend this course.

## HOTEL INFORMATION

Call the FireSky Resort at (480) 945-7666 to reserve a room at the discounted meeting rate of \$219 single/\$219 double. Please reference the SIR Y-90 meeting. The cut-off date for reservations is Jan. 12, 2012.

**FireSky Resort & Spa**  
4925 North Scottsdale Road  
Scottsdale, Arizona 85251  
**(480) 945-7666**

**Back by popular demand!**  
**REGISTER SOON!**

**Feb. 9–12, 2012**

**FireSky Resort and Spa  
Scottsdale, Ariz.**

## REGISTRATION

Registration includes all didactic sessions, hands-on workshops and final course assessment. Please note: due to the focused nature of this course space is extremely limited. As such, registration will not be allowed for any previous attendees of the **SIR Y-90: Are you U ready?** course until AFTER the early rate deadline of Jan. 12, 2012.



## REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

[www.SIRweb.org/meetings/Y90.shtml](http://www.SIRweb.org/meetings/Y90.shtml)

### RATES:

	ON or BEFORE Jan. 12, 2012	AFTER Jan. 12, 2012
<b>SIR member</b>	<b>\$1,450</b>	<b>\$1,650</b>
<b>Physician nonmember</b>	<b>\$2,150</b>	<b>\$2,350</b>
<b>Fellow-in-training*</b>	<b>\$995</b>	<b>\$1,195</b>

\*A letter from a fellowship program director is required for this registration rate. For assistance registering or questions, call the SIR office at (703) 691-1805.

## CME STATEMENT

The Society of Interventional Radiology is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide medical education for physicians. This activity has been approved for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit*.™



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INTERVENTIONAL  
RADIOLOGY**

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