

DR DAVID TAN

SENIOR CONSULTANT RADIATION ONCOLOGIST
MEDICAL DIRECTOR (AARO)

FRCR (Clinical Oncology, UK)
FAMS (Radiation Oncology)
MBBS (Singapore)

Clinical Interests:

Stereotactic Radiosurgery (SRS/SBRT)
Gynaecological, Gastrointestinal & Lung
Cancers

Dr David Tan Boon Harn is Medical Director and Senior Consultant Radiation Oncologist at Asian Alliance Radiation & Oncology (AARO), a private Singapore Radiation and Oncology group focusing on the use of advanced technologies to treat cancer.

He has more than 15 years of clinical experience and is well versed in all aspects of general radiation oncology. In particular, he specializes in the treatment of Gynaecological Cancers (Cervix, Uterus & Ovarian), Lung cancers, Gastrointestinal cancers (Oesophagus, Stomach & Colorectal), and Hepatobiliary cancers (Liver, Pancreas & Gallbladder). His clinical expertise is in the use of stereotactic radiosurgery and stereotactic body radiation therapy (SRS/SBRT), a highly targeted and ablative radiation treatment to treat primary and metastatic tumours in only 1-5 sessions. He is also fellowship- trained in Brachytherapy for gynaecological cancers.

Dr Tan is dual-trained in Chemotherapy and Radiotherapy, and well-versed with all modern radiation technologies including 3D conformal external beam radiotherapy (3D-CRT), Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT), Image Guided Radiation Therapy (IGRT), Volumetric Arc Therapy (VMAT), Stereotactic Radiosurgery (SRS), Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy (SBRT), Deep Inspiration Breath Hold Radiotherapy, Gynaecology (cervix and endometrium) image-guided brachytherapy.

A kind, patient and compassionate oncologist, Dr Tan takes time to understand the patient's condition and personal needs. Armed with his technical expertise, and the latest scientific evidence, Dr Tan is able to offer customized treatment plans based on the individual patients' condition to achieve the best possible outcomes.



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Dr. Tan graduated from the National University of Singapore in 2005 and commenced training in Radiation Oncology at the National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS) in 2007. In 2011, Dr. Tan received the Health and Manpower Development (HMDP) Award for Advanced Training in Clinical Oncology in the UK. There, at the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre in Middlesex, he obtained advanced training in general oncology and further subspecialized in the above tumour sites. He also trained under renowned experts in stereotactic radiosurgery and brachytherapy.

He obtained his Fellowship in Clinical Oncology from the Royal College of Radiologists in the UK (FRCR) in 2013 and was admitted as a Fellow of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore (FAMS) in Radiation Oncology in 2014.

Prior to joining AARO, Dr. Tan was a Consultant Radiation Oncologist at the National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS). During his 10 years of service in the public sector, he was responsible for setting up the Liver and Pancreas SBRT programs in NCCS. As a pioneer in this field, Dr Tan drove implementation and innovation in Stereotactic Radiotherapy in Singapore, formulating treatment protocols, training the stereotactic team, and chairing multi-disciplinary discussions amongst the various specialist groups in the centre. Through his leadership, a large number of patients were able to receive this advanced treatment with increasingly complex cases being treated successfully and effectively over the years.

Regionally, Dr. Tan is a key opinion leader in SBRT. From 2014 – 2020, he was the Singapore National Project Coordinator for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Regional Project 6085, which aims to Enhance Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy for Frequent Cancers in the Asia-Pacific Region. After establishing Singapore as one of the regional training hubs in Asia-Pacific, Dr. Tan successfully conducted the first Regional Training Course of the project in NCCS in 2016, which was attended by participants from 17 member states. He is also currently Council Member of the Federation of Asian Organizations for Radiation Oncology (FARO), which is a non-profit scientific organization comprising national radiation oncology societies in Asia to improve the level of radiotherapy in the region. Dr Tan is regularly invited to share his expertise across the region and has given talks to centres in Japan, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia and as far as Pakistan.



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Dr. Tan remains actively involved in clinical research. He is co-investigator in an international IAEA-led trial comparing SBRT with transarterial chemoembolization (TACE) in unresectable HCC, enrolling patients across the Asia-Pacific. He has published in major oncology journals on SBRT and brachytherapy, as well as gastrointestinal and gynaecological cancer subject matters. He was invited as guest editor for a focused issue entitled “Advances in Stereotactic Radiosurgery” in the Chinese Clinical Oncology journal in 2017, where with his co-editors he formulated content and collaborated with international experts to publish the latest updates in stereotactic radiotherapy treatments. He continues to contribute as a reviewer in surgical, oncology and radiotherapy journals.

On the local front, Dr. Tan served as Chair of the Radiation Oncology Sub-section of the Singapore Radiological Society (SRS) for 8 years from 2016 – 2022. As chair of the SRS radiation oncology subsection, Dr. Tan organized annual scientific dinner-symposiums for the local oncology community to update them on the latest advances in radiotherapy in common tumour sites such as liver, pancreas and prostate malignancies, and on latest technologies such as proton therapy. Dr. Tan also held position as Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School where he hosted and supervised medical students for clinical attachments at NCCS, and was clinical lecturer at the Nanyang Polytechnic School of Radiation Therapy where he gave lectures to budding radiation therapists.

Dr. Tan is a member of the following international oncology societies: American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO), European Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology (ESTRO) and the International Stereotactic Radiosurgery Society (ISRS).

