ASHA CE APPROVED PROVIDER

University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Intermediate Level

.15 ASHA CEUs

Radiation Innovations to Optimize Swallow Function

Available until 12/31/2026

Level: Intermediate

Course Structure:

This course is an asynchronous course, available on-demand. Participants will have the opportunity to complete course requirements via recorded webinar.

Course Description:

This course describes the philosophies and protocols implemented in diverse institutions internationally to minimize degree and duration of radiation associated dysphagia in head and neck cancer patients. Swallowing-optimized radiation planning and proactive swallowing intervention are discussed in order to optimize swallowing function in patients undergoing head and neck radiation.

Course Objectives:

1. Discuss radiation planning and protocols for head and neck cancer patients.
2. Summarize models of proactive swallowing therapy to reduce radiation-associated dysphagia.
3. Describe evidence for proactive swallowing exercise protocols during head and neck radiotherapy.

Agenda:

- 0-8 Introduction (Hutcheson)
- 8-25 MD Anderson Radiation Swallow Pathway (Hutcheson)
- 25-45 Pharyngeal constrictor and laryngeal dose constraints to reduce RAD – the DARS trial (Nutting)
- 45-62 Technical innovations to reduce RAD (Fuller)
- 62-83 Redesigning proactive swallowing therapy with the patient voice (Roe)
- 83-95 Moderated Q&A with panelists (Hutcheson, Fuller, Nutting, Roe, Richardson, Jimenez)

No partial credit will be given for this course.

Completion Requirements:

In order to receive ASHA CEUs, you must complete the following—

1. Watch the webinar in full, which will be monitored through the website.
2. Complete a post-course evaluation and survey within 48 hours of watching the webinar in full.
3. The post-course assessment will include a multiple-choice test, which must be completed with 100% accuracy. The learner will have unlimited attempts.

Link to Post-Course Evaluation

Policies: Please see home page

Bios/Disclosures:

Dr. Kate Hutcheson, Ph.D.

Dr. Kate Hutcheson is a tenured Professor and Deputy Director of Clinical Research in the Department of Head and Neck Surgery with dual appointment in the Division of Radiation Oncology at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. She serves as Section Chief and Research Director for the Section of Speech Pathology and Audiology. Dr. Hutcheson is a certified speech-language pathologist practicing in oncology for 19 years, a Board-Certified Specialist in Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders (BCS-S) and holds a Doctorate Degree in Epidemiology. She leads an internationally recognized, extramurally funded clinical research program. She has authored over 175 journal articles with funding support from the National Institutes of Health, Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute, the MD Anderson Institutional Research Grant Award program, and the CPRIT UT Health Innovation Training Program. She is an Associated Editor for the Head and Neck and Dysphagia journals. She is a passionate clinician and educator who lectures nationally and internationally on radiation associated dysphagia and head and neck cancer rehabilitation.

Disclosures: Dr. Hutcheson receives research funding from the National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute (R01CA271223, R01CA273984), Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI 1609-36195), the MD Anderson Institutional Research Grant Program, and Atos Medical. Unrestricted Educational Grant outside this Program from Atos Medical. Developer and PI of the DIGEST method. Dr. Hutcheson receives no royalties or personal fees related to this DIGEST content.

Dr. Chris Nutting, MD

Dr. Nutting is a British Professor of Clinical Oncology and medical consultant, specializing in head and neck cancers, who has helped develop Intensity-Modulated Radiotherapy (IMRT),[1] an advanced form of radiation therapy. Nutting received a BSc with 1st class honors (Medicine and Cell Pathology) from University College London in 1989 and Middlesex Hospital, University of London. In 1992 he was awarded a 1st Class MBBS from Middlesex Hospital at the University of London. In 2001 he received a Medical Doctorate (MD Res) at The Institute of Cancer Research, University of London, and he was awarded a PhD from City University London in 2012. In 2001 he was appointed Consultant Clinical Oncologist at the Royal Marsden Hospital and Honorary Senior Lecturer in Clinical Oncology at the Institute of Cancer Research; in 2002 he was appointed Clinical Director of the Head and Neck Unit at London's Royal Marsden Hospital.[2] and in 2003 he became National Clinical Lead in Head and Neck Cancer, appointed by the Department of Health (UK) and the Cancer Services Collaborative. In 2007 he was elected Honorary Faculty member at The Institute for Cancer Research. In 2009 he was appointed Co-Chair of The Clinical and Translational Radiotherapy and Radiobiology Working Group of the NCRI, and between 2006-12 he chaired the National Cancer Research Institute's Head and Neck Cancer Clinical Studies Group (CSG). In 2021, he was appointed Medical Director of a new Royal Marsden Private Care facility in Cavendish Square, London. Nutting was elected Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences [3] in 2018 and Fellow of the Institute of Physics in 2019. He is also President Elect [4] of the Oncology Section of the Royal Society of Medicine and served as President for the years 2020-2022.

Dr. Dave Fuller, MD

Dr. Fuller is an Associate Professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology and Associate Director of MR Programmatic Development at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Dr. Fuller's research focus remains development of evidence-based "personalized radiotherapy" techniques by incorporation of novel imaging methodologies. To date, the bulk of his work has focused on improving multimodality (e.g., PET-CT, MRI, US) imaging for target delineation in the multi-institutional setting. He has had specific and singular expertise in imaging physics and human imaging trial design, analysis, and execution, acquired as part of his PhD and post-doctoral training. As a formal component of the MD Anderson K12 Paul Calabresi Clinical Trial training program, in addition to direct instruction in clinical trial design and imaging informatics, he has completed ABME board subspecialty certification in Clinical Informatics in addition to primary ABR certification in Radiation Oncology. As a radiation oncologist with informatics certification and formal medical physics training and is uniquely positioned to execute image-guided radiotherapy clinical trials. His long-term goal is to execute a practice-pattern changing, cooperative group-supported radiotherapy trial which incorporates a quantitative imaging biomarker for risk stratification, adaptive therapy planning, and/or surrogate endpoint use in head and neck cancer.

Disclosures: Dr. Fuller is employed by MD Anderson Cancer Center and receives a salary. He has no relevant non-financial relationships to disclose.

Dr. Justin Roe, Ph.D.

Dr. Roe is a Consultant and Professional Lead for Speech and Language Therapy at the Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust (RM) in London. In addition to his clinical work, he leads on multidisciplinary rehabilitation service provision to people receiving treatment from head and neck, lung cancers and neuro-oncology services at the Marsden. He is also leading the complex laryngology/ airway reconstruction service at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust. He is a Professor of Practice in Speech and Swallowing Rehabilitation in the Department of Surgery and Cancer at Imperial College London.

Justin was awarded a PhD in 2013 from the Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) in London. He is actively involved in several high-profile Cancer Research UK and National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) portfolio studies. He is a senior member of the Applied Health Research Group and oversees research activity in the Therapies Department at RM. He leads the survivorship theme for the International Centre for Recurrent Head and Neck Cancer (IReC) hosted by RM. He is sits on working group of the RM/ ICR Cancer Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) Cancer Treatment Effects (CTE) Theme.

Justin has contributed to key policy and position papers, acting as an expert adviser to several national organisations. He has published over 60 papers and several book chapters. He is an elected Council Member for the British Association of Head and Neck Oncologists and the British Laryngological Association. He was awarded the Fellowship of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists in 2018 and an MBE in the 2022 Queen's New Year's Honours in recognition of his contribution to the SLT profession.

Disclosures: Dr. Roe is employed by Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust in London and receives a salary. He has no relevant non-financial relationships to disclose.

Casey Richardson, MS, CCC-SLP

Ms. Richardson began her career as a speech-language pathologist at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in 2016 where she completed her fellowship training and continued as a senior speech language pathologist and Education Coordinator for the Section of Speech Pathology and Audiology from 2019-2023. She has facilitated the audiology and speech-language pathology graduate student and fellowship programs in addition to collaboratively developing MD Anderson

education offerings both internally and externally under Dr. Katherine Hutcheson. She specializes in the treatment of patients with head and neck cancer with expertise in dysphagia evaluation/intervention and alaryngeal voice and pulmonary rehabilitation following total laryngectomy. She has had the opportunity to participate in clinical research with a focus on dysphagia and post-laryngectomy rehabilitation. Additionally, she has presented at local and national conferences and is a strong advocate for the laryngectomy community. Casey joined ATOS in May 2023 as a Clinical Educator.

Disclosures: Ms. Richardson is employed by ATOS and receives a salary. She has no relevant non-financial relationships to disclose.

Sarah Jimenez, MS, CCC-SLP

Ms. Jimenez has been an oncologic speech pathologist at MD Anderson Cancer Center for more than 10 years. Her particular areas of interest include dysphagia, voice, and upper airway disorders.

Disclosures: Ms. Jimenez is employed by MD Anderson Cancer Center and receives a salary. She has no relevant non-financial relationships to disclose.