

# SCOUT<sup>®</sup> REPORT



News and Views on Surgical Guidance  
and Breast Tumor Localization

## Lessons from a Specialty Surgery Center Division at the Pandemic Epicenter

### SURGICAL SPECIALTY DIVISION DURING A PANDEMIC

New York City was an epicenter of COVID-19 following a US national emergency declaration on March 13, 2020. At Columbia University Medical Center, one department's adaptive response "Reporting for Duty: Lessons from A Specialty Surgery Division at the Pandemic Epicenter", was recently published in the Annals of Surgery.

The disruption to normal hospital operations was unprecedented and immediately posed two challenges: managing existing hospitalizations and a massive influx of COVID-19 patients. A third challenge emerged: caring for patients who were scheduled for surgeries that would inevitably be delayed. SCOUT Radar LocalizationThe specialty surgery division implemented a rapid response strategy for breast surgical patient management with the SCOUT Radar Localization System. SCOUT enabled the division to triage patients and prepare for downstream radiology backlogs, effectively managing the myriad of unprecedented challenges that COVID-19 imposed.

#### Highlights from the Annals of Surgery article include:

*Postponement of screening mammography enabled radiologists to perform SCOUT localizations to minimize downstream scheduling obstacles for surgical patients.*

*SCOUT reflectors were placed, up to 10 localizations a day, to prepare for surgical intervention. This approach allowed for flexibility with an operative schedule that was unpredictable. Localized patients could be added to the surgery schedule immediately if the Surgical and Procedural Scheduling Committee's approval was obtained. Columbia University Medical Center did not need to default to wire localizations during the height of COVID management.*



READ THE  
FULL ARTICLE



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# Merit Oncology Expands Virtual Education

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As the pandemic quickly shut down in-person conferences and education, Merit Oncology quickly pivoted to a virtual platform. Through a robust series of web events, virtual roundtable discussions, remote training/support, and CME offerings\*, Merit Oncology has connected physicians, clinical teams and administrators around the globe. To date, over 900 physicians and staff have participated in this virtual educational platform.



*"The outcome of COVID-19 that I find most enlightening is that we are all united in a powerful way. I am virtually connecting with colleagues that I might have never had the opportunity to meet, and we are sharing and learning from each other."*

**Vincent Reid, MD**

Surgical Oncologist, Mercy's Hall-Perrine Cancer Center,  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Moderator for Merit Café, an online physician forum

If you missed an event or want to participate in an upcoming webinar, [access the Think Wire-Free™](#) section of Merit.com.



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**Have Questions?**

Do you want more information about SCOUT and how it was designed to make the day of breast cancer surgery easier for women and more efficient for healthcare providers? Send us a note.

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