

FLORIDA PROTON THERAPY INSTITUTE INC

2015 North Jefferson St.
Jacksonville, FL 32206-3531

The University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute

Treating cancer with excellent success rates
and a lower risk of side effects.

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Gentle Welcome

On the wall opposite the main nursing station, the University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute displays "Which Way," donated by Larry Levow, an artist based in Savannah, Ga. Larry thought that the natural scene depicting a salt marsh could provide some comfort to his fellow patients as they await their treatments. Find out more about Larry and see examples of his work by visiting his website: <http://larrylevowart.com>.



Fall 2010

Precision

A newsletter from the University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute
www.floridaproton.org
Phone: (877) 686-6009



THE PROTON COUPLE'S Homecoming



As Dick and Carlotta Cooley drove home to Sarasota from the University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute in Jacksonville on December 24, 2008, they were physically and emotionally exhausted. Carlotta had just finished her final treatments for a nasal cavity cancer called esthesioneuroblastoma.

Shortly after her retirement from 21 years of serving as an elementary school principal, Carlotta was diagnosed with cancer. To battle this rare and deadly disease, which has only been documented in 1,000 cases, doctors used a combination of surgery, chemotherapy, conventional radiation and proton therapy over a six-week period.

Simultaneously, her husband Dick had been diagnosed with prostate cancer in July 2008. He was in his sixth week of proton therapy treatment when he drove his wife home on that Christmas Eve that was also the couple's 34th wedding anniversary, and would soon return to Jacksonville for his final two weeks.

Pulling into their driveway, they were relieved to be home but they worried about finding a grocery store that would be open for them to prepare Christmas dinner.

It was then that they noticed all the handmade Christmas and "Welcome Home" cards taped to their front door. Inside, neighbors had filled the refrigerator with ham, turkey and all of their best homemade side dishes. It was a Christmas Eve they would never forget.

The couple recently received good tidings in their follow-up visit. Both Carlotta and Dick received clean bills of health. ●

Timeline

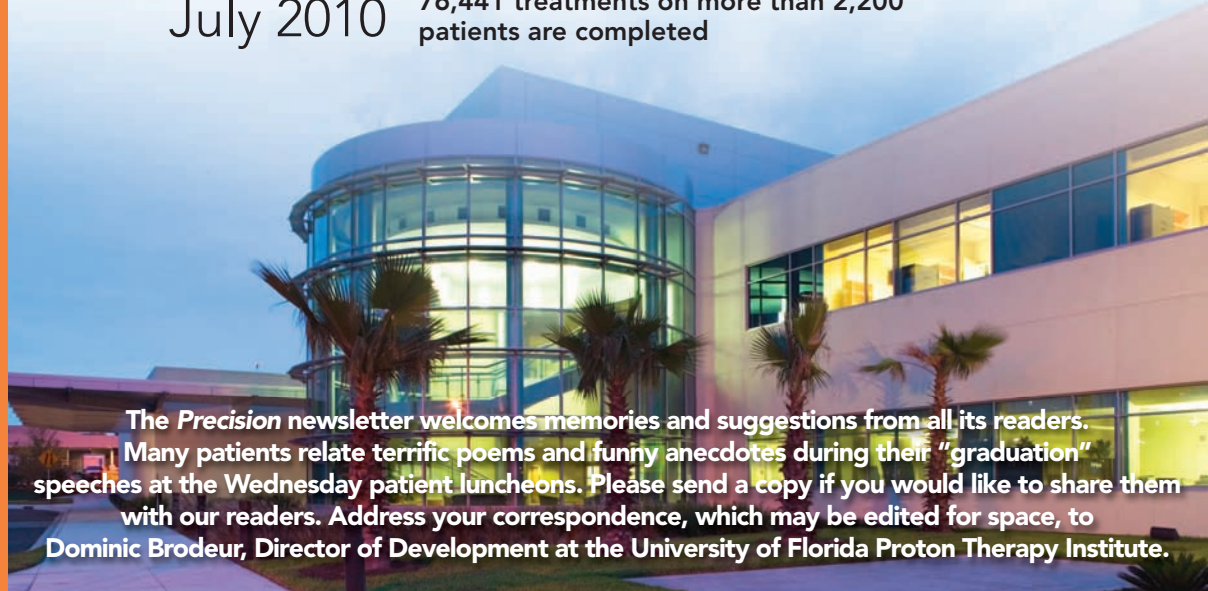
1998	Concept is presented to the University of Florida by Dr. Nancy Mendenhall
1998 - 2002	Task Force feasibility assessment and planning process
Aug. 2002	City of Jacksonville approves bond issue to help finance the construction of the facility
Jan. 2003	Ceremonial Groundbreaking
Jan. 2004	Construction begins
Feb. 2005	Arrival of cyclotron from Belgium
July 2006	First gantry treatment room is completed
Aug. 2006	First patient receives treatment for prostate cancer
Sept. 2006	First pediatric patient treated
Jan. 2007	Second gantry is completed
March 2007	Third gantry is completed
July 2009	51,700 treatments on more than 1,500 patients
July 2010	76,441 treatments on more than 2,200 patients are completed

Executive Team

- Stuart Klein
Executive Director
- Nancy Price Mendenhall, M.D.
Medical Director
- Tommie Allen
Chief Financial Officer
- Gary Barlow
Administrative Technical Director
- Tim Buist
Administrator IT Services
- Judy Taylor Holland
Director of Patient Intake Services
- Zuofeng Li, D.Sc.
Physics Director
- Debbie Louis
Chief Dosimetrist
- Kathy McIntyre
Administrator of Billing Services
- Holly Mostoller
Administrative Manager
- Paul Okunieff, M.D.
Director, UF&Shands Cancer Center
- Amanda Durrance Prince, R.N.
Research Manager
- Ron Redding
Facilities Director
- Bradlee Robbert
Administrator of Patient Services
- Amy Sapp, R.N.
Director of Pediatric Nursing
- Gail Sarto, R.N.
Director of Adult Nursing
- Mary Stokes
Director of Human Resources

Editor-in-Chief
Dominic Brodeur
Director of Development

Editorial Assistants
Christina Leone
Renee Boyle



The *Precision* newsletter welcomes memories and suggestions from all its readers. Many patients relate terrific poems and funny anecdotes during their "graduation" speeches at the Wednesday patient luncheons. Please send a copy if you would like to share them with our readers. Address your correspondence, which may be edited for space, to Dominic Brodeur, Director of Development at the University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute.

A Message from Our Leadership

Dear Friends of the University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute:

We are pleased to unveil the first issue of *Precision* newsletter, a publication to help keep you updated with our progress and maintain the unique sense of community that patients experience when they undergo treatment here.

August 14 marked our fourth anniversary. We are proud to report that in this short time, we have broken into the top 10 of all proton facilities worldwide in terms of the number of patients treated.

We continue to be humbled by the advocacy of our patients. Nearly 40 percent of all inquiries from potential patients come directly from a personal recommendation from a friend or family member who received proton therapy treatment here. We recognize that our outstanding staff creates the loyalty that you feel about us. A patient recommendation is one of the highest compliments we receive.

We thank you for your belief and dedication to proton therapy. We also encourage you to stay involved in the proton community and to participate in the different programs described in this newsletter.

With your help, we can best serve the next person who comes to us in need of comfort, treatment and best of all a cure for their cancer.

Sincerely,



Stuart Klein,
Executive Director

Nancy Mendenhall, M.D.,
Medical Director



Employee Profiles

Get to know our employees a bit better.

Bradlee Robbert

Administrator of Patient Services



When Gerry Troy retired in April 2010 to relocate to California for family reasons, we knew we had big shoes to fill. The Administrator of Patient Services is responsible for the social activities and support services for patients undergoing treatment. This position plans the weekly "Lunch Bunch" meetings on Wednesdays and other activities in order for patients to be able to form bonds with one another.

As a radiation therapist who had been stationed on the gantries, Brad has firsthand experience in patient care as well as an engaging personality that made him a perfect fit to fill the position. Brad entered into the cancer field because he enjoys the long-term, continual relationships he maintains with patients, something that will serve him well in his new role.

A native of Gainesville, Fla., Brad attended Santa Fe College to earn an associate degree in Radiologic Sciences and then received a degree in Advanced Radiation Therapy from Florida State College. He and his wife recently welcomed their first child. They live in Jacksonville.

Dina Peralta

Front Desk Coordinator

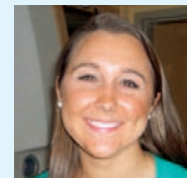


Dina's smiling face is often the first welcome patients receive as they enter the building. As the Front Desk Coordinator, Dina is the liaison between patients and the staff in the clinical areas. Her many hats include receptionist, mail distributor and lobby "mother" doing so many little things to help patients get comfortable when they arrive.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, medicine always fascinated Dina since she was a child. Dina received an associate degree in Radiology from the New York City Technical College and was a Radiologic Technologist for 18 years before moving to Jacksonville. Dina's husband of 20 years Ramon Peralta was offered a position as a radiation therapist at the UF Proton Therapy Institute. He started in March 2008. Dina joined her husband as an employee in February 2009. Dina's favorite part of her job is interacting with the patients. She and Ramon have two boys, ages 11 and 15.

Rachel Stinson

Radiation Therapist



Rachel is a member of what all our patients will tell you is the finest radiation therapist team in the country. The radiation therapists provide the daily treatment experience and are beloved by patients for treating everyone with respect while they implement the treatment plan that has been carefully crafted by physicians, dosimetrists, and physicists.

Cancer care runs in her family. As a high school student, Rachel began volunteering at the cancer center in her hometown of Brewton, Ala. where her mother works. Immediately, Rachel knew that she wanted to make a career of helping people with cancer. Shortly after receiving her bachelor's degree in Radiologic Sciences with a concentration in Radiation Therapy and a minor in Psychology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Rachel was offered a job at UF Proton Therapy Institute by Gary Barlow, the Administrative Technical Director. She lives with her husband in Jacksonville Beach.

JOLLY

KNAVE REUNION

Echoing the sentiments of many patients, Fred Fletcher returned home from his treatments for prostate cancer determined to help spread the word about his experience at UF Proton Therapy Institute. Fred wanted his family and friends to know that he believed that proton therapy is the right treatment choice for others experiencing cancer.

The Raleigh, N.C., native decided to host a special event raising awareness and money for the cause. Fred recruited a loyal and dedicated committee to help him organize a benefit called the Jolly Knave Reunion. The Jolly Knave was a shag music club, a type of blues music popular in the Carolinas. Fred opened the Jolly Knave in 1967 when he was a football player at North Carolina State University. The club was across the street from NC State on Hillsborough Street.

On Friday, June 17 and Saturday, June 18, The Jolly Knave Reunion took place at Loafer's Beach Club in Raleigh. After 43 years since the Jolly Knave started, the reunion was a complete sellout with more than 300 advanced tickets sold for the weekend. Local Raleigh "alumni" Bob Braam and Gordon Tefft represented the UF Proton Therapy Institute by attending and helping to sell t-shirts at the event.

Photos provided by Rickie Lipscomb - www.rickielipscomb.com



HEALING POWER

Pediatric Program Brings Hope to Our Youngest Patients

We are proud to say that Christian is winning his battle against cancer due to the treatments he received at the UF Proton Therapy Institute. Now in third grade, Christian is a bright and energetic young boy who is cancer free.

Tammy and Chris McGrath faced a parent's worst nightmare: Their six-year-old son Christian had been diagnosed with a salivary gland tumor in his neck. A surgical process had successfully removed the tumor, but the disease proved to be worse than his doctors had anticipated – the first-grader would need radiation to keep the cancer from spreading.

As a result, Christian McGrath and his family called Jacksonville home for two months while Christian underwent daily therapy at the University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute. Christian's father, Chris, remained in Atlanta to work, while his mother, Tammy, and his sister, Kaitlyn, stayed with him in Jacksonville. Christian has responded well to his treatments – in fact, he enjoyed them so much that he still refers to UF Proton Therapy Institute as the Proton Fun Center.

The pediatric team will tell you, the “fun” atmosphere is no accident. It is part of the treatment experience they've purposely created. A dedicated team led by world-renowned pediatric radiation oncologists Dr. Robert B. Marcus, Jr. and Dr. Danny Indelicato delivers expert proton therapy and smiles to patients and their families. From pizza parties and group outings organized by social worker Katie Mahoney to recovery room care by pediatric nurses Amy Sapp, Gina Newton and Kendra Edenfield, the patients feel the Proton Therapy Institute is a home away from home.

The majority of the UF Proton Therapy Institute's pediatric patients have brain or spinal tumors, cancers that are difficult to treat because of their proximity to critical organs. Side effects of traditional radiation may include neurocognitive deficits, hormonal problems, malformation, and rarely deafness, blindness, or radiation-induced secondary cancers, making proton therapy ideally suited for the treatment of pediatric cancer.

As UF Proton Therapy Institute's recent collaborations with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the British National Health Service attest to, national and international leaders in the fields of pediatric oncology, radiation oncology, and neurosurgery recognize that proton therapy offers the best chance of cure with minimal side effects.

“Proton beam therapy is potentially of great importance to St. Jude and our patients,” said Dr. Joseph H. Laver, St. Jude executive vice president and clinical director.

“Although most proton facilities operating in the U.S. recognize pediatrics as a major area of focus, there is very little meaningful data using this modality in children. Working with UF Proton Therapy Institute, we are well-positioned to answer key questions regarding this therapy for children with cancer.”

“It is central to our mission to realize the full potential of protons in the treatment of children,” said Dr. Nancy Mendenhall, medical director at UF Proton Therapy Institute. “In cooperation with St. Jude, we will have both clinical and research expertise to provide the best outcomes for patients and to create new knowledge that will guide the development of proton therapy for future patients.”

The United Kingdom does not have its own proton center and so The British National Health Service has a relationship with UF Proton Therapy Institute to care for its country's children who would benefit from proton therapy.

The relationships with the British National Health Service and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital have made UF Proton Therapy Institute into the busiest pediatric proton therapy institute in the world. Up to 15 children are treated every day. Many of the children must undergo anesthesia so that they are completely still during treatments to ensure that the beam is targeted at the precise spot.

With Christian as inspiration, Dr. Marcus authored a children's book to help patients and their families cope with fears about proton therapy. *Proton Gator* tells the story of an alligator who helps cure children with his special glow. In the end, the proton gator's healing power restores the main character, Christian, back to health. Fortunately, this happy ending is not just a fairy tale. It is the promise of proton therapy for pediatric patients, and every patient, at UF Proton Therapy Institute.

**You can make a difference in a child's life by supporting the Pediatric Program.
Please contact Dominic Brodeur at 904-588-1462 if you would like to help.**

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Private support and philanthropy can help our pediatric patients in their fight against cancer. By funding activities that our physician, nursing, and patient services staff provide for the children and their families, you can make an impact today on an entire family in this most difficult time.

You can also help children in the future by supporting the research necessary today to develop new and better treatments for tomorrow.

Some ways to help are listed below:

Research

Funds are needed to support faculty and staff who develop and run clinical research studies at UF Proton Therapy Institute that determine how best to use proton therapy in the fight against childhood cancer and to pay for equipment and tests needed for these studies. This research benefits not only children currently under treatment but those who will need treatment in the future, treatment that will be better because of the research done today.

Professorship in Pediatric Oncology

Dedicated faculty time is needed for research and development in pediatric proton therapy. An endowed professorship supports, in perpetuity, faculty time dedicated to pediatric proton therapy and research.

Patient Experience Enhancement Fund

This fund provides the UF Proton Therapy Institute Patient Services staff with resources to enhance the treatment experience of our pediatric patients. Examples of program enhancements include the addition of play and learning tools, a child life expert with expertise in play, art, and/or music therapy, a pediatric transportation van and the on-going expense of operating it.



FAST FACTS

- First patient treated = **Aug. 14, 2006**
- Patients treated since opening = **2,200**
- Number of treatments delivered = **76,441**
- Number of patients treated Monday – Friday = **108** on average
- **Types of cancers treated: prostate, head and neck, lung, brain, central nervous system, lymphoma, pancreas, sarcoma, and cancers in children**
- Patients hail from 49 states and more than a dozen countries; 70 percent of patients come from beyond a 60-mile radius of Jacksonville.

UF Proton Therapy Institute By the Numbers

- Cyclotron weighs 440,000 pounds
- Thickest wall is 18 feet, 6 inches
- Minimum wall thickness in the proton area is 6 feet
- Gantry Ceiling Slabs are 8 feet thick
- Largest single concrete pour (Cyclotron Ceiling): 1,300 cubic yards or 5.1 million pounds (2560 tons)
- Total concrete used during construction: 17,421 cubic yards from
- 1,936 trucks delivering 34,842 tons or 66 miles of 5 foot wide sidewalk
- 12 miles of electrical conduit
- Gantries are 35 feet square by 37 feet tall
- Utility bills include \$50,000 a month for electricity and \$50,000 a month for water
- \$125 million project was funded through state grants, municipal bonds and private donations.

Barry Leuchtefeld's Challenge

Adopt Our Pediatric Patients for the Holidays

Have you ever wondered what to give family for the Holidays?

Last year my niece had the idea of adopting a charity for the entire family and everyone just wrote a check payable to the charity we select, she collected the checks and sent them in. The challenge to my fellow Proton friends is to adopt the children at the UF Proton Therapy Institute, who are going through life-saving cancer treatment. We can provide the on-going funding needed for the Pediatric Transportation Project including the gas, driver, insurance, and maintenance. If we really get the Holiday spirit we can begin to create a fund to help these young families meet some of the living expenses while in Jacksonville.

**UF Proton Therapy Institute
Attn. Dominic Brodeur
2015 North Jefferson Street
Jacksonville, FL 32206**

When you send in those checks, why not use a Holiday card for the mailing. I'm sure Dominic can find a way to create a Holiday Card Display. I hope that many of you will find this to be a much more rewarding method of giving this Holiday Season. By the way, this is tax deductible. The sweater isn't!



TAKING IT TO THE MAX



UF Proton Therapy Institute
is changing the way
cancer is treated

A positively charged part of an atom called a proton speeds to two-thirds the speed of light and is injected into a metal tube called a beamline. Guided by powerful electromagnets, it arcs into a 30-foot-tall gantry that looks like a Ferris wheel. Gently turning, the gantry carefully points a treatment nozzle to target the proton's final destination, a cancerous tumor that is threatening a human life.

This story repeats daily, Monday through Friday, from 6 a.m. until 10:30 p.m. as a steady stream of patients of all ages receive proton therapy at the University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute in Jacksonville.

Since treating its first patient on Aug. 14, 2006, the Southeast's only proton therapy center has delivered more than 76,441 treatments to 2,200 patients. This statistic places it among the top 10 proton therapy centers in the world in the number of patients treated. Quite an accomplishment for a facility that is only four years old, especially when you consider many centers have been treating patients for decades.

The daily treatment schedule is timed to optimize the number of patients, a necessity with such a rare resource. There are only nine proton therapy facilities in the U.S., 30 in the world, and only a handful are in development. With 98 percent of patients on a clinical study, UF Proton Therapy Institute is gathering important data on patient outcomes. A significant area of study is pediatrics and last year the institute entered into a joint study with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital to improve the treatment and outcomes for children under the age of 3 who suffer from rare brain tumors.

Other areas of treatment and study include cancers of the head and neck, lung, brain, central nervous system, pancreas, lymphoma, sarcoma and prostate. Last year, medical director Nancy P. Mendenhall, M.D. presented benchmark results of a prostate cancer study that shows minimal side effects for patients treated with proton therapy.

In its fifth year, the institute is looking forward to opening its fixed beam room, where it will treat eye cancers and other eye disorders.

DONOR P R O F I L E

Dr. Sterling F. "Rick" Delano

Each month, Rick Delano sends a check to support the pediatric patients at the University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute. Why? To thank UF Proton Therapy Institute for his care. "Strange as it sounds, being at UFPTI turned out to be one of the best experiences of my life. Between treatments, my wife and I explored the Jacksonville area, heading off to Cape Canaveral, St. Augustine, Disney World, Amelia Island, and Jacksonville's wonderful zoo. UFPTI went out of its way for those of us with cancer to make it as pleasant an experience as possible. I encourage everyone to make a monthly commitment of whatever amount is possible to help support UFPTI's efforts. I was especially moved by the children being treated there and so my gift is directed to the pediatric program."

Rick was diagnosed with prostate cancer in November 2008. Like many prostate cancer patients who come to UF Proton Therapy Institute, Rick's doctors initially recommended a prostatectomy, although they were open to other treatment options as well. Rick did what he describes as "due diligence research" and learned about proton beam therapy online. His final decision to pursue proton therapy came after he talked to several men who had proton therapy, and several more who had prostatectomies. There was a huge difference in the reports between the two groups.

Rick tolerated the treatment well and has had no noteworthy side effects since. In addition to his charitable contributions, Rick spends hours every week talking to men recently diagnosed with prostate cancer about the benefits of proton therapy.

Rick grew up in Larchmont, N.Y., and earned a doctorate in American Literature from Southern Illinois University. His first job turned out to be his only job: he was appointed to a faculty position at



Villanova University in 1970 and served as Professor of American Literature there for 35 years. In 1996, he received the University's 'Outstanding Teacher' Award. In addition to his teaching duties, Rick researched and wrote extensively on social reform efforts in New England before the Civil War. His most recent book, *Brook Farm: The Dark Side of Utopia*, was published by Harvard University Press. It examines the celebrated utopian community established in Massachusetts in the 1840s.

A devoted husband and father, Rick and his wife Maris live in Blue Bell, Pa., close to their two married daughters and six grandchildren.