



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Second treatment room opens at the University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute Addition to increase patients, kinds of cancer being treated at the facility**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – A second treatment room opened this week at the [University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute](#), effectively doubling patient volume and adding brain and head and neck cancers to the types of diseases being treated.

Since opening in August 2006, more than 40 patients, primarily [prostate cancer](#) patients, have received [proton therapy](#) at the [cancer treatment](#) facility--the only one of its kind in the Southeast and one of only five in the country. The addition of the second room also will enable practitioners to treat an increasing number of pediatric patients.

“The commissioning of each treatment room expands our ability to add patients and the kinds of cancers that we are able to treat,” said Stuart Klein, executive director of the UF Proton Therapy Institute. “We look forward to continue increasing access to this innovative cancer treatment with the opening of the final two treatment rooms by the end of this year.”

Proton therapy is a precise radiation treatment that destroys cancer cells and minimizes damage to healthy tissue. This results in higher cure rates, a low incidence of side effects and fewer long-term effects, especially for treating children and cancers located in sensitive areas like the brain, head and neck, lung, breast and prostate. More than 40,000 people worldwide have received proton therapy in the past 50 years. Recent innovations in equipment and technology have made this treatment more accessible.

The University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization affiliated with the UF College of Medicine and the UF Shands Cancer Center, national leaders in cancer treatment and research. Florida Proton is dedicated to delivering state-of-the-art cancer treatment and strives to set new standards for treating and curing the disease. The cancer treatment facility houses

both conventional radiation and proton therapy, and when it is at capacity will deliver proton therapy to 150 patients a day. For more information about Florida Proton, please visit [www.floridaproton.org](http://www.floridaproton.org), or call toll-free 877-686-6009.

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