Message from Stuart Klein, Executive Director

This month marks a special moment in UFPTI’s history. Eight years ago, UFPTI opened its doors for the first time on August 14, 2006, as the first proton therapy center in the Southeast providing access to one of the most advanced, noninvasive cancer treatment tools available.

From the very beginning to now, our aim remains to make proton therapy at UFPTI a confident choice for those who need it most. This means that we’re dedicated to delivering treatment in a way that takes the entire patient into account. I am proud to say that I have personally heard countless times over the past eight years how UFPTI’s staff and physicians are one-of-a-kind, treating the whole person — on a physical and emotional level — offering a truly unique and enjoyable experience.

I look forward to where the next eight years and beyond will take us in the pursuit of the best cancer treatment possible. Throughout this issue you’ll see that there are some exciting things we’re rolling out to broaden awareness of proton therapy as an effective treatment option across the communities we serve, including launching the first official UFPTI alumni group and organizing a UFPTI team for upcoming community events.

It has been our privilege to serve our patients and we look forward to adding to our community of survivors in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Stuart Klein

Survivor Spotlight: Mark Chalupscky

Community Calendar
Mark your calendar and join us when we are in a town near you.

**August 20**, **check-in opens at 7 a.m.**
Run/Walk begins at 8 a.m.
American Lung Association’s “Lung Force Run/Walk”
Jacksonville Landing
2 Independent Dr.
Jacksonville, FL 32202

**September 10**, 9 a.m.
Cascades Community Men’s Club
830 Cascade Ida Blvd.
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986
Speaker: Stacie Shinn, Connector

**October 2**, 12 p.m.
Lake History Rotary Club
Lake History Country Club
430 17th Ave NW
Hickory, NC 28601
Speaker: Randy Henderson, MD, MBA

**October 3, 12 p.m.**
Lincoln Rotary Club
First Baptist Church of Lincolnr
304 Main Street NW
Lincoln, NC 28855
Speaker: Randy Henderson, MD, MBA

**October 12-14**
Boca Raton 17th Annual Statewide Conference - “New Trends in Cancer Treatment” panel
Marriott Harbor Beach Resort & Spa
3501 Holiday Drive
N. Lauderdale, Fl 33316
Speaker: TBD

*About This Newsletter*

The Precision newsletter is an electronic-only publication that is distributed by email. Each issue is sent monthly to patients, alumni, patients and friends of the University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute (UFPTI). As the official newsletter of UFPTI, the content is compiled and prepared by our communications representative and approved by the editor Stuart Klein, executive director of UFPTI. Special bulletins newsletters may

Often seen strolling the beaches or performing at an open mic night in Pattaya, Thailand, Mark Chasalovsky is one of thousands of UFPTI alumni who is a living example of how proton therapy’s non-invasive, targeted treatments not only have an impressive cure rate, but also offer a greater quality of life post-treatment.

Being from Minnesota and living in cold weather most of his life, Mark always dreamed of retiring in a walkable beach community in a country that had a warm climate. Mark first visited Pattaya, a beach resort town approximately 100 miles south of Bangkok, 14 years ago and fell in love with the international city. Fast forward to almost seven years ago, as Mark was nearing retirement, he experienced a dramatic surge in his life – prostate cancer.

"My diagnosis in December 2007 was a complete surprise. I had no symptoms, except for a rise in my PSA score," said Mark. With a PSA of 6.7 and a positive biopsy for prostate cancer, Mark met with a specialist in Minnesota who also informed him that his Gleason score was nine and that although his cancer had not spread to other parts of his body, it was very aggressive and widespread throughout Mark’s prostate.

"The specialist recommended da Vinci Robotic Surgery; however he also said that if I chose another course of treatment out of state, he would be happy to be my follow-up doctor when I returned to Minnesota," said Mark. "Luckily for me, my brother-in-law had undergone proton treatment the year before so I was already aware of proton therapy."

After more research and discussions with his personal physician, Mark decided proton therapy was the best option for him.

"At the time, there were only five hospitals in the U.S. doing proton therapy in 2008 so I contacted them all. I was rejected by four of them because my PSA and Gleason scores were so high," said Mark. "After being rejected from all but one, I received a call from the UF Proton Therapy Institute telling me they had received my information and that they felt they could help me."

Mark temporarily moved to Jacksonville, Fla., in June 2008 to start treatment. Even though he was going through treatment for aggressive prostate cancer, Mark recalls his treatment was surprisingly easy and experienced no side effects. If asked, Mark would say that the two months spent in Jacksonville were two of the best months of his life.

"The staff was exceptional and I got to know many of them personally. We still enjoy meeting up and going out for chicken wings when I'm in town for my follow-up appointments," recalled Mark. "The group of patients that were there with me was a great group to be a part of. We played golf, went to movies and dinners, and had many parties. I'm still in touch with many of them six years later."

Now a retired physical education teacher, Mark enjoys life in Thailand and is in great health. He walks at least 90 minutes each day and swims at the beautiful beaches that are a short walk from his home.

"My advice to other men who are diagnosed with prostate cancer is to look at every option and educate yourself so you can make an informed decision. Think positive and try to exercise and eat healthy. Always take care of your health because without it, you have nothing."

"Thank you to all the staff at the UF Proton Therapy Institute for all you..."
have done for me."

UFPTI in numbers

To celebrate UFPTI’s eighth birthday, we thought it would be fun to take a look back and share some of the center’s amazing results and milestones, thanks to the support of many of you.

August 14, 2008, UFPTI treats its first patient.

To date, approximately 5,222 patients have received 177,749 treatments at UFPTI.

UFPTI is one of only 15 proton therapy centers in the United States and one of only 45 proton therapy centers in the world.

As of 2013, UFPTI is the fourth busiest proton center in the world based on the number of patients treated.

On average, approximately 100 proton and 40 conventional radiation therapy patients are treated every day.

UFPTI operates the largest pediatric proton program in the world with an average of 20 children treated each day.

UFPTI has relationships with the British National Health Service, the Régie de l’assurance maladie du Québec and the Norway Health Authority, serving as the primary referral center for certain proton treatments.

We have treated patients from 49 states and a number of international patients from a variety of countries including Britain, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Peru, China, Nicaragua and Australia.

Calling all alumni

Lack of awareness about proton therapy is a challenge UFPTI and proton therapy centers in general have faced throughout the years. While some of our patients were told about proton therapy and referred to UFPTI by their primary care doctor, a majority of patients are not. In fact, 76.3 percent of all proton patients at UFPTI are self-referred and approximately 40.8 percent are from word-of-mouth recommendations, proving your testimonies go a long way in saving lives. We are proud to have built a close-knit family of survivors as we enter into UFPTI’s eighth year and we are asking for your help to spread the word about UFPTI and proton therapy so that we can continue to raise the number of people who are able to beat cancer and have a better quality of life.

To start this movement, UFPTI will begin forming alumni groups in various communities we serve, starting with our hometown – Jacksonville. We would love to see you and reconnect at one of our orchestrated community events throughout the year (stay tuned to the newsletter, email and our Facebook page for more information on upcoming events).

While organized events will start in the Jacksonville area, we invite all of our alumni and past caregivers to spread the word about the benefits of proton therapy in your community and to those who may have been diagnosed with cancer. We will be developing a kit in the coming weeks that will contain materials to help you spread the word, including a PowerPoint for presentations, informational cards, letter
templates and more. If you’d like to request a kit, please reach out to us at socialmedia@floridaproton.org and we’ll be happy to send you one as soon as they’re complete.

As always, feel free to share our website, floridaproton.org, or the toll free number, (877) 606-6009, with anyone looking for more information or to speak to an expert about proton therapy. We offer heartfelt thanks to you for choosing UFPTI for your care and for helping guide others who may be looking for the same answers.

Join the UFPTI Lung Force team

On August 23, UFPTI is sponsoring the 2014 American Lung Association’s LUNG FORCE Run/Walk in Jacksonville as part of our commitment to broaden awareness of proton therapy in our community and to help spread knowledge about lung cancer treatment and prevention. The Run/Walk will take place on Saturday, August 23, at the Jacksonville Landing (2 Independent Dr., Jacksonville, Fla.) Check-in begins at 7 a.m. and the walk/run will begin at 8 a.m.

By joining us, you have an opportunity to help create a world without lung cancer – the number one cancer killer in women. Even if you haven’t personally been affected by lung cancer, we invite all of our patients, alumni, staff, family and friends to join the Florida Proton team. Everyone that registers as a part of UFPTI’s team will receive a special shirt to wear at the run/walk and represent the power of proton therapy in the fight against cancer, including lung cancer. We will have the shirts available at the Florida Proton booth (stay tuned for specific location) and plan on walking together as a group. For those who wish to contribute but not walk or run, we would love for you to sign up and join our UFPTI cheer team at the booth and on the side lines.

Click HERE to register. Below are steps on how to navigate the registration:

1. First, select the blue “REGISTER” tab at the top of the page and click the “JOIN A TEAM” blue icon on the right.
2. Select “UF Proton Therapy Institute” in the Team Company drop down menu or enter our team name, “Florida Proton,” in the search area. The Florida Proton team led by our team captain, patient services director Bradlee Robbert, will appear. Click the blue “JOIN” button to register as a part of our team.
3. Once you select your participation type on the next page, use the special discount code UFPTI2014 to receive complimentary registration.
4. On the next page, select “JOIN AS A NEW PARTICIPANT” button to enter your name and other personal information to complete registration.
5. Once registration is complete, you can log on and browse your personal participation center for tools and tips on lung cancer and fundraising success.

We hope you will join us, getting the awareness out about lung cancer and the power of proton therapy to treat all cancers.

New talent comes to UFPTI
We are pleased to announce that Michael S. Rutenberg, M.D., Ph.D., has joined the team of expert physicians at UFPTI. Dr. Rutenberg comes to Jacksonville from the University of Maryland Medical Center where he spent the past four years in the center's radiation oncology residency program and was named chief resident in 2012-2013. In 2014, he received a Radiological Society of North America Resident Research Award.

Dr. Rutenberg has extensive experience in oncology and radiation oncology practices. He has researched, published and presented studies on pediatric and adult cancers including head and neck cancer, pancreatic, prostate, lymphoma and others. For some of this research, Dr. Rutenberg worked alongside other UFPTI physicians, including Daniel J. Indicato, M.D., on external-beam radiotherapy for pediatric and young adult desmoid tumors, and William M. Mendenhall, M.D., on radiotherapy for sinonasal inverted papilloma.

An alumnus of the University of Florida’s (UF) M.D./Ph.D program, Dr. Rutenberg completed medical school at UF and conducted his Ph.D research at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Rutenberg began his professional career as an intern in the Shands Hospital Internal Medicine program where he was the recipient of numerous honors and awards. Including the University of Florida Intern Teaching Award, University of Florida Patient Care Recognition and the University of Florida M.D./Ph.D. Program Distinguished Service Award, to name a few.

We are proud to welcome Dr. Rutenberg to our staff and back to the Sunshine State.