

Precision

February 2013



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

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Message from Stuart Klein, Executive Director

All across the globe, cancer takes the lives of 7.6 million people each year – more than AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria combined says the Union for International Cancer Control. Educating people that cancer is not an automatic death sentence is one way to reduce this number. At the University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute we are able to treat and cure cancers that were once considered fatal. Our patients come from dozens of countries and nearly every continent because proton therapy gives them an excellent chance for survival. We are honored to provide life-saving cancer treatment to all patients, especially those who live in areas where proton therapy is not available. As Dr. Nancy Mendenhall said during our inaugural chime ringing ceremony last month, "...cancer is no respecter of age, gender, or geography, but a common enemy, one that we fight best, not alone, but in our community, joined together in bonds of friendship and family."



Sincerely,
Stuart Klein

Aud's Chime makes debut

We have a new website design – same address www.floridaproton.org – that makes it easy for you to keep in touch. Look at the top right corner of the homepage for [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#) icons, click and join us in the social media conversation. Also on the right side of the homepage there is a button for [VTOC Patient Portal](#). Click here to open your secure account, view your records, complete clinical trial questionnaires and communicate with your nurse case manager. Knowing how you are feeling during and after treatment is essential to providing you the best care possible and contributes to the care of future patients.

Community Calendar

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

February 26, Noon

Kiwanis Club
Damon's The Place for Ribs
1640 Parkway
Sevierville, TN 37862
Speaker: Bradlee Robbert

February 26, 7 p.m.

Gator Club



Aud's Chime

My time has come to ring this chime

A simple sound – a simple sign

That tells the world this is my time

To cherish the health that I will find

-- Sue and Wendel Anderson, parents of Audrey Anderson

For about eight weeks ending last February, the Anderson family lived along the shores of the Atlantic Ocean near Jacksonville. They traveled over many oceans and about 16,000 miles from Melbourne, Australia to seek proton therapy for, then, six-year-old Audrey who had a rare and inoperable brain tumor.

This year, mom Sue and Aud, as she's known by her family and friends, returned to Jacksonville for a special event at the University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute where she had received six weeks of proton therapy to eliminate the tumor.

Mudville Grille
St. Nicholas
3105 Beach Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32207
*Speaker: R. Charles
Nichols, Jr., M.D.*

February 27, 6 p.m.

The Prostate Cancer
Support Group
Olive Garden
244 Hamilton Crossing
Dr.
Alcoa, TN 37701
Speaker: Bradlee Robbert

February 28, 6:30 p.m.

East Tennessee BOB
Group
Tellico Village Yacht Club
100 Sequoyah Club
Loudon, TN 37774
Speaker: Bradlee Robbert

March 1, Noon

The Optimist Group
The Foundry Restaurant
747 Worlds Fair Park Dr.
Knoxville, TN 37902
Speaker: Bradlee Robbert

March 19, 10 a.m.

Traveler's Rest Resort
29129 Johnston Rd.
Dade City, FL 33523
Speaker: Bradlee Robbert

March 23, 11 a.m.

Men's Group
Church of the Lord Jesus
Christ
8560 Lem Turner Rd.
Jacksonville, FL 32208
*Speaker: Randal
Henderson, M.D.*

March 26, 7 p.m.

Man to Man
American Cancer Society
– Tallahassee
2619 Centennial Blvd.

A custom chime was unveiled January 22 in the main lobby of the UF Proton Therapy Institute, and Aud was the first person to ring it. Using a pull rope made of Australian wool and handcrafted by an Australian artist, Aud tugged and turned the rope sending a gentle, melodic sound into the air. An audience of about 100, including current and former patients, community members and staff, broke into applause as the chime's sound faded. [*Watch a video of the inaugural chime ringing.*](#)

A few minutes later several adult patients approached the chime, took the rope in hand and gave the chime a ring. Among them was Nelson Brinkman of Elizabethtown, N.C., who completed his final proton therapy for prostate cancer that same morning. He said that having his final treatment day coincide with the first chime ringing was an unexpected surprise. To meet the family that made the chime possible was especially powerful, he said.

The purpose of the chime is for cancer patients to celebrate completion of their six- to eight-week course of proton therapy. Ringing the chime will serve as a symbol of completion and signal others to share in the celebration.

The eight-foot chime is named Aud's Chime in Audrey Anderson's honor. Her mother Sue and her uncle David Atkinson envisioned the chime and sketched a design last year while waiting for Aud to complete one of her proton therapy sessions. They shared the idea with UF Proton Therapy Institute's artist-in-residence Barbara Holmes-Fryefield who contacted architect David Engdahl to help bring the idea to reality. With the assistance of Haskell Steel, the chime was installed with a suspension system made of cable.

UFPTI Medical Director Nancy P. Mendenhall, M.D., said, "From the beginning we planned to have a central structure in this space, but none of the ideas brought forth felt right, until Sue Anderson, the mother of Audrey, our first Australian patient, brought forth the idea of the chimes. We knew immediately that it was finally the right idea, the idea we had been waiting for."

Dr. Mendenhall noted that the chimes help to fulfill the proton therapy center's purpose as a place offering a unique cancer treatment as well as restoration and healing. She said, "Not only are these chimes beautiful for both ear and eye, they fit the space perfectly, as though the space had been designed around them. And, perhaps, in a way, it was. While the space represents the path of the proton and the circle

March 28, 12:30 p.m.

Science and Engineering
Lecture Series at JU
Jacksonville University –
Reid Auditorium
2800 University Blvd. N.
Jacksonville, FL 32211
*Speaker: Zuofeng Li,
D.Sc.*

April 4, 6:15 p.m.

Scottish Rite Club of
Pensacola
Pensacola Scottish Rite
Masonic Center
189 W. Airport Blvd.
Pensacola, FL 32505
*Speaker: Randal
Henderson, M.D.*

April 10, Noon

Eastside Kiwanis Club
City Range
615 Haywood Rd.
Greenville, SC 29607
*Speaker: R. Charles
Nichols, M.D.*

April 11, 12:30 p.m.

Pleasantburg Rotary Club
The Phoenix Inn
246 North Pleasantburg
Dr.
Greenville, SC 29607
*Speaker: R. Charles
Nichols, M.D.*

May 2, 11 a.m.

Fleet Landing
1 Fleet Landing Blvd.
Atlantic Beach, FL 32233
*Speaker: R. Charles
Nichols, M.D.*

May 4, 9:30 a.m.

Man to Man Pensacola
Sacred Heart Cancer
Center
1545 Airport Blvd.
Pensacola, FL 32504

heard above the fray, an important message. And these chimes will represent the end of the cancer journey and the beginning of a new freedom.” [Read more of Dr. Mendenhall’s remarks here.](#)

Moments before the chime’s first song, Sue Anderson reflected on the journey her daughter and family have had since Audrey’s cancer diagnosis. “This journey with Audrey has not only opened our hearts and minds but opened doors through which we would have never had the courage to walk,” she said. “We hope that Aud’s Chime may be a special memory in the journey to wellness for you and your families.”



Audrey Anderson and artist-in-residence Barbara Holmes-Fryefield at the first chime ringing.



Aud and her mom Sue ringing the chime for the first time.



A view of the unveiled chime



Aud's Chime as seen from the

If you would like a speaker to come to a group in your area, [click here to send us an email](#).

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 bulletin newsletters may occasionally be prepared when timely topics and new developments in proton therapy occur. To opt out of receiving the email newsletter, simply [click here to unsubscribe](#). We will make every effort to remove your name from the list.

If you would like to send a Letter to the Editor, [please click here](#).

Sign-Up Today!



No increase of hip fracture for prostate cancer patients treated with proton therapy

Hip fracture is no more common among men treated for prostate cancer with proton therapy than in men who have never been treated say physicians at the University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute. They reached this conclusion after following 382 patients treated on prospective or outcomes tracking protocols for an average of four years after treatment. The study was published January 29 in the medical journal *ACTA Oncologica*.

African-American men treated with proton therapy for prostate cancer benchmark study

African-American men are at greater risk of developing prostate cancer than their peers of other races in the United States. They are also usually diagnosed at a more advanced stage of cancer and are twice as likely to die of the disease than their white counterparts.

There is no clear explanation of this phenomenon, though factors such as access to screening and possible genetic predisposition to a more aggressive form of cancer are the subject of ongoing studies.

A team of physicians at UFPTI undertook a study to benchmark the effectiveness of proton therapy to treat prostate cancer in African-American men. They presented early results of the study last fall at the annual ASTRO conference, the largest scientific gathering of radiation oncologists.

The study compared the outcomes following proton therapy of 92 African-Americans and 92 Caucasians matched for risk category, including stage and age. The two groups were compared with regard to treatment regimes, other health problems, bowel and bladder toxicity, sexual function and prostate cancer control rates.

Early results suggest that survival and cancer-free rates are the same for both African-Americans and Caucasians following proton therapy for prostate cancer. There were no disparities in sexual function or bowel function. Researchers noted a slight increased risk of urinary function complications among African-Americans, but longer follow up is needed.

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