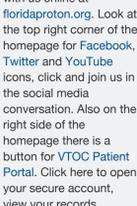


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IN OTHER NEWS

Keep In Touch



It is easy to stay in touch with us online at floridaproton.org. 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.

March 10, 6:30 p.m.
Rotary Club
San Jose Country Club
7529 San Jose Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL
Speaker: Bradlee Robbert

March 21, 8 - 11 a.m.
2015 Gator MBA 5K Run/Walk
2nd Annual UF MBA Fundraiser for UF Health Proton Therapy Institute
Boulevard Springs Park
3400 Southeast 15th St.
Gainesville, FL 32641
Registration is Open Online

March 26, 12 - 4 p.m.
Prostate Cancer Follow-Up Event
Crownne Plaza
Jacksonville Riverfront Hotel – Main Ballroom
1201 Riverplace Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32207
Speakers: Dr. Randal Henderson and Dr. Curtis Bryant

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 Health Proton Therapy Institute. As the official newsletter of the Institute, the content is compiled and prepared by our communications representative and approved by the editor Stuart Klein, executive director of UF Health Proton Therapy Institute. 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 message to the Editor, [please click here](#).

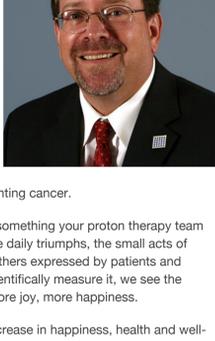
Sign-Up Today



If you don't already receive this e-newsletter, [click here to add your name to the list](#). You will also be notified of any future events in your area.

Message from Stuart Klein, Executive Director

Cupid must have showered us with arrows this month as we have seen an outpouring of love, generosity and inspiration for our patients from the community.



On three separate occasions, a special guest visited and brought gifts and words of encouragement. And on each occasion, our guests remarked that they themselves were inspired by the people they met who are fighting cancer.

What they may have noticed is something your proton therapy team witnesses every day. We see the daily triumphs, the small acts of kindness, the genuine love for others expressed by patients and caregivers. While we cannot scientifically measure it, we see the positive effects. More smiles, more joy, more happiness.

We hope you will continue to increase in happiness, health and well-being and to share it with others.

Sincerely,

Stuart Klein

All Hands In Against Cancer



A crowd of more than 200 people fighting cancer, their family and friends, and their proton therapy medical team joined together for a special Wednesday Luncheon on February 4 to mark World Cancer Day. They gathered to hear the positive message that the solutions are within our reach to end cancer. They created beautiful works of art by placing their hands in brightly colored paint and pressing them on one of four canvases in a heart or awareness ribbon design.

They gathered to hear words of inspiration from Jacksonville, Fla., native and well-known TV personality Donna Deegan, a three-time breast cancer survivor and founder of **The Donna Foundation and the 26.2 with Donna National Marathon to Finish Breast Cancer**.

Her first words of encouragement were for everyone. "If you're breathing, you're surviving."

Donna shared how she managed her cancer fight in a very public way in her job as a broadcast news journalist and news anchor in 1999. She never hid her condition from her viewers and used it as a way to educate the public about going through cancer treatment. She joked that she wore a different wig every day to cover her hair loss and that sometimes her skin even looked green because she was so sick from the chemo.

She was in remission for two years and was diagnosed with a recurrence in a lymph node. This time Donna started an online journal so she could connect with others facing the same challenges. Through the journal, she realized how many people had difficulty with their financial situation when going through cancer treatment. "I decided to start the Donna Foundation in 2004 to help women take care of their critical needs during treatment," she said.

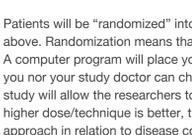
Today the Donna Foundation serves a 16-county area in North Florida and has served over 8,000 women. "It takes the stress off of people while going through cancer," said Donna. "You have a better chance of healing if you're not under stress."

One of the ways she raises money for the Donna Foundation is through the **26.2 with Donna National Marathon to Finish Breast Cancer**. The inaugural race was in 2008. Just three months before the event, Donna had her annual doctor's appointment. She learned that the cancer had recurred, five years after her last diagnosis, this time in her left lung.

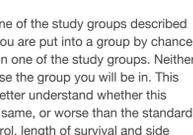
Following surgery she started practicing yoga for stress relief and changed her outlook thanks to the help of a book called *Love Is Letting Go of Fear* by Gerald Jampolsky, M.D. Donna credits the book with helping her to view the world in a different way. One in which she said, "I'm not going to look over my shoulder waiting for the cancer to kill me." Instead, she says she is grateful every day and lives in the present.

Donna ran in the inaugural **26.2 with Donna**. She said, "I was able to run the whole marathon, and I didn't feel like my feet hit the floor one time during the whole run." Donna hasn't stopped since.

Though Donna was not treated at UF Health or with proton therapy, she did say that Jacksonville is fortunate to have so many world-class medical facilities. She said to those fighting cancer today, "I would encourage you to participate in a clinical trial. It's the cutting edge. Yes, you'll help the doctor find out if it works. But you'll also have the most cutting-edge treatment."



Barbara Holmes-Fryfield paints Donna Deegan's hand for the art project.



Donna Deegan places the first handprint on the "All Hands In Against Cancer" art project with some help from Heather Oakley.



Dr. Julie Bradley explains proton therapy's benefits for breast cancer patients during a facility tour.



The heart design is one of four canvases decorated by participants in the World Cancer Day activity.

Randomized clinical trial begins

UF Health Proton Therapy Institute is participating in a new national research study sponsored by NRG Oncology, a non-profit cancer clinical research organization. The title of the study is *NRG-BN001 research study for patients with newly diagnosed glioblastoma multiforme*.

Glioblastoma is the most common primary malignant (cancerous) brain tumor. The current standard therapy is conventional radiation plus an oral chemotherapy drug called temozolomide. The current standard radiation is a dose of 60 Gy given over 30 daily treatments.

This study is one of the first of its kind that has included proton radiation therapy as an option in this type of clinical study. Proton radiation is a limited resource, therefore, research involving proton radiation is of vital importance.

This study will compare two groups of patients. Group A will receive the standard radiation dose using conventional radiation and Group B will receive a higher radiation dose using proton radiation. The dose for Group A is 60 Gy given over 30 treatments, as per the standard. The dose for Group B is 75 Gy given over 30 treatments. Both groups will receive the same dose of temozolomide both during and after their course of radiation.

Patients will be "randomized" into one of the study groups described above. Randomization means that you are put into a group by chance. A computer program will place you in one of the study groups. Neither you nor your study doctor can choose the group you will be in. This study will allow the researchers to better understand whether this higher dose/technique is better, the same, or worse than the standard approach in relation to disease control, length of survival and side effects.

For more information you may contact us at (877) 686-6009. You can also get information on the trial at www.clinicaltrials.gov and enter NCT 02179086 in the "Search For Studies" box.

Valentine's Day party



Candy sprinkles, pink frosted cupcakes and heart-shaped cookies filled our children and families with smiles last Friday, all thanks to Jacksonville Jaguars offensive lineman Zane Beadles and his **Zane Beadles Parade Foundation**.

Zane has a passion for helping young people who are going through life-changing medical experiences. He started the foundation while he was a member of the Denver Broncos and continues to advocate for children fighting cancer and those recovering from spinal cord or traumatic brain injuries in Colorado and now in Jacksonville.

During the Valentine's Day Party, Zane visited with the children, helped them make Valentine's Day cards and decorated cupcakes. Everyone enjoyed lunch donated by Woody's BBQ Restaurant and the Valentine's Day treats donated by Cinotti's Bakery. Thanks, Zane, for spreading the love. To get a little taste of the party, watch this news segment on FirstCoastNews.com.



Jessie's Joy Jars®



The UF Health Proton Therapy Institute was one of six children's hospitals in Florida to receive a special guest and gifts for our children this month thanks to the **Jessie Rees Foundation**. The foundation's motto of *Never Ever Give Up* was shared by Olympic gold medalist Kaitlin Sandeno, who is a former world and U.S. record holder in swimming. Since becoming the national spokesperson for the foundation three years ago, Kaitlin has made 106 visits to hospitals around the country to deliver Jessie's Joy Jars® and message of encouragement to children fighting cancer.

"I'm blown away by the positive attitude these children possess," said Kaitlin. "They are everyday heroes and an inspiration."

The Joy Jars®, large plastic jars filled with fun toys and activities, were started by Jessie Rees, a 12-year-old girl battling brain cancer in 2011. She wanted to do something to brighten the day of other children fighting cancer and personally stuffed and sent 3,000 Joy Jars® to children fighting cancer in homes and hospitals. Her legacy lives on today through the foundation, and next month, they will have distributed 100,000 Joy Jars® in every U.S. state and 29 countries.

"We see a lot of Jessie's spirit in these kids," said Kaitlin. "They are strong, brave, sweet and grateful." **Take a look at this video to catch a glimpse of the spirit.**

Play Golf - Fight Cancer® 2015 tournament

We are pleased to announce that after 10 wonderful years in Orlando, the **Play Golf - Fight Cancer®** tournament will be moving closer to us in 2015. We hope that you will all mark your calendars and join us for the 11th Annual Play Golf - Fight Cancer® tournament on October 12, 2015 at the World Golf Village in St. Augustine, Fla. The new venue will allow for additional participation from patients, alumni, friends and sponsors from the Jacksonville community.

The Play Golf - Fight Cancer® tournament is our longest-running fundraiser. Started in 2004, the tournament has raised more than a million dollars to support research at the UF Health Proton Therapy Institute. Thanks to Larry Shertz who conceived the idea for the tournament, served as chairman, and made it happen for a decade along with Merry Mac Watson and many volunteers, sponsors, and golfers, we were in a position to take a hiatus in 2014 as we worked to relocate the tournament to Northeast Florida. The tournament for 2015 is Michael McPhillips, a UF Health Proton Therapy Institute alum and retired communications executive at the PGA Tour.

If you or your company is interested in sponsorship opportunities, please contact Kelly Novak, associate director of development, at knovak@floridaproton.org or call her at (904) 588-1462.

In the Community

We were a sponsor of the 2015 **26.2 with Donna Health & Fitness Expo**, Feb. 13-14, to raise awareness that we treat **breast cancer** with proton therapy. More than 5,000 people visited our booth and learned about proton therapy. We even saw some of our alumni. One couple stopped by to say they are friends with a United Kingdom family whose child was treated at UF Health Proton Therapy Institute 17 months ago and is doing great. Another woman said her friend from South Florida was treated here several years ago and is doing well.

Thanks to our volunteers who staffed the booth: Bradlee Robbert, Stuart Klein, Holly Mostoller, Jenna Bryan, Judy Taylor Holland, Mitch Kubacki, Carleen Marianek and Kelly Novak

The Donna Expo

Our Patient Intake Services Director Judy Taylor Holland presented one of the "All Hands In Against Cancer" art canvases to Donna Deegan, founder of the **26.2 with Donna National Marathon to Finish Breast Cancer**.