

Precision

March 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

Patient care is the number one priority for all who work at the University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute. We have a track record for patient satisfaction that is among the best in health care. Surveys completed by patients following treatment show that 98 percent “definitely would” recommend us to someone they know who may need this type of treatment. This dedication to patients is recognized by our peers in radiation oncology around the world. It is one of the reasons we are sought out as a model for proton therapy center operation and receive honors for excellence. We hope that by sharing our model of care, it will spread to other proton therapy centers and to other types of medical providers. Thanks to all who make suggestions for ways we can make things even better for patients. I look forward to hearing your ideas.



Sincerely,
Stuart Klein

Pediatric proton therapy program wins top honor

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.

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.



The University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute pediatric program earned the 2013 Top Team Effort Award given by the UF Shands Cancer Center at its annual Celebration of Excellence Awards event in Gainesville, Fla., on February 26. The award was presented by Jon Graham, Ph.D., deputy director for clinical administration, UF Shands Cancer Center, and John Wingard, M.D., deputy director for research, UF Shands Cancer Center, shown at the far left and right of the photo, respectively. It was accepted on behalf of the team by Kim Ely, C.C.L.S., child life specialist, Heather Oakley, L.S.C.W., O.S.W.-C., director of social services and pediatric oncology social worker and Danny Indelicato, M.D., assistant professor of radiation oncology, shown from left to right.

“Families are often displaced from familiar surroundings for six to eight weeks during the most stressful time of their lives. The team meets before the patient arrives to coordinate care and cover every aspect of anticipated need for each child and family,” one nominator wrote. The nominator wrote that “...the whole team — physicians, medical assistants, nurses, social workers, child life specialists, and transport driver — work as a unit to provide a nurturing and safe environment for children, to celebrate treatment milestones, and to provide emotional support for the children and their families.”

The UF Proton Therapy Institute treats on average 20 children each day, the most of any proton therapy center worldwide.

The pediatric proton program is led by Danny Indelicato, M.D. and team members include Nancy Mendenhall, M.D., Julie Bradley, M.D.,

March 26, 7 p.m.

Man to Man
American Cancer Society
– Tallahassee
2619 Centennial Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32308
*Speaker: R. Charles
Nichols, M.D.*

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.*

March 28, 7 p.m.

Cypress Village Lifelong
Learning
4600 Middleton Park
Circle East
Jacksonville, FL 32224
Speaker: Bradlee Robbert

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.*

April 15, 7 p.m.

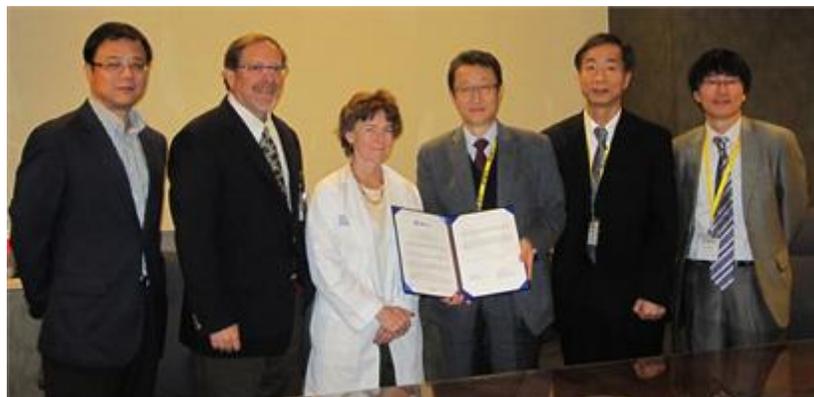
J Institute
Jewish Community
Alliance
8505 San Jose Blvd.

Brad Hoppe, M.D., Ronny Rotondo, M.D., Amy Sapp, Annie Rini, Erin Parvin, Gina Newton, Kendra Alipio, Adrienne Mansen, Heather Oakley, Kim Ely, and Mitch Kubacki. The team was rewarded with individual plaques and funds for professional development and/or program support.

The Top Team Effort Award rewards workgroups for achieving challenging goals and making significant positive impact on organizational business, research and/or patient care objectives. Nominations for the award were submitted by cancer center members, and entries were voted on by a group of cancer center peers. The UF Proton Therapy Institute pediatric program was selected for the highest level of dedication and patient-focused mission in caring for pediatric patients.

“The pediatric team at UFPTI does more than treat the tumor. The cohesive team places continuous effort into bettering the life of the child with cancer,” the nominator said.

International collaboration extends to training, research



Global interest in proton therapy continues to grow as clinicians and researchers recognize the proven ability of protons to deliver curative radiation doses while minimizing damage to normal healthy tissues. Many are considering building proton therapy centers and look to existing centers like The University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute for information on best practices.

Our physicians and physicists are UF faculty members and are frequently invited to scientific medical meetings to present educational sessions on proton therapy techniques and delivery.

Recently UFPTI entered an agreement with The Korea Heavy Ion Medical Accelerator Project of the Korea Institute of Radiological & Medical Sciences, located in Seoul, to collaborate on research and training. The three-year agreement will make it possible for medical physicists and clinicians from Korea to train on-site at UFPTI.

Jacksonville, FL 32217
Speaker: Robert Malyapa,
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
Speaker: R. Charles
Nichols, M.D.

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.

Sharing proven techniques helps establish a standard of quality that can be used at other proton therapy centers with the goal of safe and effective patient treatment.

Shown in photo from left to right: Zuofeng Li, D.Sc., physics director, UFPTI, Stuart Klein, executive director, UFPTI, Nancy Mendenhall, M.D., medical director, UFPTI, Chul-Koo Cho, M.D., Ph.D., president, Korea Cancer Center Hospital, director in general of Korea Heavy-ion Medical Accelerator Project, Korea Institute of Radiological and Medical Sciences, Wongyun Jung, Ph.D., director, Division of Heavy-ion Clinical Researches, Korea Institute of Radiological and Medical Sciences, Kum Bae Kim, M.S., chief medical physicist, Department of Radiation Oncology, Korea Institute of Radiological and Medical Sciences.

Space exploration research

Fun fact: Outer space is filled with high-energy charged particles and 87 percent of them are protons.

One of the concerns for space explorers is forward contamination – unintentionally bringing life forms to other planets. After all, if you find life on Mars, you want to be sure it is Martian and not a hitchhiker from Earth.

So researchers from NASA and the German Aerospace Center (DLR) wondered if the high energy protons in space would be intense enough to sterilize bacteria during an extended space flight. To try and answer this question, one weekend last May, they borrowed the UF Proton Therapy Institute proton accelerator and exposed harmless bacterial spores to high doses of protons.

Their study was published recently in the scientific journal *Astrobiology*.¹ The data suggests that the bacterial spores are very hardy and could survive the amount of proton radiation that would be typical for a 6-8 month flight to Mars.

So far, the bacterial spores have proven to be very resistant to the harsh conditions of outer space and have survived exposure to chemicals, heat, ultraviolet rays and cosmic rays. They have survived past space expeditions as hitchhikers on such notable spacecraft as Apollo 16, Spacelab 1 and the International Space Station.

The researchers plan to further study the spores' ability to withstand extended exposure to high-energy protons and catalog the bacteria's remarkable ability to repair its DNA when damaged.

1. Moller R., Nicholson WL, et al. Multifactorial Resistance of *Bacillus subtilis* Spores to High-Energy Proton Radiation: Role of Spore Structural Components and the Homologous Recombination and Non-Homologous End

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Preserving potency

While men of all ages are concerned with the risk of reduced sexual function following prostate cancer treatment, men younger than 60 are more at risk since they are likely to live longer with any post-treatment effects.

A recent study presented at GU ASCO 2012 by Brad Hoppe, M.D., assistant professor of radiation oncology at UFPTI, suggests that proton therapy for prostate cancer in young men may preserve potency as well (if not better) than surgery (prostatectomy), a commonly used treatment in this patient population.

“Potency rates in men under 60 years old ranged from 69% to 87% two years following proton therapy, depending on baseline erectile function,” said Hoppe. “These results are quite favorable when comparing with similarly categorized young men undergoing nerve-sparing surgery in a recent article by Alemozaffar et al in *JAMA* 2011, where it ranged between 35% and 70% depending on baseline sexual function.”

Longer follow-up is needed to confirm these findings over time.

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