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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.

September 24, 12 - 4 p.m.

Prostate Cancer Follow-Up Event
Doubletree
By Hilton Hotel
Main Ballroom
1201 Riverplace Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32207

October 11-12, 2015

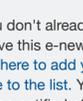
Play Golf. Fight Cancer.®
World Golf Village

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 Letter to the Editor, [please click here](#).

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Message from Stuart Klein, Executive Director

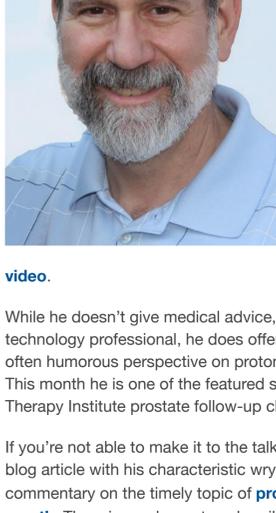
September is an awareness month for prostate cancer, Hodgkin lymphoma and childhood cancer. Each of these cancers is treated effectively and safely with proton therapy. As proton therapy alumni, friends and advocates, we are often in a position to spread awareness of this treatment that gives an excellent chance for cure with a lower chance for side effects. I encourage you in these last days of the month to wear an awareness ribbon – light blue for prostate cancer awareness, violet for Hodgkin lymphoma awareness, and gold for childhood cancer awareness. And if someone asks you about it, share your story of beating cancer with proton therapy.



Sincerely,

Stuart Klein

Patient Spotlight: Ron Nelson

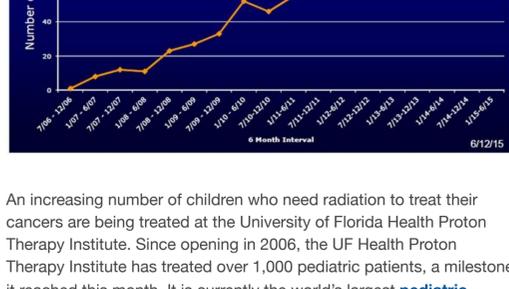


Ron Nelson is a man on a mission. He was treated for prostate cancer in 2011 at the UF Health Proton Therapy Institute and since then, he has written a book about his experience, *Protons Versus Prostate Cancer: Exposed*, created a blog about proton therapy, prostate cancer and other musings, *The After Proton Blog*, and frequently talks with both men and women about prostate cancer and proton therapy. And that's just the tip of the iceberg. To see what else Ron is up to [watch his short video](#).

While he doesn't give medical advice, he's a retired information technology professional, he does offer his candid, first-person, and often humorous perspective on proton therapy and prostate cancer. This month he is one of the featured speakers at the UF Health Proton Therapy Institute prostate follow-up clinic.

If you're not able to make it to the talk, check out Ron's most recent blog article with his characteristic wry and thought-provoking commentary on the timely topic of [prostate cancer awareness month](#). There is no charge to subscribe to [The After Proton Blog](#), and Ron would love for you to contact him at Ron@ProtonsExposed.com.

UF Health Proton Therapy Institute crosses important milestone in the care of pediatric cancer patients



An increasing number of children who need radiation to treat their cancers are being treated at the University of Florida Health Proton Therapy Institute. Since opening in 2006, the UF Health Proton Therapy Institute has treated over 1,000 pediatric patients, a milestone it reached this month. It is currently the world's largest [pediatric proton therapy program](#), serving 25-30 children each day.

Proton therapy is a specialized form of radiation treatment that minimizes damage to healthy tissue surrounding a tumor. It is especially important to limit radiation exposure in the rapidly growing bodies of children since their cells are more susceptible to radiation damage. The long-term benefit for survivors of childhood cancer treated with proton therapy is a reduced risk of developing radiation-induced chronic illness, low growth hormone production, secondary cancer or impaired IQ.

The most common tumors in children treated with proton therapy at UF Health Proton Therapy Institute are [ependymoma](#), [craniopharyngioma](#), [low-grade glioma](#), [rhabdomyosarcoma](#), [Ewing sarcoma](#) and [medulloblastoma](#). Over 200 of these children will be treated in 2015. "Since the majority of our pediatric patients are treated for sarcomas and brain tumors near critical healthy tissue, it is paramount to avoid unnecessary radiation exposure which can compromise growth and development," said Daniel J. Indelicato, M.D., associate professor and director of pediatric radiotherapy at the University of Florida. "Our goal is to cure children with high-dose radiation but still avoid side effects."

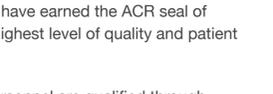
"The advantages for children who have tumors treated with protons are quite significant," said Nancy P. Mendenhall, M.D., medical director of UF Health Proton Therapy Institute and associate chair and professor of radiation oncology at UF. "Survivorship for our youngest patients will mean both a longer life and a healthy life free from the late effects of conventional radiation treatment."

The pediatric radiotherapy program at UF Health Proton Therapy Institute is unique in its multidimensional scope of care, which includes dedicated pediatric radiation oncologists, specialized pediatric nurses, pediatric anesthesiologists, experienced radiation therapists, a pediatric social worker, and a full-time child life specialist. This comprehensive approach has become a model within the field and draws pediatric patients from 36 states and 20 countries. Since many pediatric tumors are treated with a combination of radiation, surgery and chemotherapy, the University of Florida partners with Nemours Children's Specialty Clinic and Wolfson Children's Hospital to provide the full-spectrum pediatric oncology care. Together, these institutions offer over 20 advanced clinical trials for children with cancer. In 2015, over 95% of pediatric patients treated at the University of Florida Health Proton Therapy Institute were enrolled on a clinical study.

As part of an academic health center, a fundamental component of the University of Florida pediatric program is education. The doctors at the UF Health Proton Therapy Institute are training the next generation of pediatric radiation oncologists. This includes residents from UF, the Moffitt Cancer Center, and the Mayo Clinic. In addition, UF began the first radiation oncology fellowship dedicated to the subspecialty of pediatric proton therapy in 2011.

UF Health Proton Therapy Institute earns ACR accreditation

The American College of Radiology (ACR) has awarded a three-year term of accreditation in radiation oncology to the University of Florida Health Proton Therapy Institute. It is awarded to facilities that meet or exceed national standards in radiation oncology. Of the 17 proton therapy centers in the U.S., UF Health Proton Therapy Institute is one of



three proton therapy facilities to have earned the ACR seal of accreditation, representing the highest level of quality and patient safety.

The accreditation means that personnel are qualified through education and certification to administer radiation therapy. Furthermore, it means the equipment is appropriate for delivering radiation therapy and meets or exceeds national standards for safety and quality assurance.

"Our goal is to deliver safe, effective cancer treatment to patients using proton therapy," said Nancy P. Mendenhall, M.D., medical director of the UF Health Proton Therapy Institute and associate chair and professor of radiation oncology at UF. "Being part of an academic health center and a Florida Cancer Center of Excellence, we opened our doors for an objective and rigorous peer review by ACR. We are honored to have earned this distinction, and I commend our staff for their commitment to excellence."

UF Health Proton Therapy Institute was recognized earlier this year among the first four Florida Cancer Centers of Excellence designated by the Florida Department of Health. The designation means that treatment centers demonstrate excellence in patient-centered coordinated cancer care.

The ACR is the nation's oldest and most widely accepted radiation oncology accrediting body, with over 600 accredited sites, and 27 years of accreditation experience. The ACR seal of accreditation is awarded only to facilities meeting specific Practice Guidelines and Technical Standards developed by ACR after a peer-review evaluation by board-certified radiation oncologists and medical physicists who are experts in the field. Patient care and treatment, patient safety, personnel qualifications, adequacy of facility equipment, quality control procedures, and quality assurance programs are assessed. The findings are reported to the ACR Committee on Radiation Oncology Accreditation, which subsequently provides the practice with a comprehensive report they can use for continuous practice improvement.

The ACR is a national professional organization serving more than 36,000 diagnostic/interventional radiologists, radiation oncologists, nuclear medicine physicians, and medical physicists with programs focusing on the practice of medical imaging and radiation oncology and the delivery of comprehensive health care services.

Don't miss the 11th Annual Play Golf. Fight Cancer.® Classic



Join in the fellowship and fun at the one-of-a-kind World Golf Hall of Fame & Museum and the championship golf courses King & Bear and Slammer & Squire for the [11th Annual Play Golf. Fight Cancer.® Classic](#) in St. Augustine, Fla., October 11-12. The charity event, presented by IBA and .decimal with additional support from Shepherd, will benefit the research programs at UF Health Proton Therapy Institute, a nonprofit, 501 (c) 3 organization.

The event kicks off on Sunday, October 11, at 6 p.m. in the World Golf Hall of Fame & Museum. Guests will explore the museum honoring the greatest golfers with exhibits of their most significant trophies, equipment and history-making wins. For those who want to get in a few practice swings, they can try out the new Golfzon golf simulator and its up-to-date sensor technology, one of only two in the U.S. with 150 worldwide courses to choose from.

A dinner and silent auction will be held in Shell Hall where each hall of fame member is enshrined. An exciting live auction includes the chance to bid on a one-week stay in a North Carolina cabin, a river excursion for six people on a luxury 46-foot cruiser, a dinner for six prepared by celebrity chef Robert Tulko, and a dinner for six prepared by Dr. Nancy Mendenhall. Other chances to win in the silent auction include a range of items from unique collectible and dinner and spa gift cards to golf foursomes, The PLAYERS Championship tickets and vacation getaways. Whether shopping for yourself or a gift for someone else, it's a great way to buy something you want or need, and you can feel good knowing that 100 percent of the proceeds go to the life-saving research at UF Health Proton Therapy Institute.

Golf begins on Monday, October 12, with registration at 7 a.m. and a shotgun start at 9 a.m. Players will be assigned to one of two championship courses designed by legendary World Golf Hall of Fame members: the King & Bear or the Slammer & Squire. Trophies will be awarded to the best-scoring teams, closest to the pin and longest drive.

The awards reception will include an inspiring keynote talk by our honorary chair Shannon Miller, the most decorated gymnast in U.S. history. As a 7-time Olympic medalist and cancer survivor, she is an advocate for early detection and health and fitness. She will be available for a meet and greet and autograph signing at the reception.

To register for the event and/ or attend the event, visit through to register on the www.playgolffightcancer.org website.

To donate or support the cause in some other way, if you are not available for the event, contact tournament chair Michael McPhillips at mcpforegolf@gmail.com (904) 910-7098 or Judy Taylor Holland jholland@floridaproton.org (904) 588-1401.

In the community



Team Florida Proton participated in the 2nd Annual LungForce Walk in August to benefit the American Lung Association (ALA) and its effort to raise awareness of lung cancer as the leading cause of cancer death in women. Funds raised at the walk benefit the research and early detection programs sponsored by the ALA.