

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [Message from Stuart Klein, Executive Director](#)
- [Brandon Bell's wish comes true](#)
- [Check your junk mail folder](#)
- [Health Care Hero – Daniel J. Indelicato, M.D.](#)
- [What does the science say?](#)
- [BOB/NAPT survey needs you](#)

IN OTHER NEWS

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Message from Stuart Klein, Executive Director

This month we celebrate National Radiologic Technology Week (Nov. 3-9). It reminds us that therapeutic radiation is among the most impactful discoveries in our global quest for a cancer cure during the last century. We continue the quest at UFPTI through daily patient treatment and clinical research. It also reminds us of the vital role radiation therapists have in the daily care of patients. Our entire team strives to attend each individual with excellence, professionalism and compassion. Our radiation therapists exemplify this commitment every day, and we thank them for their service.



Brandon Bell's wish comes true



From the center of famed Wembley Stadium in London, 16-year-old Brandon Bell of Scotland called heads in the coin toss that started the historic NFL game between the Jacksonville Jaguars and the San Francisco 49ers. Brandon was the Jaguars' honorary team captain thanks to the Make-a-Wish Foundation, a nonprofit that grants wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses, and the Jaguars.

He became a Jaguars fan during his stay in Jacksonville for treatment of a rare brain tumor in September 2010. When given the chance to make a wish, he said he wanted to go to the Jacksonville Jaguars game in London, October 17, 2013. According to his mom Sara Bell, his wish was granted and more. The hosts arranged for the whole family to fly to London two days prior to the game for sightseeing in

contributes to the care of future patients.

Community Calendar

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

January 8, 2014, 1 p.m.

West Jax Rotary Club
Quality Inn
I-295 at Commonwealth
Ave.

Jacksonville, FL
*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.

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the city, a pre-event tour of Wemply Stadium and a meet-and-greet with the Jaguars players.

Brandon said the most memorable part of the experience was “to be in the middle of the field and be part of the coin toss, to meet the Jaguars team and to meet my favorite player Maurice Jones-Drew.” His mom Sara had a different take on the favorite moment. “Mine was seeing the look on my boy’s face, and my daughter’s face, as he met his hero. They were in a different kind of happy. It was both wonderful and emotional to see,” she said.

To see Brandon on the field meeting his hero, [click here](#) to view a news report by WTEV-TV Action News Jacksonville.

Just three years earlier, he was a different boy said Sara. “We cannot believe how far we have come. He is going from strength to strength. We are obviously not in the clear as Brandon still has a tumor, but he’s doing amazing and we all just take each day and life as it comes. He’s our inspiration,” she said.

The Bell family thinks of Jacksonville as their second home and returns each year to visit and for follow up. “I can honestly say we only have good memories of our time in Jacksonville and UF Proton Therapy Institute,” said Sara in an email interview. “Yes he had treatment every day, and yes we worried because he has a brain tumor. But the doctors, radiation therapists, reception – the list could go on – were so wonderfully patient and caring as well as very professional, it just didn’t feel like we were in a hospital/treatment center. They make you feel like you’re part of a special family who are all going through a rough time, ‘But, hey, we can all do this!’ We as a family will forever be grateful to all the team who work at UF Proton Therapy Institute,” she said. “They made us feel welcome and safe, and most of all they saved my son’s life.”



Jaguars running back Maurice Jones-Drew and Brandon Bell in Wemply Stadium, London. Meeting MJD was one of Brandon’s favorite moments.



Brandon Bell, Jaguars owner Shad Khan, and Sara Bell in Wemply Stadium, London.

Check your junk mail folder



Reminder for Sep 19, 2013 4:00 PM

1 message

newreminder@optimalcare.com <newreminder@optimalcare.com>
To: your@email.com

Wed, Sep 18, 2013 at 10:00 PM

A reminder from your VisionTree Optimal Care calendar.



Please check your VisionTree Optimal Care™ account to view the contents of this email.

www.optimalcare.com

[name to the list](#). You will also be notified of any future events in your area.

Starting this month, you may receive occasional emails from newreminder@optimalcare.com. The body of the email will look like the picture you see above, and it will ask you to visit optimalcare.com. Optimalcare.com is also called 'VTOC' and is the patient portal you used to complete some online surveys before and after your treatment.

We want to assure you that this is not spam, but is instead a notification that you have new surveys to complete in your patient portal. When you receive this email, please visit optimalcare.com to complete them.

Health Care Hero – Daniel J. Indelicato, M.D.



His patients know him as Dr. Danny. Now Jacksonville knows him as a 2013 Health Care Hero.

The Health Care Hero Awards are hosted by the Jacksonville Business Journal as an annual recognition of the medical professionals in Northeast Florida who have improved health care and saved lives, especially in the past few years. Dr. Indelicato was chosen for his outstanding contributions in pediatrics.

(photo: Brandon Bell and Dr. Danny during a July 2013 followup visit)

Dr. Indelicato is the lead physician for the UF Proton Therapy Institute pediatric proton program. It is the largest pediatric proton program in the world with an average of 25 children on treatment each day. Most children come from other states and countries and are referred by their pediatric oncologists to have proton therapy.

Dr. Indelicato works closely with physicians at Wolfson Children's Hospital and Nemours Children's Clinic to provide a complete medical team comprised of pediatric oncologists and surgeons when children require combination cancer treatment such as chemo or surgery. He has established several clinical protocols jointly with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital for the treatment of children and infants who have rare brain tumors.

Dr. Indelicato is a contributor to medical journals and a presenter at medical scientific conferences on the topic of proton therapy for pediatrics. He serves on the board of the Pediatric Proton Foundation, a national nonprofit that funds research and assists patients and families.

[Click here](#) to read comments from parents who sent their congratulations via Facebook.

What does the science say?

The scientific evidence for proton therapy continues to evolve as more data becomes available for analysis. This fall, researchers from UFPTI presented a dozen proton therapy studies at the annual meeting of ASTRO, the leading radiation oncology conference. They ranged from clinical trials based on patient outcomes to dosimetric studies that compared proton therapy treatment plans and conventional treatment plans.

Here are some highlights of the research presented by UFPTI:

- 5 years after proton therapy for prostate cancer, the majority of men are cancer-free, continue with an active sex life and have full control of bladder and bowels. The full report will be available soon in an upcoming issue of International Journal of Radiation Biology Physics, also known as the Red Journal.
- 90 percent of children treated with proton therapy for sarcomas or brain tumors near the brainstem at UFPTI since 2006 survive beyond two years and the rate of serious side effects involving the brainstem is 2 percent.
- A pilot study of proton therapy for breast cancer shows a significant decrease in heart and lung exposure to radiation as compared with conventional radiation, while at the same time delivering the optimal dose to the target areas including lymph nodes. Furthermore, dermatitis was similar to that seen with conventional radiation, and other side effects such as esophagitis and fatigue during treatment were minimal.
- 2 years after proton therapy for non-small cell lung cancer, early results indicate a promising overall survival rate of 49 percent for patients with locally advanced lung cancer.
- 2-year results in patients with Hodgkin lymphoma show promising outcomes regarding disease control and toxicity.

BOB/NAPT survey needs you

A nationwide survey of men treated with protons for prostate cancer is now available online. This is the third annual Brotherhood of the Balloon (BOB) /NAPT (National Association for Proton Therapy) survey to document patient outcomes. Our UFPTI physicians were involved in developing this year's questionnaire with the goal of gathering data that can be submitted to a peer-reviewed medical journal.

Please take the time, estimated at 15 minutes, to complete the survey if you were treated for prostate cancer with proton therapy. We are hoping to collect all responses within the next two weeks, so [please click here now to participate](#).

You only need to fill it out once, so if you've already done so via a message directly from the BOB group or an email message from us, thank you!