

Precision

December 2012



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

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IN OTHER NEWS

Keep In Touch



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

Message from Stuart Klein, Executive Director

When we look at the proton therapy landscape during 2012 we see growth and challenge. These are two trends in proton therapy we can expect for the foreseeable future.



As of this month, there are a total of 10 proton therapy centers in operation in the U.S., 12 under construction and seven more that have been announced. The addition of proton therapy centers is good news for cancer patients who will have access to the treatment they need in a nearby facility.

With growth comes increasing scrutiny, and in 2012 proton therapy was examined as never before. At ASTRO 2012, the leading international scientific conference on radiation oncology, more than 100 studies on proton therapy were discussed or presented. I am proud to say that UFPTI physicians produced and presented 15 of the studies, seven on the topic of prostate cancer. This important research adds to the body of scientific evidence for using proton therapy to fight cancer.

We remain at the leading edge of treatment and research in proton therapy. The expert physicians and staff who care for our patients daily are unique to UFPTI, and as of this month, have treated 4,046 patients and delivered 138,855 treatments. As a top-10 proton therapy center and the largest provider of pediatric proton therapy in the world, it is our privilege to serve our patients and our duty to gather scientific data to report outcomes. Staying on this course, we can effectively meet the growth and challenges ahead.

Sincerely,
Stuart Klein

UFPTI presents pancreas cancer research

New research from the University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute suggests that proton therapy may be used safely in combination with other treatments for pancreatic cancer such as surgery and chemotherapy.

The findings were presented by UF Proton Therapy Institute radiation oncologist R. Charles Nichols, M.D. at the International Symposium on Pancreas Cancer 2012 in Kyoto, Japan.

The study followed 20 pancreatic cancer patients treated with proton therapy at the UF Proton Therapy Institute. Findings demonstrate that proton therapy is able to effectively eliminate the gastrointestinal side effects associated with conventional radiation therapy when it is used

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.

December 11, 7 p.m.

Learning In Retirement
Sun City Peachtree
Community Club
Peachtree Building
500 Del Webb Blvd.
Griffin, GA 30223
Speaker: Randal Henderson, M.D.

December 12, 7:15 a.m.

Rotary Club
Rockdale Medical Center
1412 Milstead Ave.
Conyers, GA 30012
Speaker: Randal Henderson, M.D.

January 14, 2013, 12:15 p.m.

Rotary Club
Marriott at Renaissance
Park
299 N. Church St.
Spartanburg, SC 29306
Speaker: R. Charles Nichols, M.D.

February 26, 7 p.m.

Gator Club
Mudville Grille
3105 Beach Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32207
Speaker: R. Charles Nichols, M.D.

February 28, 12:30 p.m.

Science and Engineering
Lecture Series
Jacksonville University
Reid Auditorium
Jacksonville, FL
Speaker: Zuofeng Li, M.Sc.

March 26, 7 p.m.

Man to Man
American Cancer Society
2619 Centennial Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32308
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.

Proton Therapy Publications

Our physicians, physicists and staff are advancing the scientific

treat patients to who have pancreatic cancers that cannot be removed surgically or are treated following complete or partial surgical removal. Nichols, who is the study's lead investigator, said the data suggests that the minimal toxicity associated with proton therapy in this setting may allow for radiotherapy dose escalation, chemotherapy intensification and possibly an increased willingness on the part of surgeons to utilize preoperative radiation therapy in the treatment of this lethal malignancy.

"It was an honor to be selected to deliver one of the four plenary presentations at the meeting," explained Dr. Nichols. "Over 100 abstracts were submitted for this symposium. The fact that our work was selected to be presented indicates a very real interest on the part of thought leaders in this field to learn more about the potential for proton therapy."

The International Symposium on Pancreas Cancer 2012 is a multidisciplinary meeting attended by surgeons, medical oncologists and radiation oncologists from Asia, Europe and the Americas. Approximately 200 experts in the field convened to discuss potential improvements in the management of this disease. The American Cancer Society estimates that in 2012 in the U.S. more than 43,000 pancreatic cancer cases will be diagnosed and more than 37,000 people will die of the disease.

Gone Fishin': A first for young UFPTI alum



Last summer, when 12-year-old Michael Speller came to Jacksonville from the United Kingdom for proton therapy, little did he know that he would learn a few hobbies, too.

His doctor in the UK had referred him to UFPTI for treatment of a rare cancer - rhabdomyosarcoma of the soft palate. According to Michael's dad Jeremy Speller in an email interview, "At first the proton gantry and the idea of treatment seemed a little daunting but the staff at UFPTI put us at ease and Michael soon settled into the daily routine. Waiting in the lobby was fun thanks to the range of activities provided by Barbara [Holmes-Fryefield], the Artist in Residence - Michael even learned to knit!"

Michael's dad continued, "Although we were a long way from home, everyone in Jacksonville was so kind and made us feel really welcome. Michael found many things to do in between treatments such as going to the zoo, the alligator farm and the ball game. The shopping malls were quite good too (says mum)!"

The fishing trip was arranged by Mitch Kubacki, driver of the pediatric shuttle van. Mitch drove the Speller family on their daily trips from the Ronald McDonald House where they were staying to UFPTI and back.

understanding of proton therapy in cancer treatment. Through the study of clinical trial data they discover new and important results that are written into medical journal articles and submitted for peer review. Each month we will feature one or two recently published works.

Protons Offer Reduced Normal-Tissue Exposure for Patients Receiving Postoperative Radiotherapy for Resected Pancreatic Head Cancer. Published in *International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics*, May 2012. Written by R.C. Nichols, Jr. et al.

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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Said Michael's dad, "He [Mitch] is a keen fisherman and discovered that Michael had never been fishing and was keen to try his hand. Mitch kindly offered to take us fishing on the St. Johns River... Michael was delighted with the day - he caught 24 fish first time out!"

Now 13-years-old, Michael is doing well and his most recent follow up scan was clear. His dad says this is "great news" and that Michael is back to his normal school routine.

November participants tour UFPTI



The mustache, or "mo," was a month-long facial hair fashion statement during November as men everywhere joined the Movember movement. A men's health awareness campaign, Movember networks worldwide raise funds for prostate cancer and testicular cancer research. We were pleased to host the [Movember Jax](#) group for a tour and lunch. The tour included a look at the new Vero machine, where we are now treating patients who have early metastatic cancer.

Jacksonville Jaguars show us their "mo's"



The Jacksonville Jaguars Offensive Line joined Movember and hosted dinner at Latitude 30 for prostate cancer and testicular cancer survivors. Several UFPTI alumni were able to attend including Jim Craig (left, back row).

area.

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