



## **University of Florida Health Proton Therapy Institute History**

Recent advances in the technology used to locate tumors – three-dimensional imaging -- and to calculate radiation dosages -- with complex dosimetry computer software -- have opened the way to make proton therapy a viable treatment option for many kinds of cancer. These advances, combined with the expertise of faculty at the University of Florida College of Medicine, Department of Radiation Oncology, were the foundation for building the first proton therapy treatment facility in the southeast United States – University of Florida Health Proton Therapy Institute.

A proposal to build the institute was developed in 1998. Following several years of feasibility study and planning, construction of Florida Proton began in April 2003.

The University of Florida Health Proton Therapy Institute opened in summer 2006 and is only one of 15 proton facilities in the nation designed for treatment of cancer patients. Proton therapy has been in existence for 50 years but typically available only at a few research facilities. There is growing worldwide interest in proton therapy with facilities available, planned or in progress in China, England, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Russia, South Africa, Sweden and Switzerland.

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