Happy Holidays!! I hope that you will enjoy the holiday season with friends and family. Please take some time to see all that is going on with our radiation oncology family at Penn Medicine in our quarterly newsletter. As usual, our team is involved with Penn and our community in so many impressive ways. It has been a busy Fall season with the successful opening of our Cherry Hill facility. We are also doing additional work again at PCAM with the research room under construction and the planned move of the small animal irradiator to this area in the next few weeks. We expect the research room to be operational by the end of January 2017. This will give our faculty a new avenue of research to compare protons to conventional radiation. Our interview season for residency applicants is in full swing, so you may see a number of new faces touring the department. We have completed a series of successful retreats with faculty and I look forward to implementing many of the suggestions over the coming year. Again, I wish you all the best for this holiday season! We hope to see you at our annual holiday event!
Penn Radiation Oncology Draws Global Crowd for Proton Therapy Course

This year’s Third Annual Course on Proton Therapy took place from November 18-20, 2016 and welcomed over 125 participants from all over the world including Belgium, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Columbia, Egypt, Germany, India, Italy, Netherlands, Panama, Russia, Taiwan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, & USA. The three day comprehensive course has received positive feedback and increasing popularity in the international proton community.
Penn Medicine’s Department of Radiation Oncology Named 2017 Beneficiary of The Philadelphia Antiques and Art Show

A BENEFIT FOR PENN MEDICINE

THE PHILADELPHIA ANTIQUES & ART SHOW

ANNOUNCES THE 2017 BENEFICIARY

The Philadelphia Antiques & Art Show is excited to announce Penn Medicine’s Department of Radiation and Oncology as its 2017 beneficiary.

Show proceeds will help build the department’s Quality of Life Program, designed to improve the overall wellbeing of patients and caregivers within the department’s waiting areas, making patients’ first encounter on the journey of healing to be a transformative and holistic experience by providing a place of calm, community, optimism, inspiration, and support.

The Philadelphia Antiques & Art Show is an exciting opportunity to experience history through a world of extraordinary treasures. With over 60 distinguished exhibitors presenting exceptional handcrafted items and art from the Colonial to the Mid-20th Century eras, come see why the Philadelphia Show has been called one of the finest of its kind for over 50 years.

Plan to Join us at the Preview Party to support this amazing program!

APRIL 21-23, 2017
PREVIEW PARTY APRIL 20th
SAVE THE DATE

Philadelphia’s Inaugural “Real Men Wear Pink” Supports American Cancer Society & Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

Suneel Nagda, MD, participated in and raised over $3000 for Philadelphia’s Inaugural “Real Men Wear Pink” campaign to support the American Cancer Society and Making Strides Against Breast Cancer. During the month of October, Dr. Nagda pledged to wear pink every day in support of this campaign. The “Real Men” Making Strides event took place on October 15th.

Philabundance Fundraiser 2016

Radiation Oncology participated in the Camp Out for Hunger Campaign by donating $525 raised from department bake sale that was held from October 3—November 11th.
Participate in this year’s Holiday Charity Basket Raffle

Preview Day: December 14, 2016
Raffle Day: December 15, 2016
12:00 pm—3:00 pm
TRC 2 West Conference Room

Donate Your Change
Support Women in Transition Charity to brighten a family’s Holiday
Donate your change to “spare jar” in TRC 4 West conference room.
Welcome New Employees

Brian Lally, MD
Radiation Oncologist

Jared Gershowitz
Research Intern

Rene (Aretha) Bates, MBA
Staff Assistant

Amanda Buirge, MBA
Billing Supervisor

Kim Liberatore, MSN, RN, CPHQ
Senior Improvement Advisor

Zachary Shoemaker, MA
Faculty Coordinator

Jessica Thompson
Patient Service Representative

Macy Limanni, BSN, RN, Staff Nurse

Promotions & Appointments

David Guttmann, MD
Assistant Chief Resident

Goldie Kurtz, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Radiation Oncology

John Nicholas Lukens, MD
Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology

William Levin, MD
Associate Professor of Clinical Radiation Oncology

George Chao, MD, PhD
Assistant Chief Resident

Awards/Grants/Recognition

Sam Swisher-McClure, MD
Provider of the Year, Penn Medicine Experience Week

Maya Korobeynik, MHA
Graduated with Masters in HealthCare Administration, St. Joe's University

Laura Kendrick, MHA
Graduated with Masters in HealthCare Administration, St. Joe's University

Genny Hollis, MSN, CRNP
Nominee for the Barbara Todd Leadership Award

Participated on Advanced Practice Provider Metrics Panel at JADPRO Live/APS Hawk Conference

Erin McMenamin, MSN, CRNP
Named as a member of the Distinguished Oncology Nursing Panel for Penn School of Nursing; she also authored Radiation Oncology Primer for the ASCO University educational program

Andy Minn, MD, PhD
Scientific Research Award

Yi Fan, MD, PhD
2016 AACR Judah Folkman Career Development Award for Angiogenesis Research

Christine Colon
Nominated to receive the 2016 HUP Patient Advocacy Award

25/30 Year Club Inductee

Vilma Griffiths, RN (25 Years)
Karima Cooper, RTT (25 Years)
Darlene Bassett (25 Years)
Willene Blair, BS, CC (25 Years)
Rosanne Scamuffa (25 Years)
Ron Kiker (25 Years)
Lynne Davis (30 Years)
2016 HUP Patient Advocacy Award

Congratulations to Christine Colon for being recognized with the 2016 Patient Advocacy Award on November 3, 2016. Christine was one of 11 HUP employee’s who received this award. Christine is one of the first faces that our early morning patients see every day at PCAM for treatment. She always has a smile on her face while she welcomes them, quickly learns their names, makes the patients feel comfortable and cared for, directs all of the new patients and visitors around our department and the Perelman Center. While doing this Christine always is keeping the patient and their family at the focus. Christine embodies the Penn Medicine experience and I am so proud that she is a part of our department. Thank you Christine for the care you provide to our patients!!

25 Year Employee Induction Dinner—September 22, 2016
Faculty Retreat—October 28, 2016

Radiation Oncology Nursing Retreat—October 1, 2016

Penn vs. Harvard Football Game - November 11, 2016

Radiation Oncology Network Retreat—December 8, 2016
FALL 2016 NEWSLETTER

Penn Medicine Experience Week - October 10—14, 2016

Taco Tuesday

Pretzel Day!

Art Therapy

Aroma Therapy

Yoga

Patients Recognizing Staff for their Hard Work

Employee Recognition
SPINTENSITY 200 Challenge—Nov. 5, 2016

Radiation Oncology’s Beam of Life
Alumni Patients Support Cancer Research
The Penn Head and Neck Cancer Survivor’s Group celebrated their 15 year Anniversary on October 5, 2016. The group is the Philadelphia/ NJ Chapter Support group of SPOHNC (Support for People with Oral and Head and Neck Cancer).
Where in the World is Penn Radiation Oncology?

Barcelona, Spain

Venice, Italy
RadOnc Medical Residency Program

A total of 23 students have rotated through the department since 01/2016. Five of these students were from Penn, the remainder were from outside institutions including UCSD, University of Hawaii, Washington University in St Louis, Cleveland Clinic, Colombia University, Jefferson University, and Temple University.

In addition to rotating with their primary and secondary clinical services, students have participated in weekly radiation oncology lectures focusing on basic clinical oncology workflow, imaging and treatment modalities, radiation oncology emergencies, and basics of radiation physics and radiation biology. Students have contributed to our radiation oncology didactic series with lectures including “Radiotherapy for bleeding gynecologic malignancies,” Thoracic Radiation for Extended Stage SCLC,” and “Examining the QUARTZ Trial: A Non-Inferiority Randomized Study.”

Masters Medical Physics Program

This Fall, we welcomed nine new Master’s Degree and two new Certificate students into the Medical Physics graduate program. With five women, this year’s class is particularly diverse. Classes are well underway, as is the Professional Development series, which prepares students for Residency applications. We appreciate all the Physics faculty and staff who have given their time to act as mentors to help our students prepare. The continuing Master’s students presented proposals for their Capstone research projects in September, with topics ranging from machine learning for IMRT and proton QA to Electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) measurement of teeth for radiation dosimetry. We look forward to seeing the results of their research efforts this Spring. We also received news that all four of our second-year Master’s students passed at least one of the two sections of the ABR Part I exam, with three of them passing both sections. Congratulations all around on this achievement.

Physics Residency

♦ Two residents have visited Christiana Health to observe LDR prostate seed implants and Mammosite HDR brachytherapy procedures.
♦ One resident visited Jefferson Hospital to observe HDR prostate and Contura HDR brachytherapy procedures.
♦ We have hosted two physics residents from Jefferson Hospital for 1 week to observe proton therapy.

Penn Medicine Article Features Proton Therapy Course

Click on link below to read full article:
ONCOLINK UPDATES

OncoLink’s Annual Health Insurance Education Series

Do your patients have questions about insurance? Are you helping a parent navigate Medicare? Do you wish you understood your own health insurance better? Never fear – OncoLink is here to help! Our annual educational webinars cover topics including: Health Insurance 101, Medicare A&B, Advantage Plans, Part D Coverage & Medigap Plans, ACA plans, Medicaid, COBRA.

Watch the modules relevant to your needs at www.oncolink.org/insurance

ASTRO Accreditation Program for Excellence (APEx) Onsite Visit - January 13, 2017. The Goal of APEx is to accredit facilities that have the systems, personnel, policies and procedures needed to provide high-quality, safe patient care. The onsite visit is the 3rd requirement in the accreditation following Medical Record abstraction and Documentation upload and review. The APEx Excellence Model includes 16 standards within 5 pillars of excellence.

Pillar 1 is The Process of Care and includes: Patient Evaluation, Care Coordination and Follow-up, Treatment Planning, Patient Specific Safety Interventions and Safe Practices in Treatment Preparation and Delivery.

Pillar 2 is The Radiation Oncology Team and includes: Staff roles and Accountabilities, Qualifications, Ongoing Training, Safe Staffing Plan.

Pillar 3 is Safety and includes: Culture of Safety, Radiation Safety, Emergency preparation and planning.

Pillar 4 is Quality Management and includes: Facility and Equipment, Information Management and Integration of Systems, Quality Management of Treatment Procedures and Modalities, Peer Review of Clinical Processes.

Pillar 5 is Patient Centered Care and includes: Patient Consent, Patient Education and Health Management, Performance Measurement and Outcomes Reporting.

Our APEx Accreditation application includes our practices at Chestnut Hill, Doylestown, PCAM, Pennsylvania Hospital, and, Valley Forge.
Welcome:
The Research Division is excited to welcome the four members of Dr. Andrea Facciabene’s lab: Mireia Uribe-Herranz, PhD; Stefano Pierini, PhD; Luis Gil de Gomez, PhD and Abhishek Mishra, MD to our department. In September this dynamic team moved to Radiation Oncology Research (lab SCTR 8-171) from the Ovarian Cancer Research Center.

We are also pleased to welcome new visiting scholar, Bo Gao, PhD to Dr. Yi Fan’s Lab. Fan Lab also welcomes three new visiting graduate students; Guanghui Hu, MD; Wenjuan Ma, MD and Hao Duan, MD.

Upcoming Research Seminars:
All Seminars are in SCTR 8-146AB from 12-1pm (unless noted otherwise)
- Thursday, November 3, Dr. Ann Kennedy Symposium, JMB Class of ’62 Auditorium 2:30pm
- Thursday, November 10, RBI Seminar: Dr. Andrea Facciabene
- Thursday, November 17, Invited Speaker: Dr. Zhiyuan Shen, Rutgers, SCTR 12-146 from 1-2pm
- Thursday, December 8, RBI Seminar: Dr. Christine Hill-Kayser
- Thursday, January 12, RBI Seminar: Dr. Michael Farwell
- Thursday, January 26, Invited Speaker: Dr. David Gius, Northwestern University

Funding News:
Congratulations to Dr. Gary Kao on the award of his R01 grant, Circulating Tumor Cells Analyses and Molecular Profiling for Patients Receiving Radiation Therapy, which was recently funded by the National Cancer Institute. We also congratulate Dr. Stephen Avery on receiving R21 grant, Protoacoustics - Clinical Based Range Verification for Cancer Treatment. This project was funded by the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering. Finally, Dr. Yi Fan was recently honored as a recipient of the 2016 American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Judah Folkman Career Development Award for Angiogenesis Research. Dr. Fan was selected for this award based on the relevance of his research to the AACR’s mission and its expected impact in the field of cancer research. This award recognizes Dr. Fan’s position as a burgeoning leader in cancer research.

Update and Congratulations:
The Department of Radiation Oncology Annual Research Retreat was held on Friday, October 14th and met with great success. It included a total of fourteen oral presentations and an additional fifteen posters on cutting edge research within all three divisions of our department. Dr. Fei-Fei Liu (Chair, Department of Radiation Oncology, University of Toronto) presented as the keynote speaker on Mitigating Radiation Fibrosis with Adipose-Derived Stromal Cells. Awards were presented for the best oral and two best poster presentations by a trainee for research that was judged to be of the highest novelty and impact, as clearly communicated by the presenter. The winners included Kevin Nead, MD (medical resident; androgen deprivation therapy and dementia), Lauren Brady (graduate student; genome-wide transcriptome analysis of head and neck cancer cells under hypoxic stress) and Ching-Ling Teng, PhD (physics resident; dosimetric robustness in proton and IMRT plans for non-small cell lung cancer).
Dr. Ann R. Kennedy Symposium

The Dr. Ann R. Kennedy Symposium was held on Thursday, November 3, 2016 to recognize the many contributions that Dr. Kennedy has made in the study of space radiation medicine and radioprotection during her illustrious 28 year research career here at Penn. The symposium was opened by Dr. Metz, followed by a keynote presentation by NASA Astronaut Serena M. Auñón-Chancellor, MD, MPH, who spoke on the Medical Challenges of Working in Low Earth Orbit. Presentations from former collaborators and lab members of Dr. Kennedy served to highlight the broad impact of their research over the span of Dr. Kennedy’s career. The evening culminated with a reception in Dr. Kennedy’s honor.
Light the Night Walk

Dr. Et-Tsu Chen participated in the Lymphoma and Leukemia Society Light the Night Walk with Mary Thomas and Maureen Boylan.

Valley Forge Meet & Greet

Valley Forge staff greet and welcome the new Director of Network Operations, Terri Snyder.
Doylestown Honors Dr. Sam Swisher-McClure

The staff at Doylestown held a luncheon on October 26 to honor Dr. Sam Swisher-McClure. He covered at Doylestown from June through October, during an unplanned physician leave. The patients and staff appreciated his professionalism, kindness, and compassion. Many thanks to Sam for helping us to keep things running during a stressful time!

Chester Country Hospital Celebrates Staff

Rosanne Scamuffa (25 years) and Lynne Davis (30 years) were recently recognized by CCH for their years of service. Both are therapists for Radiation Oncology at CCH.

• Darafsheh, A., R. Taleei, A. Kassaee, and J. C. Finlay, “The visible signal responsible for proton therapy dosimetry using bare optical fibers is not Čerenkov radiation,” Medical Physics, 43(11), 5973-5980 (2016). http://dx.doi.org/10.1118/1.4964453


