Message from the Chair

Thanks so much for taking time to read the Penn Radiation Oncology Newsletter for Spring, 2016. Keeping up with all of the activities taking place across our facilities is no small task. I want to thank Nela Maskuti and Fern Nibauer-Cohen who have worked tirelessly to make this newsletter a regular departmental product. Also, thank you to all that have contributed photos, events, and announcements to this newsletter, as we could not do it without your involvement. We have so many fantastic staff and faculty, and events going on regularly. Our most recent proton alumni reception was a wonderful experience. It showed how grateful our patients are to our staff, but also how they continue to drive developments in our department. Take time to view all of the events across our network sites that highlight our team's interaction with patients and giving back to the community in so many ways.

With the closing of the academic year, this is a time of transition within the Department. We will witness the departure of many graduates of our residency and graduate programs who will go on to represent the department all over the country. Please take time to wish them well and join the celebrations of their time here at Penn. We will also have a number of new faces coming into the Department with new students, residents, and post-docs joining our team. The Summer is also one of the busiest times of year with medical students rotating in the department. Please make sure to introduce yourselves to our new team members and welcome them warmly to the Department.

Roberts Proton Therapy Patient Alumni Reception

The annual Roberts Proton Therapy Patient Alumni Reception took place on April 19, 2016. The event honored over 150 proton alumni patients and their guests.
Philadelphia Magazine “Top Doctors 2016”

Each year, Philadelphia Magazine compiles its "Top Doctors" list of the region’s best physicians.

Congratulations to Radiation Oncologists: Dr. James Metz, Dr. Neha Vapiwala, Dr. Gary Freedman and Dr. Andre Konski, who were featured in Philadelphia Magazine’s Top Doctors 2016.


Vice President Joe Biden Kicks off “Moonshot” Effort at Abramson Cancer Center

Days after President Obama announced the “Moonshot” to find a cancer cure during his State of the Union address, Vice President Biden visited Penn’s Abramson Cancer Center to kick off the national effort. Dr. James Metz was part of the day-long discussion at Penn Medicine.

Click on link below to access full article:


Dr. Berman on the Air Waves

Abigail Berman, MD, Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology, was interviewed on Q102 on the causes, symptoms and treatments of lung cancer including who should receive CT screenings. Dr. Berman also discussed the tremendous strides made in the treatment of lung cancer including new advances in chemotherapy, targeted Proton therapy and immunotherapy.

http://www.q102.com/articles/community-podcasts-490889/313-lung-cancer-is-the-1-14485478/#ixzz42dw3gqrC
http://www.radio1045.com/articles/community-podcasts-490889/313-lung-cancer-is-the-1-14485478/#ixzz42dw3gqrC
http://www.mixphiladelphia.com/articles/community-podcasts-490889/313-lung-cancer-is-the-1-14485478/#ixzz42dw3gqrC
Welcome New Employees

Erik Lewis  
Billing Supervisor

Akhil Tiwari  
Medical Dosimetrist

Nakia Payton-Jones  
New Patient Coordinator

Rosa Marie Gonzalez  
Patient Service Representative

Paige Jurgelewicz  
Per Diem Radiation Therapist

Melanie Odd  
Per Diem Radiation Therapist

Dan Roberts  
Per Diem Radiation Therapist

Promotions & Appointments

David Guttmann, MD  
Assistant Chief Resident

Jennifer Vogel, MD  
Education Officer of Trainees in the Department of Radiation Oncology

Alex Lin, MD  
Medical Director of the Roberts Proton Therapy Center

Jackie Bassett, MSN, RN  
Graduated from Adult Gerontology Acute Care Program, University of Pennsylvania

Neha Vapiwala, MD  
Vice Chair of the National Accreditation Council Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) Residency Review Committee

Maya Korobeynik, R.T.(T)(CT)  
Saint Joseph's University with a Master's in Health Administration (M.H.A)

Awards/Grants/Recognition

Jacob Shabason, MD  (Resident PI), & Andy Minn, MD, Ph.D (Faculty Mentor)  
“The Role of Stromal Exosomes in Mediating Breast Cancer Resistance to Radiation Therapy”,

Alejandro Carabe, Ph.D. and Arash Darafsheh, Ph.D.  
NIH STTR Phase I (NIH 1R41GM117844-01) Award Recipients: Biological super-resolution imaging using high-index microspheres for cancer research application

Yunhe Xie, 1st Place, Kevin Jones, 2nd Place

Ching-Ling Teng, Sheng Huang, Michele Kim, Adam Glick - Honorable mention

AAPM Delaware Chapter Award Recipients

Katie Mc Fadien  
Social Work Certification

Natalie Daurio  
PhD in Pharmacology

Dr. Theresa Busch and Dr. Zhiliang Cheng  
CT3N Pilot Fund

Neal Niznan, MSW (Poster at Association of Oncology Social Work Conference, May 2016)

Integrating a Simple Screening Tool in the Electronic Medical Record to Identify Oncology Patient Needs

Authors: Neal Niznan, MSW, LCSW, Rebecca Cammy, MSW, LCSW, Audrey Caspar-Clark, MA, RDN, CSO, LDN, Valarie Williams, MS, RDN, CSO, LDN

Audrey Caspar-Clark, MA, RDN, CSO, LDN, Neal Niznan, MSW, LCSW, Rebecca Cammy, MSW, LCSW, Valarie Williams, MS, RDN, CSO, LDN: ASCO Poster for Quality Care Symposium in Phoenix, AZ: February 2016: Integrating a Simple Screening Tool in the Electronic Medical Record to Standardize Patient Needs Identification Process
Join the Beam of Life team as a rider or a virtual rider. Virtual riders play a vital role on the team through their fundraising but are not required to ride.

For riders there will be three distances: 10, 30, and 60 miles. Also please encourage others to join. Anyone can be part of the team! To join the Beam of Life team as a rider, or virtual rider, please use the link below:

http://www.breakthroughbikechallenge.org/goto/beamoflife

To access the Breakthrough Bike Challenge website, please use link below:

http://www.breakthroughbikechallenge.org/site/TR?fr_id=1040&pg=entry
Linac Machine Updates

We are in the process of refreshing our Linear Accelerators at PCAM. This involves removing the old unit, reconstructing the room, adding state-of-the-art technology, and installing the newest Varian TrueBeam.

Linac 1 was our first completed project in January, 2016. In addition to the new machine, we added a virtual underwater scene to promote relaxing during treatment and enhance the patient experience.

We are currently in the process of the Linac 2 Refresh and are anticipating it to go live in May 2016! In this room we installed a new TrueBeam, beach scenes on the ceiling in the vault, and new motion displays in the maze.
Many cancer centers are incorporating art therapy programs to improve the patient experience. This is a trend that Dr. Levin would like to see grow as it is helpful to provide patients and caregivers with an outlet such as art therapy to balance their very stressful lives. He cites the experience of sitting in a radiation oncology waiting room every day. “I see patients all of the time who are in our waiting room every day for many weeks. Wouldn’t it be great if they could participate in an art project while waiting or listen to a soothing piece of music or even have a virtual tour of a local museum?”

Our department of Radiation Oncology is starting to develop a Healing Arts program designed to bring the arts to our patients and caregivers within the department. Please click on link below to access full article:

The Art of Healing

Posted by Fern Niabuer-Cohen

Art Therapy

On Thursday, April 14, Dr. Girija Kaimal, EdD, MA, Creative Director of Drexel’s Art Therapy department, hosted our first session in art therapy at our weekly proton alumni gatherers. William Levin, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor, and Fern Nibauer-Cohen, Director of Patient Engagement and Business Development, were also present to participate in the creative sessions along with Marinela Maskuti, MPH and Ghecora Boyd, MPH who assisted with coordinating the event.
Radiation Oncology attends Arab Health Conference in Dubai: January 25-28, 2016

Penn Medicine’s department of Radiation Oncology joined Penn Global Medicine to attend the Arab Health conference from January 25-28, 2016 in Dubai, UAE. The event was held at the Dubai International Conference Center, where healthcare industry representatives attended from around the world including, the Middle East, Asia, Europe and the US.

Head and Neck Cancer Focus Group 2016

On April 4 – 5, 2016, Dr. Alexander Lin hosted a Clinical Focus Group: The Role of Proton Beam Radiotherapy in Cancers of the Head and Neck, to explore the role of proton beam radiotherapy in cancers of the head and neck, and the potential advantage that proton beam radiotherapy brings to those patients. The clinical workshop brought together international specialists in the head and neck field, including radiation oncologists, medical oncologists, surgeons, radiologists and medical physicists.

Dr. James Metz meets with Prince Albert in Monaco, France

Dr. James Metz attended a meeting with Prince Albert to discuss collaborations with Princess Grace Hospital.
2016 AROPC/ACGME Meeting: February 24, 2016

Cordelia Baffic, Associate Director of Medical Education and President of the AROPC, presented at the ACGME Annual Conference. The AROPC trains, serves, promotes, advocates, and provides forums and leadership for Radiation Oncology Program Coordinators.

www.aropc.net

RadOnc Staff Attend Penn-Yale Squash Game

Dr. Nick Lukens, Alisha Maity, and Dr. Amit Maity attended the Penn-Yale squash match in February, 2016.

Out and About

RadOnc Therapists enjoyed some beautiful spring weather while out and about on Penn’s campus.
Where in the World is Penn Radiation Oncology?

La Grande Soufrière Volcano
Guadeloupe Island

Angola, Africa

Namibia, Africa

San Juan, Puerto Rico
Medical Residency Program Match Results 2016

The results of this year’s radiation oncology medical residency match are listed below. The following four outstanding applicants will join our department in July, 2017 after an internship with the Department of Medicine at HUP which will start in June, 2016.

Andrew R. Barsky, MD
Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania
B.S. Cornell University, Ithaca, NY (Biological Sciences)

Anish A. Butala, MD
Northwestern University, The Feinberg School of Medicine
B.S. New York University (Management and Organizational Analysis)

Jahan J. Mohiuddin, MD
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine
B.S.P.H. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Environmental Health)

Vishruth K. Reddy, MD, PhD
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
Ph.D. Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN (Cancer Biology)
B.A. Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN (InterdisciplinaryStudies)

New Medical Physics Residents 2016

Results 2016

The following outstanding applicants will be joining our two year residency program starting July 2016. Also listed are their current affiliation and their graduate degree affiliation.

Dolney, Derek
University of Pennsylvania (University of Pennsylvania, PhD)

O'Reilly, Shannon
University of Florida (University of Florida, PhD)

Teng, Ching-Ling
University of Pennsylvania (University of Virginia, PhD)

Xie, Yunhe
University of Pennsylvania (Brown University, PhD)
Education Corner

SPRING 2016 NEWSLETTER

Radiation Oncology
Clinical Residents

Photo Credit: William Levin, MD

Radiation Oncology
Physicist Residents

Photo Credit: William Levin, MD
Nursing Education

Genny Hollis, MSN, CRNP, Oncology Nurse Practitioner, is the course director of a novel Cancer Case Study Course at Penn’s School of Nursing. On February 24, she hosted a group of 24 undergraduate nursing students to visit the Department to provide an overview of both the technology and observation of the patient and family experience during radiation therapy treatment.

“This is an incredibly important tour for future oncology nurses. We offered this every year for the past six months, and it is always a highlight. The department is very welcoming to all students and they were really excited by the increased student interest in radiation oncology nursing,” said Hollis.

RadOnc Celebrates National Nurses’ Week

The nursing staff of RadOnc celebrated National Nurses’ Week from May 9-13, 2016.
We are pursuing ASTRO APEX Accreditation for PCAM, Chestnut Hill, Doylestown, Pennsylvania Hospital and Valley Forge locations. This accreditation requires a comprehensive evaluation of the RadOnc practice across 16 standards:

1. Patient Evaluation, Care Coordination and Follow-up,
2. Treatment Planning,
3. Patient specific safety interventions and Safety Practices in Treatment Preparation and Delivery,
4. Staff roles and accountabilities,
5. Qualifications and Ongoing Training of Staff,
6. Safe Staffing Plan,
7. Culture of Safety,
8. Radiation Safety,
9. Emergency Preparation and Planning,
10. Facility and Equipment,
11. Information Management and Integration of Systems,
12. Quality Management of Treatment Procedures and Modalities,
13. Peer Review of Clinical Processes,
14. Patient Consent,
15. Patient Education and Health Management,

We have completed the extensive application requiring listing of all physicians, staff and treatment modalities at each site.

We have completed the Medical Record Abstraction required of PCAM, by abstracting 30 charts and received a very welcome and rewarding score of 100% on Mandatory Elements and 98% on Non-Mandatory Elements.

Our next step is to compile policies, procedures, and job descriptions as they apply to each of the 16 standards and upload these for scoring. Following the scoring (and anticipated positive result) of the policies, procedures and job descriptions, there will then be an onsite review at PCAM and each of the Network locations.
Penn Radiation Oncology is at the Top of NIH-funded Radiation Oncology Programs in the Country

We are proud to announce that our department sits head-to-head with Stanford in being the top recipient of NIH funds for radiation oncology research. Over the previous NIH fiscal year, Penn and Stanford each received ~28% of NIH funding dollars for radiation therapy and biology research. This amounted to approximately $7.2 million dollars in grant funding at each institute. This accomplishment would not have been possible without the hard work and commitment of the trainees and staff of the department’s laboratories and business office. We applaud these individuals for their contributions to our success.

Welcome

We are pleased to announce that Andrea Facciabene, Ph.D. will be joining the faculty of the Research Division as an Assistant Professor (Research Track). Dr. Facciabene has been with the Ovarian Cancer Research Group at Penn since 2006. His research interests include the study of anti-tumor immunity and the impact of the microbiome on tumor growth and response to radiotherapy. His work is funded by the NIH and private foundations and he has published in top-tier journals that include Nature, Journal of Clinical Investigation, and Cancer Research. Several of our faculty have existing collaborations with Dr. Facciabene in the study of radiotherapy-induced tumor immunity, and we look forward to growing these interactions.

We additionally welcome two new postdoctoral fellows. Yi Hang Ong, Ph.D. has joined the laboratory of Dr. Timothy Zhu’s lab, where he is studying dosimetry in photodynamic therapy. Guoping Deng, Ph.D. has joined Dr. Costas Koumenis’ lab, where he is taking part in investigations of the role of the Unfolded Protein Response in anti-tumor immunity. Please join us in welcoming Drs. Facciabene, Ong and Deng to the department.

Congratulations

The research division congratulates Dr. Theresa Busch and Dr. Zhiliang Cheng (Bioengineering) for their proposal entitled Mesothelin-targeted nanophotosensitizer for photodynamic therapy of TNBC. This pilot study was selected for funding by the Center for Targeted Therapeutics and Translational Nanomedicine (CT3N).

We also congratulate Natalie Daurio for successfully defending her dissertation on March 28, 2016. Natalie completed her Ph.D. work in the Koumenis lab as a member of the BGS Pharmacology Graduate Group. The title of her thesis is "Tamoxifen Mediated Metabolic Stress: Molecular Mechanism and Therapeutic Opportunities". A portion of this work has been recently published in Cancer Research. Natalie has accepted a postdoctoral fellow position at Merck (Metabolism group), starting this May.

Upcoming Research Seminars

All Seminars are at 12-1pm in SCTR 8-146AB

Thursday, April 28: [Invited Speaker Seminar] Dr. Frank Pajonk, UCLA
Monday, May 2: [Invited Speaker Seminar] Dr. Marco Durante, TIFPA
Thursday, May 12: [Invited Speaker Seminar] Dr. Ranjit Bindra, Yale
Thursday, May 26: [RBI Seminar] Dr. Yi Fan
Thursday, June 9: [RBI Seminar] Dr. Robert Mach, Radiology
Thursday, June 23: [Invited Speaker Seminar] Dr. David Jaffray, Ontario Cancer Institute/Princess Margaret Hospital
Thursday, June 30: [Invited Speaker Seminar] Dr. Stephen Kanick, Dartmouth
Thursday, July 12: [Invited Speaker Seminar] Dr. Timothy Chan, MSKCC
St. Patrick’s Celebration at Chester County Hospital

Marcella Kubovsak, Lavina Broxton and Rodel Hidal helped celebrate St. Patrick’s Day at Chester County Hospital.

Health Care Hero Award

Chen Qing, Sue Stahl, Eileen McDevitt, Ann Marie Siegal, Marcella Kubovsak, Christine Radicioni, Rosanne Marroletti, Lauren Nangle and Dr. Andre Konski celebrated Health Care Hero Award at Chester County Hospital. Congratulations!
For Pete’s Sake Fashion Show

For Pete’s Sake Cancer Respite Foundation hosted the 17th Annual Fashion Show at Whitemarsh Valley Country Club on 4/13/2016, which was attended by staff from ACC-Valley Forge: Rachel Leszkowicz, Beth Leszkowicz RTT, Stephanie Ganley RTT, Jamie Gardiner, Mary Thomas RN, Maureen Boylan RTT, and Dr. Et-tsu Chen. The event raised money for cancer patient funds.

For Pete’s Sake Walk

For Pete’s Sake, Walk! at Citizens Bank Park on Sunday 4/24/16, was attended by Dr. Et-tsu Chen, her daughter and niece. Mary Thomas and Jamie Gardiner volunteered and registered walk-in participants.

Inaugural Big Climb Philly

Inaugural Big Climb Philly that supports Leukemia & Lymphoma Society was attended by Lynn Schuchter was team captain for the Penn ACC team. We had Mary Thomas, Maureen Boylan, and Lindsay Ford from ACC-Valley Forge on the team; they climbed 1,092 steps in the Comcast Building on Sat 4/23/16
For Pete’s Sake hosted the 16th Annual Beach Ball Gala at the Crystal Tea Room, Wanamaker Building, 2/6/2016, which was attended by ACC-Valley Forge staff Tracy d’Entremont, MD, Mary Thomas, RN, John Kosteva, MD, Et-tsu Chen, MD and her patient Doug Henning and his wife Kandece, who were the invited speakers for the night.

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society “Light the Night Walk”

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society "Light the Night Walk" took place on October 2015 and was attended by ACC-Valley Forge staff Denise Ottaviano RN, Mary Thomas RN, Lindsey Ford RN, Tracy d’Entremont MD, Tatiana Saverino CRNP.

Pancreatic Research Walk

The Pancreatic Research Walk took place on November 2015 at Memorial Hall. The event was attended by Dr Suneel Nagda, Mary Thomas, Dr. Et-tsu Chen and their daughters.
The Penn Medicine and Virtua strategic alliance has been in place for six months at the Washington Township location in Turnersville, New Jersey and for three months at the Virtua Voorhees, New Jersey location and the Virtua Mt. Holly, New Jersey locations. Penn Medicine radiation oncologists are full-time staffing the Washington Township location and Penn Medicine medical physicists are shared staffing the Voorhees location. Penn Medicine neurosurgeons are full-time staffing the Mt. Holly location.

Penn Medicine radiation oncology has initiated weekly satellite chart rounds with the Virtua Voorhees and Mt. Holly locations in March. Penn Medicine medical physicist Kenith Hogue has been working in a collaborative and support role providing clinical physics services from the Voorhees location to all Virtua radiation oncology sites since the beginning of the year. He works in the clinic at Voorhees with Dr. Xiaoming Chen, the Virtua medical physicist.

The former home of the Syms Clothing department store will be getting a new tenant after officials announced a division of the University of Pennsylvania Health System would transform the site into a state-of-the-art medical facility. - South Jersey Courier-Post newspaper
MOVIE REVIEW: Last Cab to Darwin

By: Andrew Miller, MD

Rex is a 1990s Broken Hill cabbie. Some time ago he had an operation for stomach cancer, but now his health has deteriorated and liver and lung metastases have been found. "Three months" is the verdict, but there is no hospital for him. Rex, who saw his father dying in hospital, has lived all his life in Broken Hill, a mining town on the border of civilization and the Outback.

He is a typical Aussie 'bloke', with lots of lifetime acquaintances none of whom he has chosen. He is of the opinion that he is unknown, isolated and alone. He is ashamed of his hidden interracial relationship with Polly from across the road.

He hears about a euthanasia campaigner in Darwin, and decides to use the service. It is no surprise that Australia's euthanasia hotbed is Darwin, until recently Australia's most remote and under-served oncological population, but the problem is that Darwin is 3000 km away and Rex has never left Broken Hill. But Rex, feeling alone and in need of no other human, sets off in his taxi through Oodnadatta, Alice Springs and Daly Waters for Darwin and self-imposed death. Through strangers who appear fleetingly on the way, he comes to understand life and family's power and need, the flow in relationships and the importance of realizing that he is known.

Tilly, the married aboriginal footballer, baldly reflects Rex but in a younger exterior. Julie, the English nurse, provides the caring sounding board to make him prepare. Polly, the neighbor back home, carries a burden. Dr Farmer shows the conflicts and superficiality of medicine. The story is backgrounded by the beautiful, but dangerous, Australian Outback, and by the politics of euthanasia. Michael Caton is a veteran Australian actor and gives a true-to-life, restrained, earthy performance required of such a character. The support cast portray an authentic group of flawed people.

What does the movie say about dying? I think it says that preparation is everything.


Cucolo L, Minn AJ. Getting Tumor Dendritic Cells to Engage the Dead. Cancer Cell. 2015 Dec


Kristina Woodhouse (Resident PI) and Abigail Berman (Faculty Mentor): 2016 Resident Research Award: “The Role of Patient Decision Making in Surgery versus Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy for the Treatment of Stage I/II Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer: A Pilot Trial using a Decision Aid”.


