Welcome to the end of Summer edition of the Radiation Oncology Newsletter. Things are kicking into high gear with the academic year in full swing. Our new residents have integrated into the team and many of our staff and faculty are preparing for their presentations at the upcoming ASTRO meeting in Boston later in September. Our upgrades at PCAM continue as 2 of our LINAC’s have been replaced and proton room 5 is being upgraded to a dedicated Pencil Beam Scanning Room. We are also completing the long awaited proton research room this Fall with construction, installation of equipment, and the move of the small animal irradiator from John Morgan Building to the proton research room. We will be opening our new Cherry Hill facility this Fall, and many members of our team are working diligently for a successful opening—Thank you for all the hard work!! We are actively recruiting new faculty members for both academic and community positions, so expect to hear about new additions to the team in the coming months. It is great to see all the engagement of our staff and faculty in our patient programs which are highlighted in the following pages. I look forward to discussing our upcoming plans at our staff meetings and faculty retreats this Fall.

United States Senators Visit

As the city of Philadelphia hosted this year’s Democratic National Convention 2016, the Department of Radiation Oncology welcomed state senators, Heidi Heitkamp (ND) and Patrick Leahy (VT) on July 27 and July 28. During their visit, the Senators toured the department and discussed the evolution and advances of radiation therapy.
Congratulations

Resident Graduation Ceremony
Clinical Trials Day: May 20, 2016

The Radiation Oncology research team celebrated Clinical Trials Day on May 20th by reaching out to patients to give them information about clinical trials. The event was sponsored by the Association of Clinical Research Professionals (ACRP). The ACRP supports clinical research professionals through membership, training and development, and certification. Founded in 1976, ACRP is a Washington, DC-based non-profit organization with more than 13,000 members who work in clinical research in more than 70 countries.

National Cancer Survivors Day Celebration—June 2-6, 2016

OncoLink celebrated National Cancer Survivors Day in the Perelman atrium on June 2, 3 and 6. Radiation Oncology staff, alumni patients and Finn, the therapy dog, were on hand to assist with the event which featured some fun events celebrating cancer survivorship! These events also highlighted some of the great services offered to the Abramson Cancer Center community. Patients and their caregivers were encouraged to participate in survivor’s art projects and create a survivorship care plan!
Radiation Oncology IT Team and Staff Lead ARIA Upgrade

The Aria/Eclipse system went live on version 13.7 on August 22! The partnership between Information Technology (IT) and Radiation Oncology in all aspects of this major upgrade resulted in a successful implementation. The comprehensive planning and testing performed by the multi-disciplinary team culminated with an intense 6-day upgrade event that included system installation, a multi-faceted command center, super user support, and on-site vendor trainers for side-by-side support.

Penn Radiation Oncology is an early adopter of this version, which paves the way for new clinical capabilities. Thank you to all for your participation and support!

Congratulations to Therapy Career Ladder Achievements

Level IV: Highest Level of Achievement
- Tamar Smith
- Courtney Misher
- Angela Natale
- Giovanna Sorber

Level III: Second Highest Level of Achievement
- Danielle Echols
- Shannon James
- Gwen Gardner

congratulations!
Welcome New Employees

Michelle Sparrow, RN, MBA  
Assistant COO
Andrew Mahle, MHA  
Project Manager
Dimitris Mihailidis, PhD  
Chief of Photon Physics
Jean-Claude Rwigema, MD  
Instructor, Radiation Oncology
Elizabeth Azar  
Dosimetrist/Treatment Planner
MartJoel Racca  
Patient Service Associate

Joseph Canavan, RN  
Staff Nurse
Mary Cohen, RTT  
Radiation Therapy Assist. Supervisor
Angelo Melendez  
Project Coordinator
Jaclyn Marcell, PhD  
Staff Medical Physicist
Ronghong Ma  
Clinical Info Analyst
Linda Mas  
Administrative Services Coordinator

Promotions & Appointments

Patrick Tripp, MD  
Chief, Radiation Oncology, Philadelphia VA Medical Center
Charles Simone, MD  
Associate Professor
Michelle Alonso-Basanta, MD  
Director of Quality Assurance for the Department of Radiation Oncology

Awards/Grants/Recognition

Chavanon Apinorasethkul  
Scored in the top 3 Plan Competition for Prostate SBRT (Joint competition sponsored by Proknnow and the AAM.)

Cordelia Baffic  
Appointed Member of ACGME Coordinator Advisory Council (One of only 12 members, Chosen out of 200 nominations and out of 9,000 residency programs)

Jennifer Vogel, MD (Resident PI), Abigail Berman, MD (Faculty Mentor)  
Research Project Award of $5,000 FY 17 Funds for “IMAGING OF IN VIVO SIGMA-2 RECEPTOR EXPRESSION WITH POSITRON EMISSION TOMOGRAPHY (PET/CT) IN SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER”

Charles Simone, MD and Peter Bloch, PhD  
NIH R41 Grant: Automated Object Contouring Methods & Software for Thoracic Radiotherapy Planning

Cordelia Baffic  
Appointed Member of ACGME Coordinator Advisory Council

Meg Garrett, RN  
Daisy Award

Fern Nibauer-Cohen  
Selected as one of the final 21 winning ideas for New Patient Pavilion: “Quality of Life Space”
Penn Radiation Oncology Department Annual Research Retreat

**CALL for ABSTRACTS**

Penn Radiation Oncology is calling for scientific abstracts in association with its Annual Research Retreat. Please submit abstracts to Chiharu Sako: Chiharu.Sako@uphs.upenn.edu

Abstracts are due by Friday, September 23, 2016. Abstracts will be reviewed for inclusion for either oral or poster presentation and are encouraged from all areas of Radiation Oncology research.

Finally, although there will be no cost to attend the retreat, we are asking for your registration for the catering count.

Please click this link to register: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6HWBJF9](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6HWBJF9)

Penn Head and Neck Cancer Survivor’s Group

**15th Anniversary**

The Penn Head and Neck Cancer Survivor’s Group is celebrating 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).

During the meeting in October the group will hold a celebration and pay tribute to the group’s founder Micki Naimoli who passed away this July. Tracy Lautenbach, MSW,LCSW,OSW-C, Social Work, is the facilitator of the Support Group and has been involved with the group for the past 7 years.
Announcements

Penn Medicine Experience Week 2016

Penn Medicine Experience week is **October 10th through October 14th**. Throughout the year, many of our colleagues do outstanding work to improve the patient experience in their practice. This is an opportunity to nominate and recognize the individuals, teams, managers and providers who really stand out.

Below you will find a link to submit your nominations for CPUP Employee of the Year, CPUP Manager of the Year, CPUP Team of the Year and a new award this year, CPUP Provider of the Year.

Winners will be recognized with an individual or group cash award, and all nominators will be entered into a drawing for three surprise gifts. **Nominations will end on September 20th, 2016.**

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q5QSMGW](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q5QSMGW)

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Upcoming Nursing Events

**Oncology Nursing Update Conference**

Saturday September 17, 2016

**Nursing Retreat**

Saturday October 1, 2016 (PCAM Nurses)

_The retreat will include establishing groundwork for Radiation Oncology Shared Governance and Teambuilding._

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**Penn Medicine Cherry Hill Opening**

Penn Medicine Cherry Hill, NJ will be celebrating their grand opening in November 2016. The upgraded facility will feature many state of the art amenities including a True Beam Linear Accelerator.
You are Cordially Invited to

Penn Radiation Oncology Reception

ASTRO 2016

Monday, September 26, 2016

7:00–11:00 PM

Skywalk Observatory

800 Boylston Street, Prudential Tower, NW-Floor 50

Boston
Announcements

Third Annual Course on Proton Therapy
November 18-20, 2016
PAST LESSONS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

This three-day program enables radiation oncology practitioners and administrators to learn about the applications of proton therapy to help assess the potential of incorporating proton therapy at their institution.

With the increased availability and accessibility of the technology of proton therapy, there is an expanding need for qualified staff. The program features Penn Medicine experts from each specialty who will provide an insider’s perspective of the current and future potentials of proton therapy.

Friday, November 18, 2016 - Sunday, November 20, 2016

Arthur H. Rubenstein Auditorium
Smilow Center for Translational Research
Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine

http://protontherapycourse.event.com/events/annual-course-on-proton-therapy/event-summary-c52b21c98f9c41cc975c97cab6284f4.aspx
Rewards and Recognition

Department Happy Hour

On behalf of the Rewards and Recognition Committee, RadOnc faculty and staff were treated to a department happy hour at Landmark Americana on May 20, 2016. The event featured catered food and drinks for all to enjoy!
Ice Cream Social—June 24, 2016

On behalf of the Rewards & Recognition Committee,
Thank you for your hard work & dedication!

Join us for Penn Radiation Oncology’s

Ice Cream Social

When: 06/24/2016 from 11 - 2
Where: CN Level Break

Faculty and staff were treated to an afternoon of ice-cream on June 24 on behalf of the Rewards and Recognition Committee as a thank you for all of their contributions and hard work to the department.

Happy Birthday Finn

Finn, our therapy dog celebrated his birthday on August 11 surrounded by patients, staff and friends.
**Welcome Dr. JC Rwigema!**

A warm welcome to Dr. JC Rwigema, who is here as an Instructor of Radiation Oncology. He will be with us for one year on a fellowship in partnership with the Mayo Clinic to train on proton therapy. Jean-Claude recently completed his residency at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, where he served as Chief resident in 2015-2016. He received his Medical Degree from the University of Pittsburgh and also holds undergraduate degrees in chemistry and chemical engineering.

Register Online: [http://pennonline.com/oncology/node/66949](http://pennonline.com/oncology/node/66949)
Welcome New Medical/Medical Physics Residents

Please join us in welcoming the new Residents to the Department of Radiation Oncology!

Ruben Carmona, MD, MS, Medical Resident
University of California, San Diego

Derek Dolney, PhD, Medical Physics Resident
University of Pennsylvania

Amardeep Grewal, MD, Medical Resident
Harvard Medical School

Shannon O'Reilly, PhD, Medical Physics Resident
University of Florida

Varsha Jain, MD, DE, Medical Resident
Perelman School of Medicine
at the University of Pennsylvania

Ching Ling Teng, PhD, Medical Physics Resident
University of Virginia

Michael LaRiviere, MD, Medical Resident
Emory University School of Medicine

Yunhe Xie, PhD, Medical Physics Resident
Brown University
Flynn Oncology Nursing Fellowship Program

The Susan D. Flynn Oncology Nursing Fellowship Program was developed by Fred Flynn as a lasting legacy to his wife who died of ovarian cancer. The eight week program is intended to help stimulate the career interest and foster the professional development of potential Oncology Nurses through various learning experiences here at Penn Medicine. The 8 week program ran from June 6th - July 29th. The Fellowship enhances the student’s core clinical education through direct observation of Oncology patient care and exposure to related patient care duties. The three students selected for the 2016 program were Mia Alexander and Anna Wilcoxon from The University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, and Kimberly Nowakowski from Villanova University.

Each Fellow had the opportunity to work with preceptors/mentors on Rhoads 3, 6, and 7 on developing an Evidence Based Practice Project about their topic of interest related to Oncology. Projects were shared as a professional presentation with their peers and members of nursing leadership during the Closing Ceremony of the program.

This enriching experience will involve classroom and skills lab, as well as special experiences which include: Radiation Oncology, MICU, Oncology Infection Control, Caring Way, Spiritual Care, Endoscopy, Ambulatory Palliative Care, Chemotherapy Infusion Suites, Abramson Cancer Center Nurse Navigation, Quality and Safety, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Inpatient Palliative Care, Wissahickon Hospice, the Hematology-Oncology Bone Marrow Clinic, as well as observing patient stem cell collection in the Operating Room.
Diversity and Inclusion Symposium at AAPM
August 3, 2016

Stephen Avery, PhD, organized a symposium on Diversity and Inclusion in Medical Physics on August 3rd at the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) annual meeting this year. Below are the objectives and schedule of the program.

Learning objectives:
1. The role diversity and inclusion plays in medical physics.
2. Developing education and research strategies for a global workforce.
3. Roadmap to diversity excellence within AAPM.

Program Agenda
- Opening Session (Avery/Ngwa) UPenn/Harvard
- Welcome (Bruce Curran) President of AAPM
- Definition of D&I/AAPM efforts (Avery/Ngwa)
- D&I in Physics (Hammer) American Institute of Physics
- D&I in NIH (Chew) Director – NIH office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- D&I in Latin America (Laguardia) Higher Institute of Technologies and Applied Sciences (InSTEC – Havana, Cuba)
- D&I in Africa (Ngoma) Muhimbili University of Health and Applied Sciences (MUHAS – Dar es Salaam, Tanzania)
- Pathway to developing D&I program at AAPM (Higginbotham) Vice Dean for Diversity and Inclusion (PSOM - UPenn)
Stephen Avery, PhD, received pilot funds from Penn Global to organize a six-week continuing education course on quality assurance of radiation therapy, which was offered at Ocean Road Cancer Institute (Dar es Salaam, Tanzania) in March 2016. Twenty-five students registered for the course, which was taught by instructors from Penn, Harvard and Muhimbili University. The ultimate goal of this partnership is to create a MSc program in Medical Physics in East Africa.

A program offering an MSc in Medical Physics is not available at any university in East and Central Africa. The program could recruit students from the neighboring countries: Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Malawi, Zambia DRC, Rwanda, South Sudan and Central Africa Republic. The Ocean Road Cancer Institute in the near future will be equipped with Varian Linear Accelerators, a CT-simulator and other modern facilities; appropriate training and practical sessions for medical physics are desperately needed.
Cancers that affect children are different than those that occur in adults. These cancers are treated differently and there are different concerns about side effects, based on a child’s age and stage of development.

OncoLink Jr. provides information about:
- Pediatric Cancers
- Managing Practical, Emotional and Development Concerns
- Managing Side Effects
- Resources for Pediatric Cancer Support
Welcome:
The Research Division welcomes Nektaria-Maria Leli as a new visiting PhD Graduate Student in the lab of Dr. Koumenis.

Congratulations:
The 2016 SUPERS program came to a close on Wednesday, August 3 with the end-of-the-program retreat where each of the fourteen SUPERS students presented a summary of their own hypothesis-driven research project. Student projects included research in molecular radiobiology, photodynamic therapy, proton dosimetry and nuclear medicine and PET imaging. In addition to their own hands-on lab experience, students took part in lectures and research discussions led by many of our faculty, as well as faculty from the departments of Radiology and Bioengineering. As the keynote speaker for the event, Dr. Michelle Alonso-Basanta from Penn Radiation Oncology described how her experiences as an undergraduate piqued her interest in a career as a clinician scientist. 2016 represented the 7th summer for the SUPERS program, to date SUPERS has graduated 80 alumni and the vast majority, nearly 90%, have gone on to graduate and/or medical school.

Jose Mendozza-Sierra (SUPERS student, Univ. of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras) and Sarah Hagan (research specialist, Cengel lab) are using x-rays to irradiate plates of malignant cells for clonogenic assays.

Cassandra Houser (SUPERS student, Loyola University, Baltimore) and Richard Davis (postdoctoral fellow, Busch laboratory) are using laser light to treat dishes of cancer cells with photodynamic therapy.

Pictured are SUPERS student Bruna Batista-Bittencourt (Univ, Federal de Ciências de Saúde de Porto Alegre, Brazil) and Dr. Diego Gier (postdoctoral fellow, Dorsey/Kao lab) precisely measuring out a sample containing circulating tumor cells to isolate DNA.

2016 SUPERS students pictured with Dr. Eve Higginbotham, Vice Dean for Inclusion and Diversity at the Perelman School of Medicine. Dr. Higginbotham shared her own formative experiences as an undergrad while stressing the importance of diversity and inclusion to the future of research and medicine in the biomedical research community.
Research Retreat—October 14, 2016

The Research Division invites everyone to the upcoming Radiation Oncology Departmental Retreat to be held on October 14, 2016 from 8:00am to 5:00pm in the Rubenstein Auditorium, 1st floor, Smilow Center for Translational Research. Featuring Keynote Speaker: Fei-Fei Liu, MD, FRCPC, Senior Scientist and Scientific Division Head at Princess Margaret Cancer Center. A call for abstracts for presentations and posters will be sent out in September. More information to come.

Save the Dates: Radiation Oncology Research Division Invited Speaker Seminar Series: 2016/2017

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<tr>
<th>September 29, 2016</th>
<th>October 6, 2016</th>
<th>October 27, 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Imran Rizvi, PhD</td>
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<td>Zhiyuan Shen, MD, PhD</td>
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<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Professor and Chief</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dept. of Dermatology</td>
<td>Dept. of Cellular and Molecular Medicine</td>
<td>Radiation Oncology</td>
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<td>Harvard Medical School</td>
<td>Cleveland Clinic</td>
<td>Rutgers Cancer Institute</td>
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<th>January 26, 2017</th>
<th>February 23, 2017</th>
<th>March 16, 2017</th>
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<tr>
<td>David Gius, MD, PhD</td>
<td>David S. Yu, MD, PhD</td>
<td>Eric J. Bernhard, PhD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td>Chief</td>
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<td>Radiation Oncology and Pharmacology</td>
<td>Radiation Oncology</td>
<td>Radiotherapy Development Branch</td>
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<td>Northwestern University</td>
<td>Emory University</td>
<td>NCI/NIH</td>
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<td>Shi-yuan Cheng, MD, PhD</td>
<td>Albert Koong, MD, PhD</td>
<td>Eileen P. Connolly, MD, PhD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Professor, Associate Chair Radiation Oncology</td>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
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<td>Neurology</td>
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<th>June 22, 2017</th>
<th>June 29, 2017</th>
<th>For More Information go to:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kevin A. Camphausen, MD</td>
<td>Brian Pogue, PhD</td>
<td><a href="http://www.xrt.upenn.edu/InvitedSpeakerSeminar.shtml">http://www.xrt.upenn.edu/InvitedSpeakerSeminar.shtml</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chief</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>We hope to see you there!</td>
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<td>Engineering Sciences</td>
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<td>NCI/NIH</td>
<td>Co-Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research: Radiotherapy, HDAC, Radiation Sensitizers, Biomarkers, Glioblastoma Multiforme, Prostate Cancer</td>
<td>Center for Imaging Medicine</td>
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<td>Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center</td>
<td>Research: Biomedical Imaging, Molecular Guided Surgery, Dose Imaging, Cerenkov Light Imaging</td>
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Doylestown Celebrates Survivor’s Day

Dr. Rate and Gina Wierzbowski, RN from Doylestown celebrate Survivor’s Day. Patients were given t-shirts, water bottles and tote bags in addition to some sweet treats!

Chestnut Hill Celebrates Survivor’s Day

Chestnut Hill’s faculty and staff celebrated Survivor’s Day filled with a fun day of balloons, cake and snacks. Pictured: Dr. Grizos (bottom photo on right), Linda Philip (top photo in middle) and Nikki Marcino (top photo right).
Pennsylvania Hospital Celebrates Survivor’s Day

Pennsylvania Hospital celebrated Cancer Survivor’s Day on Friday, June 3rd by providing patients with light breakfast and light lunch. All patients received a PAH Radiation Oncology gift bag that included: Relay for Life pins, HOPE tumblers and pencils, No One Fights Alone bracelets and a National Cancer Survivors Day shirt.

The staff decorated the department and had a free raffle for patients to participate in to have a chance to win a free gift basket. They also had a "Wall of Encouragement" where patients wrote notes of encouragement for each other.


Woodhouse KD, Volz E, Bellerive M, Bergendahl HW, Gabriel PE, Maity A, Hahn SM, Vapiwala N. The implementa-
tion and assessment of a quality and safety culture education program in a large radiation oncology depart-

Xu Z, Bu Y, Chitnis N, Koumenis C, Fuehs SY, Diehl JA. miR-216b regulation of c-Jun mediates GADD153/CHOP-

Dang CV, Zhang L. Long noncoding RNA LINP1 regulates repair of DNA double-strand breaks in triple-