

PENN Radiation Oncology

SUMMER 2015 NEWSLETTER

WELCOME

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Publications.....

Congratulations Dr. James Metz Chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology

It is with great pleasure that we announce the appointment of Dr. James Metz, Morton M. Kligerman Professor of Radiation Oncology, as Chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology, effective July I. Dr. Metz, who has served as Interim Chair since

November 2014, has held a series of administrative positions within the Department beginning in 2005, when he was appointed Director of Clinical Operations. In 2009, he was appointed Vice Chair of the Clinical Division in Radiation Oncology and in 2010 became Director of Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement. Subsequently, in 2014, he was appointed Vice Chair of the Department.

Dr. Metz led the development of the Roberts Proton Therapy Center and through his collaborative and inclusive leadership style, helped to establish it as one of the premier proton therapy centers in the world. An international leader in proton therapy, Dr. Metz has positioned Penn as the primary institution for educating physicians, physicists, dosimetrists and radiation therapists from around the world who are developing new proton facilities. Dr. Metz pioneered the use of online cancer survivorship care plans and web based cancer education and information. He is nationally recognized as the longtime Editor-in-Chief and now Executive Director of OncoLink, the award-winning online source for cancer information, which has been named on numerous occasions as one of the Top 10 medical websites in the world by the National Library of Medicine. He has published widely regarding OncoLink, for which he has secured significant funding. OncoLink has continued to grow under his leadership and vision to create a vibrant and engaging online community for cancer patients, survivors and clinicians. His clinical research emphasizes modality therapy of locally advanced gastrointestinal malignancies. Dr. Metz received his MD from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-Robert Wood Johnson School of Medicine. He was a resident and then Chief Resident at HUP beginning in 1996 and joined the Penn faculty as an instructor in 1999. He became an assistant professor in 2000, was promoted to associate professor in 2008 and full professor in 2012. Dr. Metz is a member of the American Society of Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology and the American Society of Clinical Oncology and is on the steering committee for the Particle Therapy and Cooperative Group. Dr. Metz's appointment as chair comes after an extensive national search process led by Dr. John Glick.

During this process, Dr. Metz articulated an exciting vision for the future of the Department of Radiation Oncology, including the opportunity for it to be more involved in the basic, translational and clinical research of the Abramson Cancer Center. He is eager to continue advancing proton therapy into evidence based medicine and is exploring the use of single vault proton facilities in Penn Medicine satellite locations. In addition, he has a global vision for the introduction of new radiation therapy technology to non-industrialized countries and is working in partnership with industry to lead that effort.

RADONC NEWS

RadOnc Ice Scream Social

On June 18, 2015, in honor of our staff's hard work and dedication towards our department, they were treated to an assortment of ice cream flavors and toppings.



Phillies Outing with Medical Residents

On **May 12, 2015**, the residents of Radiation oncology enjoyed a Phillies outing at Citizen's Bank Park.



Dr. Metz TV Interview



Suzanne Roberts interviewed Dr. Metz on **May 26, 2015** for a feature on the Roberts Proton Therapy Center on her program, "Seeking Solutions with Suzanne." The

interview will be featured on TV in Fall 2015.

Welcome New Employees

Christina Nguyen

Administrative Assistant

Nancy Beatty

Office of the Chair Administrative Coordinator

Hien Lu

Senior Project Manager

Promotions & Appointments

James Metz, MD

Chair of Radiation Oncology

Lilie Lin, MD

Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology

Justin Bekelman, MD

Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology

John Plastaras, MD

Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology

Andre Konski, MD

Treasurer of the American Radium Society

Erin Davis, CRNP

Lead Nurse Practitioner

Sarah Lowitz, MBA, RT (T)

Assistant Therapy Supervisor

Dave Alkins

Senior Application Analyst

Awards/Grants/Recognition

Melpo Christofidou-Solomidou, Ph. D.,

Costas Koumenis, Ph. D & Abigail Berman, MD

Lignamed SRA Grant for BAA Proposal to NIAID

Eli Glatstein, MD

Simon Kramer Cancer Institute Recognition for Hodgkin's Disease and Radiation Oncology Contributions

Edna Volz, MS

SROA Abstract Accepted to Society for Radiation Oncology 32nd Annual Meeting

Daniel Sanchez', Ph. D.

Proton Arc Therapy Highlighted on Medical Physics Web

Arash Darafsheh, Ph. D

Highlighted in the SPIE Newsroom

Karen Costello & VF Team

Good Catch Award

Employee Retirement

Joan Verdi

Administrative Assistant, 1998—2015 *CONGRATULATIONS!!!*

ANNOUCEMENTS

THE THERAPY DOG IS IN!

Radiation Oncology Welcomes Our New Pet Therapy Dog Finn!



Come visit with Finn and his owner, Christina, in the CN waiting room.

Dragon Boat Race—October 3, 2015



Come out and support the RadOnc team, the <u>Pirates of the Cure-ibbean!</u>



In an effort to help support the *Pirates of the Cure-ibbean Dragon Boat team* this year, therapists will be selling snacks and soda in Kathryn Betcher's office. Everything is priced at \$1. If you desire a tasty treat, please locate therapists <u>Kathryn</u>, <u>Karima</u>, <u>Sarah or Erin H</u> and they will be glad to help you.

ANNOUCEMENTS...



ASTRO 2015

October 18-21, 2015

ASTRO's annual meeting is the premier radiation oncology scientific event in the world, draws more than 11,000 attendees each year and will be held on October 18, 2015 at Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas. ASTRO provides radiation oncologists, medical physicists, dosimetrists, radiation therapists, radiation oncology nurses and nurse practitioners, biologists, physician assistants and practice administrators with the continuing medical education, health policy analysis, patient information resources and advocacy that they need to succeed in today's ever-changing health care delivery system.

Scientific and educational sessions will cover specific clinical areas including breast, central nervous system, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, gynecologic, head and neck, lymphoma, musculoskeletal, pediatric, sarcoma and thoracic cancers. Radiation biology and radiation physics concepts will be explored in their own tracks. The Annual Meeting will feature a continued emphasis on patient quality and safety issues in the delivery of radiation therapy in the areas of treatment techniques, equipment, terminology and professional responsibilities. Program content has been designed to address specific documented and clinically important practice gaps in physician knowledge, competence and performance.



If you're attending and submitting a poster for ASTRO, please use the Penn Radiation Oncology poster template, which will be submitted via email to all RadOnc faculty and administrative staff.

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SOCIAL SCENE

Perelman School of Medicine 250th Anniversary Gala

On May 16, 2015, Perelman School of Medicine celebrated its 250th birthday with a black-tie gala at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. The evening celebrated the oldest medical school in the country with guest speakers NBC News' Andrea Mitchell and Mayor Michael Nutter, a performance by Harry Connick, Jr., and a fireworks show.



ESTRO 2015

April 24 –28, 2015 Barcelona, Spain



Penn's Radiation oncologists and faculty attended ESTRO on April 24-28, which was held in Barcelona, Spain.

ESTRO is an interdisciplinary society where radiation oncologists, medical physicists, biologists, brachytherapists and radiation therapists aspire to join forces with other organizations in the oncology field that share ESTRO's vision of excellence in cancer treatment.

SOCIAL SCENE...

OncoLink Celebrates National Cancer Survivors Day



OncoLink celebrated National Cancer Survivors Day on June 3, 2015 at the Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine.

Carolyn Vachani, Karen Arnold-Korzeniowski (staff) and patient alumni volunteered at a survivors table and handed out informational contents related to cancer diagnosis and post-treatment survivorship care.

Thank You Volunteers

Penn Cares: RadOnc Volunteers

Lisa Wojtowicz and Ontida Apinorasethkul volunteered at the ODUNDE Festival on

Sunday, June 14, 2015 promote blood pressure awareness!







SOCIAL SCENE.

Gary Papa Run 2015

June 21, 2015 at the Philadelphia Art Museum

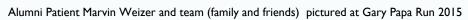
Penn Urology and Radiation Oncology staff and patient alumni participated in the Gary Papa Run 2015, which took place at the Philadelphia Art Museum on Father's Day, Sunday, June 21, 2015. Combined efforts of Urology and Radiation Oncology recruited 44 members to participate in the run and raised a total of \$8,707 to support breast and prostate health.





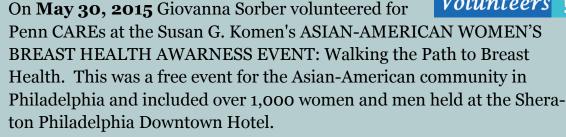






Penn Cares: RadOnc Volunteers

Volunteers



Opportunities at the event included: breast health education and support through presentations in 10-13 languages, peer **VOLUNTEERS** interaction and take-home materials; mammogram signups for eligible women; inspirational song and dance; and complimentary breakfast. DIFFERENCE

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RADIATION ONCOLOGY HAPPY HOUR

Our department Happy Hour was hosted by Four Fathers on Friday, July 17, 2015, where employees socialized and enjoyed an assortment of appetizers and drinks in the heart of Old City district.



Where in the World is Penn Radiation Oncology?



Where in the World is Penn Radiation Oncology...?



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QUALITY UDPATE

Summer 2015

Press Ganey is the Healthcare Industry accepted standard patient survey tool used at UPHS. Rad Onc uses two forms of the survey. The first is distributed electronically to patients seen in the Cancer Center for new and follow-up visits. The second is distributed by paper to patients who have completed treatment.

The health system monitors responses on electronically distributed survey for new and follow-up visits and sets annual goals. FYI5 goals related to Likelihood of Recommending Services and Access to Care. RadOnc responses were above the health system goal for both of those questions. Congratulations!

Our Rad Onc Patient Experience Initiative along with QCC and Senior Managers closely evaluate patient's responses. Two areas in the treatment based survey that continue to receive attention are: Explain what to expect during RT and Managing RT side effects. We consistently receive responses that are good. Our objective is to deserve and receive responses that are great. This is a focus for FY16.



ONCOLINK UPDATES

Providing education materials to patients can be a time consuming task. We have tried to make the process easier by creating a one-stop shop for side effect and treatment teaching materials. Just go to Oncolink.org and look for

the treatment binder logo on the left side under Apps. Choose from the library, or use the drop down menu to tailor to a disease site or distress screening content. Check off what you want to include and proceed to the cover sheet, which you can complete and then click "build" to create your booklet. The final product can be printed or saved (it is a PDF file). You can also email the PDF once it is saved.

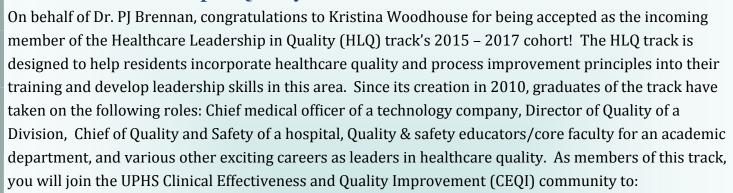
As a side note, there have been many OncoLink documents that people have turned into "dot phrases" over the years. We highly discourage this as these are not maintained or updated by the OncoLink team. In some cases, these have been edited or tailored to the creator's specifications, calling into question the reliability and evidenced based nature of the content. Let us know if there is something you'd like to have available in the treatment binder builder that you don't see!

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EDUCATION CORNER

What's the buzz??

Healthcare Leadership in Quality Track



- * create a safer environment for patients and frontline clinicians
- * ead quality improvement initiatives through an evidence-based, data-driven approach
- * develop into physician leaders of healthcare quality

In the spirit of continuous improvement, we continually adapt to meet the needs of our incoming track residents. A few upcoming highlights are below:

- * Creation of the Capstone Project Innovation Boot camp. This is in collaboration with Penn Medicine's Center for Healthcare Innovation and designed to help you test improvement ideas quickly and at low-cost.
- *Development of a leadership skills-building curriculum to become self-aware about your own individual leadership skills and learn how to continually develop them. This includes one-on-one mentorship from an individually assigned UPHS executive.
- * Incorporation of value analysis to all your capstone project work
- * Mentorship from QI researchers from the Center of Healthcare Improvement and Patient Safety to support the method design of your initiatives

This is an exciting opportunity to be "be the change" and work in partnership with leaders at UPHS to accelerate the healthcare system's improvement goals.

Neha Patel, MD MS and Jennifer Myers, MD

Upcoming Educational Events: IBA Proton Education Program: Physicist Visitors—Group #1 (China) October 5—30, 2015 Annual Course on Proton Therapy Arthur H. Rubenstein Auditorium Smilow Center for Translational Research Building November 20-22, 2015

EDUCATION CORNER...

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

The department has been awarded a Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) contract to lead a large scale pragmatic randomized trial of proton therapy vs. photon therapy for patients with stage II or III breast cancer. This is a 5-year, \$11.8 million award that will fund the Radiotherapy Comparative Effectiveness (RADCOMP) Consortium, which has been formed by 20 academic and community practice radiation therapy centers, the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group Foundation, the Proton Collaborative Group, senior investigators of the National Cancer Institute's Intramural Radiation Epidemiology Branch, and a partnership with patients, patient advocates, and PatientsLikeMe.

Congratulations to Principal Investigator Justin Bekelman and co-Investigators Gary Freedman, Lilie Lin, and Chuck Simone in our Department, Bonnie Ky (Cardiology), Susan Ellenberg (CCEB), Ezekiel Emanuel (Medical Ethics), the tremendous efforts of Kaysee Baker and the Clinical Research group, and Jenine Iannaccone and the Grants Administration group in bringing this proposal to fruition. *To read more about the award, please click on link below:*

http://www.pcori.org/research-results/2015/pragmatic-randomized-trial-proton-vs-photon-therapy-patients-stage-ii-oriii

Congratulations Graduating Residents!

Lauren Hertan, Sonny Batra, Andrew Hollander, Annemarie Fernandes, John Kralik and Peng Wang

Welcome New Residents!

Medical Residency Match 2015

Chao, Hann-Hsiang (George), MD, PhD

Arscott, W. Tristram, MD

Venigalla, Sriram, MD

Nead, Kevin, MD, MPhil



"Penn has great facilities including the Proton Therapy Center, that are the best in the country."

"Looking forward to learning about different treatment modalities, including photon and proton therapy."

Medical Physics Residency Match 2015

Burgdorf, Brendan, MMP

Darafshef, Arash, Ph.D

Kang, Minglei, Ph.D

Scholey, Jessica, MMP



"Excited to join the Penn Medicine Family."

PROTON CLINICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

IBA Proton Therapy Onsite Clinical Training – Krakow Group #2(Poland)

May 18—June 12, 2015



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Skandion visitors pictured in Proton hallways, CN.

Skandion visitors pictured in the executive floor of PCAM.

Program Itinerary

Proton Department Tour

Physician/Physicist Shadowing
Chart Rounds Observation

Proton Therapy Observation

Treatment Planning /CT SIM

Quality Assurance



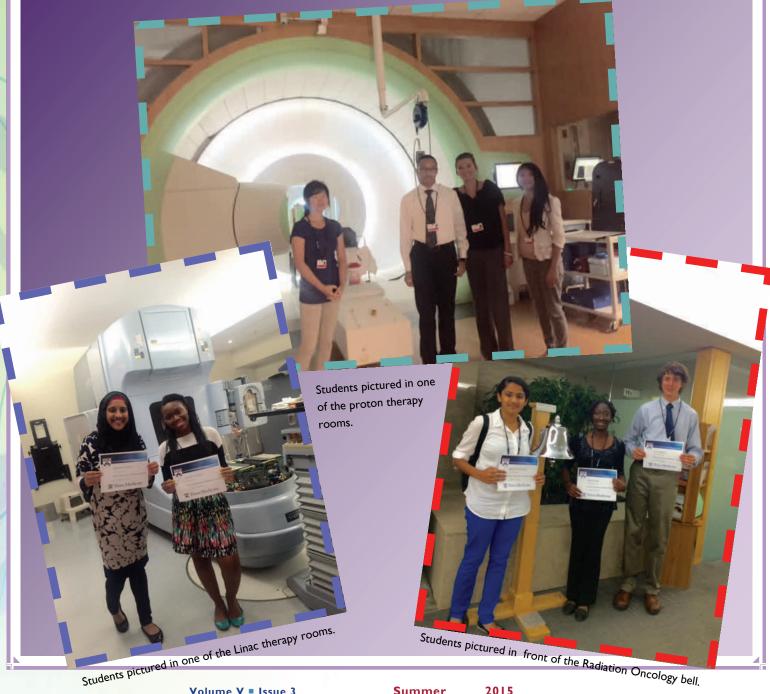


Skandion visitors pictured in Proton hallways, CN.

Educating the Next Generation

Student Observation of Radiation Oncology

Three enthusiastic groups of Upper Darby High School students attended an onsite observation opportunity of the Roberts Proton Therapy Center, led by Dr. Lustig from July 6-24, 2015. Each of the visiting groups observed the department for a week by shadowing multiple professions of Radiation Oncology including physicians, nurses, social works, nutritionists, radiation therapists and lab research scientists.



PROTON PATIENT ALUMNI CORNER

Proton Patient Alumni Reception & The 5 Year Anniversary of the Roberts Proton Therapy Center - April 22, 2015



















Please click on the link to access video footage of the reception: https://vimeo.com/131387586

Proton Weekly Alumni and Patient Gatherings

Every other Tuesdays (10—11 am) &

Thursdays (12-1 pm) in the Proton Conference Room



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RESEARCH UPDATE

In funding news, we are delighted to announce that Justin Bekelman, MD has been awarded a multi-institutional project on *Pragmatic Clinical Trials of Proton vs. Photon Therapy for Patients with Breast Cancer.* This large (multi-million dollar) grant has been funded by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) and incorporates clinical trials on radiotherapy that are to

be performed at medical centers across the United States. We also congratulate Drs. Amit Maity and Costas Koumenis for their recently awarded project on *Improving Radiation Response by Targeting O₂ Metabolism via the PI3K/mTOR Pathway*. This is an R01 grant that is being funded through the National Cancer Institute. Lastly, Dr. Andy Minn, together with collaborators Drs. Bob Vanderheide and John Wherry in the Perelman School of Medicine, has received a notice of award for their proposed work on *Radiation and Immune Checkpoint Blockade from Mechanism to Patients*. This project was submitted to the Melanoma Research Alliance in response to a call for team science applications. Closer to home, two pilot grants were funded as a part of the RadOnc Spring Pilot Funding Initiative, which was focused on advancing the research and development of proton radiation. The first project is on *Proton Range Verification Using Prompt Gamma Imaging-Experimental Validation of the Dual Energy CT Proton Stopping Power* (Pl: Kevin Teo, PhD). The second is Development of Dosimetry and Delivery Methods to Enable PBS Treatment of Thoracic Tumors (Pl: Liyong Lin, PhD, with co-investigators Charles Simone, MD, James McDonough, PhD, and Kevin Teo, PhD).

On the academic front, our annual "SUPERS" program is in full swing. On June 1st, the Research Division welcomed the 6th class of students, pictured below, to this nationally renowned program. SUPERS@PENN is an NCI/NIH-funded summer research internship for undergrads who are interested in pursuing a career in cancer research, specifically in the fields of radiation biology, radiation physics or radiological imaging. Fifteen bright and motivated undergraduates from colleges and universities across the country have spent the last 8 weeks working on individually tailored, hypothesis-driven research projects under the direction of our faculty. Students have also participated in core courses to learn the underpinnings of cancer and radiation research. The program will culminate with the annual research retreat on August 6th, where each student will present the results of their efforts this summer. To date, greater than 85% of our participants have gone on to Ph.D., M.D., or dual degree programs. Drs. Sydney Evans and Costas Koumenis are

Co-Pls on the NIH-funded grant that supports SUPERS@PENN. Additional support comes from the Department of Radiation Oncology, the Perelman School of Medicine, and the Office of the Dean for Diversity and Inclusion at PSOM. Dr. Stephen Tuttle serves as program director, and Tim Jenkins, Elaine Dean and Chiharu Sako assist with program operations.

AROUND THE NETWORK

National Cancer SURVIVORS Day at Chestnut Hill

Chestnut Hill RadOnc hosted a Survivors Day celebration for their patients and families on Friday June 5th 3-5PM in the radiation oncology department. There were approximately 65 people in attendance. Patients who completed treatment in the past year were sent an invite. Some patients brought family members. There was plenty of food, a cake and a raffle! Staff all made dishes and brought them in for the event. Dr. Grizos addressed the crowd letting them know that it was a privilege for he and the staff to be involved in caring for them and that he and the staff are there for patients anytime they needs us. Patients were given a National Survivors Day T shirt and some giveaways donated by Chestnut Hill Hospital.







AROUND THE NETWORK...

Hope Bell Ceremony at Pennsylvania Hospital

June 17, 2015

The ceremony took place on June 17th and it was part of a month-long survivors events at PAH in conjunction with ACC at PAH.

"We ring this bell as part of our journey with cancer"

"We ring this bell because we choose hope"

"We ring this bell in hope this day"

 For beginnings and endings in our treatment

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- For encouragement of others who are also on this journey
- For patients whose courage inspires us
- For families whose love touches our hearts
- For gratitude of this day of life
- For the joy of getting through this particular day

- For not being defined by disease
- For living meaningfully even with disease
- For the capacity to laugh and love
- For advancement in research and treatment

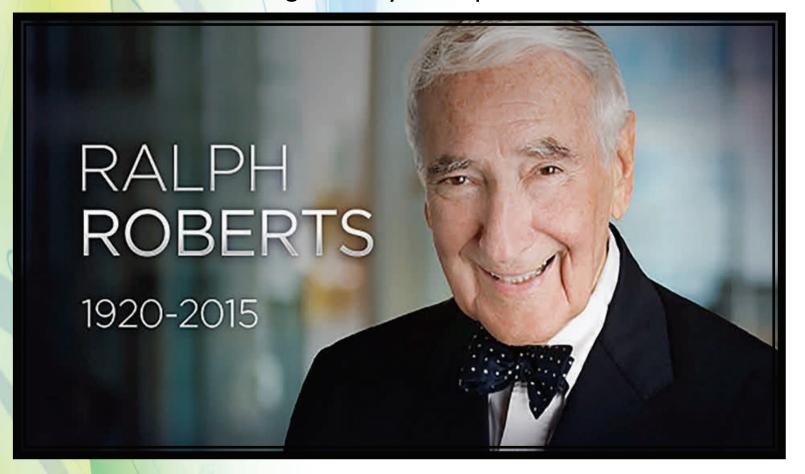


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SPECIAL FEATURES

In Loving Memory of Ralph Roberts



Partners in Hope

The Breakthrough Bike Challenge: Inspiring Progress in Cancer Research at Penn

For Jennifer Pinto-Martin, PhD, MPH, Viola MacInnes/Independence Professor of Nursing and Chair of Behavioral Health Sciences in the School of Nursing, the ACC's efforts strike a very personal note. Her husband, Muscoe, an accomplished architect and loving father, was diagnosed with glioblastoma. His fight and ability to remain strong in the face of an incredibly challenging cancer diagnosis, was an inspiration.

Jennifer, motivated both by Muscoe's fight and the level of care provided by his doctors, set out to raise money in support of the ACC. She joined with a group of friends to create the Breakthrough Bike Challenge in 2014, an event that brought together cyclists for a ride in Valley Forge to raise support for the ACC. The ride was an overwhelming success, raising over \$50,000 in its inaugural year to fund glioblastoma and lymphoma research at Penn.

Click on link to access full article: Partners in Hope Article



MOVIE REVIEW: The Third Man

by Eli Glatstein, M.D.

The Third Man by Sir Carol Reed is a post-World War II drama, a mystery, with a number of comedic touches but completely enthralling. It was made in 1949 but not released until a few years later in this country. It is strongly regarded as one of the best, if not the best, British movies of all time. It has aged very little in 60 years. The cast includes Orson Welles as Harry Lime, a black marketer in post-World War II Vi-



enna. He's made a fortune by stealing Penicillin, diluting it, and then reselling it to various hospitals in desperate need of this antibiotic. Joseph Cotten costars as a pre-war friend from the US, Holly Martins, a pulp writer of western novels, down on his luck and without any means of making a living since his books have not sold well. Those two are obviously American stars but there are also Trevor Howard as Major Calloway, a British officer trying to squash the black market in divided Vienna, and Valli, a European actress who plays the female interest. There are also Bernard Miles and Wilfred Hyde-White whose faces will be familiar to American audiences.

The 1st half of the movie is about the death of Harry Lime and the character he represents. Martins views him as a noble friend, Calloway views him as a vicious black marketer. Martins, arrives in Vienna, only to discover that Harry Lime has suffered a mysterious accidental death and responds to it more or less as an ugly American might. Halfway though the movie Lime is revealed as still alive and it's Orson Welles' movie from then on. Now for those of you under the age of 50, and have never seen The Third Man, you have no idea why Orson Wells was considered one of the great actors in the 40s and 50s in this country. He was a handsome man with a mellifluous voice, and not a fat overweight, bearded almost caricature of the original boy genius of Citizen Kane who pushed "no wine before its time" fame. Once Harry Lime appears, the pace of the story picks up and its complexity increases. The photography is black and white, but absolutely stunning. Many of the close ups are slightly off angle, and the black and white is actually the appropriate mode for telling this story of betrayal in various shades of grey, as opposed to black and white. The other comment is that from the very beginning credits, you see the strings of a zither and hear this jaunting melody, which is the theme of The Third Man, played by Anton Karas who also composed it. It became a hit record in the 50's.

This movie is worth seeing for, if for no other reason, the sensational scene on the Ferris Wheel in which Lime talks to Martins about life, death, the Borgia's, and the Swiss. Written by the great English author Graham Green, this movie is still surviving without a dated past. It's as a refreshing movie today, as it was 65 years ago. It's also noteworthy that Reed's Vienna after World War II is dark and full of murders, but you never see any violence on the screen itself; it all takes place off the screen and you learn about them. Also, the love interest is not associated with any romantic personal expressions of kissing and other physical actions. Finally, when Major Calloway takes Martins into a Viennese hospital to see some of the children who have been horribly abused by Lime's actions, you do not see the children directly; you only see the changes in Martins face as he sees these pathetic cases. The pleasure of your own imagination filling in the details is one of the great features of The Third Man and I recommend it most highly. Rent it; you won't regret it!

PENN Radiation Oncology NEW SLETTER

DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS

- Brian Baumann, Kate Noa, E. Paul Wileyto, Justin Bekelman, Curtiland Deville, Neha Vapiwala, Maura Kirk, Stefan Both, Derek Dolney, Ali Kassaee, John Christodouleas, "Adjuvant radiation therapy for bladder cancer: A dosimetric comparison of techniques." Medical Dosimetry 2015 (In press).
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