



Summer 2019

Radiation Oncology Launches New Website

The ground-up redesign offers an improved visitor experience and better mobile functionality - [explore the new website here](#).



UF Presentations at ASTRO

UF radiation oncologists will present their [latest research at this year's ASTRO Meeting](#) in Chicago. In addition, the College of Medicine's Department of Radiation Oncology will host the annual Alumni and Friends Reception at ASTRO on September 16 (more event information below) - join us!

Treating Pancreatic Cancer Highlighted in UF Video

Jeopardy! game show host Alex Trebek recently announced that his pancreatic cancer is in partial remission. In a new UF video, Dr. Robert A. Zlotecki, M.D., discusses approaches to treating the disease - [watch it now](#).

Medical Physics Student Wins Prestigious Association Award

A PhD student in the UF Medical Physics Graduate Program received the prestigious 2019 Lawrence T. Fitzgerald Award at the Florida Chapter of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (FLAAPM) Annual Conference this spring - [learn more](#).

Patient-Centered Outcomes in Prostate Cancer Treatment

The [national clinical trial to compare prostate cancer patient outcomes following proton therapy or photon \(X-ray\) therapy is underway](#). The clinical trial is known as COMPPARE,

which stands for “A Prospective **COM**parative Study of Outcomes with **Pro**ton and **Pho**ton **RA**diation in **PR**ostate Canc**ER**.” According to COMPPARE, the first five sites participating in the study are activated and accruing patients. COMPPARE will ask 3,000 prostate cancer patients (ages 30-80) across the United States who have chosen to be treated with proton therapy or photon therapy to answer brief surveys regarding treatment choice, quality of life, and side effects for at least three years - learn more in the [latest UFHPTI Precision Newsletter](#).



Faculty & Staff News

In June, the department announced the [2019 Medical Student and Community Education and Medical Physics Education awards](#) for both the Gainesville and UF Health Proton Therapy Institute (UFHPTI, Jacksonville) teams.

Robert J. Amdur, M.D. (*left*), Professor, Residency Program Director, and Rodney R. Million, M.D. Chairman's Professorship in Radiation Therapy, has been recognized as an [Educator of the Year by the Association of Residents in Radiation Oncology \(ARRO\)](#).

Michael Rutenberg, MD, PhD, an Assistant Professor and a UF Health Proton Therapy Institute physician, has been selected to receive the [Faculty Enhancement Opportunity \(FEO\) award](#) for Fall, 2019. The FEO award supports faculty development activities, including educational experiences/conferences, work with consultants/experts, or activities in support of a new direction for scholarly work.

Physician Resident Graduates **Summer Nurkic, MD, MPH** and **Catherine Mercado, MD** have accepted positions at Sanford Medical Center, Fargo, ND, and the Orlando Health UF Health Cancer Center, Florida, respectively. Medical Physics graduate **Ji-Yeon Park, PhD** has joined the UFHPTI team. The department also welcomed two First Year [Physician Residents](#), **Fantine Giap, MD**, and **Alexandra De Leo, MD**. Congratulations, all!

MerryMac Watson, Radiation Oncology Event Coordinator since 2005, [officially retired June 7](#). Hired in June 2005, her responsibilities included the coordination of various events as well as office moves/renovations for the department space.

UF Radiation Oncology Research

The *International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics* named UF Radiation Oncology residents the second-most published residents of any US radiation oncology residency program. This high level of engagement in research remains one of the most important goals of our department.

Review the latest [Radiation Oncology Department research here](#). To learn more about

clinical studies, visit our [Clinical Studies](#) pages. To browse our collection of published research by UF Radiation Oncologists, visit our [NCBI bibliography](#).

Upcoming Events: The Alumni Reception at ASTRO, a Special 50th Research Seminar, and Our annual Benefit Golf Tournament

Please join Nancy P. Mendenhall, MD, FASTRO, and William M. Mendenhall, MD, FASTRO, for our annual [Alumni Reception at ASTRO](#), Monday, **September 16**, 6:30-8:30 p.m. This year's gathering will be held at the River Roast Social House, 315 N. LaSalle Drive, Chicago. Email Elizabeth.Montgomery@shands.ufl.edu for information, or to *rsvp*. We look forward to seeing you!



The **15th Annual Play Golf. Fight Cancer.® Classic** to benefit the proton research program at the UF Health Proton Therapy Institute will take place **October 21, 2019** at the World Golf Village, St. Augustine, Florida. Sponsorships are available with various levels that include foursomes, recognition on promotional materials and signage, and sponsor's logo displayed on the website, social media and player gift. Call 904-588-1423 to speak to the sponsorship director or email playgolffightcancer@floridaproton.org.

The [50th Radiation Oncology Research Seminar](#), slated **February 21-22, 2020**, will feature special anniversary events and three concurrent programs: the Radiation Therapists' Seminar, the Oncology Nursing Seminar, and the Radiation Oncology Research Seminar. More information is forthcoming - mark your calendars! **Keynote Speaker will be Paul M. Harari, MD, FASTRO**. Dr. Harari is the current Chair of the ASTRO Board of Directors and the Jack Fowler Professor and Chairman of the Department of Human Oncology at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health.



Make a Difference for Future UF Alumni

Opportunities for supporting the Department of Radiation Oncology are many; in doing so you will continue to strengthen one of the best academic radiation oncology programs in the country. We invite you to become a part of our life-changing work by assisting research efforts, providing cutting-edge equipment, or giving to the [fund of your choice](#).

Seed Grants, Professorships, Continuing Education and Scholarships are the building blocks of radiation oncology research and education at UF. Your involvement will help our students excel, our researchers break new ground in the treatment of disease, and our faculty and alumni to continue providing extraordinary care and service.

To find out more, visit our [partnership page](#), or contact Diane Gebhardt, 352-265-8470, dgebhard@ufl.edu, or Carré Mitchell, Senior Director of Development, 352-733-0490, csaunders@ufl.edu.

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