



Winter 2020

50th Research Seminar February 21-22

Preparations are underway for the special UF Radiation Oncology [50th Research Seminar](#), which will take place February 21-22, 2020, at the [Best Western Gateway Grand Hotel & Conference Center](#). The 50th Anniversary event will feature three concurrent programs: the [Radiation Therapists' Seminar](#), the [Oncology Nursing Seminar](#), and the [Radiation Oncology Research Seminar](#). We will also be celebrating 50 years of our Residency Program.



The 2020 Keynote Speaker will be Paul M. Harari, MD, FASTRO, current Chair of the ASTRO Board of Directors. At UW's Harari Lab, researchers are investigating how molecular signaling pathways can modulate tumor response to radiation. The team explores new approaches to improve radiotherapy outcomes by enhancing tumor cell radiosensitivity and by decreasing radiation toxicity to normal tissues. Dr. Harari's talks are entitled "Radiation Oncology at a Crossroads: Which Directions Forward?" and "Multidisciplinary Head and Neck Cancer Care 2020 and Beyond."

Special room rates are available *only* until January 20, 2020 - [register now!](#) Program topics are previewed below.

UF Proton Therapy Institute Begins Using PROTEUS®ONE

The new PROTEUS®ONE system enables UF Health Proton Therapy Institute (UFHPTI) to more precisely treat cancer using a pinpoint proton beam no larger than the size of a pencil. The first treatment took place December 9 - [read more online](#).

Targeting Pancreatic Cancer with Radiotherapy

In a recent “Hope and Healing” UF Health Blog, Radiation Oncology [Assistant Professor Kathryn Hitchcock, MD, PhD](#), discussed the most up-to-date technologies available to try to change the challenging pancreatic cancer statistics - [learn more](#).

UF Offers Short Course Radiation Therapy, Cutting Treatment Time in Half

[Robert Zlotecki, MD, PhD](#), UF Radiation Oncology Professor, Vice Chair of Clinical Affairs, and Medical Director, and Assistant Professor [Kathryn E. Hitchcock, MD, PhD](#), are now offering a four-week short course radiation therapy regimen at the UF Davis Cancer Pavilion for patients with low to favorable intermediate risk prostate cancer - [read the article here](#).

Endowment for Pediatric Care Established at UFHPTI

An exceptional gift from The Lastinger Family Foundation of St. Augustine, FL, has created the Lastinger Family Foundation Endowment for Pediatric Care at UF Health Proton Therapy Institute. The fund will provide for the care of pediatric patients and their families at the Institute. Support generated by this endowment will help pediatric patients and their families in many ways, but in particular, through the UF Health Proton Therapy Institute’s Pediatric and Child Life Program. Learn more in the [latest UFHPTI Precision Newsletter](#).



Faculty & Staff News

Folakemi T. Odedina, PhD (*shown left*), Joint Professor in Radiation Oncology, Pharmacotherapy and Translational Research, [has been appointed by the Nigeria National Universities Commission to lead an initiative](#) that will bridge Nigerian Academics to Academics in the Diaspora willing to contribute to the Nigerian University System in the area of biomedical sciences.

Nancy P. Mendenhall, MD, FASTRO, Medical Director of the UF Health Proton Therapy Institute, received the 2019 High-Writer Award during the UF Health Cancer Center (UFHCC) New Year's celebration. The award recognizes the UFHCC member serving as the Principal Investigator of the highest enrolling cancer-relevant interventional investigator-initiated clinical trial.

Akash Parekh, MD, a Third Year UF Radiation Oncology Physician Resident, [has been chosen to receive an American College of Radiation Oncology \(ACRO\) Seed Grant](#). The ACRO Resident Committee chooses only four worthy projects to fund each year.

The UF College of Medicine has appointed **Julie A. Bradley, M.D.**, [to the James E. Lockwood, Jr. Professorship in Proton Therapy](#). The appointment is for a period of five

years, beginning December 1, 2019

Career Opportunities

Join our team - we are seeking an Assistant/Associate Professor and Breast Cancer Specialist in Gainesville. If you are a dedicated MD who has completed four years of residency training, a board-certified Radiation Oncologist (or board eligible) who is also eligible for a Florida Medical License, and a breast cancer specialist interested in all aspects of radiation therapy patient care, [apply online](#), or submit a cover letter and resume to Leslie McElvey (lesliemc@ufl.edu).

The UF Radiation Oncology Research Office is seeking a Clinical Research Coordinator to oversee clinical trials within the Department from study start up to completion. For more information, or to apply, visit [Careers at UF online](#).

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. 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: 50th Research Seminar Program Topics



A panel presentation on

"Radiation therapy and transoral robotic surgery in the treatment of oropharyngeal cancer with discussion of dose deintensification and HPV influence," "Novel approaches to LDR/seed prostate brachytherapy," as well as various **topics on the treatment of breast cancer**, including: Insurance coverage for adjuvant proton therapy; Proton therapy techniques in breast cancer treatment; Reevaluating recurrence, radiation, and neoadjuvant therapy in breast cancer: An analysis of NSABP B-18, B-27, B-40, B-41; and outcomes in young and adolescent breast cancer patients [will be among the presentations](#) offered at the 50th annual Research Seminar. Don't miss it - to register, or for more information, visit the [UF Radiation Oncology website](#).

Seminar Sponsors

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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.

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