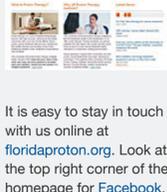


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IN OTHER NEWS

Keep In Touch



It is easy to stay in touch with us online at floridaproton.org. Look at the top right corner of the homepage for Facebook, Twitter and YouTube icons, click and join us in the social media conversation. Also on the right side of the homepage there is a button for VTOC Patient Portal. Click here to open your secure account, view your records, complete clinical trial questionnaires and communicate with your nurse case manager. Knowing how you are feeling during and after treatment is essential to providing you the best care possible and contributes to the care of future patients.

Community Calendar

Mark your calendar and join us when we are in a town near you.

September 24, 12 - 4 p.m.

Prostate Cancer Follow-Up Event
 Crowne Plaza Jacksonville Riverfront Hotel – Main Ballroom
 1201 Riverplace Blvd.
 Jacksonville, FL 32207

October 11-12, 2015

Play Golf. Fight Cancer®
 World Golf Village

About This Newsletter

The *Precision* Newsletter is an electronic-only publication that is distributed by email. Each issue is sent monthly to patients, alumni patients and friends of the University of Florida Health Proton Therapy Institute. As the official newsletter of the Institute, the content is compiled and prepared by our communications representative and approved by the editor Stuart Klein, executive director of UF Health Proton Therapy Institute. Special bulletin newsletters may occasionally be prepared when timely topics and new developments in proton therapy occur. To opt out of receiving the email newsletter, simply [click here to unsubscribe](#). We will make every effort to remove your name from the list.

If you would like to send a Letter to the Editor, please [click here](#).

Sign-Up Today



If you don't already receive this e-newsletter, [click here to add your name to the list](#). You will also be notified of any future events in your area.

Message from Stuart Klein, Executive Director

The UF Health Proton Therapy Institute marked its ninth year in operation on August 14. With nearly 6,000 patients treated and 190,000 treatments delivered, we are among the most experienced proton therapy centers worldwide, ranking in the top five for number of treatments. We have treated significant numbers of prostate, head and neck, lung, breast, pancreas, and brain/CNS cancers as well as sarcoma and Hodgkin lymphoma. Our pediatric program is the largest in the world with an average of 20 children on treatment each day.



We have tracked patient satisfaction of the treatment and our service since opening. Over time, the satisfaction rates are consistently high with 94 percent of patients rating our service "excellent" and 98 percent of patients saying they would recommend our services to others. Our commitment to patient-centered care is one of the reasons we were one of the first four organizations designated by the Florida Department of Health as a Florida Cancer Center of Excellence in 2015, the first year of the awards program.

This combination of technology, experience and compassion gives patients the confidence that proton therapy at the UF Health Proton Therapy Institute is the right choice for treating their cancer and going on to live life to the fullest.

Sincerely,

Stuart Klein

Moving on from prostate cancer



Ben Smith (l) chats with a proton therapy staff member in August 2006 as he prepares to be the first patient at UF Health Proton Therapy Institute.

By Carol Estocko

After Ben Smith was "fired" by his urologist 10 years ago for declining to undergo a radical prostatectomy to treat his prostate cancer, Smith fired up his computer and got to work.

"I started doing Internet research and looking at every available therapy at the time, even cryotherapy," the 62-year-old Cocoa Beach, Florida, resident says. "All of the treatments had pretty good efficacy. But then, they would talk all about the possible side effects like impotence and incontinence — except for proton beam therapy."

At the time, there were only a handful of clinical centers offering proton therapy in the United States, including ones in Boston, Massachusetts, and Loma Linda, California. "I did a little more homework and found that the University of Florida was actually building one in Jacksonville, which is two hours from my home," says Smith. He reached out to the staff of the soon-to-open University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute (UFPTI) and said he wanted to be the first patient.

"I waited for it to open," says Smith, who received his first proton beam treatment at UFPTI on August 14, 2006.

"I was the first person in that machine when they turned it on," he recalls. "I had 39 treatments, and the equipment worked every time. I might have been delayed while they tweaked something, but I never had a treatment get cancelled. This is complicated machinery — a particle accelerator, magnets. It's crazy how huge, powerful and complex these systems are. And they got it up and running 39 days in a row."

Smith, a retired aerospace engineer, thinks that many doctors still view proton therapy as an experimental procedure — if they have even heard about it at all.

"I think one has to be one's own advocate," he says. "I don't think doctors want to harm you. But the urologist wants to operate. The radiation oncologist wants to radiate. Another person wants to do seed implants (brachytherapy). They want to do what they know. And a lot of people go with whatever the doctor says."

Smith and his wife Lisa are in the process of restoring a 36-foot sailboat, which they plan to live on for the foreseeable future. They will travel, then determine where they want to settle down. "We are enjoying our lives," he says.

"For me, proton beam was a treatment I was privileged and blessed to have, but it's just something that I did, and I'm glad I did it. If I see an article on it, I'll read it. But it's not something that I need to make a major part of my life."

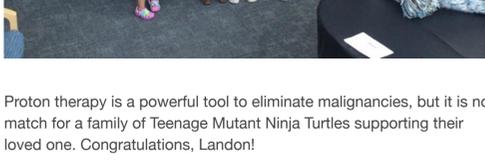
This article originally appeared March 20, 2015, in Proton Therapy Today. Used with permission.

Support comes in many shapes and sizes



Proton therapy is a powerful tool to eliminate malignancies, but it is no match for a family of Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles supporting their loved one. Congratulations, Landon!

Calling all who like dinner and/or golf



The 11th Annual Play Golf. Fight Cancer.® Classic, UF Health Proton Therapy Institute's primary fundraising event, is Oct. 11-12, 2015, at The World Golf Village, St. Augustine, Fla. The event is being presented by IBA and .decimal with additional support from Shepherd and has something for everyone.

A dinner and silent auction is planned for Sunday, Oct. 11, in the World Golf Hall of Fame & Museum. For all who register as a player, you automatically have a ticket to the dinner. However, tickets to attend the dinner and silent auction are also available for those who do not wish to play golf.

- Aside from a great dinner, you will enjoy entertainment such as:
- A live auction called by local celebrity Chef Robert Tulko.
 - Bid on auction items such as
 - A one-week stay at a North Carolina cabin
 - A luxury boat excursion for 6 people
 - Dinner for 6 prepared by Chef Robert Tulko
 - Passes to the 2016 The PLAYERS tournament
 - A laptop computer
 - A look inside the World Golf Hall of Fame & Museum honoring the greatest players and contributors to the game of golf.
 - Try out the new Golfzon golf simulator for a virtual experience playing on a choice of 150 worldwide courses

The tournament will be held Monday, Oct. 12, on both of the official courses of the World Golf Hall of Fame. The King & Bear is a course that has the distinction of being the only design collaboration between namesakes Arnold "The King" Palmer and Jack "The Bear" Nicklaus. The Slammer & Squire is a championship resort course designed by Bobby Weed with consultants Sam "The Slammer" Snead and Gene "The Squire" Sarazen.

Golfers will have the chance to win prizes along the way and to meet and greet 7-time Olympic medalist Shannon Miller. She is the honorary chair of this year's tournament and is the keynote speaker at the awards ceremony following tournament play.

Please join us in support of proton therapy research and register today at www.playgolffightcancer.org website.

To donate or support the cause in some other way, if you are not available for the event, contact tournament chair Michael McPhillips at mcpforgolf@gmail.com (904) 910-7098 or Judy Taylor Holland jholland@floridaproton.org (904) 588-1401.

In the community

The UF Health Proton Therapy Institute is proud to sponsor these upcoming events in the Jacksonville area.

LUNG FORCE Walk/Run

When: Aug. 29, 2015

Where: The Jacksonville Landing, 2 Independent Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32202

LUNG FORCE is a national movement led by the American Lung Association (ALA) to raise awareness that lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in women.

You can participate on the UF Health Proton Therapy Institute team in the 2nd Annual LUNG FORCE Walk/Run on August 29, 2015, at the Landing in downtown Jacksonville. Funds raised will benefit the ALA's efforts to research a cure and promote awareness of early detection. Show your support and help raise awareness that proton therapy is an excellent option for lung cancer treatment.

Last year, we had the largest team and made quite an impact with our bright yellow shirts and proton logos. Our team captain Bradlee Robbert is ordering equally bright shirts with our new logo and each participant will receive a complimentary shirt. **There is no cost to register.** To sign up, follow these steps:

1. [Click here for the registration website](#)
2. Click the blue "Register" button
3. Click "Join Team"
4. In the "Team Name" box, type Florida Proton, then click the "Search for a Team" button
5. Click "Join" and follow the on-screen instructions
6. Contact brobbert@floridaproton.org with name and shirt size for each person you registered. Shirts are complimentary if you register and email Brad by Monday, August 17.

Free to Breathe Walk

When: Sept. 12, 2015

Where: The Jacksonville Landing

Free to Breathe is a national organization that aims to double lung cancer survival by 2022. The 5k walk is a fundraiser for lung cancer research and educational materials for patients and families. The nonprofit organization has funded 50 researchers at medical and research centers across the United States since 2005. Past grant recipients have:

- Received at least 91 additional grants to further their research
- Published well over 200 peer-reviewed papers in the lung cancer field
- Produced work that has led to several clinical trials.

Riverside Fine Arts Association 2nd Annual Run for the Arts 5k

When: Sept. 26, 2015

Where: Bold City Brewery, 2670-7 Rosselle Street, Jacksonville, FL 32204

This event is open to runners and walkers of all fitness levels and even includes a one-mile Fun Run for the kids. We encourage you to walk, run, bring a friend or just come and cheer someone on as we attempt to continue promoting the therapeutic value of art and exercise; a win-win for all of us.

Funds from this event will help support Riverside Fine Arts Association's mission to provide our community and northeast Florida with musical presentations featuring diverse artists of national and international acclaim. Funds also enable the association to provide outreach to Jacksonville area youth through the *Project Listen* program.

Post-race activities include awards, live music by local artists, a silent art auction featuring work from local artists, food from Bold City, and beer from Bold City (one complimentary beer or non-alcoholic beverage to each participant).