The Department of Radiation Oncology at UMDNJ-RWJMS and CINJ and RWJUH and UMDNJ-NJMS and UH

Radiation Oncology Beam

Volume 11, Issue 1

“Emitting particles of information that matter”

January 2009

Important Dates

JAN 09/FEB 09

Haffty Happy Hour
January 23 2009

Dean’s Research Award Program
January 30, 2009

Grand Rounds
Karen Goodman, MD., Attending Physician, Dept of Radiation Oncology, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
February 3 2009

Faculty Time and Effort Repots
https://fters.umdnj.edu or
https://my.umdnj.edu

Site Closes February 20 2009

NIH—Competing applications
R01 (new): February 5 2009
R21 (new): February 16 2009

Require new Adobe Forms

Radiation Oncology’s First Annual Holiday Celebration

The Department of Radiation Oncology kicked off the 2008 holiday season with its First Annual Holiday Celebration. The event was held in the department’s G2 conference room in Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and was designed as an opportunity to allow clinicians, basic scientists, students, residents, nurses and administrative staff—the entire department at all locations—to get together over dessert and celebrate the spirit of the holiday season.

The afternoon was filled with caroling (yes Virginia, our faculty really did sing!) as Shelly Muhannad, Dallas Sanchez and Devora Schiff warmed up the reluctant group. But everyone soon got into the spirit and joyous voices could be heard way back in the faculty offices.

In addition to raucous singing, the faculty and staff enjoyed an anonymous holiday gift exchange which allowed participants to “steal” each other’s gifts. But none left gift-less. The reviews were good and the department hopes to continue the tradition next year.

Faculty Effort Reports—New System

On Monday January 5, 2009, UMDNJ launched the first part of the new Faculty Time and Effort Reporting System (FTERS).

Part I of the Biannual Report replaced the previously used Professorial and Professional Staff Activity Report (PPSAR) that is completed twice a year. The effort that is reported in this section represents academic effort.

Part II of the Biannual Report allows for the capturing of hourly data by clinical faculty and will be implemented throughout the spring of 2009. The effort is reported as HOURS, not percents as in Part I of the form. The effort that is reported in this section represents faculty practice effort.

What all users can expect in the transition to the FTERS
- Access FTERS at https://fters.umdnj.edu
- View the tutorial videos on how to use FTERS

What Faculty can expect in the transition to FTERS
- Faculty will be able to access FTERS through the portal as they did PPSAR (Part I of FTERS captures the SAME EXACT information as PPSAR)
- Faculty can maintain a small profile and receive e-mail updates
- Administrators can view and print faculty saved report
- Faculty can view and print all of their completed reports (after January 2009)

Technical Support
If you have any questions regarding technical aspects of the web site (i.e., username and passwords, difficulty signing on, browser problems, etc.) please contact your local technical support team (http://rwjms.umdnj.edu/fters/support.html) or the IST Service Center at 3-3200 (732-743-3200).

Administrative Support
Questions concerning the actual survey should be directed to your Business Office or to the Department of Cost Analysis, Robert Szychowski 732-235-9187 or Elaine Martin-Amidio 732-235-9125. Additionally, you can contact your local administrative support team (http://rwjms.umdnj.edu/fters/support.html).
**Newark Notes**

The Department of Radiation Oncology at UMDNJ-NJMS and UH has officially merged leadership with the Department of Radiation Oncology at UMDNJ-RWJMS with Dr. Bruce Haffty as the Chair of both operations. As the unified department works toward making the integration seamless, the Beam will bring you updates on the process and will include items of interest from Newark in this section. An introduction to the department follows:

The Department of Radiation Oncology had been until recently a division of the Department of Radiology. The service, however, has been in existence since the early 1980’s when a linear accelerator (LINAC) was purchased and housed on the A-level of University Hospital. An innovative radiation treatment thought reasonable at that time, Intra-operative radiation therapy, was made available to cancer surgeons at University Hospital and throughout Northern New Jersey, and a fully-operational operating room was built next to the LINAC vault. The original LINAC was replaced in 1997, and a second machine was added in 2002. Currently, a full range of standard external beam radiation therapy is available, and Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) has been available since 2004. In addition, high dose and low dose brachytherapy, radiosurgery, and radio-protector administration are offered.

Since the early 1990’s, when daily patient treatments hovered below 20, there has been a steady growth in volume and we currently treat 40 to 50 patients per day with external beam radiation. Over the last year, 503 new patients have been seen in consultation generating more than 14,000 patient visits.

All patients seen in consultation are evaluated for participation in clinical trials. Currently, there are 23 trials open and we participate in national trial groups Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG), Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG) and the Gynecology Oncology Group (GOG). In addition, we collaborate with the Cancer Institute of New Jersey and enter patients into the statewide oncology group CINJOG.

The Radiation Oncology team in Newark is comprised of the following members: Dr. Charles Cathcart, Assistant Professor; Dr. Dolly Razdan, Assistant Professor; Carol Bacon, BSN, Head Nurse; Rosalinda Bolcer, BSN, Nurse; Eden Vargas, BSN, Nurse; Alexander Jacobs, PhD, Chief Physicist; Olga Laukhton, MA, Medical Physicist; Francisco Perez, RT(T), Dosimetrist; Matthew Cattafi, RT(T), Chief Therapist; Diane Scapaleti-Chapogas, RT(T), Senior Therapist; Raccys Pozo, RT(T), Therapist; Jennifer Rodriguez, RT(T), Therapist; Vicki Lopes, RT(T), Therapist; Mark Soto, RT(T), Therapist; Juan Valencia, Principal Technologist Assistant; Sa’idah Sudan, Administrative Coordinator; Ann Cornick, Receptionist and Harriet Jernquist, Social Worker.

We look forward to working with and getting to know our colleagues in Newark!

**SNAPSHOTS**  
*Excerpts of Excellence from the Rad Onc Team*

Ms. Camille Green, a RWJMS Medical Student working in Dr. Haffty's lab as a Student Assistant, was awarded a Young Oncologist Essay Award and will be giving an oral presentation on "Effects of Riluzole and Ionizing Radiation in Metabotropic Glutamate Receptor1 (GRM1) positive Human Melanoma" at the American Radium Society 91st Annual Meeting held in Vancouver, BC, Canada in April 2009.
Residents’ Room

Drs. Amar Rewari and Rahul Parikh have received NCCN Fellowships and will attend the 2009 NCCN Fellows Recognition Program in Florida this upcoming March.

Dr. Parima Daroui has returned from her maternity leave and we are happy to have her back. Her twins are now 3 months old.

Dr. Lewis is on a research elective and will be reviewing clinical data at Newark UH.

Dr. Poppe will attend the ACGME Resident's Counsel and American College of Radiation Oncology's annual meeting in February.

New clinical teams were formed on January 5th and will continue until April 3rd:

Team A: Haffty, Gabel, Dorothy Pierce, Amar Rewari
Team B: Cohler, Khan, Jayne Camporeale, Parima Daroui
Team C: Jabbour and Matthew Poppe
Team D: Kim and Rahul Parikh
Newark: Cathcart, Razdan, Sabin Motwani
Elective: Brett Lewis

NEW RECRUITS

Radiation Oncology welcomes Kelly Van Nosdall to the department. Kelly joined the department at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital on January 9 as a receptionist. Kelly has worked at RWJUH since 2006 as a unit secretary in the bone marrow unit and she provided coverage on 4N. We are excited that she is part of our exceptional team.

Welcome aboard!

Call for speakers for Radiation Oncology Research Meeting

We are seeking speakers for this year's schedule for the monthly departmental research meeting. This meeting is the last Tuesday of the month at 4:30 PM. It is an opportunity for anyone in the department (or outside of it) to share their research projects or ideas.

These can be projects that you have completed and want to share or ideas in the formulative stage, that you might want input or advice on.

If you have interest in speaking, please contact Rosa Schweighardt at 732-253-3931 or e-mail rosa.schweighardt@rwjuh.edu to schedule a date.

“No problem. Intelligence, experience, and motivation are more important than species.”
Clinic Corner

Rosa Schweighardt accepted a position as a Secretary I within the Division of Radiation Physics. As part of her new role, Rosa will work closely with the physicists to assist with the development and accreditation of the physicist training program. The Department plans to fill the Secretary II position that was vacated by Rosa and we are in the process of posting the position.

On January 23, 2009 surveyors from the American College of Radiology will be on site as part of the Department's accreditation review. The on-site visit is one of the steps in the process toward renewal of our accreditation. Accreditation by the ACR demonstrates a commitment to quality care and patient safety and sets our Department apart from the competition. It means that our Department has undergone a rigorous review process and meets nationally accepted standards of care. Many of our faculty and staff have pitched in to make this a successful review; however, special recognition is due Shushma Patel, Molly Gabel and Venkat Narra for their dedication and commitment to ensuring that we are prepared for the site review.

Radiation Oncology At Large

Participations/Presentations:


Bruce Haffty, Co-Chairman RSNA BOOST Educational Course, Chicago, IL. December 2008.


Applications:

Haffty, Bruce, MD, ASCO Foundation $500,000. January 2009.


Publications:


Milestones

Radiation Oncology recognizes the following service anniversaries this month and thanks each individual for their dedication and team work:

Charmi Patel—1 year
Jianglin Ma, Ph.D.—1 year
Devora Schiff—1 year

A baby will make love stronger, days shorter, nights longer, bankroll smaller, home happier, clothes shabbier, the past forgotten, and the future worth living for.

Author Unknown

Congratulations to Camille and Jared Green on the birth of their baby boy

Jonathan Elisha Green
6 lbs 11 oz, 20-inch-long

Born Wednesday December 31, 2008

Mommy and baby, Daddy and big brother (Luke Winston) are doing great!
Open Protocols

The following protocols are currently open in Radiation Oncology and are actively accruing patients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Lead Investigator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Molecular and Genetic Markers in the Local-regional management of patients undergoing radiation therapy</td>
<td>Haffty, Bruce</td>
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<tr>
<td>Breast Cancer Electronic Quality Improvement Packet (e-QuIP)</td>
<td>Haffty, Bruce</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retrospective Chart Review of Patients Undergoing Radiation Therapy</td>
<td>Haffty, Bruce</td>
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<tr>
<td>Significance of Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms in Breast Cancer Patients Undergoing Radiation Therapy</td>
<td>Haffty, Bruce</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feasibility of 3-D Conformal Accelerated Partial Breast Irradiation (APBI) for Early Stage, Node Negative Breast Cancer Patients using Acculoc Fiducial Markers: A Phase I Trial</td>
<td>Haffty, Bruce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retrospective Chart Review of Patients Undergoing Radiation Therapy</td>
<td>Haffty, Bruce</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long Term Patient Care Evaluation Study Colon and Rectal Cancer Cases Year: 2000 The Cancer Institute of New Jersey Affiliate Network.</td>
<td>Gabel, Molly</td>
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<tr>
<td>(NJ 1506): Phase II Quality of Life Study of Stereotactic RadioSurgery, Temozolomide and Erlotinib Chemotherapy for the Treatment of 1-3 Brain Metastases in Non-small Cell Lung Cancer. A Study of The Cancer Institute of New Jersey Oncology Group (CINJOG)</td>
<td>Gabel, Molly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTOG-0521: A phase III protocol of androgen suppression and 3DCRT/IMRT vs androgen suppression and 3DCRT/IMRT followed by chemotherapy with docetaxel and prednisone for localized, high risk prostate cancer</td>
<td>Gabel, Molly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTOG-0524: A phase I/II trial of a combination of paclitaxel and trastuzumab with daily irradiation or paclitaxel alone with daily irradiation following transurethral surgery for non-cystectomy candidates with muscle-invasive bladder cancer</td>
<td>Gabel, Molly</td>
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<tr>
<td>RTOG-0415: A Phase III Randomized Study of Hypofractionated 3D-CRT/IMRT versus Conventionally Fractionated 3D-CRT/IMRT in Patients with Favorable Risk Prostate Cancer</td>
<td>Gabel, Molly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTOG 0534: A Phase III Trial of Short Term Androgen Deprivation with Pelvic Lymph Node or Prostate Bed Only Radiotherapy (SPORT) in Prostate Cancer Patients with a Rising PSA after Radical Prostatectomy</td>
<td>Gabel, Molly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTOG-0417: A Phase II Study of Bevacizumab in Combination with Definitive Radiotherapy and Cisplatin Chemotherapy in Untreated Patients with Locally Advanced Cervical Carcinoma</td>
<td>Gabel, Molly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analysis of Patients with Oligometastatic Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Treated with Combined Chemo-Radiotherapy</td>
<td>Jabbour, Salma</td>
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<td>Analysis of Patients with Oligometastatic Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Treated with Combined Chemo-Radiotherapy</td>
<td>Jabbour, Salma</td>
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Devora Schiff
Research Teaching Specialist III

Meet Devora (pronounced Dev-ra, like Debra with a “V”) Schiff. Many of you know her as the department’s Ms. Congeniality. She’s the one that makes sure that everybody’s birthday is acknowledged, usually with homemade cake and the good wishes of your colleagues and peers. Why does she do this? Because she believes that it’s important to take time out of our very busy days, if just for a brief moment, to acknowledge our milestones, to get to know those we work with and to celebrate happy moments with one another because those good moments need to be savored. And Devora lives by her convictions.

She is passionate about many things, science, alternative medicine, yoga, cooking, painting, but none more than playing the harp. Devora has always loved the harp. Her family has a gift for music. Her father plays the violin and until last year at the age of 79 was part of the Summit Orchestra. Her husband plays tablas, dumbek, harmonica, and base fiddle and one son plays the harmonica and another plays guitar and trumpet. It’s a lot of fun for all of them to play music together. Devora always wanted to play the harp, infact she thinks she played the harp in another lifetime. But her parents couldn’t afford the lessons and so her dreams of becoming a professional harp player were deferred. As an adult Devora started playing the harp, and became interested in harp therapy. She is a Hospital Certified Harp Therapist and was part of a harp therapy program at RWJUH that worked with patients throughout the hospital. The soothing sounds of the harp offered both patients and worried family and friends a few moments of relaxation and according to Devora it is in those moments healing can happen. Much to Devora’s (and patients’) dismay, the Branch of Alternative Medicine which included the harp program was eliminated by the hospital two years ago. But staying true to her convictions, Devora makes time at least once a week to visit and play her harp for a 95 year old Alzheimer’s patient at a local nursing home. If anyone knows of a patient or a stressed employee who could benefit from harp music feel free to contact her.

Devora is a Research Teaching Specialist III in Dr. Bruce Haffty’s lab. She just recently celebrated her one-year anniversary in the department; however, she has been with the University for some time, first working in Nephrology under Dr. Richard Mann and then Rheumatology under Dr. Len Siegel and most recently in Hematology under Dr. Claire Phillips. Devora has experience in both clinical and basic science research. Currently, her focus is on genetic markers for breast cancer. She is working on experiments designed to identify genetic markers in specific populations which may correlate with an increased incidence of breast cancer. She has also been working with Dr. Suzie Chen’s lab at Rutgers to conduct experiments looking at the synergistic effects of radiation with a medication called Riluzole to see what, if any, affect this has in the growth of various cell lines. The results have been exciting and may lead to external funding to support further investigation.

Devora is married and has three sons: Ezra, Sam and Joey. Ezra is a graduate student at Stanford University majoring in Mechanical Engineering, Sam is an undergraduate at Rutgers majoring in Psychology and Joe is in Israel for the year doing volunteer work and taking classes at Hebrew University. She lives in Highland Park where she is actively involved in the community. Her family and certain traditions are very important to her and play a role in how Devora leads her life. One especially important tradition that Devora grew up with holds dear is the Friday night Thanksgiving, or Shabbat, meal. For the Schiffs, Friday night is a night to get together with family and friends to recognize a higher power in their lives, to carve out time from busy schedules to celebrate and focus on each other and the week’s accomplishments. Friday night meals are always extraordinary, starting with the wine and are at minimum 4 course events, almost always prepared solely by Devora. Not a bad way to end the workweek!

As the old saying goes, “Necessity is the mother of invention.” and this was true in Devora’s case. When her first son, Ezra, was 6 days old, he became seriously ill. She realized that she needed to be more knowledgeable about health and medicine. Growing up in a family where medication was thought to be the solution to everything, Devora felt strongly that she needed to find alternatives for her new baby. She studied homeopathic medicine under Winnie Winston and took courses in anthroposophic medicine. Today, Devora has a wealth of information about alternative and complementary medicine that she is most happy to share with those interested.

Yoga is Devora’s other passion. If she had her preferences, she would play her harp, do yoga, and paint on silk until she has no creative energy left. She has been practicing yoga for over 24 years. For Devora, yoga provides the energy and calmness that she needs in order to do everything that she does and does so well.

- End-
### Clinical Radiation Oncology
- Molly Gabel, MD  
  Associate Professor and  
  Chief, Clinical Radiation Oncology
- Alan Kohler, MD  
  Instructor
- Sharad Goyal, MD  
  Instructor
- Salma Jabour, MD  
  Assistant Professor
- Atif Khan, MD  
  Assistant Professor
- Sung Kim, MD  
  Assistant Professor and  
  Associate Director, Residency Training Program
- Michael McKenna, MD  
  Assistant Professor
- Charles Cathcart, MD  
  Assistant Professor
- Dolly Raddan, MD  
  Assistant Professor
- Residents:
  - Brett Lewis, MD, PhD  
    Co-Chief Resident, PGY-4
  - Matthew Poppe, MD  
    Co-Chief Resident, PGY-4
  - Pasha Darouei, MD, PhD  
    PGY-3
  - Sabina Motwani, MD  
    PGY-3
  - Rahul Parikh, MD  
    PGY-2
  - Amar Rewari, MD  
    PGY-2
- Radiation Physics:
  - Ning Jeff Yue, PhD  
    Professor, Vice Chair and  
    Chief, Radiation Physics
  - Satish Jaywant, PhD  
    Associate Professor
  - Venkat Narra PhD  
    Associate Professor
  - Jinghao Zhou, PhD  
    Post Doctoral Fellow
- Advance Practice Nurses:
  - Jayne Camporeale, RN, MSN, APN
  - Dorothy Pierce, RN, MSN, APN
- Clinical Services at RWJUH:
  - Shushma Patel, RTT  
    Director
  - William Withurup  
    Chief Therapist
  - Ann Marie Maisel  
    Therapist
  - Susan Resavy  
    Therapist
  - Mary Kazio  
    Therapist
  - Kaylin Greene  
    Therapist
  - Melissa Mareth  
    Therapist
  - Lillian Hosein  
    Therapist
  - Carie Strauss  
    Therapist
  - Kevin Finn  
    Therapist

### Clinical Services at RWJUH (continued)
- Camille Taylor  
  Therapist
- Rihan Davis  
  Chief Dosimetrist
- Bernard Gilson  
  Dosimetrist
- Theresa Singley, RN  
  Nurse
- Barbara Lee, RN  
  Nurse
- Brenda Adell  
  Medical Coder
- Terry Blekeski  
  Senior Medical Coder
- Shelly Muhammad  
  Clerical Coordinator
- Gladys Torres  
  Medical Biller
- Azalia Laguna  
  Clerk
- Melissa Morales  
  Clerical
- Kelly Van Nosdall  
  Receptionist
- Fatimah Ahmed Alfaraj  
  Visiting Researcher

### Academic Administration at RWJMS - CINJ
- Sharda Kohli, MBA  
  Department Administrator
- Jo-Ella McClennon  
  Management Assistant
- Odalis Sanchez  
  Secretary I
- Rosa Schweighardt  
  Secretary II
- Rhonda Lyles  
  Secretary III
- Charmi Patel  
  Student Assistant

### Radiation Cancer Biology
- Zhiyuan Shen, MD, PhD  
  Professor and  
  Chief, Radiation Cancer Biology
- Bing Xia, PhD  
  Assistant Professor
- Zhaohui Feng, PhD  
  Assistant Professor
- Jingmei Liu,  
  Research Teaching Specialist I
- Huimei Lu  
  Research Teaching Specialist III
- Jingyi Yue  
  Graduate Student
- Jinjiang Fan  
  Graduate Student
- Yi-Yuan Huang  
  Graduate Student
- Devora S. Schiff  
  Research Teaching Specialist III
- Jianguo Ma  
  Post Doctoral Fellow
- Cosimo Antonacci  
  Post Doctoral Fellow
- Hong Cai  
  Research Teaching Specialist IV

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