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

Radiation Oncology Beam

Volume 11, Issue 11

February/March 2009

“Emitting particles of information that matter”

Important Dates

MAR 09/APR 09/MAY 09

Grand Rounds
Joachim Yahalom, M.D., Attending Physician, Dept of Radiation Oncology, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
April 7 2009

NIH Challenge Grants
RC1—Due April 27 2009

Annual Retreat on Cancer Research in New Jersey
May 27 2009
UMDNJ-RWJMS, 675 Hoes Lane, Piscataway
Registration Opens February 2, 2009, closes May 18, 2009
Visit www.njcancerretreat.org

University launches electronic proposal preparation system, COEUS

UMDNJ-RWJMS is in the process of transitioning to an electronic proposal preparation system, called COEUS. The COEUS system will allow for the preparation, approval and tracking of proposals using a web-based system. The transition will be gradual and not all opportunities will be prepared using COEUS at the outset.

More information about COEUS may be found by visiting the COEUS Wiki(http://coeusras.umdnj.edu:8080/UMDWiki/). The main sections of interest would be Proposal Development and Budget Development.

Transition Schedule
Looking forward to the June/July cycle, the system is currently available to those investigators submitting NIH R01 applications. All R01 applications meeting the following criteria must be submitted using COEUS:

- The application budget can be either modular or a detailed budget. However if there are any subawards to be prepared, the overall budget being submitted to the NIH should only be modular.

- All other funding mechanisms (R03, R21, etc.) should be prepared using the Adobe Forms as stipulated in the FOA/RFA.

COEUS User Accounts
All users on the system will need to have a UMDNJ CORE account. If you either do not have or are not sure if you have a CORE account, please contact IST at 3-3200 to have an account (username/password) created. Please note that anyone in our department involved in the preparation of proposals should have a CORE account created to be assigned as a user in COEUS.

Training
For information about training sessions please contact Christopher M. Stastny Program Administrator UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Office of Research and Sponsored Programs 675 Hoes Lane West Room R-109 Piscataway, NJ 08854 P: 732-235-4338 F: 732-235-5534 E: stastncm@umdnj.edu

Haffty Happy Hour meets Simon Cowell

Faculty and staff capped off the holiday season on Friday January 23, 2009 at the second annual Haffty Happy Hour graciously hosted by Dr. and Mrs. Bruce Haffty at their home.

The event provided an opportunity for members from the various divisions of Radiation Oncology (Radiation Physics, Radiation Cancer Biology and Clinical Radiation Oncology) to meet one another in an informal setting.

Libations and culinary delights abounded throughout the evening. Things really heated up as partypgoers plugged into American Idol—the Wii game. Cutthroat competition ensued as physicists, dosimetrists, physicians, scientists, therapists, secretaries and researchers belted out (some more animatedly than others) their versions of popular songs from the 70s, 80s and 90s and vied to be the new Radiation Oncology Idol.

Who was eliminated and who moves on? We may have to wait until the third annual Haffty Happy Hour for the judges decision.
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 excerpt of the project co-mentored by Dr. Charles Cathcart via the Cancer Summer Student Research Program 2008 follows:

The Relationship Between Age and Chronic Illness on Cancer Treatment Adherence
Sonal Gandhi (TCNJ 2010)
Mentors: Denise C. Fyffe, PhD and Charles Cathcart, MD

Objective:
Adherence to a prescribed cancer treatment regimen is critical to patient survival or relief of symptoms. However, research has indicated that there is a prevalence of non-adherence to cancer treatments. Although there may not be a single factor responsible for this problem, identifying the causes might lead to improvements in alleviating this behavior (Cathcart et al., 1997).

Chronic illnesses are seen in patients of all ages. However, higher rates of chronic illness have been observed among older individuals (Hoffman et al, 1996). Elderly patients have been found to take a passive approach to treatment; whereas younger individuals more actively seek information about the disease and its treatment (Felton & Reversion, 1987). The presence of comorbidities has been shown to decrease adherence to a prescribed treatment regimen for pneumonia (Menendez et al., 2005).

Therefore the objective of this study was to determine the relationship between age and chronic illnesses on cancer treatment adherence. It was hypothesized that there will be a negative relationship between age and treatment adherence as well as between the presence of chronic illness and treatment adherence.

Summary:
Overall, most patients had an adherence ratio of 0.70 to 0.79. Additionally, there is a positive correlation between age and treatment adherence (r=0.82); however these results are not significant (p=0.161). There is also positive correlation between the presence of a chronic illness and treatment adherence (r=0.39); however these results are also not significant (p=0.510).

Male patients were found to be significantly more adherent on average (mean=0.87, SD=0.77) than female patients (mean=0.73, SD=0.20). Retired patients were significantly more adherent on average (mean=0.94, SD=0.93) than unemployed (mean=0.72, SD=0.13) or currently employed patients (mean=0.73, SD=0.09). Patients who reported no side effects were significantly more adherent on average (mean=1.20, SD=1.23) than those who reported side effects (mean=0.72, SD=0.18), and patients treated with palliative radiation therapy were also significantly more adherent on average (mean=0.98, SD=0.96) than patients treated with curative therapy (mean=0.73, SD=0.24).

Conclusion:
Most patients were adherent to their prescribed course of radiation therapy. Neither increased age nor presence of chronic illness was proven to have a negative correlation to treatment adherence. Instead, both were shown to have a positive, albeit not significant relationship with adherence.

The study did reveal that men were more adherent than women to treatment, retired individuals were more adherent than unemployed or currently employed individuals, individuals treated with palliative radiation were more adherent than those treated with curative intent, and individuals reporting no side effects were more adherent than individuals reporting one or more side effects as a result of their treatment.

Future studies should be conducted with a larger sample size in other hospital settings to increasing generalizability. Additionally, future research should investigate why these sociodemographic and clinical characteristics affects treatment adherence and whether the presence of multiple chronic illnesses and their joint affect on an individual influences adherence.
Residents’ Room

Dr. Rewari received an ASTRO travel grant to attend their Advocacy Day in Washington DC.

Dr. Daroui worked on a project presented as an abstract at the 94th annual RSNA meeting in December 2008, *Clerkship Companion: Education Imaging in Medicine, Surgery, OB/GYN, and Pediatrics.*

Dr. Poppe attended the ACGME’s Council of Review Committee Residents (CRCR) in February.

Sabin Motwani’s research titled, "The Impact of Margin Status on Local Control of Breast Conserving Patients: Does Adjuvant Therapy Play a Role? " was selected for an oral presentation at the American Radium Society.

Our residents completed the ACR Radiation Oncology In-Training Exam on Thursday March 5, 2009. Results of this exam will help to rank our residents relative to other residents in Radiation Oncology Residency programs nationally.

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

Susan Schwartz has been at CINJ for a little over 11 years; first as a treatment nurse, then as a Nurse Clinician in the Thoracic, GU and Breast tumor study groups, now as an APN in Radiation Oncology. She is a member of ONS and the past president of the North Central New Jersey Chapter. She has published in the Oncology Nursing Forum and Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing. She is also part of the teaching faculty for the ONS chemotherapy/biotherapy class.

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.
**Clinic Corner**

Theresa Singley, RN accepted a full time position in the Emergency Department. Her last day was February 20, 2009. Theresa joined the department in September 2007 and has been an instrumental part of our team. She will be truly missed and we wish her the best!

On March 13, 2009 the Department bid farewell to Ms. Rhonda Lyles. Rhonda joined the department one year ago as a Secretary II supporting Drs. Gabel, Khan, Cohler and Goyal. We thank Rhonda for her dedication to the department and wish her the best in her new endeavors.

On Friday March 13 the department conducted a morning billing retreat to identify missed opportunities and process improvements for enhanced technical and professional billing. Billing retreat participants included Gladys Torres, Sharda Kohli, Shushma Patel, Venkat Narra, Brenda Adell, Molly Gabel, Bill Withup, Atif Khan and Bruce Haffty. The group proposed 19 specific recommendations to improve billing within the department. The recommendations will be discussed, developed and implemented over the next few weeks.

Fatimah Alfaraj, MD has been accepted into the radiation oncology residency program at Princess Margaret in Canada. Princess Margaret is a very well known and respected radiation oncology facility and it’s radiation oncology residency program is quite competitive. We congratulate Fatimah on this major accomplishment and wish her much luck as she begins her residency.

**A reminder to physicians—please approve your reports in a timely fashion!**

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**Rad-Onc Photoshoot**

Radiation Oncology faculty and staff at UMDNJ-RWJMS/CINJ and RWJUH assembled for a photoshoot in the CINJ Atrium on March 17 2009.

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A baby is born with a need to be loved -- and never outgrows it.

~

Frank A. Clark

Congratulations to Jinghao Zhou and Yanyan Xu on the birth of their son

Alex Qixuan Zhou

9 lbs 15 oz!

Born Monday March 2, 2009
**Open Protocols:** The following protocols are currently open in Radiation Oncology (CINJ) and are actively accruing patients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Lead Investigator</th>
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<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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<td>Retrospective Chart Review of Patients Undergoing Radiation Therapy</td>
<td>Haffty, Bruce</td>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>RTOG-0822: A Phase II Evaluation OF Preoperative Chemotherapy Utilizing Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) In Combination with Capecitabine and Oxaliplatin for Patients with Locally Advanced Rectal Cancer</td>
<td>Gabel, Molly</td>
</tr>
<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>
</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>Utilization of Radiation Therapy in Women with Breast Cancer in New Jersey</td>
<td>Goyal, Sharad</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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Meet the players

The staff of the Beam take a break this month but will be back next month with another insightful profile of one of our own. We hope you enjoy the following piece and perhaps spark discussion:

Time is of the Essence

An original piece by

Brett Lewis, MD
Co-Chief Resident

A Department of Radiation Oncology is not your typical doctor’s office. On a given day, fifty patients or more may come through our double doors, where a score of technical staff and therapists labor tirelessly to keep the Simulator, TomoTherapy, HDR unit and two Linacs running on time. This against a backdrop of conspiring emergency consults, tweaked treatment plans, heterotopic ossification prophylaxis, Varian software upgrades and MLC faults sets our beloved Department as the scene of the classic battle between Good and Evil. Being on the front line of this millennia-old struggle of epic proportions can weigh heavily upon the shoulders of a staff member when they must inform halls of sick patients that the primordial gremlin has chewed a wire somewhere. How the sky trembles when the dreaded phrase has to cross the lips: “the machines are running behind”.

Not that patients can hear a trembling sky from within the subterranean, mercilessly windowless, fluorescently-lit box. Hence the mission of the knighted Dr. Brett E. Lewis, Chief Extraordinaire became all too apparent as he was plotting his escape to sunnier climes for the month of March. Gleefully planning a sun-drenched epoch in the land whereunto patients prostrate (sp?) themselves unto the God of Protons, our hero’s typically distracted attention was caught by a proverbial note pinned onto the door of the UF Proton Therapy Institute:

Room One: On Time
Room Two: On Time
Room Three: Ahead 15 minutes

From a distance of nine hundred miles, this mighty message of course shocked handsome locks ghostly white and singed fair face black, instantly transforming Dr. Lewis into a near-photonegative of his former self. Stumbling back to the safety of our resident “Q” (“double-oh-seven” not “Star Trek”), our hero collapsed into the audience of Professor Ning Yue, Master of All Things Physical. “Dayeinu!! Why Professor? Why must they run ahead of time? Is it not enough to have Protons ahead of us?” Our hero in tears. “Calm yourself, young sprite. Have I taught you nothing? Protons fly more slowly than photons. Therefore, a Proton gantry must run ahead of time in order to give the protons extra time to reach their target.” “Oh, I guess you’re right,” and the blood returned to his face as he left.

But the seed had been planted. The Master of All Things believed that Dr. Lewis had missed the point . . . and he began to think about a monitor in the patient waiting area, run by a secret Daemon, posting wait times for each room. Patients could receive email notifications of wait times sent periodically. A virtual Pandora’s box of possibility. Even Shushma Patel RT(T), Master of All Things Economical, found a glimmer in her eye. “Service!” Our Hero returned to his office, having found inner peace. “Beauty is in the eye of the beholder”.

- End-
### Clinical Radiation Oncology
- Molly Gabel, MD
  - Associate Professor and
  - Chief, Clinical Radiation Oncology
- Alan Cohen, MD
  - Instructor
- Sharad Goyal, MD
  - Instructor
- Salma Jabbour, MD
  - Assistant Professor
- Atif Khan, MD
  - Assistant Professor
- Assistant Professor
  - Assistant Professor
  - Assistant Professor
  - Instructor
  - Chief, Clinical Radiation Oncology
  - Associate Professor and
  - Associate Professor
  - Assistant Professor
- Dolly Razdan, MD
  - Assistant Professor
- Theraist
- Therapist
- Therapist
- Therapist
- Therapist
- Chief Therapist
- Director
- Post Doctoral Fellow
- Associate Professor
- Associate Professor
- 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 University Hospital:
    - Phone: 732-235-6181
    - Room 2038
    - The Cancer Institute of New Jersey
    - Department of Radiation Oncology
    - Room 2038
    - 195 Little Albany Street
    - New Brunswick, NJ 08901
    - Phone: 732-235-6181

### 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
- Lucy Bagley
  - Office Manager

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

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

### Radiation Cancer Biology (continued)
- Yanying Huo
  - Post Doctoral Fellow
- Camille Greene
  - Student Assistant
- Sonam Mebrotra
  - Post Doctoral Fellow
- Cen Zhang
  - Post Doctoral Fellow

### Clinical Services at University Hospital
- Carol Bacon, BSN
  - Head Nurse
- Rosalinda Bolcer, BSN
  - Nurse
- Eden Vargas, BSN
  - Nurse
- Alexander Jacobs, PhD
  - Chief Physicist
- Olga Laughton, 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
- Jenise Rodriguez, RT(T)
  - Therapist
- Vicki Lopes, RT(T)
  - Therapist
- Mark Soto, RT(T)
  - Therapist
- Juan Valencia
  - Principal Technologist Assistant
- Salida' Sudan
  - Administrative Coordinator
- Ann Cornick
  - Receptionist
- Harriet Jernquist
  - Social Worker

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On the web at: [http://www2.umdnj.edu/raoncweb/index.htm](http://www2.umdnj.edu/raoncweb/index.htm)