

WELCOME

Message from the Chair



Welcome to the end of Summer edition of the Radiation Oncology Newsletter. Things are kicking into high gear with the academic year in full swing. Our new residents have integrated into the team and many of our staff and faculty are preparing for their presentations at the upcoming ASTRO meeting in Boston later in September. Our upgrades at PCAM continue as 2 of our LINAC's have been replaced and proton room 5 is being upgraded to a dedicated Pencil Beam Scanning Room. We are also completing the long awaited proton research room this Fall with construction, installation of equipment, and the move of the small animal irradiator from John Morgan Building to the proton research room. We will be opening our new Cherry Hill facility this Fall, and many members of our team are working diligently for a successful opening—Thank you for all the hard work!! We are actively recruiting new faculty members for both academic and community positions, so expect to hear about new additions to the team in the coming months. It is great to see all the engagement of our staff and faculty in our patient programs which are highlighted in the following pages. I look forward to discussing our upcoming plans at our staff meetings and faculty retreats this Fall.

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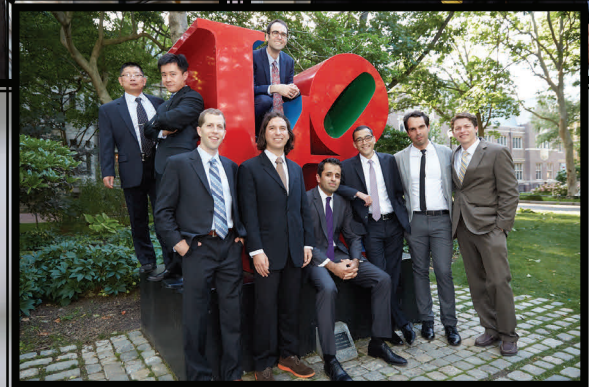
United States Senators Visit

As the city of Philadelphia hosted this year's Democratic National Convention 2016, the Department of Radiation Oncology welcomed state senators, **Heidi Heitkamp (ND)** and **Patrick Leahy (VT)** on July 27 and July 28. During their visit, the Senators toured the department and discussed the evolution and advances of radiation therapy.



You did it!
Congratulations

Resident Graduation Ceremony



Clinical Trials Day: May 20, 2016

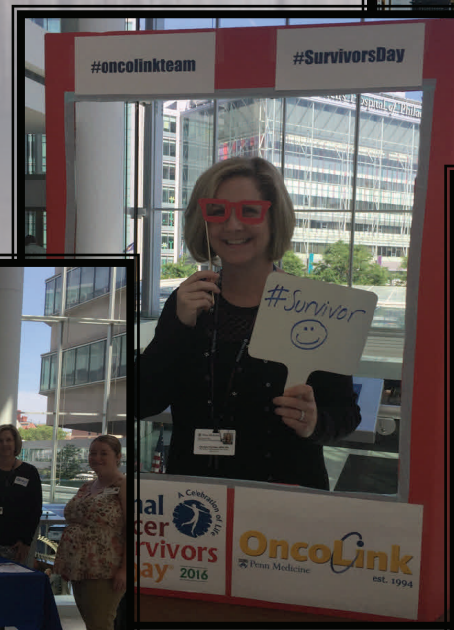
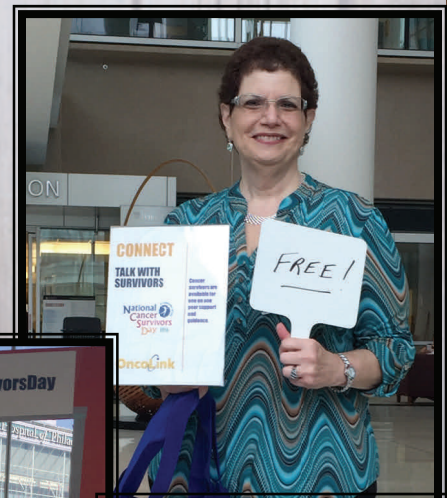


The Radiation Oncology research team celebrated Clinical Trials Day on May 20th by reaching out to patients to give them information about clinical trials. The event was sponsored by the Association of Clinical Research Professionals (ACRP). The ACRP supports clinical research professionals through membership, training and development, and certification. Founded in 1976, ACRP is a

Washington, DC-based non-profit organization with more than 13,000 members who work in clinical research in more than 70 countries.

National Cancer Survivors Day Celebration—June 2-6, 2016

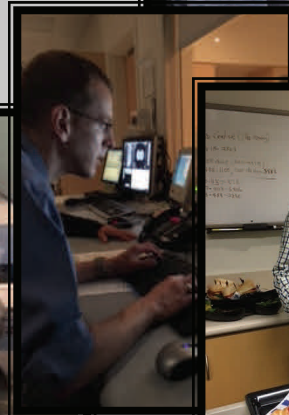
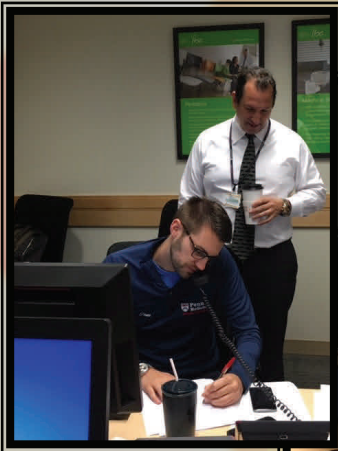
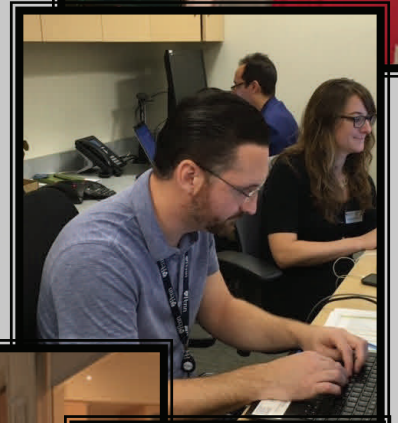
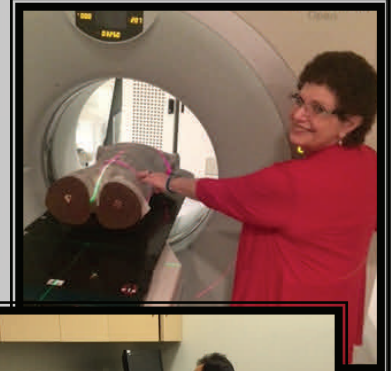
OncoLink celebrated National Cancer Survivors Day in the Perelman atrium on June 2, 3 and 6. Radiation Oncology staff, alumni patients and Finn, the therapy dog, were on hand to assist with the event which featured some fun events celebrating cancer survivorship! These events also highlighted some of the great services offered to the Abramson Cancer Center community. Patients and their caregivers were encouraged to participate in survivor's art projects and create a survivorship care plan!



Radiation Oncology IT Team and Staff Lead ARIA Upgrade

The Aria/Eclipse system went live on version 13.7 on August 22! The partnership between Information Technology (IT) and Radiation Oncology in all aspects of this major upgrade resulted in a successful implementation. The comprehensive planning and testing performed by the multi-disciplinary team culminated with an intense 6-day upgrade event that included system installation, a multi-faceted command center, super user support, and on-site vendor trainers for side-by-side support.

Penn Radiation Oncology is an early adopter of this version, which paves the way for new clinical capabilities. Thank you to all for your participation and support!



Congratulations to Therapy Career Ladder Achievements

Level IV: Highest Level of Achievement

Tamar Smith
Courtney Misher
Angela Natale
Giovanna Sorber

Level III: Second Highest Level of Achievement

Danielle Echols
Shannon James
Gwen Gardner



congratulations!

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

SUMMER 2016 NEWSLETTER

Welcome New Employees

Megan Lackaye, RN
Staff Nurse

Brianna MacMillan
Staff Assistant

Jessica Hemmons, MS
Clinical Research Coordinator

Jacob Shabason, MD
Instructor, Radiation Oncology

Tran Do
Dosimetrist/ Treatment Planner

Colleen Rosenblum, RTT
PRN Therapist

Kim Liberatore, MSN, RN
Senior Improvement Advisor

Michelle Sparrow, RN, MBA
Assistant COO

Andrew Mahle, MHA
Project Manager

Dimitris Mihailidis, PhD
Chief of Photon Physics

Jean-Claude Rwigema, MD
Instructor, Radiation Oncology

Elizabeth Azar
Dosimetrist/ Treatment Planner

MartJoel Racca
Patient Service Associate

Joseph Canavan, RN
Staff Nurse

Mary Cohen, RTT
Radiation Therapy Assist. Supervisor

Angelo Melendez
Project Coordinator

Jaclyn Marcell, PhD
Staff Medical Physicist

Ronghong Ma
Clinical Info Analyst

Linda Mas
Administrative Services Coordinator

Welcome

Promotions & Appointments

Patrick Tripp, MD

Chief, Radiation Oncology, Philadelphia VA Medical Center

Charles Simone, MD

Associate Professor

Michelle Alonso-Basanta, MD

Director of Quality Assurance for the Department of Radiation Oncology

You did it!
Congratulations

You did it!
Congratulations

Awards/Grants/Recognition

Chavanon Apinorasethkul

Scored in the top 3 Plan Competition for Prostate SBRT (Joint competition sponsored by Proknow and the AAM.

Cordelia Baffic

Appointed Member of ACGME Coordinator Advisory Council (One of only 12 members, Chosen out of 200 nominations and out of 9,000 residency programs)

Jennifer Vogel, MD (Resident PI), Abigail Berman, MD (Faculty Mentor)

Research Project Award of \$5,000 FY 17 Funds for "IMAGING OF IN VIVO SIGMA-2 RECEPTOR EXPRESSION WITH POSITRON EMISSION TOMOGRAPHY (PET/CT) IN SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER"

Charles Simone, MD and Peter Bloch, PhD

NIH R41 Grant: Automated Object Contouring Methods & Software for Thoracic Radiotherapy Planning

Cordelia Baffic

Appointed Member of ACGME Coordinator Advisory Council

Meg Garrett, RN

Daisy Award

Fern Nibauer-Cohen

Selected as one of the final 21 winning ideas for New Patient Pavilion: "Quality of Life Space"

Penn Radiation Oncology Department Annual Research Retreat

CALL for ABSTRACTS

Penn Radiation Oncology is calling for scientific abstracts in association with its Annual Research Retreat.

Please submit abstracts to Chiharu Sako: Chiharu.Sako@uphs.upenn.edu

Abstracts are due by Friday, September 23, 2016. Abstracts will be reviewed for inclusion for either oral or poster presentation and are encouraged from all areas of Radiation Oncology research.

Finally, although there will be no cost to attend the retreat, we are asking for your registration for the catering count.

Please click this link to register: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6HWBJF9>

Penn Head and Neck Cancer Survivor's Group
15th Anniversary

The Penn Head and Neck Cancer Survivor's Group is celebrating their 15 year Anniversary on October 5, 2016. The group is the Philadelphia/ NJ Chapter Support group of SPOHNC(Support for People with Oral and Head and Neck Cancer).

During the meeting in October the group will hold a celebration and pay tribute to the group's founder Micki Naimoli who passed away this July. Tracy Lautenbach, MSW,LCSW,OSW-C, Social Work, is the facilitator of the Support Group and has been involved with the group for the past 7 years.



Penn Medicine Experience Week 2016

Penn Medicine Experience week is **October 10th through October 14th**. Throughout the year, many of our colleagues do outstanding work to improve the patient experience in their practice. This is an opportunity to nominate and recognize the individuals, teams, managers and providers who really stand out.

Below you will find a link to submit your nominations for CPUP Employee of the Year, CPUP Manager of the Year, CPUP Team of the Year and a new award this year, CPUP Provider of the Year.

Winners will be recognized with an individual or group cash award, and all nominators will be entered into a drawing for three surprise gifts. **Nominations will end on September 20th, 2016.**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q5QSMGW>

Upcoming Nursing Events

Oncology Nursing Update Conference

Saturday September 17 , 2016

Nursing Retreat

Saturday October 1, 2016 (PCAM Nurses)

The retreat will include establishing groundwork for Radiation Oncology Shared Governance and Teambuilding.

Penn Medicine Cherry Hill Opening

Penn Medicine Cherry Hill, NJ will be celebrating their grand opening in November 2016. The upgraded facility will feature many state of the art amenities including a True Beam Linear Accelerator.



PENN RADIATION ONCOLOGY



You are Cordially Invited to

Penn Radiation Oncology Reception

ASTRO 2016

Monday, September 26, 2016

7:00– 11:00 PM

Skywalk Observatory

800 Boylston Street, Prudential Tower, NW-Floor 50

Boston



Announcements

SUMMER 2016 NEWSLETTER



This three-day program enables radiation oncology practitioners and administrators to learn about the applications of proton therapy to help assess the potential of incorporating proton therapy at their institution.

With the increased availability and accessibility of the technology of proton therapy, there is an expanding need for qualified staff. The program features Penn Medicine experts from each specialty who will provide an insider's perspective of the current and future potentials of proton therapy.



Friday, November 18, 2016 - Sunday, November 20, 2016

Arthur H. Rubenstein Auditorium
Smilow Center for Translational Research
Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine

<http://protontherapycourse.cvent.com/events/annual-course-on-proton-therapy/event-summary-c52b21c98fcf41cc975c97cab628ffc4.aspx>

Rewards and Recognition *Department Happy Hour*

On behalf of the Rewards and Recognition Committee, RadOnc faculty and staff were treated to a department happy hour at Landmark Americana on May 20, 2016. The event featured catered food and drinks for all to enjoy!





Ice Cream Social—June 24, 2016

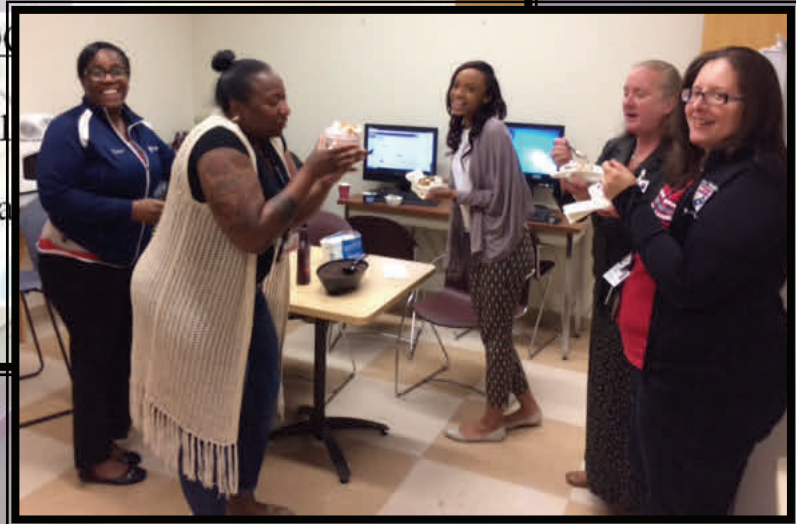
On behalf of the Rewards & Recognition Committee,
Thank you for your hard work & dedication!

Join us for Penn Radiation Oncology's

Ice Cream Social

When: 06/24/2016 from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Where: CN Level Break Room



Faculty and staff were treated to an afternoon of ice-cream on June 24 on behalf of the Rewards and Recognition Committee as a thank you for all of their contributions and hard work to the department.



Happy Birthday Finn

Finn, our therapy dog celebrated his birthday on August 11 surrounded by patients, staff and friends.



Penn Clinical Trials in Oncology Course and Workshop

Penn Clinical Trials in Oncology Course and Workshop

Register Online: <http://penncmeonline.com/oncology/node/66949>

PENN CLINICAL TRIALS IN ONCOLOGY COURSE AND WORKSHOP OCTOBER 20-21, 2016

A CME-CERTIFIED COURSE



Trainees who register early will be eligible to apply for a Trainee Merit Travel Award.

Trainees and Attending Physicians:
Please fill out the registration questions so we can assign appropriate small-group workshops.

LOCATION: Arthur H. Rubenstein Auditorium, Smilow Center for Translational Research

Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania | 3400 Civic Center Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19104

Welcome Dr. JC Rwigema!

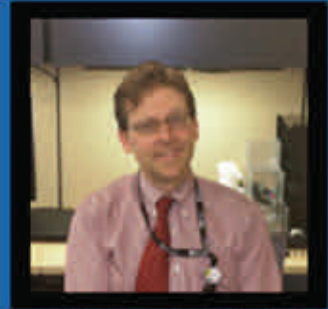
A warm welcome to Dr. JC Rwigema, who is here as an Instructor of Radiation Oncology. He will be with us for one year on a fellowship in partnership with the Mayo Clinic to train on proton therapy. Jean-Claude recently completed his residency at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, where he served as Chief resident in 2015-2016. He received his Medical Degree from the University of Pittsburgh and also holds undergraduate degrees in chemistry and chemical engineering.

Welcome New Medical/Medical Physics Residents

Please join us in welcoming the new Residents to the
Department of Radiation Oncology!



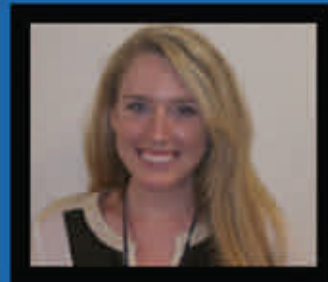
Ruben Carmona, MD, MS, Medical Resident
University of California, San Diego



Derek Dolney, PhD, Medical Physics Resident
University of Pennsylvania



Amardeep Grewal, MD, Medical Resident
Harvard Medical School



Shannon O'Reilly, PhD, Medical Physics Resident
University of Florida



Varsha Jain, MD, DE, Medical Resident
Perelman School of Medicine
at the University of Pennsylvania



Ching-Ling Teng, PhD, Medical Physics Resident
University of Virginia



Michael LaRiviere, MD, Medical Resident
Emory University School of Medicine



Yunhe Xie, PhD, Medical Physics Resident
Brown University

Flynn Oncology Nursing Fellowship Program

The Susan D. Flynn Oncology Nursing Fellowship Program was developed by Fred Flynn as a lasting legacy to his wife who died of ovarian cancer. The eight week program is intended to help stimulate the career interest and foster the professional development of potential Oncology Nurses through various learning experiences here at Penn Medicine. The 8 week program ran from June 6th - July 29th. The Fellowship enhances the student's core clinical education through direct observation of Oncology patient care and exposure to related patient care duties. The three students selected for the 2016 program were Mia Alexander and Anna Wilcoxon from The University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, and Kimberly Nowakowski from Villanova University.



Each Fellow had the opportunity to work with preceptors/mentors on Rhoads 3, 6, and 7 on developing an Evidence Based Practice Project about their topic of interest related to Oncology. Projects were shared as a professional presentation with their peers and members of nursing leadership during the Closing Ceremony of the program.



This enriching experience will involve classroom and skills lab, as well as special experiences which include: Radiation Oncology, MICU, Oncology Infection Control, Caring Way, Spiritual Care, Endoscopy, Ambulatory Palliative Care, Chemotherapy Infusion Suites, Abramson Cancer Center Nurse Navigation, Quality and Safety, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Inpatient Palliative Care, Wissahickon Hospice, the Hematology-Oncology Bone Marrow Clinic, as well as observing patient stem cell collection in the Operating Room.

Diversity and Inclusion Symposium at AAPM August 3, 2016

Stephen Avery, PhD, organized a symposium on Diversity and Inclusion in Medical Physics on August 3rd at the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) annual meeting this year. Below are the objectives and schedule of the program.

Learning objectives:

1. The role diversity and inclusion plays in medical physics.
2. Developing education and research strategies for a global workforce.
3. Roadmap to diversity excellence within AAPM.

Program Agenda

- ◆ Opening Session (Avery/Ngwa) UPenn/Harvard
- ◆ Welcome (Bruce Curran) President of AAPM
- ◆ Definition of D&I/AAPM efforts (Avery/Ngwa)
- ◆ D&I in Physics (Hammer) American Institute of Physics
- ◆ D&I in NIH (Chew) Director - NIH office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- ◆ D&I in Latin America (Laguardia) Higher Institute of Technologies and Applied Sciences (InSTEC - Havana, Cuba)
- ◆ D&I in Africa (Ngoma) Muhimbili University of Health and Applied Sciences (MUHAS - Dar es Salaam, Tanzania)
- ◆ Pathway to developing D&I program at AAPM (Higginbotham) Vice Dean for Diversity and Inclusion (PSOM - UPenn)



Penn Medical Physics in East Africa

Stephen Avery, PhD, received pilot funds from Penn Global to organize a six-week continuing education course on quality assurance of radiation therapy, which was offered at Ocean Road Cancer Institute (Dar es Salaam, Tanzania) in March 2016. Twenty-five students registered for the course, which was taught by instructors from Penn, Harvard and Muhimbili University. The ultimate goal of this partnership is to create a MSc program in Medical Physics in East Africa.

A program offering an MSc in Medical Physics is not available at any university in East and Central Africa. The program could recruit students from the neighboring countries: Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Malawi, Zambia DRC, Rwanda, South Sudan and Central Africa Republic. The Ocean Road Cancer Institute in the near future will be equipped with Varian Linear Accelerators, a CT-simulator and other modern facilities; appropriate training and practical sessions for medical physics are desperately needed.



Penn Medicine Department of Radiation Oncology has been awarded the KAPE “Commitment Award” based on our description of practice against the Baldrige Framework Criteria.

In January 2016 we filed an “intent” letter that formalized our journey in using the Baldrige Excellence Framework, and submitted our application March 2016.

The Baldrige Framework helps organizations answer three questions:

Is your organization doing as well as it could? How do you know? What should your organization improve or change?

The main focus of the Baldrige Framework is to manage all components of the organization as a unified whole to achieve ongoing success by focusing on core values and concepts, and seven interrelated criteria categories.

1. Leadership	5. Workforce
2. Strategy	6. Operations
3. Customer	7. Results
4. Measure, Analysis and Knowledge Management	

The first step is an assessment of our practice by the state organization. This is KAPE: Keystone Alliance for Performance Excellence. <http://www.keystonealliance.com/recognition-tiers/>

The award comes with feedback which we will use to develop our improvement plan to bring us to improved excellence levels and submission for the next award level.

Use this link to learn more about the Baldrige Framework: <http://www.nist.gov/baldrige/enter/index.cfm>

Thank you for everything you do every day to support our mission and ensure that excellence is standard.



OncoLink Jr.

Cancers that affect children are different than those that occur in adults. These cancers are treated differently and there are different concerns about side effects, based on a child’s age and stage of development.

OncoLink Jr. provides information about:

- ♦ **Pediatric Cancers**
- ♦ **Managing Practical, Emotional and Development Concerns**
- ♦ **Managing Side Effects**
- ♦ **Resources for Pediatric Cancer Support**



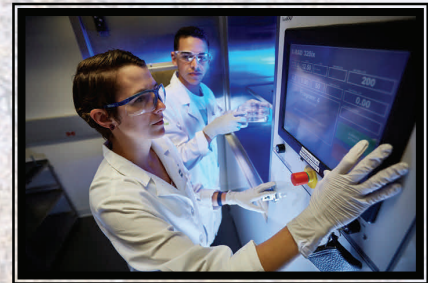
Welcome:

The Research Division welcomes Nektaria-Maria Leli as a new visiting PhD Graduate Student in the lab of Dr. Koumenis.

Congratulations:

The 2016 SUPERS program came to a close on Wednesday, August 3 with the end-of-the-program retreat where each of the fourteen SUPERS students presented a summary of their own hypothesis-driven research project. Student projects included research in molecular radiobiology, photodynamic therapy, proton dosimetry and nuclear medicine and PET imaging. In addition to their own hands-on lab experience, students took part in lectures and research discussions led by many of our faculty, as well as faculty from the departments of Radiology and Bioengineering. As the keynote speaker for the event, Dr. Michelle Alonso-Basanta from Penn Radiation Oncology described how her experiences as an undergraduate piqued her interest in a career as a clinician scientist. 2016 represented the 7th summer for the SUPERS program, to date SUPERS has graduated 80 alumni and the vast majority, nearly 90%, have gone on to graduate and/or medical school.

Jose Mendoza-Sierra (SUPERS student, Univ. of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras) and Sarah Hagan (research specialist, Cengel lab) are using x-rays to irradiate plates of malignant cells for clonogenic assays.



Cassandra Houser (SUPERS student, Loyola University, Baltimore) and Richard Davis (postdoctoral fellow, Busch laboratory) are using laser light to treat dishes of cancer cells with photodynamic therapy.

Pictured are SUPERS student Bruna Batista-Bittencourt (Univ, Federal de Ciências de Saúde de Porto Alegre, Brazil) and Dr. Diego Gier (postdoctoral fellow, Dorsey/Kao lab) precisely measuring out a sample containing circulating tumor cells to isolate DNA.



2016 SUPERS students pictured with Dr. Eve Higginbotham, Vice Dean for Inclusion and Diversity at the Perelman School of Medicine. Dr. Higginbotham shared her own formative experiences as an undergrad while stressing the importance of diversity and inclusion to the future of research and medicine in the biomedical research community.



Research Retreat—October 14, 2016

The Research Division invites everyone to the upcoming Radiation Oncology Departmental Retreat to be held on **October 14, 2016** from 8:00am to 5:00pm in the Rubenstein Auditorium, 1st floor, Smilow Center for Translational Research. Featuring Keynote Speaker: **Fei-Fei Liu, MD, FRCPC**, Senior Scientist and Scientific Division Head at Princess Margaret Cancer Center. A call for abstracts for presentations and posters will be sent out in September. More information to come.

Save the Dates: Radiation Oncology Research Division Invited Speaker Seminar Series: 2016/2017

September 29, 2016
Imran Rizvi, PhD
Assistant Professor
Dept. of Dermatology
Harvard Medical School
Research: Bioengineering,
Photodynamic Therapy, Quantitative
Optical Imaging

October 6, 2016
Paul Fox, PhD
Professor
Dept. of Cellular and Molecular Medicine
Cleveland Clinic
Research: Inflammation, Translational Control, Metabolism

October 27, 2016
Zhiyuan Shen, MD, PhD
Professor and Chief
Radiation Oncology
Rutgers Cancer Institute
Research: Genomic Instability,
DNA Repair, Cell Cycle Checkpoint,
Radiation Biology

January 26, 2017
David Gius, MD, PhD
Professor
Radiation Oncology and
Pharmacology
Northwestern University
Research: Aging, Breast Cancer,
Digestive System Cancer, Lung injury

February 23, 2017
David S. Yu, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor
Radiation Oncology
Emory University
Research: Cancer Genetics and Epigenetics

March 16, 2017
Eric J. Bernhard, PhD
Chief
Radiotherapy Development Branch
NCI/ NIH
Research: Cellular immunology, Tumor Metastasis, Tumor Radiosensitization

March 23, 2017
Shi-yuan Cheng, MD, PhD
Professor
Neurology
Northwestern University
Research: Angiogenesis, Brain tumor, Metabolism, Signal Transduction, Stem Cells

April 27, 2017
Albert Koong, MD, PhD
Professor, Associate Chair Radiation Oncology
Stanford Cancer Institute
Research: Hypoxia, Unfolded Protein Response, Radiation Oncology

May 25, 2017
Eileen P. Connolly, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor
Radiation Oncology
Columbia University Medical Center
Research: Pediatric Cancer, Breast Cancer, GKS, IRT, PI3K/Akt Pathways

June 22, 2017
Kevin A. Camphausen, MD
Chief
Radiation Oncology Branch
NCI/ NIH
Research: Radiotherapy, HDAC, Radiation Sensitizers, Biomarkers, Glioblastoma Multiforme, Prostate Cancer

June 29, 2017
Brian Pogue, PhD
Professor
Engineering Sciences
Co-Director
Center for Imaging Medicine
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center
Research: Biomedical Imaging, Molecular
Guided Surgery, Dose Imaging, Cherenkov Light Imaging

For More Information go to:

<http://www.xrt.upenn.edu/InvitedSpeakerSeminar.shtml>

We hope to see you there!

Doylestown Celebrates Survivor's Day



Dr. Rate and Gina Wierzbowski, RN from Doylestown celebrate Survivor's Day . Patients were given t-shirts, water bottles and tote bags in addition to some sweet treats!

Chestnut Hill Celebrates Survivor's Day



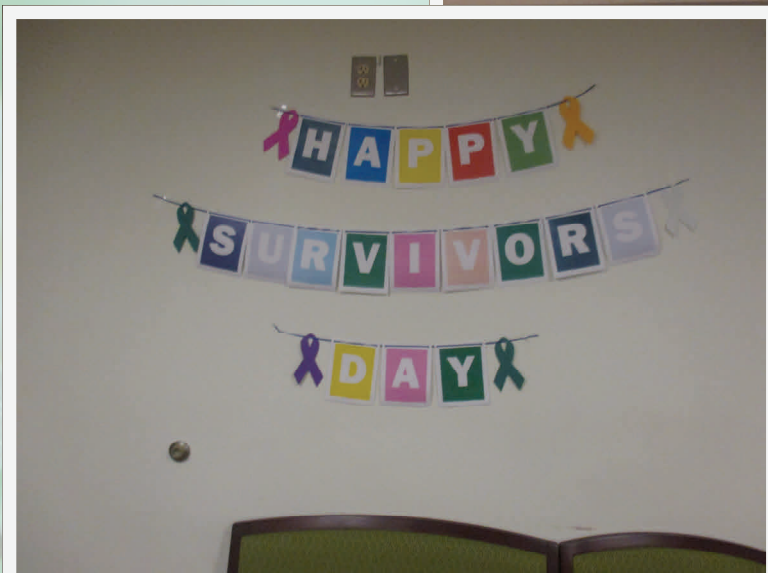
Chestnut Hill's faculty and staff celebrated Survivor's Day filled with a fun day of balloons, cake and snacks. Pictured: Dr. Grizos (bottom photo on right), Linda Philip (top photo in middle) and Nikki Marcino (top photo right).



Pennsylvania Hospital Celebrates Survivor's Day

Pennsylvania Hospital celebrated Cancer Survivor's Day on Friday, June 3rd by providing patients with light breakfast and light lunch. All patients received a PAH Radiation Oncology gift bag that included: Relay for Life pins, HOPE tumblers and pencils, No One Fights Alone bracelets and a National Cancer Survivors Day shirt.

The staff decorated the department and had a free raffle for patients to participate in to have a chance to win a free gift basket. They also had a "Wall of Encouragement" where patients wrote notes of encouragement for each other.



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