

PROTON RADIATION THERAPY

In the summer of 2006 treatment started at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Treatment and now the University of Florida Shads Medical Center in Jacksonville is offering photon therapy. Prior to the opening of these facilities, the United States had only 4 proton centers; the Francis H. Burr Proton Therapy Center at Massachusetts General Hospital, Loma Linda University (the first in the U.S.), UC Davis Proton Facility operated by UC San Francisco Department of Radiation Oncology in Sacramento, California and Midwest Proton Radiotherapy Institute at Indiana University. Proton therapy, like all forms of radiotherapy, works by aiming energetic ionizing particles (in this case photons) into the target tumor. These particles damage the DNA of cells and ultimately cause their death. Due to the Bragg Peak effect, most of the beam energy is released in a small area, reducing damage to surrounding healthy tissue. Modification of the beam is possible to determine the correct depth. Photon beam radiosurgery has proven successful in treating not only cranial lesions but chordomas, chondrosarcomas and ocular lesions. Proton beam is not only used for rare and difficult areas to treat but for other common cancer areas such as prostate and lung. At least 44,000 patients have been treated with photon therapy. Not everyone is a candidate for this type of radiation oncology treatment especially when the cost is three times regular radiation treatments. This type of treatment has been beneficial for children where long term effects are of great concern. Treatment is sponsored by the National Cancer Institute at Massachusetts General Hospital to meet the increased medical demand for high precision radiation therapy.

EDWARD F. MAHER, ScD, CHP AWARD RECIPIENT

Edward F. Maher, ScD, CHP, has been named to the 2006 Fellow Class of the Health Physics Society. This special honor recognizes Maher's "significant contributions to the profession of health physics".

A 13 year resident of Acton, MA, Maher has more than 29 years of experience conducting and managing radiological, safety and environmental protection programs for the private sector and the Federal government, including the Departments of Energy and Defense. He is a retired U.S. Air Force Colonel with extensive experience in designing, developing and implementing nuclear, biological and chemical warfare defense strategies.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Visit the NECHPS website at www.nechps.org for information about other local professional society meetings that are scheduled for the upcoming months.

MEN AND CELL PHONES

Beware men if you are using cell phones and want to have children. Fox News reports a recent study done at the Cleveland Clinic has shown men using cell phones for prolonged periods of time have a reduced sperm count. The average sperm count is 86 millions per milliliter. Using cell phones for two hours reduces the sperm count by 13%, using cell phones for 2-4 hours reduces sperm count by 21%. Men using their cell phones for more than four hours a day had the lowest average sperm count being reduced by 30%. Rebecca Sokol, M.D., Ph.D., president of the Society of Male Reproduction and Urology and an infertility professor at the University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine, stated none of these suspected environmental influences has been proven to influence male fertility. More conclusive studies have to be made.

CLEAN WATER

Fox news reported in August, 2006 that "The Material Girl thinks a mystical material can clean up radioactive waste". Madonna and her husband, film maker Guy Ritchie, both followers of the Jewish spiritual movement Kaballah, have lobbied the British government to use the magic water-based liquid which they say was successfully tested in a Russian lake. The Kaballah center based in California, believes water can be given magical healing powers through meditation and the consciousness of sharing". Her campaign was bogged down in bureaucracy.

NEW MEMBERS

If you know anyone who wants to join NECHPS, tell him/her to visit the website (www.nechps.org) or contact Mike Leal at mleal@oro.fda.gov. Student members are always welcome and remember, student membership is free!

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Members are reminded that you should pay your dues as soon as possible to ensure that your membership status remains in good standing. Dues are \$10.00 a year, however, a payment of \$40.00 will earn you 5 years of Chapter membership.

NEW ADDRESS

To change your address or contact information, visit the NECHPS website at www.nechps.org. Up to date information will ensure accurate entries for everyone in the NECHPS Membership Directory.

NECHPS MEETING NOTICE AFFILIATES APPRECIATION NIGHT

Date: Wednesday, December 13, 2006
Location: Montvale Plaza
54 Montvale Avenue
Stoneham, MA 02180
Time: 5:00 p.m. Registration/Cash Bar/Exhibits
6:30 p.m. Buffet Dinner
Menu: Hand Carved Baked Ham
Homemade Stuffed Shells
Mini Stuffed Breast of Chicken
Eggplant Parmesan
Rice Pilaf or Delmonico Potato
Green Beans Almondine
Fresh Tossed Mixed Greens Salad
Dinner Rolls and Butter
Cookies and Brownies
Coffee-Assorted Teas

Cost: \$33.00 Members, \$43.00 Guests and \$10.00 Students

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 1, 2006

Cancellations must be made before December 1 or you are responsible for payment.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Mail registration (with check to NECHPS) to:

Jim Cherniack
11 Datillo Road
Derry NH 03038
OR
Email: james.cherniack@fda.hhs.gov
OR
Call (781) 29-5700 x 713 (Jim Cherniack)