

Radiation Oncology Beam

Volume 1, Issue 5

"Emitting particles of information that matter"

April 2008

Important Dates



APR/MAY/JUN 2008

Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs

Various Funding Opportunities

Deadline: April 16, 2008 (pre-application)

<http://cdmnp.army.mil/funding/bcrp.htm>

Annual Disclosure Forms for Scholarly Capacity (Nov 19, 2007—Dec 31, 2007)

Due: April 30, 2008

Grand Rounds

Jonathan P.S. Knisely, M.D.
Associate Professor and Co-Director

Yale-New Haven Gamma Knife Center

May 6, 2008

ACGME Radiation Oncology Residency Review Site Visit

May 19, 2008

NIH—New applications

Various Funding Opportunities

Deadline: June 5 and 16 2008

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/submissionschedule.htm>

Grand Rounds

Nancy Y. Lee, MD
Assistant Attending Physician
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

June 10, 2008

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Radiation Oncology expands Brachytherapy Services

Dr. Atif Khan is working to develop a modern brachytherapy practice in the Department of Radiation Oncology at CINJ/RWJUH to serve as a major center of excellence and expertise in brachytherapy in the Central Jersey area. His major goal in developing this program is to collaborate with surgical and medical oncologists to identify patients who could potentially benefit from the unique properties of brachytherapy.

Brachytherapy refers to the therapeutic use of encapsulated radioactive sources within or close to a tumor or tumor bed; it has the unique ability to deliver high doses of radiation therapy in and around the implanted volume while sparing the surrounding tissues from radiation due to the rapid fall-off of radiation dose from the sources. Because of this physical property, brachytherapy can deliver dose in a very conformal way to complex targets while delivering minimal dose to adjacent tissues, a feat that can be difficult to accomplish with

even the most sophisticated external beam radiation therapy techniques.

Since Dr. Khan's arrival in September 2007, the Department of Radiation Oncology has treated a wide array of disease sites with brachytherapy, including intraluminal therapy for endobronchial lesions, esophageal lesions and biliary lesions, permanent interstitial iodine implants in the thorax (for resected non-small cell lung cancer), and abdomen (for a resected retroperitoneal sarcoma), and permanent prostate seed brachytherapy. In collaboration with Dr. Molly Gabel, the program leader for gynecologic radiation oncology, the Department of Radiation Oncology also began a high-dose rate gynecological brachytherapy program.

Dr. Khan's current research interests focus on the delivery of radiation therapy after breast conserving therapy. Dr. Khan has developed protocols examining novel fractionation schemes for partial and

whole breast radiotherapy after lumpectomy. The partial breast radiation therapy



Dr. Atif Khan

will be delivered by an intracavitary brachytherapy balloon device such as the MammoSite™ device. Recent information indicates that breast cancer may be as sensitive to increases in fraction size (the dose of radiation delivered per treatment session) as normal tissues, and this property can be exploited to develop novel fractionation schemes to reduce overall treatment times. These protocols should open in the summer of 2008 and are part of a comprehensive breast cancer research program in the Department of Radiation Oncology at CINJ.

For more information please contact Dr. Atif Khan at 732.253.3939.

Clinic Update

Total Skin Electron Beam Therapy Program

The Total Skin Electron Beam Therapy (TSEBT) program will be utilized in the management of patients with cutaneous lymphoma as well as several other disorders. This service will be offered in the Department of Radiation Oncology later this month. Quality assurance is a critical feature in the delivery of such technically complicated therapy, and the departmental radiation physics and dosimetry staff members will be an integral part of the program.

Patients will be seen in consultation by Dr. Alan Cohler who

will be leading the program at the Department of Radiation Oncology. The clinical visit will be organized in such a manner that patients will become familiar with our cutaneous lymphoma program. Additional clinical support may be required, based on specific treatment recommendations. A nursing educational session will provide patients with information describing the TSEBT program and what they may expect from treatment; this will be provided during the initial consultation visit. Patients will receive detailed written information, references and concepts that are

presented and reviewed during their first consultation visit.

Our treatment facility is state of the art with multiple radiotherapeutic modalities, which will incorporate (TSEBT) into the management of patients with cutaneous lymphoma. Approximately 10 - 12 patients with cutaneous lymphoma are expected to be evaluated in the first year in the Department of Radiation Oncology. The standard course of TSEBT is provided over 9 weeks, 4 days per week, approximately 1 hour per day.

For more information please contact Dr. Alan Cohler at 732.253.3958.

Residents' Corner



Residents will continue the current rotation schedule through July 4, 2008. The team format is as follows:

Team A - Drs. Haffty & Gabel, Dorothy Pierce, Matt Poppe
 Team B - Drs. Khan & Cohler, Jayne Camporeale, Brett Lewis
 Team C - Dr. Jabbour & Sabin Motwani; Dr. Kim & Parima Daroui

Research Elective – Sharad Goyal
 Sharad Goyal was a recipient of a one week HDR Brachytherapy fellowship sponsored by the American Brachytherapy Society and Nucleation for the Fall of 2008. His article entitled, "Improvement in Dose Homogeneity with Electronic Tissue Compensation Over IMRT and Conventional RT In Whole Brain Radiotherapy" was accepted for publication by Radiotherapy & Oncology.

Brett Lewis will present a poster entitled "Dosimetric Comparison of Electronic Compensation (EC) and Inversely-Planned IMRT (IPIMRT) for the Intact Breast after Breast Conserving Surgery" at the Radium Society being held in Laguna Niguel, CA between May 3 - 7, 2008. Brett recently had a letter to the editor accepted for publication in the Journal of Clinical Oncology entitled, "On Equipoise and Emerging Technologies."

Parima Daroui will be attending the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Annual Meeting in San Diego, Ca in April 2008.



SNAPSHOTS

Excerpts of Excellence from the Rad Onc Team

Dallas Sanchez has been named to the 2008 New Jersey All-State Academic Team by the New Jersey Council of County Colleges. She is one of 33 people acknowledged for their outstanding accomplishments as County College students and will be inducted into Phi Theta Kappa's honor society on Thursday May 1 at the Lafayette Yard Marriott Hotel in Trenton.

Jisseelle Nater will once again represent the Radiation Oncology department as Team Captain in the 2008 American Heart Walk. Jisseelle has volunteered over the past 5 years and raised over \$4,000 for the cause. The walk will take place at the Middlesex County College, Sunday, May 4, 2008.

Sabin Motwani, MD was the winner in the contest held by the Beam to pick a new slogan for the newsletter. His entry, "Emitting particles of information that matter" is the new tag line for the Beam and earned him a bottle of wine and lunch at Stage Left with the Beam staff.

Radiation Oncology At Large

Presentations:

Ning J. Yue, PhD

Varian Research Partners Symposium. Abstract: Energy Spectrum Based Calculation of the Half and the Tenth Value Layers for Brachytherapy Sources Using a Semi-Empirical Parameterized Mass Attenuation Coefficient Formulism, Austin, TX, April 2008

Bruce Haffty, MD

National Consortium of Breast Centers Annual Meeting. Post Mastectomy Radiation; Should I offer my patient immediate reconstruction. Las Vegas, NV March 2008

National Consortium of Breast Centers Annual Meeting, Current Status of Partial Breast Irradiation. Las Vegas, NV, March 2008

New York Roentgen Society Annual Spring Meeting. Post-mastectomy radiation-

current controversies. New York, NY April 2008.

Fellowships:

Sharad Goyal, MD:

Selected for the 2008 HDR Fellowship co-sponsored by the American Brachytherapy Society and Nucleation.

Applications:

Ning J. Yue, PhD, PI. Gated Radiation Therapy Based on Registration of Fluoroscopy and 4D Computed Tomography. NIH, Total \$171,600. March 2008

Bing Xia, PhD, PI. The PALB2-BRCA2 pathway in genome integrity control and tumor suppression. ACS, Total \$957,892. April 2008.

Publications:

Jayne Camporeale. Basics of Radiation Therapy. Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing. 2008 April.

Ning J.Yue, Sukmoon Chang, Bruce G. Haffty, Sung Kim, Salma Jabbour, Jinhao Zhou, Dimitris Metaxas. Image registration between fluoroscopic image and (4D) CT images and its potential use in determination of radiation beam gating parameters. Medical Physics Journal

Haffty BG, Buchholz TA, McCormick B. Should IMRT Be the Standard of Care in the Conservatively Managed Breast Cancer Patient? J Clin Oncol. 2008 Feb 19;

Haffty BG, Yang Q, Moran MS, Tan AR, Reiss M. Estrogen-Dependent Prognostic Significance of Cyclooxygenase-2 Expression in Early-Stage Invasive Breast Cancers Treated with Breast-Conserving Surgery and Radiation. Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys. 2008 Feb 8;

New Recruits and Milestones

Radiation Oncology welcomes three new members to the department:

Fatimah Ahmed Alfaraj, Visiting Research Scholar. Fatimah will be working with Dr. Kim over the next year on radiation oncology research projects. She will assist with research proposal development and protocol design and will facilitate new and retrospective studies. Fatimah earned a BS in Medicine and Surgery from the College of Medicine at King Faisal University in Saudi Arabia.

Yanying Huo, Post Doctoral Fellow Dr. Huo received her PhD degree in Radiation Biology and Toxicology from the Beijing Institute of Radiation Medicine. Dr. Huo's previous research activities were related to the mechanisms of radiation carcinogenesis and genomic instability. She has published more than 40 papers in these areas, both in English and Chinese. Her most recent works were on the de-regulation of TGF-beta signal pathway in radiation induced malignant transformation, and the roles of PTEN tumor suppressor in maintaining genomic integrity. Dr. Huo has a solid background in radiation biology and molecular biology. She will work on post-translational modifications of proteins involved in homologous recombination repair of DNA double strand breaks, replication stress, and cell cycle regulation in Dr. Shen's lab.

Sherrie (June) Shackelford, RN, OCN is our new Research Nurse Clinician, and will be working on Tuesdays and Thursdays to support the clinical research needs of the Department of Radiation Oncology. She has 26 years of nursing experience, including over 10 years as the Nurse Manager of Warren Radiation Therapy Center in Warren, NJ.

Special Delivery

On Friday March 21, 2008, at 5 a.m. Dr. Atif Khan and his wife, Rabab, welcomed their first child, a baby boy.



He weighed in at 6 lbs 10 oz and was a lanky 19 inches tall. He is named Faris which means chivalrous knight.

Congratulations and best wishes to the Khan family!

"Every baby born into the world is a finer one than the last" ~ Charles Dickens

Sherrie has worked as a research nurse in the past at CINJ as part of the CINJOG statewide research network, and most recently in that role at St. Peter's University Hospital. She is a member of the ONS Radiation Therapy and Clinical Trials Special Interest Groups, as well as a member of ASTRO.

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

Michael McKenna, MD—5 years
Venkat Narra, PhD—4 years



Update—UMDNJ Policies **Scholarly Capacity Rule —** **How it Applies to You**

What is Scholarly Capacity?

The Scholarly Capacity Rule was created in recognition of the unique nature of the academic setting and the difficulty inherent in defining official duties for faculty and researchers at NJ State Colleges and Universities. It is intended to provide more flexibility for faculty and/or employees at state academic institutions. The rule took effect on Nov 19, 2007.

The State of New Jersey defines scholarly capacity as any pedagogical, academic, artistic, educational or scholarly activity performed by an employee for the institution of higher education that employs or has appointed such employee.

Examples of scholarly capacity include participating in or making presentations at colloquia, seminars, conferences, or similar scholarly gatherings/activities (for example NIH study section) to further achieve the mission

of the University.

Direct and Indirect Benefits

When acting in scholarly capacity, you may receive direct or indirect benefits.

Direct benefits include acceptance of meals, accommodation, waiver of conference, event or other fees associated with attending the event for which no payment is made by the University.

Indirect benefits include acceptance of reimbursement from the sponsor for the costs of travel, meals, accommodation, event fees, or any other costs associated with attending the event for which no payment is made by the University.

You are required to disclose annually all benefits received, direct and indirect, when acting in scholarly capacity.

Process — When Acting in Scholarly Capacity

When you attend an event in a scholarly capacity, follow these steps:

1. Fill out the new Attendance at Events form for record keeping and submit a copy to the department as

notification.

2. If travel is involved, fill out the necessary University travel forms
3. Maintain records of your direct or indirect benefits, compensations and other types of awards received from your sponsors.
4. On an annual basis, complete a disclosure form. Copies of your disclosure forms must be retained by the Department for 5 years.

Process — When Not Acting in Scholarly Capacity

When you attend an event but do not act in scholarly capacity, for example, attendance at an annual conference, follow these steps:

1. Complete the new Attendance at Events form.
2. If travel is involved, complete the required University travel forms.

All Compliance forms and instructions may be downloaded from the UMDNJ Compliance website: (<http://www.umdj.edu/ethweb/forms/index.htm>).

Meet the players

Odalis Sanchez
Secretary I

Division of Radiation Cancer Biology



Odalis Sanchez, ASL fluent

Odalis Sanchez, or Dallas as she is known to everyone, is the Secretary I in the Division of Radiation Cancer Biology. She supports a growing roster of faculty and lab personnel in the division. Dallas is an amazing resource within the department and is the “go-to” person for many

things. She is quickly becoming the department’s resident expert on international hires and can give you a quick primer on the differences between JIs and HIs and the necessary documentation for each. She’s computer savvy and prefers to do everything electronically. She is the queen of organization with neatly labeled and alphabetically filed folders for everything. And she is an amazing gourmet baker, as her annual holiday cookie gifts attest to. But none of these things are her passion.

Dallas Sanchez is passionate about signing. As in American Sign Language (ASL). Dallas has always been interested in deaf culture. While attending Brigham Young University she took an ASL course taught by the two oldest Osmond brothers, Verl and Tom. Both Verl and Tom Osmond are deaf and are advocates for the deaf community. Dallas went out on a limb by taking the class (it didn’t hurt that the class was taught by two Osmond brothers) and it became the beginning of a journey not yet complete.

“Aha moment”

Fast forward a few years later, and Dallas is working at her mother’s store. A deaf customer enters the store and her mother asks Dallas to help the customer. The young lady signs that she is deaf and Dallas is able to sign back that she can help. The customer is so elated that Dallas is able to understand sign that she starts signing at light speed. Dallas had to ask her to slow down, but by using the limited ASL that she remembered from her class, she was able to help the young lady get what she needed. Dallas recounts how grateful the customer was that there was someone that could communicate with her, and how sobering it was for Dallas to realize how vast the gulf was between the hearing impaired and hearing communities. You could call it Dallas’ “aha moment”.

Union Street School

Not too long after her “aha moment” Dallas saw a job ad for a Teacher’s Assistant at the Union Street School for the Deaf. They were looking for someone fluent in Spanish with knowledge of ASL. She applied and was accepted, more on the basis of her Spanish skills than her signing skills. It was another step in her journey.

Dallas worked at Union Street School for many years, slowly becoming immersed in deaf culture and acquiring greater signing

skills. During her tenure at Union Street School, she worked with many deaf children and their families and saw first hand the diverse and special needs of deaf children. And she saw how easy it was for these children and their families to fall through cracks in the system because of the communication barrier. More on that later.

At Union Street School Dallas met Cindy Williams. Cindy was part of a team that solicited and received funding to create an Educational Interpreter’s Development Center (EIPDC) at Union County College. Cindy asked Dallas to leave Union Street School to go work with her to develop the new program at Union County College. Although it was a difficult decision for Dallas she recognized that she would be able to help the larger deaf community by helping to make the EIPDC successful. It was yet another step in her journey.

Back to School

In her role as Cindy Williams’ assistant she met Eileen Forestal, Coordinator and Professor of the ASL & Deaf Studies and American Sign Language - English Interpreting Programs at Union County College (UCC). Eileen, who is deaf, brought ASL—English interpreting programs to the state of NJ and elevated the importance of ASL within the state. She was an inspiration to Dallas, who decided to follow her heart and pursue a degree in ASL—English Interpreting.

It’s a given that pursuing a degree and holding down a full time job is not easy. It became more difficult for Dallas when the EIPDC grant that funded her position at UCC ran out. UCC’s loss was Radiation Oncology’s gain and in July 2006 Dallas accepted a position as the Secretary I supporting the Division of Radiation Cancer Biology. Despite the challenges of school and a new job, Dallas maintained excellent academic standing and on May 1, 2008 will be inducted into Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two year colleges, one of only 33 people on the 2008 New Jersey All-State Academic Team.

Dallas’ Dream

Dallas will graduate in May 2009, approximately one year from now. When she graduates, Dallas will complete her AAS Degree in the ASL-English Interpreting Program with knowledge and skills for entry level sign language interpreting. You might think that the department would be worried about the possibility of losing a terrific employee like Dallas in just one year (and, yes, we are). But while the possibility that she will leave for greener pastures always exists, Dallas plans to further her education with a degree in social work while continuing to work in the department.

Dallas never forgot her experiences as a Teacher’s Assistant at Union Street School. And while she pursued her education in ASL-English Interpreting, she became keenly aware of just how great the need to ensure that deaf children receive the resources that they need and are entitled to. Her passion and her journey are to ensure that hearing impaired children never fall through the cracks simply because of communication barriers and that their deafness is never a limitation in their ability to achieve anything.

~ End

THE DEPARTMENT OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY AT UMDNJ - RWJMS AND CINJ AND RWJUH

Bruce G. Haffty MD
Professor and Chair

Clinical Radiation Oncology

- **Molly Gabel, MD**
Associate Professor and
Chief, Clinical Radiation Oncology
- **Alan Cohler, MD**
Instructor
- **Salma Jabbour, MD**
Assistant Professor
- **Atif Khan, MD**
Assistant Professor
- **Sung Kim, MD**
Assistant Professor and
Associate Director, Residency Training
Program
- **Michael McKenna, MD**
Assistant Professor

Residents

- **Sharad Goyal, MD**
Chief Resident PGY-5
- **Brett Lewis, MD, PhD**
PGY-3
- **Matthew Poppe, MD**
PGY-3
- **Parima Daroui, MD, PhD**
PGY-2
- **Sabin Motwani, 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

Contact Us

On the web at:

<http://www2.umdnj.edu/raoncweb/index.htm>

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Advance Practice Nurses

- **Jayne Camporeale, RN, MSN, APN**
- **Dorothy Pierce, RN, MSN, APN**

Clinical Services at RWJUH

- **Jisseelle Nater**
Operations Manager
- **William Witherup**
Chief Therapist
- **Shushma Patel**
Assistant Chief Therapist
- **Ann Marie Maisel**
Therapist
- **Susan Resavy**
Therapist
- **Mary Kazio**
Therapist
- **Krystin Greene**
Therapist
- **Melissa Mareth**
Therapist
- **Lillian Hosein**
Therapist
- **Carie Strauss**
Therapist
- **Kevin Sinn**
Therapist
- **Scott Barnes**
Chief of Dosimetry
- **Rihan Davis**
Dosimetrist
- **Jacqueline Tull, RN**
Nurse
- **Theresa Singley, RN**
Nurse
- **Barbara Lee, RN**
Nurse
- **Brenda Adell**
Medical Coder
- **Terry Blekeski**
Senior Medical Coder
- **Shelly Muhannad**
Clerical Coordinator
- **Gladys Torres**
Medical Biller
- **Azalia Laguna**
Clerk
- **Melissa Morales**
Clerical
- **Tanya Sharpe**
Receptionist
- **Fatimah Ahmed Alfaraj**
Visiting Researcher

Radiation Cancer Biology

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

Academic Administration at RWJMS and CINJ

- **Sharda Kohli, MBA**
Clinical Department Administrator
- **Jo-Ella McClinnon**
Management Assistant
- **Odalis Sanchez**
Secretary I
- **Rosa Schweighardt**
Secretary II
- **Rhonda Lyles**
Secretary II

