

2009 Milestones of the OHSU Department of Radiation Medicine

Department History Celebration and Recognition of Alumni

- On January 23, 2009, Dr. Kenneth R. Stevens, Jr., chair emeritus, presented on the “The History of Radiation Oncology in Oregon,” as part of the OHSU History of Medicine lecture series. The event was very well attended and the audience included our very own Dr. William Moss, Department Chair Emeritus. An extended video interview by Dr. Stevens with the Hymans, the husband and wife team of Radiation Oncologists who brought radiotherapy to the Pacific Northwest, can be viewed on our website at www.ohsu.edu/radmedicine.
- In the spring, Dr. Nancy Boutin, received the annual Volunteer Faculty Recognition Award by the Department of Radiation Medicine and the Executive Council of the OHSU School of Medicine Alumni Association.

Patient Care and Work Environment Improvements

- Ms. Deanne Rubinstein has continued to provide first-rate and aesthetically tasteful artwork throughout the patient care areas of our clinic.
- Dr. Wolfram Laub (lead physicist) has successfully spearheaded the effort to make our clinical program environmentally friendly and we are now over 90% paperless. In fact, our colleagues from Stanford made a trip up to visit us and learn how they might emulate this aspect of our department.

Cutting-edge Clinical Applications of Emerging Technologies for Patient Care

- Ours is the first program in the Pacific Northwest to offer dedicated intra-operative radiotherapy technology as part of our clinical armamentarium, with the arrival of the Intrabeam® high-dose rate, low-energy X-ray device earlier this fall. This will allow us to offer a much-needed treatment option for women with breast cancer.
- We have also begun a funded image-guided radiotherapy (IGRT) based study of head and neck cancer patients, utilizing the Calypso® system. Dr. Patrick Gagnon received a highly competitive ASCO Young Investigator Award to conduct this potentially treatment-defining study.
- Drs. Martin Fuss and Wolfram Laub were successful in also bringing Vision RT®, VMAT®, Monaco®, and RapidArc® to our portfolio of applied technology. More recently, Dr. Fuss was widely quoted in a recent JNCI (October 21 issue) news brief on the challenge of tracking lung tumor motion.

Education/Teaching, including Career Development and Mentoring Initiatives

- Our 100% funding rate for medical students continues, as Kristina Hoot, PhD, a member of the select Medical Scientist Training Program, received a \$3,000 matching competitive research grant from the RSNA. Her proposal, titled "Efficacy of Targeted Molecular Therapies Combined with Irradiation on Skin Squamous Cell Carcinomas" is underway.
- Dr. Hoot is also the inaugural Rubinstein Radiation Research Scholar, made possible by the generous support of Deanne and Dick Rubinstein, longtime friends of the Department.
- We held our 3rd annual dedicated Open House for 1st and 2nd year medical students this past fall.
- Ms. Jessica Johnson (medical physics) from South Carolina State University, an HBCU, did research this summer with Dr. Laub. Ms. Ellen Kim (computer science) from Princeton University, did research this summer with Drs. Christopher Hoffelt and Charlotte Dai Kubicky. Ms. Paige Summers, following 2 straight summers of research with Dr. James Tanyi, has started medical physics graduate work in Texas. Several of our undergraduate and high school research associates continue to garner awards from their experiences with our faculty.
- Two of our dosimetrists, Mr. Steve Rhoades and Ms. Barb Agrimson, presented an educational course, “Those Wacky Electrons” at the annual ASRT meeting in Chicago this past fall. We’re all so proud!



Knight Cancer Institute
at Oregon Health & Science University

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Portland, OR 97239-3098

Visiting Faculty

- Over the past year, Drs. Bruce Minsky, Carlos Perez, David Rosenthal, Jerry Jaboin, and Bill Morgan all presented research seminars in the Kenneth Stevens Conference Center, in addition to the didactic time they spent with our housestaff.

Awards and Honors

- Dr. Sam Wang was this year's recipient of the Wm T. Moss Annual Excellence in Teaching Award.
- Dr. Mark Deffebach was the inaugural recipient of the Interdisciplinary Teaching Award, to be given annually to the faculty member outside of the Department who contributes most to the education of our housestaff.
- Dr. Tasha McDonald (co-chief resident and RSNA Resident Research grant recipient) received the 2009 RSNA Roentgen Resident/Fellow Research Award.
- Dr. Patrick Gagnon (co-chief resident) received a coveted ASCO Young Investigator Award, an honor usually reserved for junior faculty.
- Dr. James Tanyi received the 4th Annual Platinum Baton Award, essentially the employee of the year, as determined by Department staff.

New Staff and Family Additions

- We are pleased to welcome Junan Zhang, PhD, (Duke) and Susha Pillai, MSc, MS, (Univ. Nebraska) to the medical physics division; Ms. Barb Stedman as our grants administrator; Ms. Dorothy Hargrove as our new lead RTT; and Mr. Jamie Harrell as our senior financial manager.
- Drs. Mehee Choi (Harvard, Univ. Texas HSC San Antonio) and Joe Waller (Northwestern, Univ. Iowa) joined us this summer as PGY2 residents; while Drs. Sravana Chennupati (UC Berkeley, Stanford) and Faisal Siddiqui (Purdue, OHSU) will start their residency training in July 2010.
- Drs. James Tanyi (wife, Angie) and Wolfram Laub (wife, Silke) both added baby boys to their respective families!

Research Update

- In addition to the national grants received by our trainees, for the 3rd consecutive year, our department has co-authored a double-digit number of presentations (including multiple podium and poster discussions) to the ASTRO meeting. The IGRT and physics programs had 4 presentations at the 10th Biennial ESTRO meeting in Maastricht, the Netherlands. Four additional podium presentations of our original research were made at the 9th Biennial Congress & Exhibition of the International Stereotactic Radiosurgery Society held in Seoul, South Korea. We also made multiple presentations, including a podium talk by Dr. Laub, at the 2009 AAPM meeting.
- Our department faculty edited three books/periodicals during 2009 to complement the 20 plus published manuscripts during this period.
- The 3rd Annual Rubinstein Research Retreat for our department was held in mid-October, in the Kenneth Stevens Jr. Conference Center. This gave all faculty and staff an opportunity to share original research.
- In January, we co-hosted the 1st Annual Esophagus Cancer Research Retreat with the department of surgery.



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