The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences *at Houston* 



THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS

Health Science Center at Houston



Making Cancer History®

# MEDICAL PHYSICS GRADUATE PROGRAM ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

# Volume 6 - 2012

## From the Program Director:

There were many changes at MDACC and GSBS during the past year. As a follow-up to some of the searches that I reported as ongoing in last year's newsletter, Dr. Thomas Buchholz was named as the Division Head of Radiation Oncology, Dr. Oliver Bögler was appointed as the new Sr. VP for Academic Affairs (replacing Dr. Tomasovic), Dr. Erik Paulson (formerly at Duke) was appointed as Chair of the Department of Diagnostic Radiology, and Drs. Michelle Barton (MDACC) and Michael Blackburn (UTHealth) were named as the new GSBS Deans (replacing Dr. Stancel). With Dr. Ronald DePinho appointed as the new president of MDACC last summer, the search is now on for the next president of UTHealth.

As you will read later in the newsletter, our faculty and students have continued to be very active this year, resulting in several important appointments and awards. My congratulations to all those mentioned explicitly as well as to any others whose awards or appointments were unknown to us. Please drop Georgeanne a line with any such events and we will make sure to highlight them in future issues of the newsletter!

As always, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all those who contribute to our ability to maintain such a highly respected educational program.

I hope to see many of you in Charlotte!

Ed Jackson

Number	of	Students	Admitted	to	the	Medical
Physics I	Prog	ram:				

Year	PhD Program	SMS Program
2002	5	4
2003	4	2
2004	4	2
2005	4	4
2006	6	5
2007	6	4
2008	10	8
2009	9	6
2010	12	7
2011	6	5
2012	6	3

2012 Applicant Data for Students Admitted to the Specialized Masters and PhD Programs:

Program	Verbal GRE	Quantitative GRE	Analytical GRE	GPA
SMS	620	756	3.9	3.7
PhD	551	769	4.4	3.8

### Members of the Incoming Class for Fall 2012:

### SMS in Medical Physics Program

Jennifer Sierra Irwin / UT-Austin Ming Jung "Mindy" Hsieh / Purdue University Dana Lewis / Louisiana State University

#### PhD Program in Medical Physics

Xenia Favè / Florida Institute of Technology David Fried / University of North Carolina Megan Jacobsen / Concordia College Sarah Joy\*/ UTHSC-Houston James Kerns / UTHSC-Houston Hannah Lee / Washington University Wendy Siman / Columbia University \*Started January 2012

### **Recent Graduates:**

The following trainees completed their degree requirements during the 2011-12 academic year:

SMS in Medical Physics Program

- *Kevin Casey* Radiation Oncology Physics Residency Program, MDACC
- Jonathan Mueller Medical Physicist, Air Force Medical Support Agency, Biloxi, MS
- *Emily Neubauer* Medical Physicist, Dana Farber - Brigham & Women's Cancer Center, Boston, MA
- *Jared Ohrt* Medical Physicist, Radiation Physics, MDACC
- *Kiley Pulliam* Continuing on for her PhD
- *Paige Summer* Medical Physicist, Radiological Physics Center, MDACC
- *Roman Repchak* Medical Physicist, Air Force Medical Support Agency, Biloxi, MS
- Jackie Tonigan Continuing on for her PhD

PhD Program in Medical Physics

- *Richard Castillo* Postdoctoral Fellow, Radiation Oncology, MDACC
- *Cheukkai Becket Hui* Postdoctoral Fellow, Medical School, UTHealth-Houston
- *Annelise Giebeler* Medical Physicist, Scripp Proton Therapy Center, San Diego, CA
- *Vaibhav Juneja* Postdoctoral Fellow, Medical School, UTHealth-Houston
- Yoshikazu Tsuanashima –
- *Yevgeney Vinogradskiy* Assistant Professor, University of Colorado Denver
- *Rui Zhang* Academic Medical Physicist, Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center, Baton Rouge, LA

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*

# Feedback from alumni is always welcomed by the Program! Please send all suggestions or comments to gmoore@mdanderson.org.

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# Honors and Awards during the 2011-12 Academic Year:

### Hua Ai (Mentor: Tinsu Pan)

 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner in the Young Investigators Symposium at the Spring Meeting of SW-AAPM

### Chad Bircher (Mentor: Yiping Shao)

 Recipient of the Radiation Instrumentation Travel Grant from the IEEE to attend the Nuclear Science Symposium and Medical Imaging Conference in Valencia, Spain, October 2011

### Lawrence Bronk (Mentor: Renata Pasqualini)

 Recipient of a Schissler Foundation Fellowship in Cancer Research

### Kevin Casey (Mentor: David Followill)

 Poster Finalist at the GSBS Trainee Research Day. Title of poster: Development and Implementation of a Remote Audit Tool for High Dose Rate (HDR)<sup>192</sup> Ir Brachytherapy using Optically Stimulated Luminescence Dosimtry.

### Richard Castillo (Mentor: Thomas Guerrero)

 Recipient of the Aaron Blanchard Award in Medical Physics for 2012

### Jongmon Cho (Mentor: Geoffrey Ibbott)

 4<sup>th</sup> place winner in the SNM Young Investigator Symposium

### John Eley (Mentor: Rebecca Howell)

- Recipient of a Rosalie B. Hite Fellowship for 2011-12
- Samuel Fahrenholtz (Mentor: Jason Stafford)

 Finalist for the John Cameron Young Investigator Symposium for 2012

#### Shane Kraft (Mentor: Mary Martel)

- Recipient of a 2011-201 CPRIT Training Grant Fellowship
- Finalist for the John Cameron Young Investigator Symposium for 2012

### Jason Matney (Mentor: Radhe Mohan)

 Poster titled Effects of Respiratory Motion in Proton vs. Photon for Stage II-III Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer was chosen for presentation at the poster competition at UTMDACC Trainee Research Day 2012

- Jessica Nute (Mentor: Dianna Cody)
  - 1st place winner in the Young Investigators Symposium at the Spring Meeting of SW-AAPM

### Sarah Scarboro (Mentor: Stephen Kry)

- Renewal of a American Legion Auxiliary Fellowship
- ✤ Recipient of a P.E.O. Scholar Award

### Daniel Smith (Mentor: Wendy Woodward)

 Recipient of a Johnson Foundation Graduate Student CSCDB (Center for Stem Cell and Developmental Biology) award.

#### Adam Yock (Mentor: Laurence Court)

 4th place winner in the Young Investigators Symposium at the Spring Meeting of SW-AAPM

# Robert J. Shalek 12<sup>th</sup> Biennial Fundraiser

Eighty-Five M.S. and Ph.D. students have been supported by fellowships to date. The first round of letters for solicitation of donations for the 12<sup>th</sup> Biennial Fundraiser went out in October 2011. In the current fundraising cycle, we have received \$21,050 from 28 individuals, and \$800 from corporations and others for a total of \$21,850. If anyone has questions on how to make a donation, they may contact Georgeanne Moore at (713) 563-2548 or by sending an email to: gmoore@mdanderson.org.

### **Premasters Shalek Fellowship Recipients**

Fall 1989 Mike Gazda Scott Jones Fall 1990 Maria Graves John Wallace Fall 1991 Robert Praeder Twyla Willoughby Fall 2002Earl GatesKenneth HomannHilary LoupeeClaire NerbunFall 2003Blake CannonScott DavidsonFall 2004

#### Fall 1992

Peter Balter Kay Jones Fall 1993

Kyle Antes Sarah Danielson Dena McCowan Donna Reeve Matthew Vossler Fall 1994

Victor Howard Donna Reeve Steve Thompson Matthew Vossler Fall 1995 Jonathan Dugan

Teresa Fischer Russell Tarver <u>Fall 1996</u> Michael Bieda

Tamara Duckworth Gwendolyn Myron Fall 1997

Christopher Baird Michael Lemacks Luke McLemore Fall 1998 Christopher Cherry Dee-Ann Radford Fall 1999 Laura Butler Amanda Davis Nicholas Koch Jennifer O'Daniel **Fall 2000** Michael Beach **Fall 2001** Melinda Chi Gary Fisher Jackeline Santiago Kelly Kisling David Zamora

Michael Bligh Ryan Hecox Hilary Voss **Fall 2005** Renee Dickinson Susannah Lazar Alanna McDermott Paige Nitsch **Fall 2006** Maria Bellon Jimmy Jones Nathan Pung Yevgeney Vinogradskiy Fall 2007 **Triston Dougall** Georgi Georgiev Rvan Grant Katie West **Fall 2008** Joseph Dick James Kerns **Fall 2009** Sarah Joy Emily Neubauer Paige Summers Jackie Tonigan **Fall 2010** 

Jennelle Bergene Kevin Casey Jared Ohrt Kevin Vredevoogd <u>Fall 2011</u> Olivia Huang Elizabeth McKenzie James Neihart Matthew Wait <u>Fall 2012</u> Jennifer Sierra Irwin Ming Jung Hsieh

# Predoctoral Shalek Fellowship Recipients

Summer 1991 John Bayouth Fall 1994 Usman Qazq Summer 1997 Aaron Blanchard Summer 1998 Shannon Bragg-Sitton Summer 1999 Nicholas Zacharopoulos Fall 2007 Malcolm Heard Summer 2011 Shuaiping Ge Fall 2011 Annelise Giebeler Summer 2012 Justin Mikell

Dana Lewis

# *New Program Faculty and Associates* 2011-12:

Clearly, the Program cannot succeed without the commitment of its faculty and associates. We are happy to report that the following faculty and program associate members have recently joined our Program.

# New Program Faculty

Xinming Liu, PhD, Assistant Professor, Imaging Physics

Research Interests:

- Digital radiography and digital mammography
- Digital imaging detector technique
- Medical image quality measurement and evaluation
- CT radiation dose management
- Biomedical instrumentation



### New Program Associates

- Dustin Gress, MS, Sr. Medical Physicist
- Heng Li, PhD, Assistant Professor
- Wei Liu, PhD, Assistant Professor
- Paige Summers, MS, Medical Physicist

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# **Annual UTMDACC Alumni Luncheon**

Please join us for the Annual MDACC Alumni Luncheon at the upcoming AAPM Annual Meeting!

Tuesday, July 31, 2012 Charlotte Convention Center Room 207AB 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.



GSBS Medical Physics Program Trainee Presentation Information for the Upcoming AAPM Meeting in Charlotte NC

Sunday, July 29, 2012			
Biomedical Mo	deling and Outcome Modeling		
Assessment, There	apy Short Oral		
1:50 - 2:15 PM, D	Rediogenia Second Cancer Rick		
Lomonn	Differences in Female Hedeltin		
SUC PPR 1	Lymphome Patients Treated with		
SU-C-DKD-1	Proton Versus Photon Radiotheranies		
Sunday July 20 2	012		
Clinical Dose C	ole algulation Tools and Informatics		
Therany Short Or	al		
1.30 - 2.15  PM R	200m 213AB		
Jared Ohrt	IMRT OA Using R&V Data.		
SU-C-213AB-5	Treatment Records, and a Second		
	Treatment Planning System		
Sunday, July 29, 2	012		
X-Rav Nuclear an	d PET Imaging–Therapy Short Oral		
2:15 – 3:00 PM, R	.oom 217A		
Michael Silosky	Effects of Energy-Window Width		
SU-D-217A-2	and Spectral Effective Energy on		
	Estimation of Gamma Camera Dead		
	time Using the Decay Method		
Hua Ai	Auto-Registration of Cardiac		
SU-D-217A-5	PET/CT Images with a 3D Weighted		
	Gradient Correlation Algorithm		
Sunday, July 29, 2	012		
Joint Imaging - T	herapy General Poster Discussion		
3:00 – 6:00 PM, E	xhibit Hall		
Joshua Yung	A Phantom Validation Study of a 3D		
SU-E-J-53	Background Phase Model for MR		
	Thermometry		
Moiz Ahmed	Target-Specific Optimization of		
SU-E-J-129	Four-Dimensional Cone Beam		
	Computed Tomography		
Sunday, July 29, 2	012		
Therapy General	Poster Discussion		
3:00 – 6:00 PM, E	xhibit Hall		
Kiley Pulliam	2D vs. 3D Gamma Analysis		
SU-E-1-41	Clinical Action Limits		
Jaccia Huang	The Effects of Image Resolution and		
SUET 43	Noise on the Camma Dose		
30-E-1- <del>4</del> 3	Distribution Comparison Method for		
	IMRT OA		
Kevin Casev	Development and Implementation of		
SU-F-T-81	a Remote Audit Tool for High Dose		
50-L-1-01	Rate (HDR) Ir-192 Brachytherapy		
	Using Ontically Stimulated		
	Luminescence Dosimetry		
Jennelle Bergene	Development and Implementation of		
SU-E-T-86	the Use of Optically Stimulated		
	Luminescence Detectors in the		

	Radiological Physics Center	
	Anthropomorphic Quality Assurance	
Kevin	Three-Dimensional Measurements of	
Vredevoogd	Dose and LET from a Proton-Beam	
SU-E-T-103	via Polymer Gel Dosimetry	
Scott Ingram	The Water Equivalent of Organic	
SU-E-T-116	Liquid Scintillators for Proton	
50 2 1 110	Dosimetry	
Mitchell Carroll	Investigation of Photon and Proton	
SUET 132	Overlapping Fields in PRESACE	
50-L-1-152	Desimators	
V: Dei Chan	Comparison of Planned Deep	
The Chen	Comparison of Planned Dose	
SU-E-1-394	Distribution vs. Delivered Dose	
	Distribution for Both IMRI and	
	Proton Therapy Using Weekly	
	Repeat NDCT Data Sets	
Yoshi	Achievability and Optimization of	
Tsunashima	Synchrotron-Based Respiratory Gate	
SU-E-T-395	Spot Scanning Proton Beam Delivery	
Justin Mikell	Impact of Model Based Dose	
SU-E-T-425	Calculation Algorithm for Ir-192	
	Intracavitary Brachytherapy with	
	Shielded Applicator	
Roman Repchak	Evaluation of the Anisotropic	
SU-E-T-447	Analytical Algorithm (AAA)	
	Heterogeneity Correction Dose	
	Calculation in Flattened and	
	Flattening-Filter-Free (FFF) Beams	
	for High Energy X-Ray Beams	
	Using the Radiological Physics	
	Center (RPC) Lung Phantom	
Jessie Huang	Calculation of High Resolution and	
SU-E-T-510	Material-Specific Photon Energy	
50 1 1 510	Deposition Kernels	
Mitchell Carroll	Inter- and Intra- Fraction Variations	
SU-F-T-560	in Econhageal Dose for Lung Cancer	
50-L-1-500	Patients and the Impact of Setup	
	Technique and Treatment Modality	
Joshua	To Analyze the Clinical Impact of	
Niedzielski	For harden in the children in the children in the second s	
NIEUZIEISKI	Plana for Detients with Crade 2	
<b>ЗО-Е-1-</b> 3/3	Flans for Patients with Grade 5	
<u> </u>	Esophagius	
Sunaay, July 29, 2		
John K. Cameron	1 Young Investigator Symposium	
4:00 - 0:00  PM, B	Manue Designate Desserves the	
4:48 PM	Mean Regional Dose to the	
Shane Krafft	Esophagus Predicts Acute Toxicity	
SU-F-BRB-S	Rate for Lung Cancer Patients	
5:24 PM	Uncertainty Quantification by	
Samuel	Generalized Polynomial Chaos for	
Fahrenholtz	MR-Guided Laser Induced Thermal	
SU-F-BRB-8	Therapy	
Monday, July 30, 2012		
Therapy Scienti	fic Session – Dosimetry Safety	
Procedures		
2:00 – 3:50 PM, Ballroom B		

2:40 PM	An Analysis of 13,000 Patients	Joint Imaging – I	Therapy Scientific Session – Motion
Kiley Pulliam	Specific IMRT QA Results from 13	Assessment and N	Aanagement: Novel Modalities
MO-D-BRB-6	Different Clinical Treatment	4:30 – 6:00 PM, 1	Room 213CD
	Services	4:30 PM	HD Optimization for Scanned Ion
Tuesday, July 31, 2	2012	John Eley	Beam Tracking Therapy for Moving
Joint Imaging -	Therapy Scientific Session – IGRT	WE-G-213CD-1	Tumors
Novel Modalities		Wednesday Augu	ist 1 2012
8.00 - 9.55 AM F	allroom A	Therapy Scientifi	c Session - Treatment Planning for
8.20 AM	Obtaining Elemental Tissue	Frierdy Sciencific Frierd Roam T	horany
Longmin Cho	Composition of Proton Therapy	1.20 6.00 DM	Rallroom CD
TU A PDA 2	Patients Using Positron Emission	4.30 - 0.001 M	Speed Up Standard Optimization of
IU-A-DKA-3	Tamagnaphy A gilat Study	4:40 PM	Speed Up Standard Optimization of
TT 1 1 1 1 1	Tomography: A phot Study	Shuaiping Ge	INIR I Treatment Planning Inrough
Tuesday, July 31, 1		WE-G-BRCD-2	the Application of GPU's
Therapy Scientifi	c Session – Off-Line Devices and	Thursday August	2, 2012
Detectors for Dosi	metry I	Imaging Scientifi	c Session–Breast Imaging/Spectral CT
8:00 – 9:55 AM, E	Sallroom B	8:00 – 9:55 AM, I	Room 217BCD
8:40 AM	A Quenching Correction Method for	8:50 AM	Characterization of Brain Foci of
Daniel	Volumetric Scintillation Dosimetry	Jessica Nute	Susceptibility Into Hemorrhagic or
Robertson	of Proton Beams	TH-A-217BCD-	Calcific Etiologies Using Gemstone
TU-A-BRB-5		7	Spectral Imaging-CT
8:50 AM	Characteristics of a Commercial	Thursday August	2, 2012
Landon Wootton	Photodiode Based Plastic	Joint Imaging – T	Therapy Scientific Session –
TU-A-BRB-6	Scintillation Detector Prototype	<b>Uncertainty</b> Asses	ssment
Tuesday July 31	2012	8:00 – 9:55 AM, 1	Ballroom A
Inint Imaging _ T	herany Scientific Session – Motion	8:50 AM	Optimal PTV Margin Expansions
Assessment and N	anagement CRCT	Adam Yock	Along Six Anatomic Directions in
10.30 - 12.30 PM	Room 213CD	TH-A-BRA-6	Oropharyngeal IGRT
12:10 PM	A universal Margin Reconstruction	9:20 AM	Statistical Assessment of Plan
Honry Vu	Mathod for Estimating Anatomy	Peter Park	Robustness Under Uncertainties:
TUC 212CD	Induced Broton Banga Uncertainties	TH-A-BRA-9	IMRT vs. Proton Therapy
10-C-215CD-	Induced Floton Range Oncertainties	Thursday August	2, 2012
Tuesday, July 21	2012	Therapy Scientifi	c Session – Treatment Delivery and
These Suary, July 51,	2012 Sension Ducie Dudintion Dieleon	Verification · Inte	nsity-Modulated Techniques
Therapy Sciencific	Session – Dasic Kaalalion Biology	10.30 - 12.30 PA	A Ballroom R
ana Animai Siuai	Pallacom D	11:30 AM	Feasibility of On-line Range
10:30-12:30 AM,	Noncooffeld Enhanced Proton	Loev Cheung	Adaptive Radiation Therapy
12:00 PM	Nanoscanoid-Ennanced Proton	TH-C-BRB-7	
TUC DDD 10	Петару	12·20 PM	The Magnitude of H&N IMRT Dose
Tu-C-DKD-10	2012	Jackie Tonigan	Delivery Errors from Three Possible
Tuesday, July 51,		TH-C-213AB-6	Failure Modes: Beam Quality
Imaging Scientific	Session MKI I		Symmetry and MI C Position
4:30 - 6:00 PM, R	Notidation of Difference Cont	Thursday August	2 2012
4:50 PM	Validation of Diffusion Spectrum	Therany Scientifi	c Session – Riological Modeling and
valbnev Juneja	Imaging (DSI) Derived Crossing	Outcome Modelin	ng / Assessment
TU-G-21/A-3	Fiber Angles Using a Novel Phantom	10.20 12.20 DN	I Poom 2124 P
	and Post-Processing	10.30 - 12.30 1 M	Correlating Areas of Padiation
5:15 PM	Improved Look-Locker Acquisition	Christophor	Toxicity with Polativa Biological
Cheukkai Hui	Scheme and Curve Fitting Procedure	Deeler	Effectiveness Weighted Doog
TU-G-217A-5		TH C 212AD C	Distribution in Proton Padiotheract
Tuesday, July 31,	2012	Thursday August	
<b>Imaging Scientific</b>	c Session – CT Dosimetry 1	Loint Lunging	2, 2012
4:30 – 6:00 PM, K	loom 217BCD	Joint Imaging – I	nerapy Scientific Session –
4:30 PM	Investigation of a Commercial OSLD	Innovations in Im	Decay 219
Sarah Scarboro	System for CT Dosimetry	1:00-2:50 PM,	
TU-G-217BCD-1		1:52 PM	Dosimetric Effects of Respiratory
		Jason Matney	Motion in Proton vs. Photon Therapy
Wednesday Augu	st 1. 2012	TH-E-218-6	for Stage II-III NSCLC
rreallebady, rraga			

# Selected 2012 GSBS Graduation Highlights

The 2012 GSBS Commencement Ceremony was held at the Rice Campus on Saturday, May 5, 2012.



Dean Stancel opens the ceremony



Associate Dean Victoria Knutson gives the graduates a pep talk before the ceremony



Associate Dean Eric Solberg and Assistant Dean Michelle Steiger



Commencement Speaker - Mary-Claire King, PhD



MDACC President Ronald A. DePinho congratulates a graduate



GSBS Receptionist with PhD graduate, Vaibhav Juneja

Our sincere thanks to our alumni, current students, faculty, and staff for another successful year for the Medical Physics Program!

# **Medical Physics Program Trainee Corner**

### **Student Faculty Liaison Report**

**Daniel Robertson** 

If we have learned anything from our colleagues in the Genetics program, it is that we must adapt or die. In that spirit, this year the student-led aspects of the program continued to evolve to meet the needs of graduate students in an everchanging world.

The third annual Medical Physics Graduate Student Research Retreat was held on Friday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011. The main event of the retreat was a research presentation competition between 10 of the students. Dr. Jatinder Palta from the University of Florida was the guest expert researcher. Dr. Palta facilitated discussion during the presentation competition and gave a seminar on "Safety in Medical Physics" and "Developing Research Ideas". The winners of the competition were Sam Fahrenholtz (1<sup>st</sup>), Ryan Bosca (2<sup>nd</sup>), and Henry Yu (3<sup>rd</sup>). The retreat also featured the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual *Medical Physics Jeopardy*, a medical physics quiz show game with guest host Dr. Jatinder Palta. The retreat participants also enjoyed food catered by Mo's BBQ and a dinner with Dr. Palta at Palazzo's Trattoria. The retreat organizing committee included Daniel Robertson, Ryan Bosca, Jenia Vinogradskiy, Jessica Nute, Adam Yock, and Moiz Ahmad. Special thanks go to Georgeanne Moore and Gloria Mendoza, without whom the retreat would not have happened.

Student-led courses and seminars included a Candidacy Exam Prep seminar and the 3-week short course, "Introduction to Matlab". The students also led a session of New Student Orientation, featuring an updated "New Student Survival Guide" and presentations from several students on "Things to do in Houston". Highlights of these presentations included Henry Yu's comedic report on the state of sports in Houston, and Landon Wootton's 12-slide presentation on Texas BBQ. We also launched a new program during prospective student interviews, where current students spent an hour mingling with the prospective students before their interviews.

Following the success of our Medical Physics program flag football team, Jackie Tonigan led the effort to secure program Jerseys for intramural sports. The jerseys debuted during intramural soccer season, with our team "Incoherent Scatter." While the teams didn't manage to take home the trophy during the football or soccer seasons, the intensity of their play was clearly shown by two torn ACLs and one fractured foot. Go Team!

Perhaps the greatest change in student affairs this year was the introduction of the Medical Physics Program Student Council. The five-member council was formed in an effort to involve more students in program leadership and to share the ever-increasing responsibilities of the Student Faculty Liaison. Elections were held at the Spring student meeting, followed by a peaceful transition of power from Daniel Robertson, the 2011 Student Faculty Liaison, to the new student council, consisting of Austin Faught, Student Faculty Liaison; Jackie Tonigan, Assistant Student Faculty Liaison; John Eley, Education Chair; Scott Ingram, Social Chair; and Katie Dextraze, First-year Representative.

Our program has also been well-represented at the graduate school level of student leadership. Ryan Bosca served as the 2011-2012 GSBS Graduate Student Association vice-president, and he was recently replaced by Adam Yock, who was elected GSA VP for the 2012-2013 term.

# Fourth Annual Medical Physics Student Retreat

On Friday, July 13, 2012, the fourth annual Medical Physics Program Graduate Student Research Retreat will be held at the South Campus facility. The retreat will again be funded by the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Graduate Education Committee (GEC), with the support of the Executive Vice President and Provost, Dr. Raymond DuBois. The goal of the retreat is to encourage program students to organize a day-long retreat that allows them to exchange information about their individual research projects and to interact with an external leader in the field. This year, the external leader is Dr. Charles Coffey, from Vanderbilt University.

# Will Hanson - Recipient of the Marvin M.D. Williams Award

By David Followill

# Congratulations to Will

We have always just known him as just "Will", not Dr. Hanson. In case you haven't heard, Will is being honored at this year's AAPM meeting where he will receive the **Marvin M.D. Williams Award** at the AAPM 2012 Awards Ceremony. This award recognizes an AAPM member for an eminent career in medical physics who had a significant influence on the development of the profession of medical physics through professional matters, education of medical physicists, and clinical practice development. Will epitomizes these qualities, dedicating his career to improving the treatment of cancer through the delivery of quality radiotherapy doses within NCI sponsored clinical trials. His dedication to the education of medical physics students, residents, therapists and dosimetrists has always been paramount. Many of us were taught how to calibrate a megavoltage beam by him in MD Anderson's short courses and medical physics graduate courses.



Will received his B.S. degree in Physics in 1963 and went on to get his Ph.D. degree in Physics in 1971 from the University of Tennessee. He then came to MD Anderson in 1971 to do a Post-doc in the Department of Radiation Physics where Dr. Robert Shalek was chairman. Will is best known as being a part of the Radiological Physics Center from 1972 until he retired in 2001. He became PI of the RPC grant and Director of the RPC in 1985 and directed the RPC during a time that saw an enormous growth in clinical trial participation, and the introduction of computerized treatment planning, 3D conformal therapy, HDR brachytherapy, and IMRT into radiotherapy. He even endured and survived the births of TG-21 and TG-51.

Will's dedication to education can be seen in the vast number of medical physics graduate students he has mentored while at MD Anderson. In total he served on the graduate committees of 34 students. In addition to the graduate school, Will was instrumental in the various MD Anderson short courses, having taught in the External Beam Dosimetry – Principles and Calibrations course for nearly 15 years. He taught the Introduction to Medical Physics I: Basic Interactions graduate course in the MD Anderson medical physics graduate program for over 15 years.

Will was able to accomplish a lifetime of excellence with a smile on his face, patience, and a calm demeanor. Much of his personality can be traced to his dedication to family, his deep religious faith, and a caring nature. He was an unbelievable person to work for and to learn from. The number of medical physicists who have been helped, guided or have interacted with Will number in the 100s. We should all aspire to be the kind of Medical Physicist, educator and person that Will Hanson is. Congratulations, Will, on a well-deserved honor.

# **2012 Highlights from the Department of Imaging Physics**

# New Personnel

### Faculty – Newly Appointed and Promotions

- **Richard Bouchard, PhD**, promoted to research track Instructor
- **Dustin Gress, MS,** appointed as Sr. Medical Physicist, Section of Radiological Physics
- **Ping Hou, PhD,** promoted to Associate Professor, Section of MR & Ultrasound Physics

### <u>Classified – Newly Appointed and Promotions</u>

- Victoria Becerra, Administrative Assistant
- Stacy Hash, Medical Imaging Technologist
- Renjie He, PhD, Sr. Research Scientist
- Jerrell Jones, Medical Imaging Technologist
- Jessica Martinez, Administrative Assistant
- Wilma Mason, promoted to Sr. Admin. Assist.
- John A. Moore, Systems Analyst I
- Anne Nguyen, PACS Technologist
- James Pennington, Sr. Machinist and Fab Tech
- Kathy Prentice, promoted to Sr. Admin Assist.
- Wolfgang Stefan, PhD, Research Programmer
- Phuc "Peter" Truong, Systems Analyst II
- Lisa Wetter, Program Manager, Division Publications
- Madhuri Sankaranarayanapillai, PhD, Sr. Research Scientist
- Douglas Webb, promoted to Radiological Engineer
- **Brandy Reed**, promoted to Supervisor MIT, Diagnostic Imaging

# Honors and Awards

• John D. Hazle, PhD AAPM President Elect 2012, President 2013, and Chairman of Board 2014.

Elected Fellow of the American College of Radiology

• **Richard Bouchard, PhD,** Recipient of an Odyssey Fellowship, which sponsors outstanding postdoctoral fellows who wish to pursue innovative cancer research at M.D. Anderson.

### • Dianna D. Cody, PhD

Promoted to Director of Clinical Operations, Imaging Physics

Selected to participate in a day long Executive Development Seminar for Aspiring Leaders hosted by the American Association of Medical Colleges in Washington, DC, May 2012. She is one of only 4 participants selected from MDACC.

### • Edward F. Jackson, PhD

Elected to the University of Texas Academy of Health Science Education and named as a Distinguished Teaching Professor by The University of Texas System. Academy membership is limited to those faculty who have demonstrated excellence and exceptional commitment to education.

Elected chair-elect of the UT System Faculty Advisory Council. He will be the incoming chairelect, followed by a year as chair, and a year as past chair. The UT FAC is the faculty representative body of the UT System.

Elected Fellow of the American College of Radiology.

- **A. Kyle Jones, PhD** Elected President of SWAAPM.
- Osama Mawlawi, PhD, elected president of ABSNM.
- Marc Ramirez, PhD, Recipient of an Odyssey Fellowship, which sponsors outstanding postdoctoral fellows who wish to pursue innovative cancer research at M. D. Anderson.
- Thomas Nishino, PhD
  Selected as the recipient of the MDACC School of Health Professions RT Program Adjunct Faculty Award.

# **Research Updates**

### **Funded Grants:**

- CPRIT-RP101243-P05 (Project PI: Bankson): Project 5: Fast Imaging Methods for Hyperpolarized Nuclei, 08/01/2010 - 07/31/2013, \$760,757 direct costs
- NIH/Internal Prostate SPORE (Project PI: Bouchard): Development and Optimization of a Photoacoustic- Ultrasonic Transrectal Imaging System for the Improved Visualization of Prostate Brachytherapy Seeds, 04/01/2012-03/31/2013, \$50,000 direct costs
- NIH/NCI–S10OD010403 (PI: Hazle): A photo acoustic imaging system for small animals, 05/01/2012 04/31/2013, \$697,877 direct costs
- NIH/NCI-U24CA126577A (PI: Hazle): Experimental Cancer Imaging Research Program (ECIRP), 03/29/2007-02/29/2013, \$292,784 direct costs
- CPRIT RP100934 (PI: Gascoyne): Antibody-Free Microfluidic Isolation and Molecular Analysis of

Circulating Cancer Cells, 05/01/2010 – 04/30/2013, \$868,022 direct costs

- NIH/NCI- P30CA016672 (Cancer Center Support Project PI: Hazle) : Small Animal Imaging Facility, 07/01/78-06/30/2013, \$160,420 direct costs
- RSNA-NHLBI-PB-EB-2010-159 (PI: Jackson): Recovery- Quantitative Imaging Biomarker Alliance (QIBA), 04/01/2011-08/31/2012, \$60,347 direct costs
- NIH-T32CA119930 (PI: Jackson) : Medical Physics Training Grant for Image-Guided Therapy Research, 08/04/06-07/31/2012, \$92,214 direct costs
- Siemens, (PI: Kappadath): Optimization of the Yttrium-90 bremsstrahlung SPECT/CT for SymbiaT SPECT/CT scanners, 02/01/2012-01/31/2013, \$25,040 direct costs
- CPRIT- RP110562-P2 (Project PI: Pan): Advanced Volumetric Imaging and Adaptive Radiotherapy for Detecting and Correcting for Inter-fractional Changes, 06/01/2011-05/31/2016, \$295,004 direct costs
- CPRIT-RP120326 (PI: Shao): In-Situ PET Imaging for Adaptive Proton Therapy, 12/01/2011-11/30/2014, \$435,924 direct costs
- MDACC IRG (PI: Shao): Novel PET Imaging for translational Radiation Therapy Research, 06/01/2012-05/31/2014, \$50,000 direct costs
- NIH/NCI–R01CA138502 (PI: Shaw): DTS Imaging with a Digitally Addressable X-Ray Source (DAXS), 05/01/2010 – 02/28/2015, \$2,378,957 direct costs
- NIH/NCI-R01CA103830 (Subcontract PI: Sokolov): Optical Systems for in Vivo Molecular Imaging of Cancer, 09/23/2011-07/31/2013 \$109,899 direct costs
- NIH/NCI-R01EB008101 (Subcontract PI: Sokolov): Acoustic Imaging of Sentinel Mode Metastasis Using Plasmonic Nanosensors, 04/01/2012-02/28/2016, \$77,017 direct cost
- NIH/NCI– R01CA143663 (PI: Sokolov): Biodegradable Plasmonic Nanoparticles for Cancer Imaging and Therapy, 01/01/2010 – 12/31/2014, \$1,367,061 direct costs
- NIH/NCI– R01CA149740 (Subcontract PI: Sokolov): Molecular Photothermal Therapy of Cancer using Targeted Metal Nanoparticles, 07/01/2010 – 05/31/2015, \$125,000 direct costs
- NIH/NCI–R01CA151372 (Subcontract PI: Stafford): Nanoparticle-Directed Photothermal Ablation of Primary Brain Tumors guided by Magnetic Resonance Thermal Imaging, 07/12/2010 – 04/30/2013, \$150,875 direct costs
- NIH/NCI–R21EB010196 (PI: Stafford): Prospective 3D Treatment Planning for MR-Guided

Laser Induced Thermal Therapy Procedures, 09/01/2010 – 08/31/2012, \$250,000 direct costs

- Alliance for Nanohealth- W81XWH-10-2-0125 (Subcontract PI: Stafford): Project 2:Multimodal Image guided interstitial laser therapy with magnetofluorescent nanostructures, 04/15/2011-04/15/2013, \$30,380 direct costs
- AAPM (PI: Willis), Application for Support of Clinical Residency in Imaging, 07/01/2011-06/30/2013, \$33,500 direct costs

## **Imaging Physics Residency Program**

The program now has a total of five residents.

- Andreea Dohatcu, PhD Completed the program on September 1, 2011 and is currently working as a Clinical Imaging Physicist for a consulting practice in Ohio.
- James Winslow, PhD Completed the program, on August 31, 2011 and is currently working as a Radiation Physicist at Duke Medical Center.
- Wendy Siman, MS Completed the program on January 31, 2012 and has accepted admission to the GSBS Medical Physics PhD Program
- Travis Greene, MS Completed the program and is currently working with a medical physicist consulting practice in Florida.
- Shannon Fritz, PhD joined the program in May 2011 and has started her second year.
- Ching-Yi Hsieh, MS joined the program in August 2010 and is nearing completion of the program.
- Nathan Busse, MS –joined the program in August 2011 and is nearing completion of his first year (from Vanderbilt University).
- Cristina Dodge, MS joined the program in May 2012 (from Wayne State University).
- Leland Page, PhD joined the program in May 2012 (from UT-San Antonio).



Imaging Physics Resident Presentation Information for the Upcoming AAPM Meeting in Charlotte, NC

Sunday, July 29, 2012 Imaging Short Oral – X-Ray and CT Imaging 1:30 – 2:15 PM, Room 218		
1:55 PM Nathan Busse SU-C-218-6	Evaluation of a CT-Based, Semi- Automated Lung Mass Estimation Method Under Varying Acquisition Conditions	
Sunday, July 29, 2012 Imaging General Poster Discussion – Imaging Posters		

3:00 – 6:00 PM, Exhibit Hall			
Travis Greene	Independent Implementation of		
SU-E-1-102	AAPM 7G-150 Draft Image		
	Receptor Test Recommendations		
Tuesday, July 31, 2012			
Imaging Scientific Session – Radiography/Fluoroscopy			
8:00 – 9:55 AM, Room 218			
9:00 AM	Quantifying Patient Thickness for		
Shannon Fritz	Which An Anti-Scatter Grid is		
TU-A-218-7	Unnecessary for Digital		
	Radiographic Abdomen Exams		

Wednesday, August 1, 2012 Imaging Scientific Session – MRI 2 4:30 – 6:00 PM, Room 217A			
5:50 PM Ching-yi Hsieh WE-G-217A-9	Phase Imaging Measurement of Static Magnetic Field Homogeneity		

# 2012 Highlights from the Department of Radiation Physics

### Honors and Awards

- Radhe Mohan, PhD Named Fellow, ASTRO.
- **Patrick Brown, JD** Finalist for the Institution's Distinguished Mentor Award.
- Laurence Court, PhD Selected by the JACMP Board of Editors for: the Elekta Award of Excellence for an Outstanding Radiation Oncology Physics Article in 2011 titled Use of reduced dose rate when treating moving tumors using dynamic IMRT, 12(1) 28-34.
- Geoffrey Ibbott, PhD has a paper listed in the top 10 most read on the PMB website (www.iop.org/ej/PMB). The list is an all-time list for the journal with papers going back more than 25 years.
- Wei Liu, PhD results published 5 years ago now are termed the Liu Limit by several papers to the plasma astrophysics field.

### Featured Articles

- Xiaodong Zhang PhD and Yupeng Li, PhD 'Parameterization of multiple Bragg curves for scanning proton beams using simultaneous fitting of multiple curves' featured article in Physics in Medicine and Biology
- Kiley B. Pulliam, MS, Rebecca M. Howell, PhD, David Followill, PhD, Dershan Luo, PhD, R. Allen White, PhD and Stephen Kry, PhD – 'The clinical impact of the couch top and rails on IMRT and arc therapy', featured article in Physics in Medicine and Biology.
- Samuel Beddar. PhD 'Liquid scintillator speeds IMPT verification', featured article in Physics in Medicine and Biology.
- Samuel Beddar, PhD and Francois Therriault-Proulx, PhD – 'Advances in scintillation dosimetry' in Physics in Medicine and Biology and as an

exclusive report of the European Society of Therapeutics and Radiation Oncology Conference.

## New Personnel

Faculty

- Mark Garcia, MS, Medical Physicists, Satellite Albuquerque, NM
- Yoshifumi Hojo, PhD, Assistant Professor
- Paige Summer, MS., Jr. Medical Physicist, RPC
- Zhongxiang George Shao, PhD, Assistant Professor

#### Trainees

- Sandeep Dhanesar, Proton Fellow
- Martin Sell, Graduate Student non-UTHSC
- Clint Zeringue, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow

### Classified

- Scott Drews, Accelerator Technician II
- Angela Espinoza, Clerk
- Annelise Giebeler, PhD, Research Intern
- Charles Holmes, Jr., Physics Assistant
- Tyler Keith, Radiological Physics Technician I
- Matthew Kerr, Physics Assistant
- Hannah Nguyen, Research Dosimetrist
- Keith Schraitle, Accelerator Technician II
- Kelly Tharp, Sr. Machinist & Fabrication Technician
- Sarah Welch , Administrative Assistant

# Major Achievements in Radiation Physics Research

- Institutional Research Grant (PI: Wei Liu, PhD) Large scale parallelized 4D worst-case robust optimization for intensity-modulated proton therapy -\$50,000
- Radiadyne (PI: Samuel Beddar, PhD) *Performance* evaluation of the Radiadyne OARtrac system – Phase II - \$49, 275
- National Cancer Institute (PI: David Followill, PhD) Radiological Physics Center, \$1,755,577

- Philips Healthcare (PI: Radhe Mohan, PhD and Xiaodong Zhang) *Evaluate Pinnacle proton dose engine* \$54,180
- Sister Institution Network Fund (PI: Xiaodong Zhang, Ph.D.) Using the MDACC Auto Plan System to improve radiotherapy plan quality while reducing cost \$100,000.
- AAPM (PI: Laurence Court, PhD) AAPM-IPEM Medical Physics Travel Grant \$3,372.
- St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (PI: Marilyn Stovall, Ph.D.) *Expand cohort for the childhood cancer survivor study* \$37,500
- St. Jude Children's Research Institute (PI: Marilyn Stovall, PhD) Childhood cancer survivor study \$476,193 (Year 18) \$476,193
- National Cancer Institute (PI: Marilyn Stovall, PhD) Support Services for medical radiation dosimetry for epidemiology studies - \$360,776 (Year 3)
- Institutional Research Grant (PI: Rajat Kudchadker, PhD) Real-time in-vivo rectal wall dosimetry for prostate radiotherapy using plastic scintillating detectors - \$50,000.
- Duke University (PI: Geoffrey Ibbott, PhD) Accurate high resolution 3D dosimetry \$18,824 (Year 9)
- NIH-Fogarty International Center (PI: Phillip Taddei, PhD) Radiotherapy outcomes for children in developing versus developed countries - \$124,716 (Year 3).

### **Radiological Physics Center** Section of Outreach Physics

Radiological Physics Center – Funding sources

- The RPC grant was funded for its second year of its current three year grant period. However, the initial funding level was at 73.5% of last year's amount. Without knowing whether the funding would be restored many cost saving actions were taken. We just recently, 6 months into the year, were notified that our funds would be restored to last year's amount. Radiological Physics Center, CA 10952, 2011-2013, \$10,365,915 (\$3,455,305/year includes program income generated under the Additional Cost Alternative).
- Advanced Technology Radiation Therapy Quality Assurance Review Consortium, 2 U24 CA081647, Washington University, 7/1/2007-6/30/2012, \$409,901 (\$81,980/year)
- Veterans Administration, National Medical Physics Peer-Review of Radiation Therapy Quality Assurance Operations, 9/27/2010-9/26/2013, \$740,718 (\$246,906/year)
- The funding from Massachusetts General Hospital was granted a no cost extension to the end of 2012. These funds from MGH/NCI are for Development of Standard Operating

Procedures for Dosimetry Validation and Accreditation of Proton Therapy Centers, 4/1/2011-12/31/2011, \$618,929 (\$618,929/year)

- A total of 1,833 active institutions now being monitored, including 35 in Canada, 210 elsewhere in41 countries throughout the world. The RPC phantoms have been irradiated over 2200 times we began this program back in 2011. Our experience still shows that still about 10-15% of institutions fail to irradiate the phantoms according to their own treatment plans.
- Geoff Ibbott became the Chairman of the Department of Radiation Physics at MDACC. David Followill became the new PI and Director of the RPC as of October 2010.
- The RPC has audited 10 proton facilities. Ten proton centers have irradiated TLD (including one in Japan) and site visits have been conducted at eight sites and clinical trial credentials have been given to seven sites. Three more site visits are scheduled for this fall.

### Other projects within the RPC

- RPC staff and students are presenting their work on the following 25 topics at this AAPM meeting form proton therapy to brachytherapy. Most projects are collaborations with staff or faculty in the Departments of Radiation Physics and Diagnostic Imaging Physics; seven other academic centers and at several industrial partners:
- The Radiological Physics Center's Quality Audit Program: Where Can We Improve?, D Followill, J Lowenstein, A Molineu, P Alvarez, J Aguirre, S Kry, P Summers, G Ibbott
- Investigation of a Commercial OSLD System for CT Dosimetry, *S Scarboro, D Cody, D Followill, P Alvarez, M McNitt-Gray, D Zhang, L Court, S Kry*
- Ion Recombination Correction Factors (Pion) for Varian TrueBeam High Dose Rate Therapy Beams, *S Kry, R Popple, A Molineu, D Followill*
- Second Cancers From Radiation Therapy Procedures, *S Kry, R Howell*
- Three-Dimensional Measurements of Dose and LET From a Proton Beam Via Polymer Gel Dosimetry, *K Vredevoogd, G Ibbott, M Gillin, N* Sahoo, S Kry, K Gifford, M Maryanski
- The Magnitude of H&N IMRT Dose Delivery Errors From Three Possible Failure Modes: Beam Quality, Symmetry, and MLC Position, J Tonigan, S Kry, P Summers, P Balter, T Diel, D Followill
- 2D vs. 3D Gamma Analysis: Establishment of Comparable Clinical Action Limits, *K Pulliam, R Bosca, D , J O'Daniel, Followill ,S Kry*

- An Analysis of 13,000 Patient-Specific IMRT QA Results From 13 Different Clinical Treatment Services, *K Pulliam, D Followill, L Court, L Dong, M Gillin, K Prado, S Kry*
- High-Energy Photon Standard Dosimetry Data: A Quality Assurance Tool, J Lowenstein, S Kry, A Molineu, P Alvarez, J Aguirre, P Summers, D Followill
- Development and Implementation of a Remote Audit Tool for High Dose Rate (HDR) Ir-192 Brachytherapy Using Optically Stimulated Luminescence Dosimetry, K Casey, P Alvarez, A Lawyer, S Kry, R Howell, S Davidson, D Followill
- Development and Implementation of the Use of Optically Stimulated Luminescent Detectors in the Radiological Physics Center Anthropomorphic Quality Assurance Phantoms, J Bergene, S Kry, A Molineu, D Bellezza, L Court, P Alvarez, V Johnson, D Followill
- Calculation of High Resolution and Material-Specific Photon Energy Deposition Kernels, J Huang, N Childress, S Kry
- Design, Development, and Evaluation of a Modified, Anthropomorphic, Head, Quality Assurance Phantom for Use in Stereotactic Radiosurgery, A Faught, S Kry, D Luo, A Molineu, D Bellezza, R Gerber, S Davidson, W Bosch, J Galvin, R Drzymala, R Timmerman, J Sheehan, M Gillin, G Ibbott, D Followill
- Evaluation of the Anisotropic Analytical Algorithm (AAA) Heterogeneity Correction Dose Calculation in Flattened and Flattening-Filter-Free (FFF) Beams for High Energy X-Ray Beams Using the Radiological Physics Center (RPC) Lung Phantom, *R Repchak*, *A Molineu*, *R Popple*, *S Kry*, *R Howell*, *D Followill*
- The Effects of Image Resolution and Noise On the Gamma Dose Distribution Comparison Method for IMRT QA, J Huang, K Pulliam, D Followill, S Kry
- Dosimetry of double scattered proton beam fields used for cranio-spinal irradiation, X Song, N Sahoo, R Wu, M Taylor, R Georges, X Zhu, P Summers, M Gillin
- Evaluation of Zebra multi-layer ionization chamber system for patient treatment field and machine QA for spot scanning and passive scattering proton beams, *S Dhanesar, N Sahoo, M Taylor, X Song, F Poenisch, P Summers, H Li, X R Zhu, M Gillin*
- Credentialing results from a spine anthropomorphic phantom, A Molineu, P Alvarez, N Hernandez, F Yin, D Followill
- Experimental evaluation of deterministic Acuros XB radiation transport algorithm for

heterogeneity dose calculation using the Radiological Physics Center's lung phantom, T Han, F Mourtada, R Repchak, J Tonigan, J Mikell, R Howell, M Salehpour, A Molineu, D Followill

- The Radiological Physics Center's anthropomorphic quality assurance program, C Amador, N Hernandez, A Molineu, P Alvarez, D Followill
- The Radiological Physics Center's credentialing dosimetry reviews: their effect on clinical trial deviation rates, *A Hollan, J Lowenstein, H Nguyen, F Hall, J Roll, I Harris, D Followill*
- Investigation of 3D dosimetry for an anthropomorphic spine phantom, *R Grant, G Ibbott, J Yang, J Adamovics, D Followill*
- Comparison of proton therapy institutional data collected by the RPC, *P Summers, G Ibbott, M Moyers, R Grant, D Followill*
- The approval process for the use of proton therapy in NCI-Sponsored clinical trials, *P* Summers, G Ibbott, M Moyers, R Grant, D Followill
- Evaluation of the characteristics of TLD LiF:MgTi -100 powder: a measure of consistency between multiple batches of powder, *P Alvarez, J Aguirre, S Smith, D Followill*

### Education (Mohammad Salehpour, Ph.D.) Postdoctoral Fellows

Since the last report, two postdoctoral fellows have joined the program:

- Fada Guan
- Clint Zeringue

### **Radiation Physics Residency Program**

The program has a total of five residents:

- Adam Melancon, PhD completed the residency program and offered an Assistant Professor position in the Department of Radiation Physics.
- James Kerns, MS will be completing the program in August 2012. He will remain in Radiation Physics as a GRA while working on his PhD.
- Aman Anand, PhD joined the program in January 2011. He will be completing the program in January 2013.
- Ming Yang, PhD joined the program in August 2011.
- Abbie Wood, PhD joined the program in August 2011.

Four new radiation physics residents will join the Program this summer: Michelle Quan, PhD (MD Anderson Postdoctoral Program), Kevin Casey, MS (GSBS Medical Physics Program), Rajesh Pridikiti, MS (UT Southwestern Medical Center), and Xiaoqiang Li, MS (Graduate student- non-UTHSC).

#### **Proton Physics Fellowship Program**

The Proton Fellowship Program is under the direction of Narayan Sahoo, PhD Falk Pönisch, PhD completed the program in June 2010 and joined the Department of Radiation Physics as an Assistant Professor. Xioafei Song, PhD continued as a second year Fellow. Zhifei Wen, PhD joined as a fellow in After about nine months in the August 2010. Fellowship, Dr. Wen joined the Department of Radiation Physics as an Assistant Professor. Ms. Sandeep Dhanesar, M.Sc. (Doctoral Candidate, ABD) from Queen's University in Canada has been selected as the new Proton Physics Fellow. Xiaofei Song, PhD will continue as a third year Proton Physics Fellow. This program, to our knowledge the first of its kind, is designed to provide specialized clinical training to physicists interested in proton radiation therapy. The clinical physics group and the Proton Therapy Center greatly appreciate the contributions made by our Proton Physics Fellows and wish them the very best of success in their future endeavors.