



The Sum of Success

The Maryland Proton Treatment Center Achieves Goal of 3,000 Patients Treated, Reinforcing Leadership Position

As the first and most experienced proton center in the Delaware-Maryland-Virginia (DMV) region, the Maryland Proton Treatment Center (MPTC) has been long recognized as an engine for innovation since it opened its doors in 2016. This summer, the center achieved yet another first by reaching the highest patient volume of any proton center in the DMV area — **more than 3,000 patients treated in its first five years of operation.**

In doing so, MPTC has cemented its singular role as one of the world's leading proton centers for delivering innovative proton therapies to patients young and old who are afflicted with a range of cancers, including brain, head and neck, breast, lung, and prostate.



William F. Regine, MD, FACR, FACROMS

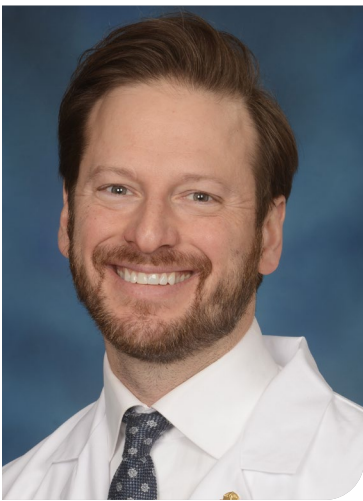
It's a singular milestone — and one about which MPTC's leadership is rightfully proud. *"This accomplishment not only reflects the efforts of our superb team of faculty physicians and staff, but also the confidence expressed by our patients across the U.S. and around the world,"* says **William F. Regine, MD, FACR, FACRO**, Professor and Isadore & Fannie Schneider Foxman Chair of UMSOM's Department of Radiation Oncology, and MPTC's Executive Director. *"With this momentum, the MPTC will continue to grow as a regional resource available to all providers and patients in the Mid-Atlantic, and at the*

same time, gain greater stature as a globally recognized center of excellence in the use of proton therapy."

For **Leigh T. Howe, President and CEO** of the MPTC, reaching this goal underscores the greater goal of the center's mission. *"The high point for me is just knowing that we're providing an alternative on a care plan that will help improve the quality of life for so many of our patients,"* she says. *"They know that this is the best alternative for them."* Ms. Howe joined the

MPTC in June 2018, following 40-years of experience working at major U.S. banks and private investment companies focusing on healthcare lending and investing.

Matthew E. Witek, MD, MS, Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology and Medical Director of the MPTC, agrees. *"There are no other centers in the region that can compete with the level of experience and the treatments we are offering now,"* he says. *"Our priority is to continue to provide unparalleled clinical excellence through a patient-centered approach, and to support that through innovative research initiatives."*



Matthew E. Witek, MD, MS

Advancing on All Fronts

MPTC's state-of-the-art facility offers a fully integrated system of non-invasive, image-guided proton therapy (IGPT) and intensity-modulated proton therapy (IMPT). What's more, the center is also one of just a few proton therapy facilities in the country to provide advanced "pencil-beam scanning" technology, which essentially paints the radiation onto the tumor like a 3-D printer for pinpoint accuracy without affecting the surrounding healthy tissue.

In addition, MPTC is the only center in the world to offer the combination of deep hyperthermia therapy (DHT) and proton therapy under one roof. The application of DHT causes blood vessels in a tumor to dilate, making the cancer cells more vulnerable to proton therapy. This tandem approach can significantly shrink tumors and even has been shown to enhance anti-tumor immune response. Recent research indicates that DHT can be especially useful in treating difficult-to-reach cancers in the abdomen and pelvic region.

Patients First

But what drives this array of sophisticated technologies, as Dr. Witek points out, is the collective experience of the center itself. *"What really sets us apart are the people that make up our center,"* he says. MPTC's world-class team of dosimetrists, physicists, therapists, anesthesiologists, radiologists, nurses, and nurse practitioners bring a combined 40+ years of specialized proton therapy experience to bear in treating patients. Additionally, the center's expert physicians, all faculty of UMSOM's Department of Radiation

Oncology, are actively engaged in cutting-edge research to ultimately help diagnose, treat and prevent cancer, making MPTC one of the top two centers in the nation with access to cutting-edge treatment via clinical trials sponsored by the National Cancer Institute (NCI). As important, MPTC patients can participate in these research studies that test promising new therapies, often years before they are in widespread use.

MPTC patients also gain greater access to all-inclusive cancer care, thanks to the center's affiliation with the University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center (UMGCCC),



Leigh T. Howe

one of only 51 such NCI-designated comprehensive cancer centers in the nation. And, unlike many other proton treatment centers, MPTC has established a cost-neutral rate for treatment between protons and photons. Because of this affordable cost structure, MPTC currently has an insurance approval rate of over 90 percent. Add to this a complete concierge service catering to a growing number of out-of-state and international patients, and it's no surprise that the center's patient volumes are continuing to grow substantially through its robust referral network and affiliate program.

"At the end of the day, it's really about pursuing our core mission of excellence in care by achieving the best possible experience and outcomes for our patients," says CEO Howe. *"They inspire us every day — while facing a difficult situation, their spirits remain strong. And our team is right there to support them along every step of their journey."* 🏠



MPTC staff prepare a patient for proton therapy.