

## **Cameron Tharp B.S. RT(T)**

Radiation Therapist  
Texas Oncology  
San Antonio, Texas



### ***MD Anderson is a family affair***

Being the first college graduate in his family, Cameron Tharp, a Radiation Therapist for Texas Oncology in San Antonio, credits his father for introducing him to radiation therapy as a high school student.

Cameron's mother and father both work for MD Anderson. His mother, Lynn Tharp, works in MD Anderson's Development Department. A machinist by trade, his father, Kelly Tharp, is a supervisor in the MD Anderson Radiation Physics Department. Kelly's work often landed him in the radiation oncology clinic, and based on what he observed, he thought radiation oncology and Cameron's personality and talents might be a good fit. Cameron's father's recommendation was enough for him to pursue post high school graduation and complete two summer radiation physics internships while attending a local community college.

Fast forward to today and Cameron is a proud graduate of MD Anderson's School of Health Professions having earned a Bachelor of Science in Radiation Therapy in August 2020. And his knowledge and passion regarding where he wants to take his career sounds much more seasoned than you would expect given his short 2 months into his first professional position.

The radiation oncology skills portion of Cameron's work is as interesting and challenging to him as the intangible components of the job. Cameron is particularly astute in assessing his patient's emotional state. He finds fulfillment when he can help the patient be more calm than anxious about their upcoming radiation treatments. Cameron has plans to pursue a master's in public health which will open many career opportunities for him such as teaching and community outreach in the field of oncology. Leadership roles are in his sites in hope of making oncology care more accessible to those in smaller communities who do not have access to mega cancer treatment centers such as MD Anderson.

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|   | <p>For now, Cameron is focusing on being the best he can be in his first professional role while beginning the process of exploring educational opportunities that will move him to the next level of his career.</p> <p><i>Great job Mom and Dad Tharp and MD Anderson School of Health Professionals professors. Because of the love and encouragement provided Cameron along the way, this world is a better place because there is one more soldier on active duty fighting the war to defeat cancer.</i></p>  |
| <i>MD Anderson School(s) from which I graduated</i> | The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center School of Health Professions   |
| <i>Graduation Year</i>                              | 2020   |
| <i>Current Employer</i>                             | Texas Oncology   |
| <i>Current City</i>                                 | San Antonio, Texas   |
| <i>Current Position</i>                             | Radiation Therapist  |
| <i>Who are your mentors?</i>                        | <p>I have two mentors who had impact on my career choices. Both are medical physicists.</p> <p><b>Gabriel Sawakuchi Ph.D.</b> is faculty member in MD Anderson’s Department of Radiation Physics, Division of Radiation Oncology. Dr. Sawakuchi is a great leader and is focused on quality, safe care for every patient. Dr. Sawakuchi is kind, approachable and genuinely interested in helping those new to the field feel comfortable in asking questions along the way.</p> <p><b>Laurence Court, Ph.D.,</b> is an associate professor in MD Anderson’s Department of Radiation Physics, Division of Radiation Oncology. Dr. Court is another medical physicist that is welcoming and encouraging to students. I met Dr. Court during a summer radiation physics internship at MD Anderson. Dr. Court shared his experiences in community outreach and has been inspirational to me in pursuing more education in public/population health.</p> |

# *This is my story*

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| <i>Undergraduate school(s) from which I received a degree(s).</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The University of Texas MD Anderson School of Health Professions<br/>Radiation Therapy<br/>Class of 2020<br/>Houston, Texas</li><li>• Alvin Jr. College<br/>Associate Degree in Art &amp; General Studies<br/>Class of 2017<br/>Alvin, Texas</li></ul> |
| <i>High school from which I received a degree.</i>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pearland High School – Class of 2014<br/>Pearland, Texas</li></ul>   |
| <i>Family</i>   | Single   |

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