

Speakers Biographies



Steven J Frank, MD

Dr. Frank is an endowed tenured professor of Radiation Oncology at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and leader of both the Proton Therapy Program for head and neck cancer and the Prostate MRI-Assisted RadioSurgery (MARS) Brachytherapy Program. He is amongst the first, if not the first, to use Intensity-Modulated Proton Therapy (IMPT) to treat head and neck tumors. Dr. Frank is the Principal Investigator of an NIH/NCI-sponsored Phase II/III randomized trial in oropharyngeal cancer that compares outcomes after chemoradiation with IMRT versus IMPT. His lab is investigating the radiobiological differences in cell lines between protons and photons with radiation modulators. His other major clinical research accomplishments includes the successful completion of two Phase II trials for prostate cancer treatment with brachytherapy and with hypofractionated proton therapy. Dr. Frank's expertise in MRI radiotherapy has led to the development and FDA approval of novel positive-contrast implantable markers for use in LDR and HDR brachytherapy. As founder of the company, C4 Imaging, Dr. Frank has developed the MRI marker technology at MD Anderson and currently holds over 30 national and international patents. He has received funding from the NIH/NCI, the Prostate Cancer Foundation, the Texas Ignition Fund, Hitachi, Eli Lilly, and MD Anderson, and he has also raised five rounds of private equity financing to advance the C4 technology. Dr. Frank has recently served as past President and Chairman of the Board for the American Brachytherapy Society, and he currently serves as the chair of the the American Board of Radiology's Oral Examinations Program for head and neck cancer. Dr. Frank is a 2018 Fellow of the ACR (FACR) and a 2020 Fellow of the ABS (FABS).



G. Brandon Gunn, MD

Dr. G. Brandon Gunn is an Associate Professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and the Center Medical Director of the Proton Therapy Center. Dr. Gunn specializes in the management of patients with malignancies of the head and neck, including skull base, thyroid and skin cancers. He is dedicated to securing the best possible outcomes for his patients, by prioritizing a patient-centered approach, comprehensive multidisciplinary patient evaluation and care, attention to detail and quality assurance, clinical trial participation, and implementation of advanced radiation therapy approaches and technologies including intensity modulated proton therapy, MRI-simulation and treatment planning, and brachytherapy. Dr. Gunn leads numerous research efforts and clinical trials in patient reported outcomes, quality of life, patient symptom and toxicity reduction, proton therapy, aggressive thyroid malignancies, has over 150 scientific publications, and is the radiation oncology lead of the MD Anderson Head and Neck Cancer Symptom Working Group.



X. Ronald Zhu, PhD, FAAPM

Dr. Zhu is a professor in the Department of Radiation Physics – Patient Care and specializes in proton therapy. He received his PhD in Chemical Physics from the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah in 1989. He completed his Medical Physics Residency in Radiation Oncology Physics at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri. He joined the MD Anderson faculty in 2003. Dr. Zhu has led numerous physics research efforts, including the clinical implementation of IMPT for the first time in North America. He has over 150 publications and became an American Association of Physicists in Medicine Fellow in 2010. Dr. Zhu is currently the Center Physics Director, Proton Therapy Center, Division of Radiation Oncology. In this role, he works within the Particle Therapy Institute and facilitate implementation of new technologies, specifications for PTC2 and the upgrade of PTC1, in addition to managing the integration of translational research and day-to-day operations. He also assists the Executive Director of the Particle Therapy Institute in development, strategy, research and education.



Mayank Amin, CMD

Mayank is a Clinical Supervisor, Medical Dosimetry- Proton Therapy Center, at the University of Texas MD Anderson Department of Radiation Oncology. He completed his Medical Dosimetry degree in Medical Dosimetry program at the University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston. He joined MD Anderson Dosimetry team in 2001 and moved to Proton Therapy Dosimetry Group in January 2006. Since then, his primary focus is treatment planning for Proton Therapy.

Planning Committee

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