



# The MPTC Report

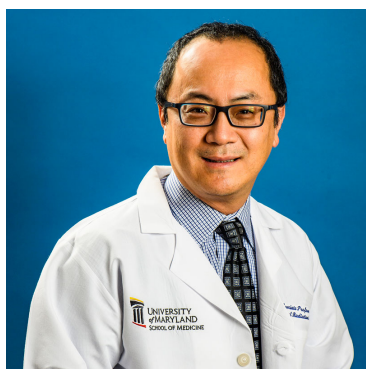
## National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

Thanks to The Children’s Cancer Foundation, every child being treated for cancer at the Maryland Proton Treatment Center (MPTC) is granted a wish at the end of their treatment. The Magic Castle program has long been a joyful symbol of hope for pediatric cancer patients during the course of their treatment.



Childhood cancer rates have been rising for the past few decades. This year in the United States, an estimated 10,470 children younger than 15 and about 5,480 teens ages 15 to 19 will be diagnosed with cancer. In children under 15, the most common types of cancer include leukemia at 28%, brain cancer at 26%, and lymphoma at 12%. Fortunately, advancements in treatment in recent decades have led to significant improvement in survival rates.

Young Kwok, MD, one of MPTC’s radiation oncologists, is a principal investigator of a pediatric focused clinical trial: [Proton and Photon Consortium Registry \(PPCR\): A Multi Center Registry of Pediatric Patients Treated With Radiation Therapy](#). The goal of this trial is to better compare the short-term and long-term benefits of different types of radiotherapy. The data collected from this study will help facilitate research on radiation therapy and allow for collaborative research. The PPCR will collect demographic and clinical data that many centers delivering radiation therapy already collect in routine operations.



*“It’s not just a cure that we have to worry about. When kids grow up and get into adulthood, they suffer from treatment effects... While they are getting treatment, we would like to decrease those adverse events or late toxicity as much as possible and proton therapy offers a tremendous hope for that... Proton therapy is one of those things that just keeps giving.”*

### Young Kwok, MD

Professor of Radiation Oncology, University of Maryland School of Medicine

## September is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in men in the U.S. According to the American Cancer Society, about 1 man in 8 will be diagnosed with prostate cancer during his lifetime. In particular, African American men have higher risk, as they are more likely to develop prostate cancer at a younger age and may present with a more advanced stage of prostate cancer.

But there’s some great news. If detected early, prostate cancer has a five-year relative survival rate of nearly 100%. At MPTC, our radiation oncologists aren’t just concerned with survival. We believe in the importance of preserving quality of life. Men are at risk of losing erectile dysfunction and developing bowel and bladder issues when being treated for prostate cancer. However, with proton therapy, they’re able to limit these complications and reduce the need for surgery. This means they can get back to their lives as they were before their diagnosis.

As with all cancers, early detection is key. Men over the age of 50 (or 45 for African American men) or those with a family history should discuss screening with their physicians.



## Nutrition and Physical Activity During and After Cancer Treatment: Answers to Common Questions

Cancer survivors often ask their health care providers if food choices, physical activity, and dietary supplements could improve their quality of life and survival. But they also look to news reports and studies for this kind of information. Before making any changes to your diet or activity levels, it is important to make sure the information is based on facts from multiple research studies. [Read more.](#)

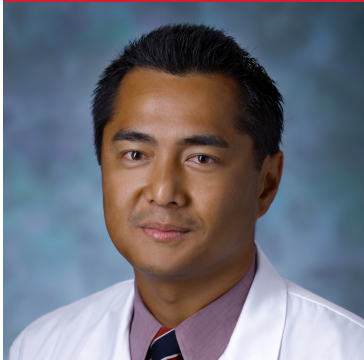


## I am Forever Grateful for All That Cancer Has Taught Me

Believe it or not, a cancer diagnosis can sometimes feel like good fortune knocking on your door. A second diagnosis, nearly four years later, can indeed be the wake-up call that a Type A high school administrator needed to focus on healthy lifestyle choices, mindfulness, physical fitness and seizing life’s quiet moments of joy. [Read more.](#)

### Staff Spotlight:

**Phuoc Tran, MD, PhD**  
**Vice Chair of Research,**  
**Professor of Radiation**  
**Oncology, University of**  
**Maryland School of**  
**Medicine**



Dr. Tran has been at MPTC since 2021. He treats patients with cancers of genital and urinary organ system and uses stereotactic radiation techniques including proton therapy for the treatment of patients with limited metastatic disease. His research focuses on the improvement of clinical radiotherapy for the treatment of various diseases but primarily prostate cancer. Dr. Tran has published more than 175 scholarly works in peer-reviewed journals, has received several awards for his research, and is a primary investigator on a number of clinical trials.

### Clinical Trial Spotlight:

NCT04486755/GCC2048: [A Phase I Dose Escalation Study of Hypofractionated Accelerated Pelvic Nodal Radiotherapy Delivered with a Simultaneously Integrated Prostate Boost for Patients with Localized, Intermediate- and High Risk Prostate Cancer](#)

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