



DEPARTMENT OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY

Overview

Miami Cancer Institute's world-renowned radiation oncology experts spend a great deal of time not only caring for patients, but are continually searching for more effective treatments through innovative clinical care, research and education programs.

As the only cancer center in the world to offer all of the latest radiation therapy technologies under one roof, Miami Cancer Institute's physicians provide the very best treatment and therapy approach for all patients, personalized specifically for each patient's particular tumor. Miami Cancer Institute is also home to South Florida's first state-of-the-art Proton Therapy Center. Miami Cancer Institute's patients also benefit from their robust clinical trials program as a their growing list of sponsored and investigator-initiated clinical trials has enhanced their research portfolio and assisted oncologists and other healthcare experts gain insights into even more ways to prevent, detect, treat and cure cancer. These are critical to providing the most technologically advanced treatments to patients in our community, promoting Miami Cancer Institute's mission of providing "high tech, high-touch" cancer care.

Radiation Oncology - Medical Physics

The Radiation Oncology Physics team at Miami Cancer Institute has several areas of research aimed at improving patient outcomes, developing innovative approaches to improving radiation delivery and refining methods of improved cancer imaging, planning and treatment. The faculty, composed of radiation oncology physicists and medical dosimetrists, is committed to excellence and innovation in clinical practice, scientific research, technological development, and education. Actively participating in research activities, the Radiation Oncology Physics team plays a key role in linking the technological advances in radiation delivery and cancer imaging to establish innovative techniques to improve the therapeutic window for cancer patients.

From a technological standpoint, Miami Cancer Institute is uniquely positioned to as it possesses the majority of all of the latest, commercially available radiation delivery platforms in one center. In particular, the Department houses a pencil beam scanning proton therapy unit, state of the art conventional linear accelerators, a CyberKnife unit, Radixact helical tomotherapy unit, a Gamma Knife Icon delivery unit, and a ViewRay MR Linac unit. With this assortment of technology, many of the research initiatives stem from enhancing the capabilities of each delivery platform as well as strategically combining multiple platforms to deliver the highest quality radiation care.

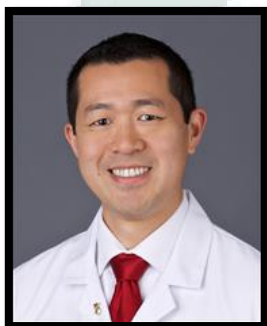
DEPARTMENT OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY PHYSICIANS



Minessh P. Mehta, M.D., FASTO, is Deputy Director and Chief of Radiation Oncology of Miami Cancer Institute. Board-certified in radiation oncology. Dr. Mehta is a world-renowned expert in radiation oncology, proton therapy and cancer research.

Dr. Mehta graduated with the highest honors from the University of Zambia School of Medicine and completed a residency at the University of Wisconsin. He comes to Baptist Health from the University of Maryland's Proton Treatment Center, where he launched the mid-Atlantic's first dedicated pencil-beam proton treatment center and served as its Medical Director. In addition, he was associate director of clinical research at the University of Maryland School of Medicine's Department of Radiation Oncology. Previously, he was the chairman of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health's Department of Human Oncology, where he led numerous grant-funded (PO1 PI, P30 Program Leader, U10, P20, U01, etc.) multi-investigator research programs, innovative technology innovation and implementation (Tomotherapy), and substantial practice expansion of the University of Wisconsin Cancer Center Clinical operations. He was also program leader for the University of Wisconsin's Comprehensive Cancer Center's Imaging and Radiation Sciences Program for under 15 years, led a program project grant in radiation oncology, and has been the chair of the RTOG/NRG oncology's brain tumor committee for over 20 years. A well-respected clinician and researcher, Dr. Mehta has over a thousand publications, including medical journal manuscripts, book chapters, and professional abstracts, and serves on the editorial board of several peer-reviewed journals.

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Michael Chuong, M.D., FACRO, is a board-certified radiation oncologist with Miami Cancer Institute. He serves as the Medical Director of the Proton Therapy Center, the Physician Director of the MRI-Guided Radiation Therapy Program, and the Director of Radiation Oncology Clinical Research. Dr. Chuong specializes in proton therapy and MR-guided radiation therapy for gastrointestinal cancers; stereotactic body radiation therapy for metastatic cancers; and combination of immunotherapy and radiation therapy.

Dr. Chuong is an internationally recognized expert in the use of radiation therapy for gastrointestinal cancers. He serves on several national committees including the NRG Oncology GI committee and he is the Disease Site Chair for the Proton Collaborative Group. He received his medical degree from the University of South Florida College of Medicine in Tampa, Florida, where he also completed his residency in radiation oncology at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute. Most recently, he served as an assistant professor of radiation oncology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and the Maryland Proton Treatment Center in Baltimore where he was active in translational and clinical research. He is widely published in peer-reviewed medical journals and has received numerous awards, including the American Society of Clinical Medicine Conquer Cancer Foundation Merit Award and the Moffitt Cancer Center Research Symposium Clinical Research Award. At Miami Cancer Institute, he is the Principal Investigator of several clinical trials exploring novel combinations of advanced radiation technologies with systemic therapies such as immunotherapy. His professional affiliations include the American Society of Clinical Oncology, American Society for Radiation Oncology, and the American College of Radiation Oncology.

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Jessika A. Contreras, M.D., is a radiation oncologist at Miami Cancer Institute specializing in the treatment of gynecologic cancer, head and neck cancer, and breast cancer. Dr. Contreras has distinctive training and experience in utilizing such advanced radiation therapies as proton therapy, brachytherapy, stereotactic radiosurgery, image-guided radiation therapy including MRI-guided radiation therapy, intensity-modulated radiation therapy and 3D conformal radiation therapy.

Dr. Contreras is actively involved in clinical research to increase the efficacy of treatments and improve patient outcomes. She has presented her work at medical symposiums throughout the country and is widely published in peer-reviewed medical journals including the Journal of Clinical Oncology, Radiotherapy and Oncology, and Practical Radiation Oncology. She has been recognized for her academic and clinical excellence, and she combines these skills with state-of-the-art technology to provide patients with compassionate, personalized care.

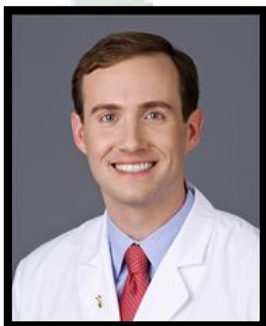
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Marcio Fagundes, M.D., is a board-certified radiation oncologist who serves as the Medical Director of radiation oncology at Miami Cancer Institute. Dr. Fagundes specializes in the field of proton therapy, including innovative applications such as proton therapy for breast cancer and hypofractionated proton therapy for prostate cancer.

Dr. Fagundes has extensive experience in proton therapy and has conducted significant research. Dr. Fagundes has presented research results showing the advantages of proton therapy for prostate cancer, breast cancer and head and neck cancer at numerous meetings of the Particle Therapy Co-Operative Group and the American Society of Therapeutic Radiation Oncologists – two professional associations to which he belongs. He also has published dozens of articles in peer reviewed journals, including Journal of Clinical Oncology, International Journal of Particle Therapy and International Journal of Radiation Oncology. Dr. Fagundes received his medical degree from Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul in Porto Alegre, Brazil, and completed a radiation oncology residency at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine/Jackson Memorial Hospital – Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. He also completed a fellowship in radiation oncology at Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital, in Boston. He gained teaching experience as an assistant professor of radiation oncology at Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston, and currently trains his peers on an innovative treatment protocol for prostate cancer. Before joining Miami Cancer Institute, Dr. Fagundes was medical director of the Provision Center for Proton Therapy in Knoxville, Tennessee.

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Matthew D. Hall, M.D., MBA, is the lead board-certified pediatric radiation oncologist and director of the Live Like Bella pediatric radiation oncology program at Miami Cancer Institute. Dr. Hall has extensive training and experience in the two forms of radiation therapy: standard photon therapy and proton therapy — a highly advanced form of radiation technology that targets cancer cells with pencil beam scanning precision while sparing the surrounding healthy tissue. His clinical specialty and research focus on innovative ways to treat cancer with radiation therapy while minimizing long-term side effects.

Dr. Hall is a member of the American Society for Radiation Oncology, the Children's Oncology Group, the American College of Radiation and several other scientific and medical societies. He was inducted into such prestigious honor societies as Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. Dr. Hall received his medical degree and graduated with honors from the University of Illinois College of Medicine. He earned a master's degree in business administration from the University of Illinois Liautaud Graduate School of Business. He completed his radiation oncology residency and served as chief resident at City of Hope National Medical Center in Duarte, California. He completed a fellowship in pediatric radiation oncology at the University of Florida Health Proton Therapy Institute in Jacksonville, Florida.

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Noah S. Kalman, M.D., MBA, is a board-certified radiation oncologist at Miami Cancer Institute specializing in the treatment of gynecologic, head and neck, thoracic and pediatric cancers, melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers and sarcoma. He has special training and expertise in advanced radiation therapies such as stereotactic body radiation therapy, linear accelerator-based stereotactic radiosurgery and proton therapy.

Dr. Kalman is actively involved in clinical research to improve treatment efficacy and patient outcomes. He has been recognized for his academic and clinical excellence. He serves as an editorial reviewer for several peer-reviewed scientific journals. Dr. Kalman also is widely published in numerous medical journals and lectures at scientific symposiums.

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Adeel Kaiser, M.D., is a board-certified radiation oncologist at Miami Cancer Institute. He has expertise in the treatment of a number of solid tumor malignancies, with a special focus on genitourinary and gastrointestinal cancers.

Dr. Kaiser also has significant experience in proton therapy dating back to 2008, when he served as an assistant professor at Loma Linda University Medical Center, the first clinical proton therapy center in the United States. Dr. Kaiser joined Miami Cancer Institute from the University of Maryland Department of Radiation Oncology, where he served as the director of the Advanced Modalities Fellowship Program. This program trained national and international students in emerging radiation oncology modalities, including pencil beam proton therapy, GammaPod radiosurgery and deep tissue hyperthermia. Dr. Kaiser also served as the director of the Integrative Wellness Program at the Maryland Proton Treatment Center, which sought to incorporate diet, exercise and emotional support strategies with radiation therapy. Dr. Kaiser is widely published in peer-reviewed medical journals. He has also led multiple clinical trials and was the first radiation oncologist to lead a ketogenic diet trial for patients under active surveillance for prostate cancer. He has received numerous awards for his work, including grant awards from industry as well as NIH-sponsored institutions toward both laboratory and clinical research in metabolic therapy. He holds an adjunct position at the University of Maryland while serving as principal investigator for a grant-supported pre-clinical study of a novel glycolytic inhibitor. At Miami Cancer Institute, Dr. Kaiser aims to provide patients with a personalized, integrative strategy for their cancer treatment by incorporating complementary therapies with radiation treatment.

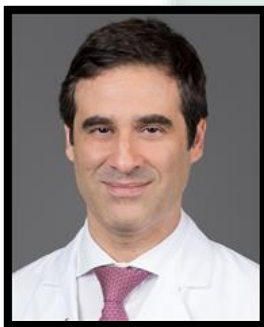
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Rupesh R. Kotecha, M.D., is a board-certified radiation oncologist and Chief of Radiosurgery in the Department of Radiation Oncology and Director of the Central Nervous System (CNS) Metastasis program at Miami Cancer Institute. He has specialized training and experience in utilizing the latest techniques in radiation therapy treatment for both cancer and noncancerous conditions. His research background and clinical interests have primarily focused on the treatment of patients with stereotactic radiotherapy, including CyberKnife, LINAC-based and Gamma Knife radiosurgery, and stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT) or stereotactic ablative radiotherapy (SABR). He also specializes in advanced radiation therapy treatment techniques, including re-irradiation, proton beam radiotherapy, and MR-guided radiation therapy.

During medical school, Dr. Kotecha was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, an organization that recognizes excellence in scholarship and the profession of medicine. He has been an invited speaker at numerous national and international symposiums, and has published multiple book chapters and over 75 articles in peer-reviewed journals, including the Journal of Clinical Oncology, International Journal of Radiation Oncology Biology Physics, Cancer, and Practical Radiation Oncology. His research bandwidth spans investigator-initiated trials to multi-center trials to national cooperative group clinical protocols. Dr. Kotecha serves as the CNS co-chair for the Proton Collaborative Group, coordinates the NCI Glioblastoma Clinical Working Group, and is a course director for the annual Miami Brain Symposium. He is an editorial contributor and advisory board member on the topic of brain cancer for Practice Update, an online resource for healthcare providers throughout the United States and around the world.

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Joseph E. Panoff, M.D., is a board-certified radiation oncologist at Miami Cancer Institute specializing in the treatment of breast, palliative and pediatric cancer.

Dr. Panoff utilizes the latest technologies and techniques to eradicate breast and childhood cancers with radiation therapy while sparing normal, healthy tissue. He collaborates with the multidisciplinary cancer care team to coordinate the most effective treatments while limiting side effects. Dr. Panoff is the recipient of a National Institutes of Health grant to conduct clinical research in pediatric cancer, which is a key factor in the progress toward improved treatment and prognosis. His extensive teaching experience includes serving as assistant professor of Radiation

Oncology at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. Dr. Panoff is widely published in peer-reviewed medical journals, serves as an editorial reviewer for scientific publications and is an invited speaker at healthcare symposiums.

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Maria-Amelia M. Rodrigues, M.D., is a radiation oncologist at Miami Cancer Institute specializing in brachytherapy for multiple tumors including gynecological tumors, prostate cancer and breast cancer.

Dr. Rodrigues received her medical degree from the University of Rio de Janeiro School of Medicine in Brazil and completed an internship in internal medicine at Hospital de Clinicas Gaffree Guinle, University of Rio de Janeiro, and the Kaiser Foundation Medical Center, San Francisco. Dr. Rodrigues also completed a residency in radiation oncology at the University of California – San Francisco, and a fellowship in hematology / oncology at Instituto Nacional de Cancer in Rio de Janeiro. In addition, she was visiting fellow in the department of hematology / oncology at the University of Tennessee in Memphis.

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DEPARTMENT OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY

MEDICAL PHYSICS



Alonso N. Gutierrez, PhD, MBA, serves as Assistant Vice President and Chief Physicist at Miami Cancer Institute. Dr. Gutierrez has over 10 years of experience in radiation oncology with specialization in stereotactic radiotherapy delivery.

Dr. Gutierrez' role is to lead the technical radiation oncology aspects of the Department, ensure adherence to high quality radiation care and safety standards, promote educational and research activities, and support outreach opportunities. Over the years, Dr. Gutierrez has trained numerous medical physicists, radiation oncologists, and medical dosimetrists in his academic appointments. He continues to actively participate in research and serves on several radiation oncology professional organizations. Internationally, he has worked to foster relationships with Latin American radiotherapy centers. Dr.

Gutierrez received his doctorate degree in Medical Physics from the University of Wisconsin School Of Medicine and Public Health, and his master in business administration from the University of Texas San Antonio College of Business. He is committed to ensuring excellence in radiation cancer care within the US as well as abroad.

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Diane Alvarez, MS, DABR, is a board certified therapeutic medical physicist at the Miami Cancer Institute. Diane is currently working on research projects which include liver contouring technique comparison for pre-treatment planning of resin Y90 microspheres liver radioembolization; a proposed standardized clinical workflow for post Y-90 microspheres liver radioembolization dosimetry for the investigation of patient treatment outcome; and optimization of the GE Precedence SPECT/CT Scanner Protocol for Improved Quantitative Post Y-90 Bremsstrahlung SPECT Reconstruction Method for the Purpose of Selective Internal Radiation Therapy (SIRT) Delivery Evaluation.

Diane has an interest in refining the dosimetry aspect of Yttrium-90 (Y90) labeled microspheres that are delivered to the liver through a radioembolization technique to treat liver cancer. She is currently the vice chair of the AAPM Working Group on Radioactive Microspheres and completing her PhD in Physics.

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Jerry George, PhD, is a board-certified therapeutic radiological physicist at Miami Cancer Institute. One of the challenges in treating moving targets with intensity modulated proton therapy is the interplay effect. Depending upon the target motion during treatment delivery, this can lead to large variations between planned and delivered dose to the target. This effect can be reduced by suppressing target motion in patient during simulation and treatment or on the machine side by repainting the layers multiple times or doing gated treatments or can even be using a combination of both. One such machine delivery technique called volumetric repainting technique has been recently introduced by IBA. Dr. George is currently working on the process of implementing this technique at our clinic.

Dr. George has over 7 years of experience in radiation oncology with experience in both photon therapy and intensity modulated proton therapy. Dr. George received his doctorate degree in Physics (emphasis in Medical Physics) from Hampton University, Virginia. He then completed his CAMPEP accredited residency in radiation oncology physics from University of Colorado Hospital, Colorado. Currently, he serves as a Senior Medical Physicist at the proton therapy division. He was instrumental in the development of radiation safety program for both photon and proton divisions and was serving as the Radiation Safety Officer at Miami Cancer Institute until 2020. His clinical experience includes implementation and training of radiopharmaceutical procedures, assisting with the development of quality assurance procedures for linear accelerators and proton therapy.

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Siju C. George, MS, DABR, is as a senior medical physicist at Miami Cancer Institute. Lutathera, was recently approved as a radio-pharmaceutical for the treatment of Neuro-endocrine tumors by the FDA. Siju is currently involved in a research project, "Clinical comparison of Molecular radiotherapy (MRT) based on two different dosimetric approaches, Absorbed Fraction versus Voxelwise Local deposition model (LDM)", where he studies the Dosimetry of Lu-177. In addition, he studies the dosimetric effectiveness of the fixed dose delivery on multiple fractions of Lutathera treatment. A separate project Siju is presently experimenting on is improving the HDR applicators using 3D printing technology as commercially available HDR treatment applicators have certain limitations when used clinically.

Siju firmly believes that a medical physicist plays a significant role in applying physics to medicine as a scientist and a clinician. In his current position at Miami Cancer Institute, Siju actively contributes to the QA program in the photon division of the radiation oncology department. Siju participates heavily in clinical applications and radiation treatments using high dose rate (HDR) brachytherapy and other treatment modalities such as CyberKnife, GammaKnife and Truebeam as well as radio-pharmaceutical program. Before joining Miami Cancer Institute in 2016, Siju had previous experience working as a medical physicist at other facilities where he was a medical physicist from 2007 who commissioned and set up clinical and QA programs at different community hospitals and free standing centers. Siju also has extensive experience in treatment planning and previously worked as a radiation therapist before entering into the medical physics career.

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Kathryn E. Mittauer, PhD, DABR, is a board-certified medical physicist at the Miami Cancer Institute and Assistant Professor at Florida International University. Dr. Mittauer has extensive experience in research, clinical development, and implementation of MR-guided radiotherapy applications. Dr. Mittauer's active research includes using MR-guided online adaptive radiotherapy to assess normal tissue toxicities and deformable image registration techniques in animal and human models.

Dr. Mittauer led the commissioning, development and execution of the online adaptive program on the MR-guided radiotherapy system serial #2 at the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Mittauer is widely published including peer-reviewed medical journals, patent, book chapters, and recipient of grant awards. Dr. Mittauer serves on national committees for image-guided radiotherapy.

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Vivek Mishra, PhD, is a medical physicist who serves as Radiation Safety Officer at the Miami Cancer Institute. Dr. Mishra is interested in studying Internal Dosimetry, obtained from converting post administration imaging, which provides quantitative understanding of dose volume relationships and patient outcomes. Understanding side effects and disease control are intrinsic to the deposited dose to the respective structures by administered radionuclide.

Dr. Mishra has academic preparation in physics with a doctorate in experimental nuclear physics. This entailed gaining expertise in operating particle accelerators, building beam lines, particle detection systems (charged and neutral particles), signal analysis, data collection systems, data analysis and statistical analysis. He has research experience in measurements of dose deposited around brachytherapy sources by using various dosimeters. Measured doses were then compared with those obtained using Monte Carlo simulation methods. Photon energy ranges from 10s of KeV to 100s of KeV. Dr. Mishra has been involved in clinical physics program comprising of external beam, Low-Dose-Rate and High-Dose-Rate Brachytherapy and Radionuclide therapy for 3 decades. This comprised of both ongoing clinical support and starting brand new programs. While thyroid ablation with I-131 has been the most prevalent form of radionuclide therapy over many decades, targeted therapies are increasingly utilizing different isotopes. Y-90 for liver radio-embolization by accessing and injecting through vasculature proximal to the targeted volume and Lu-177 with the ligands for targeted neuro endocrine tumors are in current clinical usage at our clinic. There are numerous other targeted therapies currently in development with likely clinical implementation in the near future.

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Ranjini Tolakanahalli, PhD, is a senior physicist at Miami Cancer Institute. Her area of interest is in precision evaluation in implementing high quality conventional and adaptive personalized radiotherapy to all cancer patients. Focusing on automation analysis of plan complexity and its effect on deliverability on patients; use of fiducials and 2D tracking to ensure adequate PTV Margins hypofractionated Prostate SBRTs; and analysis of setup errors using CBCT for frame based stereotactic Gamma Knife treatments for over 150 patient cases.

Dr. Tolakanahalli received her master of science in Medical Physics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and joined the Radiation Oncology department as a medical physicist in 2007. She later went on to complete her PhD in Medical Physics in 2012 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with the research focused on use of Chaos theory for respiratory management. Dr. Tolakanahalli later worked as a physicist in Hamilton Health Sciences, Ontario and served as the head of the Walker Family Cancer Center in Niagara Health, Ontario and a faculty member at the Physics department at Brock University, Ontario. She has served on the Physics and Radiation safety provincial committees in Ontario. Dr. Tolakanahalli has authored over a dozen papers in peer-reviewed journals and over 40 abstracts and conference proceedings. She is an ad-hoc article reviewer of numerous journals in Medical Physics.

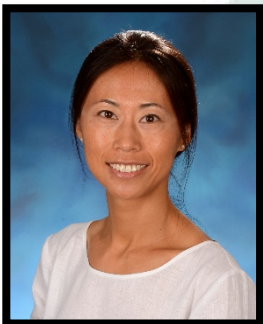
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D Jay Wieczorek, PhD, is a senior physicist at Miami Cancer Institute. Her area of interest is in brain radiosurgery, primarily with Gamma Knife treatment planning and evaluating treatment metrics, in the hope of eventually correlating them with treatment outcomes. Dr. Wieczorek is also currently working on getting the 3D bolus system commissioned for use clinically.

Dr. Wieczorek earned her Ph.D. in Nuclear Engineering (Health Physics) from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia. At Miami Cancer Institute, Dr. Wieczorek is responsible for TrueBeam, TrueBeam STX, and Gamma Knife systems in addition to the Eclipse treatment planning system, Velocity system, and I-131 thyroid ablation and liver embolization treatments. She is also involved in the following systems; Accuray Radixact, CyberKnife, and Varian VariSource HDR. Prior to her work at Miami Cancer Institute and Baptist Health South Florida, Dr. Wieczorek worked as a post-doctoral fellow in medical physics at the University of California in San Francisco, California and was a visiting research collaborator at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, in Livermore, California.

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Jen Yu, PhD, DABR, is a senior medical physicist at Miami Cancer Institute. Her area of interest is in novel applications of intensity modulated proton therapy (IMPT) from aspects of both physics and radiobiology. This includes, the treatment planning techniques to maximize the proton properties for therapy while to minimize the challenges of IMPT; the investigation of true dose delivered by IMPT to a complex heterogeneous body, and its implications to proton therapy; the development and applications of radiobiological models in IMPT.

Dr. Yu earned my PhD from University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA in 2011. The subject of her study was to utilize neutron particles as a probe to investigate unconventional magnetism presented in perovskite cobaltites. Postgraduate, Dr. Yu expanded her interest of physics into the curing power of particles to one of most deadly human disease - cancer. In 2014, she completed her medical physics residency from Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN. With the training heavily weighted on photon therapy, Dr. Jen shifted her focus towards proton therapy at the end of her residency. In 2015, Dr. Yu completed a proton therapy fellowship at MD Anderson, Houston, TX. She then joined the faculty of medical school of University of Maryland and worked at the Maryland Proton Treatment Center. In 2017, Dr. Yu joined the Miami Cancer Institute as a senior proton medical physicist.

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