

Dear Colleagues,

On the behalf of the Particle Therapy Co-Operative Group (PTCOG) and the 2017 annual conference organizing committee, we invite you to attend the **56th Annual PTCOG Conference** taking place May 8-13, 2017 at the Makuhari Messe (Chiba City) and Pacifico Yokohama (Yokohama City) in Japan.

The theme for the conference is **“Ion-beam Radiotherapy in the 21st Century: Accuracy and Efficacy”**.

Our focus will be on newer technology and rapidly-emerging clinical indications. We anticipate over 1,000 international registrants who share interest in all aspects of particle beam therapy. There will be numerous opportunities to gain new knowledge, share technical and clinical experiences, network with colleagues, and communicate with industry partners.

PTCOG 56 will begin with the Educational Session May 8th-10th and will be followed by the Scientific Meeting May 11st-13rd. The Educational Session will provide a comprehensive overview of the clinical, physical, technological, and radiobiological fundamentals of particle beam therapy with an emphasis on the latest advances in our field. During the Scientific Meeting we will focus on advances in IMPT and carbon, robustness in treatment planning, quantifying and managing the uncertainty in range and tumor motion, incorporating 3-D imaging with daily delivery, and various other topics. The clinical applications will center on the traditionally recognized clinical indications but more importantly on cancers of the breast, lung, head and neck, and gastrointestinal tract. Hypofractionation, carbon, and combined modality approaches will be an important focus. We anticipate updates on outcomes of completed, as well as ongoing clinical trials, and a robust discussion around future protocols, grant opportunities, and multi-institutional collaborative efforts, as well as recognizing the value of large multi-center registry data.

PTCOG 56 will be highly relevant to physicians, physicists and radiobiologists as well as nurses, technicians, healthcare executives, and developers of future particle beam facilities. Participants will have the opportunity to tours to National Institute of Radiological Sciences, Chiba and Kanagawa Cancer Center, Yokohama.

The 56th Annual PTCOG Conference will enhance your knowledge, widen your network, stimulate your innovative self, and expand your vision while providing a relaxing and memorable time in both cities. We are very excited about this event and look forward to welcoming you to Japan in May.

Sincerely yours,

Yuko Nakayama, MD, PhD
Chair of PTCOG56

Tadashi Kamada, MD, PhD
Co-Chair of PTCOG56