A new era in cancer care begins

2020 Annual Report
We set out creating the New York Proton Center with the most ambitious goals: to become the gold standard for proton therapy and to expand the body of evidence supporting proton therapy as a remarkably effective treatment for cancer.

But our highest aspiration—the spirit that animated our efforts from day one—was to bring the promise of this life-saving treatment to the residents and communities of New York.

We’d like to acknowledge our amazing hospital partners and the many worldwide experts who contributed their time and experience to this project. We extend to them our heartfelt admiration and gratitude.

Although it has been a long journey, their dedication and passion never wavered. They remained steadfast and united in purpose. Without them, this project would never have seen the light of day.

A fuller history of the New York Proton Center is recounted in the pages ahead. Though we’ve been part of many worthy healthcare projects over the course of our careers, we’re especially proud to have played a role in this story of vision and singular determination. We hope you enjoy reading it.

Allan Freeman
Chief Executive Officer

Donald Scanlon
Chairman of the Board
Proton therapy: Why such fervor?

Compared to traditional radiation treatment, proton therapy can safely deliver a higher and more effective dose of radiation with far less risk of long-term side effects. For certain types of cancers and patients, proton therapy offers the best hope of recovery and a return to normal life.

It all started in 2009

That was the year three leading academic medical centers—Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Montefiore Health System and Mount Sinai Health System—set a course that would fundamentally and permanently change the regional face of cancer treatment.

In an unprecedented move, these centers set aside their competing interests and collectively pledged themselves to a higher purpose:

To bring a proton center—and along with it the promise of life-saving cancer treatment—to the residents and communities of greater New York.

What followed was a remarkable collaboration, unparalleled in its scope and vision. It was also, to say the least, a vast and hugely ambitious undertaking.
Surmounting the challenges

Our development plans called for a sprawling structure: three stories high, 250 feet long and extraordinarily complex, requiring 300 miles of conduit for the mechanical and utility support alone.

What’s more, it all needed to happen on Manhattan Island, one of the country’s most expensive and densely populated stretches of real estate. And in the midst of a severe economic downturn.

Recognizing the scope of the challenge, we assembled a team of experts in the construction, development and operation of proton facilities, who worked hand and hand with our public and private stakeholders. The New York State Department of Health gave the project an additional boost, granting it an exclusive status that precluded other proton centers from opening in the state for 10 years.

Meanwhile, our private partners invested prodigious amounts of time, labor and financial backing. At every step they remained resolute and dedicated.

Having had a family member with cancer, I know how difficult that experience can be. That’s why everything about this center was designed to make patients feel welcome, starting with our team of caregivers. They understand the importance of compassion and prioritize even the smallest of details to make patients feel comfortable when they walk through our doors.

Jonathan Weinbach
Chief Financial Officer, The New York Proton Center

Expertise at every level

Proton therapy is a relatively niche treatment, making highly-trained experts hard to come by. So we mounted a global drive to recruit medical and technical specialists—physicians, physicists, radiation therapists, treatment planning dosimetrists, and nurses—from top proton centers around the world.

As a result, we opened our doors with the most experienced proton therapy staff ever assembled, collectively having treated more than 4,000 patients at other proton centers. Leading our clinical team as chief medical officer is Dr. Charles B. Simone, II, one of the most respected radiation oncologists in the world of proton therapy.

Above all else, the staff at the New York Proton Center is unmatched in their level of personal commitment to each patient we treat. It can be felt at every interaction—whether it’s our front-desk receptionists helping patients coordinate their care, the radiation therapists delivering their treatment, or the countless other healthcare providers attending to even the smallest details.

Putting patients first is not just our mission but also our abiding passion—for the work we do, for the communities we serve, for the difference we make every day in the lives of so many.
A new bar is set

Open since the fall of 2019, the New York Proton Center is proudly bringing proton therapy—and the promise of new hope in the fight against cancer—to the greater New York region for the very first time.

Growth in average number of treatments/day

Since launch, we’ve seen a level of rapid growth unprecedented for a proton center. And while opening the New York Proton Center was a historic day, it was also just the beginning.

Together with our academic partners, each of them a prominent research center in its own right, we are working to grow the body of evidence supporting proton therapy for a variety of cancers and populations.

Dedicated research space
One of our five treatment rooms set aside exclusively for research

11 randomized clinical trials
Leading or participating in 11 active and upcoming trials

With so much leading-edge research underway, the New York Proton Center has rapidly emerged as a hub of innovation and thought leadership in proton therapy and the larger field of oncology. In the months and years ahead, we will:

• Advance the field of oncology through novel clinical and translational research
• Contribute to the important reimbursement and regulatory discussion
• Inspire and shape a new generation of leaders in proton therapy
• Make a dynamic contribution to the newly revitalized neighborhood of Harlem

As a world leader and new gold standard in proton therapy, the New York Proton Center is helping patients move beyond treatment and toward a bright future.

Cancers we treat

The New York Proton Center treats a more complex mix of cancer types than any other proton center in the world.

Breast 8%
CNS 19%
GI 4%
GU/Prostate 7%
GYN 1%
Head and Neck 42%
Lymphoma 2%
Pediatrics 7%
Sarcoma 2%
Thoracic/Lung 8%

Projected case mix based on historical and current data

42%
The industry’s highest rate of reirradiation cases
While I was in fourth grade, my local town newspaper interviewed me. They asked, ‘If you could invent anything, what would it be?’ I said, ‘A machine that would cure all kinds of cancers.’ I’m proud that today, so many of my patients are living that promise.

Charles B. Simone, II, M.D.  Chief Medical Officer, The New York Proton Center

Through a patient’s eyes

Hope restored

When we first met Lidia, she was run down and losing hope. Although her lung cancer had initially responded to chemotherapy, it had now returned and was growing very rapidly, taking up a large portion of her right lung volume. Meanwhile, the side effects of her medication—sleeplessness, significant pain and vision loss—were almost too much to bear.

On advice from family and friends, Lidia booked a consultation with Dr. Charles Simone, Chief Medical Officer at the newly opened New York Proton Center.

‘Two weeks after starting my proton therapy treatment, it was like I was a completely different person. I was me again.’

Thanks to proton therapy, Lidia’s pain completely resolved and her vision returned. So substantial was her relief that she spent the last two weeks of her therapy enjoying the city, attending the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade with friends and family and heading to Herald Square right after treatments to shop for Christmas gifts. Thirty days after coming to the New York Proton Center, Lidia was home painting her daughter’s bedroom. With her first post-treatment scan showing no evidence of cancer remaining in the right lung, Lidia finds herself looking back on her experience at the New York Proton Center with profound gratitude.

Lidia Silva Gordon
Age 53
Lives with her husband, daughter and beloved German shepherd

When I was in fourth grade, my local town newspaper interviewed me. They asked, ‘If you could invent anything, what would it be?’ I said, ‘A machine that would cure all kinds of cancers.’ I’m proud that today, so many of my patients are living that promise.

Charles B. Simone, II, M.D.  Chief Medical Officer, The New York Proton Center
Partners in care

The New York Proton Center is partnered with leading academic medical centers Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Montefiore Health System, and Mount Sinai Health System—and ProHEALTH as manager—to deliver treatment, research, and innovation, all in one location.

This exciting alliance allows us to make proton therapy more accessible to patients in New York and the surrounding region.

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