



**Encouraging “real-life” stories
about the remarkable value
of proton therapy in treating
prostate cancer as shared by
men who have been through it.**

Coming to Danbury, CT
in early 2023



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LIVING PROOF

May, 2020

Dear Danbury Proton:

In the fall of 2009, I was diagnosed with prostate cancer. I live in Ridgefield, Connecticut very close to the Danbury line, and my urologist was in Danbury. A close friend in Boston had gone to Loma Linda for proton treatment the previous year. I read Bob Marckini's book in one night, so my wife and I investigated all options including the three proton centers available in 2009: Massachusetts General, M. D. Anderson and Loma Linda.

My urologist, a surgeon, had no knowledge of the technology and told me it was experimental. In November 2009, we visited Loma Linda and I started a nine week treatment the following month. Each day, I worked in Riverside, California from six to noon, went to Loma Linda for approximately 30 minutes. Afterwards, I would exercise by walking or golfing.

Loma Linda's approach is very holistic. They monitored my diet with a nutritionist, kept track of my exercise, and had regular meetings of all the patients to keep our spirits up and inform us of the technology we were experiencing. My only side effect during treatment was some mild discomfort in sex and it was alleviated by Advil.

So here I am now, 10 years later. My PSA has been 0.5 for the last nine years. No side effects at all. To date, it was the best medical decision of my life. For many years I have recommended friends to consider the proton option. Unfortunately, I also have friends and clients that have had surgery with terrible results, including incontinence and sexual dysfunction.

I was pleased to read that you are planning a proton center in Danbury. I knew after understanding the technology, that it would be the radiation choice for the future for all cancers with a defined geography.

I hope you are successful!

Marshall M. Rankowitz
Ridgefield, CT



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LIVING PROOF

May, 2020

Dear Danbury Proton:

Please accept this letter as support for your Certificate of Need for a proton treatment center in Danbury.

I eagerly support a proton treatment center in Danbury, as I have a sister who lives in Brookfield, Connecticut. I know the Danbury area well and know how much a proton treatment center would enhance the medical treatment options in the Danbury community.

I was treated for prostate cancer at Loma Linda University Hospital in California from February 8 to April 8, 2005, as there were only 3-4 proton treatment facilities in the United States at the time of my treatment. Loma Linda offered the most support services and detailed treatment plan, and it made sense for me to travel from my home on Long Island in New York for treatment.

I found out about proton radiation as a treatment option through a family member who knew about this option. My research led me to the conclusion that my early stage prostate cancer could be effectively treated with proton radiation, with the least amount of side effects. In fact, the urological surgeon I consulted with, in person at the Brady Urological Center at Johns Hopkins University Hospital, advised me that whatever course of treatment I decided upon would, in all likelihood, cure my disease.

With his input and belief (which turned out to be my experience) that side effects would be minimal with proton treatment, I decided upon this course of treatment. In February of 2005, I was 51 years of age. As I write this, I am 66 years old and have had no side effects or after-care issues regarding my prostate cancer diagnosis, my PSA is trending between .4 and .5 for these past 15 years, and I have had no medical issues whatsoever concerning my prostate cancer treatment. I have never taken any medication of any kind during or since my treatment, except Advil to control minor inflammation during treatment. I have experienced no incontinence or impotency, and my quality of life has been completely normal for these past 15 years.

I have nothing but complete confidence in the efficacy of proton radiation and have over these past 15 years mentored men who were considering their treatment options concerning their prostate cancer diagnosis. That mentoring did not tell them what treatment option they should choose, but just my experience with my decision to have proton treatment.

I hope this email helps in your endeavor to be approved and have a proton radiation treatment facility come to Danbury. I am happy to help in any way to see this become a reality.

Stuart Cooper
Garden City, NY

Coming to Danbury, CT
in early 2023



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LIVING PROOF

May, 2020

Dear Danbury Proton:

My name is Charles F. DeMaily, Jr. and I was diagnosed at age 59 in 2002 when a routine blood test showed a 3.9 PSA. A biopsy confirmed prostate cancer. The urologist recommended surgery, just as my good friend, Bob Marckini, said he would. Bob, being the author of *You Can Beat Prostate Cancer*, gave me a copy and after reading it, I was convinced proton therapy was the best way to go.

However, living in Massachusetts presented me with a problem. I had recently bought a small business, was working over 100 hours per week and needed to stay close to home to run the business. Therefore, Loma Linda in Southern California was out of the question.

The only other proton center in the U.S. at that time was Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, which had recently opened a proton treatment center and was within driving distance.

Bob put me in touch with Dr. Anthony Zietman at Massachusetts General, and things moved quickly. I began my treatment at 7:00 am, which allowed me to get to work by 8:30 am. Just slight fatigue at the end of eight weeks, and I never missed a day of work. Proton therapy is quick and completely painless. Urinary urgency was a temporary issue.

Dr. Zeitman and the people at Massachusetts General were wonderful. I highly recommend proton therapy for prostate cancer. I'm a living example of the fact that it works and preserves the quality of your life. It is the least invasive of all treatments. Oh yes, my last blood test, my PSA was .01.

Charles (Buzzy) DeMaily
Mattapoisett, MA



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in early 2023

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LIVING PROOF

May, 2020

Dear Danbury Proton:

I developed prostate cancer in 2004. After hearing about proton radiation from an Air Force friend, I traveled from New Jersey to Loma Linda Proton Center in California. My 44 treatments were uneventful. My wife and I toured California during our spare time, because proton radiation does not tire you out. In fact, during the treatment at Loma Linda, I was surrounded by very upbeat people--both medical and patients.

I am now cancer-free 16 years later, and an advocate for this treatment.

My urologist here in Princeton did explain the four basic treatments available through him, but he neglected to mention proton radiation because it was not available in New Jersey at the time. In 2004, there were only three sites nationwide.

While in Loma Linda, we stayed in a nearby rental condo which catered to the proton patients. There were a number of other patients living there for 9-10 weeks, and an active social life was encouraged and enjoyed by the patients. A number of apartments and condos in the immediate area of the hospital were available for rental by patients. Some patients stayed at a nearby trailer park.

The local economy certainly enjoyed a boost since we traveled, played golf and went out to dinner often.

A number of people who were still working did so using their computers while there. A few others even flew home on weekends.

Today my PSA is well under .03 and I have had no side effects.

I recommend proton treatment as much as I can, for a variety of cancers and consider it still a secret because not enough people know about it. And, in my opinion doctors tend to prescribe only the treatments that they can provide.

Sincerely,

Bill Doerler
Princeton, NJ



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in early 2023

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May, 2020

Dear Danbury Proton:

I received proton therapy along with hormone therapy in the spring of 2016 at the University of Pennsylvania. After having four biopsies in five years, and remaining at a Gleason Score of 6, my next biopsy in January of 2016 hit a score of 7 (4+3). It was time for action.

My local health care network, which is highly creditable and ranked, only offered conformal IMRT. I was not sure I wanted to undergo this treatment, with the chance of burning other tissue. After reading Bob Marckini's book *You Can Beat Prostate Cancer*, I felt that proton therapy was right for me.

I contacted the Radiation Department at the University of Pennsylvania, had an interview, and began treatment the next month. I made 45 round trips to Philadelphia from Middletown, Delaware. That was 55 miles each way. I was treated well by the staff, and to my satisfaction, I did not have to stop walking, running or playing golf. As a matter of fact, on my bell-ringing day of June 9, I went to the Philadelphia Museum of Art and ran up the "Rocky Step," famous from the Rocky movie.

I would not hesitate to refer proton therapy to anyone facing prostate cancer. In addition, while waiting for radiation each day, we encountered many parents and their young children who had brain cancer. They were getting the proton therapy because of proton's precise, non-damaging beam for spots as delicate as the brain. Most of these children were there in conjunction with the world-renowned Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. I felt so "lucky to only have prostate cancer".

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need more information.

Yours in good health,

John B Reinholt
Middletown, DE



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in early 2023

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May, 2020

Dear Danbury Proton:

I am a former patient of Loma Linda in California. I graduated in February of 2012. You might be confused by the word 'graduated' in this context, but that is the way Loma Linda treats its proton therapy patients. I had to travel 3,000 miles to get my treatment and I enjoyed 99.9999% of it.

The nine weeks of treatment is filled with wonderful meetings and classes, meals, golf, athletics and exercise programs and brotherhood. My treatment was a total success. Cancer is gone, I still have my prostate and my PSA is .08. If I had to, I would do it again in a heartbeat.

Please rush the opening to give people that live close by, the opportunity to save their lives with less side effects than other treatments.

Thank you.

Joseph J. Marino
New York, NY



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May, 2020

Dear Danbury Proton:

I subscribe to *BOB Tales*, a monthly newsletter for former proton therapy patients that Bob Marckini started many years ago. They asked members in the northeastern U.S. to send you notes about the proton therapy we received, and what our lives have been like since then.

I was diagnosed with prostate cancer 11 years ago, when I was 63. From the beginning, proton therapy was my preferred treatment choice. Some of that was because my son graduated from Loma Linda University Medical School and told me I shouldn't do anything else. Some of that - much of it - was my own research. I reviewed seeds treatment, surgery, and regular radiation as well as proton therapy. I talked with friends who had had each of those kinds of treatment, as well as reviewing each of them with my urologist - and with a "second opinion" specialist. I chose proton.

I had the proton treatment at Loma Linda University Medical Center, somewhat because of my son's connection but mostly because they had by far the most experience in the field at that time. The treatment regimen was five days a week for nine weeks. Loma Linda offered whole person treatment, so they planned social activities for patients. In addition, they had a nutritionist on staff, and we had bi-weekly meetings with that staff. They also provided a gym membership for patients at the school's health complex. Loma Linda is on the opposite side of the country from me, so I had to travel 2000+ miles. My wife went with me, and we rented a small house during the treatment time. I can't say enough good about Loma Linda.

I would choose proton therapy again without any questions or doubts. I have had 11 very healthy years. My PSA remains negligible, at about .1 or .2. I was able to work productively for four more years at the same job I had when I was diagnosed. Then, in retirement, I have worked at volunteer jobs in non-profit agencies in the United States and around the world. I remain active, with virtually no side effects of the treatment - or of the prostate cancer.

I hope these thoughts are helpful as you seek to establish a proton center in Connecticut.

Kermit Netteburg
Beltsville, MD



Coming to Danbury, CT
in early 2023

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LIVING PROOF

May, 2020

Dear Danbury Proton:

I was diagnosed with Stage 1 Prostate cancer in February of 2012, at the age of 64. At that time, I asked my urologist how he would treat this disease if he were in my position. He suggested that he would commit to surgery and have the tumor removed. He also gave me a couple of other avenues of treatment to consider; proton therapy was not one of the treatments. I am not sure if he was aware of the protons option, as I have not seen him since being diagnosed.

Shortly after I was diagnosed I had a conversation with a good friend of mine who had recently completed proton therapy at the Robert's Proton Therapy facility within the Abrahamson Cancer Center at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia. It was my good fortune to have had a consultation with Dr. Steven Hahn, who guided me through the pre-treatment process. I was a candidate for the treatment and began receiving the first of the 45 treatments in late March of 2012. Dr. Hahn met with me weekly throughout the entire treatment process. I can't say enough positive things about Steve.

I live in West Chester, Pennsylvania, about 45 minutes for the University of Pennsylvania Hospital. It was an easy ride for my 9:00 am daily appointments. Free parking was provided. Looking back on the experience, they could not have been more accommodating. During the entire treatment period, I was treated with kindness and dignity by everyone associated with the process. Over the course of the weeks of treatment, I met some wonderful people with whom I developed lasting relationships.

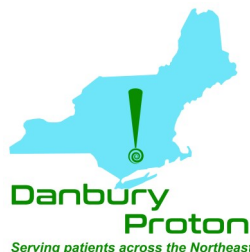
In addition to the positive results of proton therapy, I experienced no side effects. The biggest benefit of receiving protons aside from the medical aspects was the positive psychological effect the program imparts. When I finished the treatment regimen, I felt like a million dollars knowing I had received state-of-the-art treatment. I can honestly say that to date, my PSA is almost non-existent, I am truly the poster boy for proton therapy.

Over the past few years, I have spoken to many men considering protons, answering their questions and sharing my positive experience. I have also spoken to many men who have elected to have the surgery. If there is a man who has had the surgery and does not have a residual problem, I have yet to meet him.

My quality of life today is the direct result of having had proton therapy to cure my problem. In my opinion, it saved my life. I could go on and on about how positive my experience has been. I hope my note helps in some way to make proton therapy available to more people in need. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any help.

Sincerely,

David Ward
West Chester, PA



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in early 2023

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LIVING PROOF

May, 2020

Dear Danbury Proton:

I am writing on behalf of the Brotherhood of the Balloon (BOB), thousands of men who received proton therapy for their prostate cancer. I am very familiar with the Western Connecticut Health Network and Danbury Hospital in particular, having lived in Bethel and Southbury for 25 years and having two of three children born at Danbury. Having a proton therapy center in Western Connecticut would be monumental, and beneficial for so many.

I was diagnosed with prostate cancer in late 2014 at the age of 55, right around Christmas. Having survived colon cancer six years earlier, I knew that "watchful waiting" was not an option for me. So it was surgery or radiation. As there were no proton facilities in Connecticut at the time, I was not aware of the option until my brother in California mentioned that a friend of his had proton therapy at Loma Linda University Medical Center. I spoke to this gentleman, who raved about his experience. That led to more research on my part and ultimately, fortunately, being admitted to Loma Linda.

I will never forget calling a BOB alumni in Idaho who gave his phone number on the website on Christmas, who claimed to have interviewed 2,000 men who had proton therapy. I asked him a simple question top-of-mind for all those men who are scared and facing a huge decision: How many of the 2,000 men became impotent? His answer provided a comfort I did not think imaginable: *"About three, but I'm not sure they weren't impotent before going to Loma Linda."*

Although having to travel 3,000 miles from home, I was VERY fortunate for several reasons. First, my employer allowed me to work remotely for the nine weeks of radiation treatment. Second, an old high school friend lived an hour south of Loma Linda and offered his home and second car for me to use. Many call Loma Linda a "radiation vacation," and after my time there, I know what they mean. My typical day for nine weeks was getting up around 6:00 am and working until 11:45 am; packing a lunch for the one hour ride to Loma Linda; having my treatment around 1:00 pm; working out at their \$30 million athletic center until around 3:30 pm; back "home" around 4:30 pm and catching up on the work day. Only twice during the 45 sessions was I not able to keep to this schedule.

Loma Linda is a very special place, considered one of the few Blue Zones on the planet, and my treatment was very successful. My PSA continues to be below 1, and I rarely think of having had prostate cancer. I tell everyone facing such a diagnosis that they need to fully explore proton therapy.

Connecticut needs such a center. While I was lucky, I would've much preferred to have stayed local with my family for this treatment. And there are thousands of men in the Tri-State area who would not be so fortunate as me. Good luck with this!

Best,

Rob Lucas
Red Bank, NJ



Coming to Danbury, CT
in early 2023

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LIVING PROOF

May, 2020

Dear Danbury Proton:

On July 3, 2014, I received the prostate cancer diagnosis. I contacted an educator friend who had been diagnosed at the age of 58 with this cancer. He did remarkable research and decided that proton was the treatment for him. He went to Jacksonville, Florida for his treatment. He showed up on my doorstep on July 4 with Bob Marckini's book and proclaimed "this is not a death sentence." My wife and I read that book immediately to become aware of what proton therapy was all about.

Our local area medical consultants (primary care doctor, urologist) were not knowledgeable about proton at all. After hours of research and learning that the treatment was available in Philadelphia, we made a call and within one week were seen and our journey began.

Philadelphia Roberts Proton Center had me in treatment beginning on August 28, 2014. All of this was set up within 30 days of contacting them, which included seeing the urologist to put the markers in and connecting the oncology/radiology specialist. I was fortunate that the cancer was contained inside the prostate, which made it possible for me to receive proton therapy. Our local Scranton, Pennsylvania area only offered the photon radiation.

The proton center assigned a social worker who assisted us with housing offered for patients who lived over 45 minutes away (we were 3-1/2 hours away) at Hope Lodge. We housed there for the 44 treatments free of charge, and had access to a kitchen center. Monday through Thursday nights at 6 pm, dinner was provided by many different organizations. What a cost savings to the patients/caregiver (housing in a hotel would have cost us over \$10,000 with no meals). This center also provided transportation Monday through Thursday to and from the treatment center 13 miles away. With city traffic, it took 20-45 minutes to get there. Again, what a help.

The proton center was able to set us up with treatment schedule that allowed us to leave on Fridays (early morning appointment) and return on Mondays for a 3 pm appointment. I had no side effects during this treatment process, which allowed us to come home every weekend. Minor side effect was radiation proctitis which happened 16 months after treatment and required two cauterization procedures. Currently my only side effect is frequent urination with leakage.

I have been cancer free for six years. I would absolutely recommend Proton Therapy. We have loaned Bob Marckini's book and our experience to many other individuals.

Richard Yadlosky
Sugar Run, PA



Coming to Danbury, CT
in early 2023

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LIVING PROOF

May, 2020

Dear Danbury Proton:

I went through proton radiation treatment at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston for my prostate cancer in 2012. I understand that a proton treatment center is being planned for Danbury. This would be great for the people of the surrounding area.

As you know, there are a limited number of treatment centers in the United States, which makes it difficult for many to receive this great treatment option. Travel costs, away from home living expenses are very significant. My treatment lasted two months. My wife and I had to move to Boston and live out of a hotel. We were away from friends and family and the support groups that would have been very helpful during the course of treatment.

Having a center in Danbury would have meant an hour commute with very little cost and I wouldn't have had to give up my support folks.

I learned about proton treatment through a friend who had had it at Loma Linda in California. He recommended that I read Bob Marckini's book on the evaluation of the various options, which I did. Prior to selecting the treatment option, I went to Massachusetts General Hospital and sat with a radiation oncologist, who explained the physics of the various radiation treatment options. After that meeting, it was clear that proton treatment offered the best option in terms of treatment effectiveness and especially in limiting the negative effects of the radiation.

I had an excellent experience at Massachusetts General Hospital. They were very efficient and compassionate. I am eight years post-treatment and have had no problems as a result of my treatment. My oncologist remarked to me that I should be a "poster child" for the experience.

If I had it to do all over again, I would definitely chose proton radiation over any other treatment for prostate cancer. I have recommended this treatment of a friend who lives in Florida and after an independent evaluation, he chose proton radiation for his prostate cancer in Jacksonville.

I do hope that Danbury moves forward with proton radiation. It also had many applications beyond prostate cancer. Best of luck moving forward.

Jim Stone



Coming to Danbury, CT
in early 2023

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LIVING PROOF

May, 2020

Dear Danbury Proton:

I would like to offer my full support for the establishment of a proton beam therapy (PBT) center in Danbury, and share some of my experiences and insights.

It was exactly 10 years ago this month that I began proton beam therapy at the University of Florida Proton Treatment Institute in Jacksonville, Florida for prostate cancer that was diagnosed in November of 2008. I can honestly say that PBT is one most pleasant treatment options imaginable for any medical condition, and one that I would definitely choose again.

To my understanding, the majority of patients receiving PBT treatment are for prostate cancer; more important are the variety of other cancers being successfully treated, for which there are few or no other treatment options including brain, head and neck, stomach, eye, and breast cancer. In some ways, prostate cases actually subsidize the cost and availability of PBT treatment for more exotic and challenging cases, for which there may be no other option.

A PBT treatment center has a positive economic and developmental impact on the surrounding communities. Besides attracting medical and research professionals to the community, numerous patients along with their families spend considerable time in a PBT community while undergoing treatment, spending considerable amounts on housing, meals, entertainment and local attractions. Proton center staff members who assist patients with their needs while going through treatment are key to the positive treatment experience and making the most of their time in the PBT host community.

If there is anything more I can do to support the successful project of bringing cutting-edge medical technology to Danbury, please feel free to contact me. I am originally from the Litchfield area and look forward to visiting the new proton treatment center in Danbury. As I have told many people, if you choose proton beam therapy, you can relax knowing you have made the correct choice.

Sincerely,

Stanley A. "Steve" Voluckas
Fairhaven, MA



Coming to Danbury, CT
in early 2023

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LIVING PROOF

May, 2020

Dear Danbury Proton:

In 2002, I found out about Loma Linda University Medical Center and its proton beam prostate cancer treatment. I had prostate cancer for a while, and my PSA had climbed to 11.

I dragged my feet on prostate surgery, as I had seen too many colleagues have that surgery and then experience problem after problem.

I stumbled upon proton beam therapy and traveled clear across the United States to California for treatment.

I'm now 18 years post-treatment, and I've needed zero follow-up procedures, not even an aspirin! Proton beam therapy seems to be a one-and-done cure for prostate cancer.

Sincerely,

Wayne Swartz
Uniontown, PA



Coming to Danbury, CT
in early 2023

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LIVING PROOF

May, 2020

Dear Danbury Proton:

Choosing how to treat prostate cancer is, of course, a significant challenge. Considering which of the many options I had was at times overwhelming. You want to make the right choice but there is no guarantee you will.

Did I?

I believe I did. I am doing very well and I am closing in on five years from my treatments. I was 78 and am now 83. The treatments went very well and were painless. I was able to carry on my usual activities throughout my treatments with no ill effects.

How fortunate when so many people with cancer treatments suffer as a result of their treatments. I consider myself very fortunate that I lived 30 miles from the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, an excellent facility. Both of those facts played a role in my decision to choose proton therapy.

I hope the residents of Connecticut and nearby states have the same opportunity that I had: to choose proton therapy to treat their cancer conditions.

Don Cashman
Lafayette Hill, PA



Coming to Danbury, CT
in early 2023

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LIVING PROOF

May, 2020

Dear Danbury Proton:

I am a prostate cancer survivor thanks to proton beam therapy. Today, I live with no negative side effects, about eight miles from your proposed location.

In July of 2018, I was diagnosed with prostate cancer with a Gleason score of 3+4=7. I have a friend who is also a prostate cancer survivor. He suggested that I read Bob Marckini's book *You Can Beat Prostate Cancer: And You Don't Need Surgery to Do It*, which I did and it started my journey. I read all I could on possible treatments including the Harvard Medical School's Annual Report on Prostate Diseases.

After interviewing about 20 other prostate cancer survivors, I decided that proton beam radiation posed the lowest risk of side effects. I then had visits with radiation oncologists at ProCure in New Jersey and Massachusetts General in Boston. I selected ProCure due to their focus on a single therapy and their extremely high patient-centered focus.

Although there facility is 94 miles from my house. I had the support of my wife and my friends. My weekly routine was I'd drive myself down on Monday morning, have treatment in the afternoon, spend the evening in a hotel, be treated on Tuesday and drive home. On Wednesday a friend and I would drive down, have lunch and after treatment he would drive me home. On Thursday my wife would drive me down and we would return on Friday after treatment. While this was not the ideal situation, it did work and it kept me from spending four nights a week in a hotel.

As I mentioned, I have no negative side effects from this treatment and my last PSA was 1.0. If I had to do it all over again, I would certainly choose proton beam therapy. I would be happy to meet with you or speak on the behalf of proton beam therapy if it meant having a center in Danbury.

Sincerely,

Richard Obarowski
New Fairfield, CT



Coming to Danbury, CT
in early 2023

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LIVING PROOF

May, 2020

Dear Danbury Proton:

This is an email strongly supporting the opportunity for a proton center in Connecticut.

I have been a resident of Connecticut for 40 of the last 45 years. Eleven years ago, I was diagnosed with prostate cancer. My family has a history of cancer, and the news did not come as a big surprise. What did surprise me was the need to go all the way to Loma Linda, California to receive proton therapy for treatment of my cancer. Imagine, having to travel all the way to California for three months to receive state-of-the-art care instead of being able to get it right here in Connecticut, a state which has been at the leading edge of education, manufacturing and is even the home of the first nuclear powered submarine and the U.S. Navy's sub school.

After being diagnosed with cancer, I began looking for options for treatment. I ruled out surgery right away, as I had just gotten remarried and the thought of a married life without sex, but with a diaper, was just not acceptable. That is a reality for a huge percentage of men who chose surgery for prostate cancer. My mother had been badly burned by a poorly-trained technician when she received conventional radiation for her ovarian cancer. When I started researching radiation options, I learned that radiation mistakes are still shockingly common, as documented by a series written by the *New York Times*.

Fortunately, my wife is a member of the Young Presidents Organization (YPO), and she requested help from that group. One of the members responded with a suggestion to look into the James Slater Proton Center at Loma Linda University Hospital. I contacted them and received a variety of materials including the book written by Bob Marckini, who had been a prostate cancer patient there in the 1990's.

The solution offered by proton therapy was elegant: unsurpassed cure rates combined with the absolute minimum of collateral damage. To those in the insurance industry who may feel that "a cure is a cure" and who cares if there is some burning of nearby tissue (with conventional radiation), did not see my mother suffer. I am sure they would not wish that kind of suffering for their mother.

Proton therapy solves that, as has been demonstrated since it was started at Massachusetts General on an experimental basis, and then on a broad scale at Loma Linda in 1989. Proton therapy is a proven, superior treatment option for prostate cancer and many other types of cancer as well. There were only six proton centers in the United States when I received my treatment. Fortunately, now there are many more, but curiously, none within an hour of where I live.

My treatment at Loma Linda was almost pleasurable. Fifteen minutes a day for about nine weeks, with plenty of physical exercise and recreation options. I was treated at a center that had the interests of the patient first, where more than half of the patients had traveled from thousands of miles to get care there. There were plenty of patients from the Northeast and some from as far away as Alaska and even the United Kingdom. It was interesting that many of the patients were MDs, airline pilots, FBI agents and university professors. These were people who had done their homework, were science-oriented and did not just "do what their urologist told them to do" and have surgery and learn to live with a diaper.

My treatment was painless, with no side effects then or later. Everything I hoped it would be. The process at Loma Linda was well thought through, and they even offered support in terms of housing suggestions from previous patients and in suggestions for recreation during non-treatment hours. I found an apartment which was the pool house overlooking an orange grove in bloom and only ten minutes from the hospital. There was plenty of time for golf, skiing (yes, you can do both in California at the same time if you are there in early Spring), sightseeing and evening get-togethers at nearby restaurants with other patients.

Danbury would be a perfect location in the Northeast for similar recreation options! Bob Marckini referred to his time at Loma Linda as a radiation vacation. For me, it was, timewise, much more vacation than radiation. My experience during proton therapy could not have been better.

I have been living cancer-free for the past 10 years and have helped many men through the process of determining what the best therapy option is for them. The number one hurdle preventing proton therapy for most men is the distance a patient must travel to get the therapy. A proton center in Connecticut would be a huge benefit to men in Connecticut and also in nearby Westchester and Putnam counties.

I would, of course, select proton treatment again if I had to do it all over. No other therapy comes close to providing both the cure and the minimal damage to nearby sensitive organs. It would be an outstanding addition to life in Connecticut!

Sincerely yours,

Roger Clarke
Greenwich, CT



Coming to Danbury, CT
in early 2023

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LIVING PROOF

May, 2020

Dear Danbury Proton:

I am writing in support of the Proton Therapy Center being considered in Danbury, Connecticut.

In 2010, I was 48 years old when I was diagnosed with prostate cancer. Upon hearing this news, I was contacted by a former business associate in South Carolina who left me a voice message saying "whatever you do, don't schedule treatment until you talked with me." Come to find out, two years prior, he had been treated for prostate cancer in Jacksonville, Florida using proton beam therapy (PBT). After listening to him and doing my own research I decided that PBT was something I wanted for treatment.

I live in upstate New York and the PBT center at the University of Pennsylvania was the closest center to me geographically (250 miles away). Logistically, that was too far to commute, so I arranged housing in Center City Philadelphia and began treatments in June 2011. I could write pages about the positive experiences I had during the nine weeks and 44 treatments, but I'll summarize a few here:

I was able to live for nine weeks in Philadelphia during the summer of 2011 essentially as a tourist; I felt that good. I visited museums, volunteered at a local men's shelter, ate wonderfully diverse foods, bicycled to and from treatments, etc.

I never felt as if I was undergoing any treatments and had only very slight side effects from the treatment - being slightly tired the most notable.

Later in the treatment, I had slight circular redness marks on both sides of my upper hip area where the beam entered.

Slight weight loss (5 lbs.) was likely due to the anxiety of living away from family and knowing I was being treated for cancer.

My PSA was marginally high at 4.4 and my Gleason score was a 6/6 (moderately aggressive cancer) before beginning treatments. Over the years since, I continue to have annual wellness exams and the PSA blood screening is part of that. My PSA dropped continuously after treatment to a nadir of now 0.33.

In summary, I would HIGHLY RECOMMEND PBT as a standard-of-care for prostate cancer; especially to men on the younger side of the age category as I was. I never had, nor do I currently have, any effects post-treatment which are common in other treatments such as classic radiation therapy and surgery.

I know the science of PBT relegates to an expensive initial investment, but I truly believe that, as with any other treatment modality, the more this technology is used, understood and confirmed, the costs will decline as patient volumes increase. I feel the technology of PBT can become a standard-of-care for not only prostate cancer but many others cancers as well.

Warmest regards,

Joel T. Buice
Elmira Heights, NY



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in early 2023

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LIVING PROOF

May, 2020

Dear Danbury Proton:

In January of 2016, I completed my proton therapy. I was 67 with a PSA of 4.08. Gleason Score was 7, T-score t1c. No detectable tumor.

I researched having my prostate removed at Lahey robotically, freezing, seeding, photon radiation with hormone therapy.

A friend told me about proton and I read Robert Marckini's book, *You Can Beat Prostate Cancer, Without Surgery*.

The closest proton center to me was Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. Dr. Jason Efstathiou and his team did a fantastic job—from the initial visit to 42 treatments and follow-up check-ups!

I just had my annual checkup and my PSA is .003. I feel great, side effects are minimal. I'm also part of a study comparing photon to proton. I have never once second guessed my decision and would do it again.

Larry Grygiel
Winthrop, ME



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May, 2020

Dear Danbury Proton:

I was diagnosed in August 2016. My urologist, at my biopsy result conference, rather cavalierly told me he'd be operating on me in September. I told him that I wasn't going to commit to surgery and needed to do some research. I had not been pleased with things I'd heard of radical prostate surgery.

I read several books, one of which was written by Robert Marckini about his experience with proton therapy. I went to the Roswell Institute in Buffalo for a second opinion on my biopsy. I met with a radiation oncologist in Rochester. I was very pleased with what I read about the protons. I wrote for information from three centers and ended up going for a consult at the Maryland Proton Treatment Center in Baltimore. I was sold until I learned my insurance company wouldn't cover proton therapy. Fortunately, was able to receive financial help from my family and I was set to go to Baltimore in January. I stayed at the American Cancer Society's Hope Lodge, absolutely free. I worked remotely part-time while there but also had much time to explore the city with other patients/friends from the Hope Lodge.

I was there for 45 treatments from January to March 2017. My treatments were relatively easy. I'd walk over to the center each day at my time. Side effects included fatigue, frequent and sometimes urgent urination, and since I was on a hormone that reduced my testosterone to zero, breast enlargement, hot flashes, and belly fat--but no biggie.

My PSA when I began was over 8. It got well below 1 and has now apparently settled at around 2, which is in the normal range. I'll always have a PSA as long as I have my prostate. I am healthy and doing well three years out. I am so pleased I chose this treatment as I feel my quality of life is much better than it likely would have been had I undergone surgery. I still stay in touch with many of the folks I lived with during my time in Baltimore.

Protons are an amazing treatment and I will advocate for them as long as I live. If you would like more information please feel free to reach out to me. The residents of Connecticut and adjacent areas of New York and New England will be very fortunate to have their own proton center.

Regards,

Jim Grunert
Rochester, NY



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May, 2020

Dear Danbury Proton:

I was diagnosed with prostate cancer 20 years ago and I knew what treatment I did not want: *surgery*. My brother chose surgery and it cost him dearly. So, when I was diagnosed, I did exhaustive due diligence, which led me to proton therapy in October of 2000. Back then, there was only one proton center in the United States, Loma Linda University Cancer Center. I had my treatment there, and it was the best decision of my life. Today I am cancer free with zero side effects.

During treatment 20 years ago, I started a support group called *The Brotherhood of the Balloon*, which now consists of 10,000 men (in all 50 states and 39 countries) with prostate cancer, all of whom chose proton therapy for treatment. The overwhelming majority of these men are cancer free today with zero to minimal side effects from treatment.

I also wrote two books on the subject of prostate cancer detection and treatment, where I strongly promote proton therapy. My first book was a best seller on Amazon ranking in the top five on a “prostate cancer” search for the past ten years out of more than 4,000 books on the subject. My latest edition has quickly moved to the top five as well.

So, I am a huge fan of proton therapy and I am a strong supporter of having a new proton center in Danbury, Connecticut. There are too few proton centers in the northeast, and Danbury is an ideal location for a new center. Good luck with the project to design and build a proton center in Danbury, Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Marckini
Mattapoisett, MA

Founder: *Brotherhood of the Balloon*

Author: *You Can Beat Prostate Cancer - and You Don't Need Surgery to Do It*



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LIVING PROOF

May, 2020

Dear Danbury Proton:

I would like to support and promote your proton therapy center in Danbury. Good luck!

In November of 2008, I was diagnosed with prostate cancer and was told to choose from several possible treatments, none of which included proton therapy. I started doing research, attended local monthly prostate support group meetings, and met with several local doctors. Still, I never felt comfortable with any of the options that men had taken or doctors suggested.

Then, through a friend of a friend, I met a gentleman who recently returned from proton treatment. He was a retired science professor and explained why he chose proton and drew pictures of how it works. He had zero side effects. I was sold!! At the support group meetings, there was not a single person who hadn't or wasn't dealing with "side effects."

Choices of places to get proton treatment were few back then: California, Minnesota, Massachusetts and Florida. I chose Jacksonville for the warm weather and beaches and stayed at a motel about four blocks from the beach. Management gave me an incredible deal for my nine-week stay.

Treatment over the weeks went well. Due to a kidney stone issue, I missed a few days of treatment and had to stay a little longer. The staff and doctors at the proton treatment center were incredible. Caring and professional, always looking after my best interest. They really made the treatment go as smoothly as possible.

During free time I remained quite active. I played racquetball with a local group 2-3 times a week and did a lot of biking. And of course, went to the beach often. Another patient and I became best friends and often ate together and did some local sightseeing.

Last fall, my "new" best friend and I returned to Florida to celebrate 10 years of being cancer free! Neither one of us has had any side effects what so ever and if we had to do it over again, we would both choose proton therapy! Through the years, when I have the opportunity to talk to newly diagnosed men, I always tell them about my choice and why.

Sincerely

Scott Owens
State College, PA



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May, 2020

Dear Danbury Proton:

I had proton therapy between November 2012 and January 2013. A friend of mine who had proton therapy recommended it. I checked out the different types of treatments and chose proton therapy. I felt it was the best option for me.

I went to ProCure in Somerset, New Jersey. It was about 20 minutes from where I worked, so I was able to work and then go for my treatment. After going home in the evening, I was able to go to the gym a couple of nights a week. I had no major side effects from my treatment and my normal routine did not change. I was able to go to work every day.

Since my treatments stopped I have not had any issues. My PSA readings have been 0.2 since treatment stopped. The people at ProCure were very nice and made my visits very pleasant. I would not hesitate to recommend proton therapy to anyone or use again if needed.

Lanny Stein
Jackson, NJ



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in early 2023

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LIVING PROOF

May, 2020

Dear Danbury Proton:

I am 65, father of four amazing grown kids and I have two young grandchildren. I am a farrier, and have traveled all over the world shoeing jumping horses for the past 45 years. I have had many wonderful high points raising my kids on our farm in Pennsylvania, and in my career. I am in good shape and enjoy my life. I am very fortunate.

I have been a patient of the executive health care program at Mayo Clinic Rochester. I have a great primary doctor there whom I visit a few days each year for my annual check-up. In October 2019, my PSA came back 5.4, having risen from 4.7 the year prior. I really thought I was fine and didn't want a biopsy. No one ever thinks there is a problem given there are rarely any symptoms.

I traveled back home and scheduled an MRI at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia for December 30, 2019 (my eldest daughter's birthday). That evening, the call came. "You have two lesions on your Prostate, they look significant along with an extra prostatic extension. 98% likelihood of cancer." Shocked is an understatement! I returned to the Mayo Clinic for a biopsy and read everything I could get my hands on about prostate cancer. The biopsy report was Gleason 8. Not good news. I was terrified. It's hard to explain the shift in perspective.

I have a friend who is a veterinarian whom I worked with on occasion. He gave me Bob Marckini's first edition of *You Can Beat Prostate Cancer*. I read it twice, and it was clear, smart, and full of hope. I recently read the second edition which came out a month ago. I have now read 15-20 books on the subject written by doctors with varying perspectives. Mr. Marckini has clearly, in my opinion, given us a much needed, great book! Every man should read it; I only wish I had earlier.

I met with many surgeons, medical oncologists and radiation oncologists. I have many wonderful connections, and at the end was convinced that I should schedule surgery, which I did. The coronavirus canceled or postponed the surgery date in March of 2020, and I was able to rethink this decision. I recognized that my best option for a cure and the best option overall was to have proton therapy! I have gone from terror to hope!

I called Dr. Nancy Mendenhall back, having consulted with her initially, and asked if she would treat me and she accepted! It's crazy, but I'm excited and grateful, and no longer terrified. I'm writing you on my iPhone from my home away from home for the next few months in Jacksonville Florida. I start at University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute on June 1. I feel confident this will work.

In closing, I encourage you to read Mr. Marckini's book as I believe every man should. I hope you are successful in bringing proton therapy to men in your area! I have many friends in your area, flown in their planes, and many will need your help. I wish you good fortune and respect the work you are doing on the part men who need this therapy!

Dean Pearson
Nottingham, PA



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LIVING PROOF

May, 2020

Dear Danbury Proton:

Hi there! In February 2017 I was diagnosed with Prostate cancer. What a shock that was, and less than four years since I had my kidney transplant.

My daughter found a book by Bob Marckini that had all the research and information needed to learn about this dreaded disease. Having read his book at least four times and speaking to other patients about what treatments they had chosen, and why, it became clear to me that proton therapy was my only viable option because of the location of my transplanted kidney.

Now I had to decide where to have the treatment. Since Massachusetts General / Dana Farber were not doing many proton treatments for prostate cancer, I decided to contact Loma Linda University Medical Center in California. That's where proton treatment was developed and they alone had treated over 20,000 patients.

From my first call to the proton center in Loma Linda, I had the privilege of being totally taken care of by the fabulous physicians and staff there. My PSA was 7.0 before I started treatment and now three years later, my PSA is down to 0.2! I'm in full agreement with the friends I made there, who were patients like me, that the whole treatment was really a "radiation vacation." Most of them had no side effects at all, nor did I, and that gave my wife and I lots of time to explore the Inland Empire of southern California. Thankfully, I have no after effects common with prostate surgery, so I know I made the right decision for me. I thank God for it.

We rented an apartment for the 2½ months duration of my treatment and kept in touch with family and friends on the east coast via Skype. The experience was an extremely positive one that, if needed, I would repeat in a heartbeat without a doubt. We still keep in touch with the friends we met there and we share our latest PSA scores.

I wish you every success in starting up your proton center in Danbury and may God bless your endeavor.

John Brady
Billerica, MA



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in early 2023

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LIVING PROOF

May, 2020

Dear Danbury Proton:

I was first diagnosed with Prostate Cancer in September of 2010. This was after 3 years of following a slightly high PSA, two biopsies, surgery for enlarged prostate and many PSA tests. I decided to monitor my condition before seeking treatment. This was all done with advice from my urologist at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

In January of 2016, my PSA went high and my biopsy showed intermediate cancer. At this point, I decided to act and went for treatment in October of 2016. So, I had nine years to research and study prostate cancer and its treatments. I was fortunate to discover Bob Marckini's book early in my study. His book was very informative and introduced me to proton beam therapy, something I had never heard of.

I discovered that the "gold standard" of treatment at the time was prostatectomy. Also common was radioactive seeds or x-rays. I also started to realize that if you asked a surgeon what to do, he would say surgery. If you asked a radiologist, he would say seeds or x-rays. I guess if you asked a Medicine man, he would have an appropriate chant for you. I'm not saying anyone was dishonest; I believe they really felt that they were giving you the best advice.

So, what was an engineer to do? Gather data!

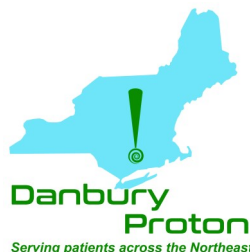
I searched for all the testimonials that I could find. I wanted to get firsthand information from the people that experienced the treatment. I read more than 100 testimonials from men who had all of the treatments I have mentioned from numerous hospitals and locations around the country. My conclusion from all this was that all the treatments would kill or remove the cancer.

Without question, the men who had proton beam therapy had fewer problems with side effects and complications after treatment.

The major worries are ED and incontinence. These problems were almost non-existent with protons based upon the testimonials. I also started reading everything I could find on the internet about prostate cancer. I was very wary about the sources and only relied on information from major hospitals and well-known organizations. Being an engineer with a skiing buddy who is a physicist, I studied the technology involved in the various treatments. Just evaluating treatments from a technical standpoint, again proton beam looked to be superior. Proton beams could "target" the tumor and do less damage to healthy tissue than the other treatments.

I decided that if I needed treatment that I would choose proton beam.

Continued on next page...



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Continued from previous page...

The name that kept coming up in my research was MD Anderson hospital in Houston. They have been rated the #1 cancer hospital many times. They had a new Proton Beam Center in Houston. When my cancer advanced in 2016, my urologist and I decided it was time to act. He knew I had studied treatments and had a strong preference for proton beam. He asked me to consult with a doctor at Dana Farber and I agreed.

At Dana Farber, they suggested x-rays (IMRT). I asked about protons and was told that x-rays were equally as effective. I knew that the first proton beam equipment was at Harvard (MGH), but they only had one unit. I had read speeches that the head of the MGH facility had given at conferences. My conclusion from my reading was that he felt the men with prostate cancer had other alternatives and the proton beams were needed for other cancers, such as eye cancer or pediatric brain cancer. He had a point and I certainly did not want to take a slot that could have been for a child with brain cancer.

So, my next move was to contact MD Anderson. My experience with MD Anderson was excellent from beginning to end. The doctors, nurses and other staff were all great. My treatment were like getting a massage without the massage. Take off your clothes, lay on a table for 20 minutes and your done. No pain, you feel fine afterwards and until your next treatment. The only uncomfortable part was needing to have a full bladder. And the balloon, no big deal.

I was lucky enough to find an organization called Hospitality House. They provided free housing just walking distance from the Proton Center. This is a great organization run by several local churches. The only requirement was that you were in Houston for medical treatment. There is a three month waiting list.

I am approaching three years past treatment. I feel great. My PSA has stayed low. I have no complications from treatment. I am in touch with a number of other patients I met during treatment, and they are all doing fine.

I believe that proton beam therapy is the new "gold standard" for treating prostate cancer. I have two friends who had prostate cancer, one had seeds for treatment and the other had a prostatectomy. Both have had bad after effects. The seeds caused lots of problems with urination. The prostatectomy resulted in severe pain in the area and two subsequent surgeries to fix it.

It is too bad that New England has only one treatment unit at MGH. I do not regret going to Houston, but if we had a center nearby, it would have been great. Many people would not make the decision to go that far for treatment. Having a center in Connecticut would be great, not only for prostate but for pediatric cancers, eye cancers and many other conditions. It is very important for kids because a lower dose of radiation makes it less likely that they will develop cancer later from the treatment.

Tim Mackie
Worcester, MA



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