

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
March 17, 2014

Contact: Aryn Mooney, Community Relations
Office: 904-880-5522
Cell: 904-451-2831
aryn@firstcoastoncology.com



**FIRST COAST
ONCOLOGY**

Scot Ackerman, M.D.
Ryan Perkins, M.D.
Paul Ossi, M.D.

Mevion Medical Systems Delivers Proton Accelerator to Mandarin Oncology Practice

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — With the arrival of the MEVION S250 Superconducting Synchrocyclotron, First Coast Oncology will soon be the first private treatment site in the world to offer proton therapy. The Mandarin oncology practice received the 84,000-pound delivery from Boston on Saturday and is expected to be operational by the end of the year.

“Offering proton therapy gives the community another option in cancer treatment in a patient-centered, intimate setting. It also furthers our commitment to providing exceptional and progressive cancer treatments to our patients,” said Scot Ackerman, M.D., Medical Director of First Coast Oncology.

Proton therapy delivers highly precise doses of radiation while limiting unnecessary radiation to healthy tissue. “By minimizing harm to healthy tissue, patients may experience a decrease in radiation side effects, thus improving patient outcomes,” explains Dr. Ackerman.

The delivery of the proton accelerator is only a starting point for work that will continue to benefit the community for years to come. Once the installation is complete, the First Coast Oncology proton team will spend several months running the MEVION S250 through independent and rigorous clinical quality assurance tests to ensure that system specifications, safety, and reliability requirements are met.

“Our day-to-day decisions are made in the best interest of the patients, their families and the needs of our community,” said Dr. Ackerman.

First Coast Oncology provides radiation therapy at three facilities across Northeast Florida. The Mandarin office is the fourth location for the Mevion 250, manufactured by Mevion Medical Systems.

[caption for image 9237] Dr. Scot Ackerman and Dr. Ryan Perkins watch as the 84,000-pound MEVION S250 Superconducting Synchrocyclotron is lifted into the Proton Therapy Center ceiling. With the arrival of the proton accelerator, First Coast Oncology will soon be the first private treatment site in the world to offer proton therapy.

###

About First Coast Oncology

First Coast Oncology’s mission is to be the first resource where patients turn when diagnosed with any type of cancer. First Coast Oncology provides the most advanced radiation oncology treatment available, in a compassionate and respectful environment. A highly trained staff of Radiation Oncologists and medical professionals provide convenient access of care at three locations across Northeast Florida. Learn more at www.FirstCoastOncology.com.