

James M. Metz, MD

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James M. Metz, MD is the Henry K. Pancoast Professor and Chair of Radiation Oncology in the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Metz also served as the Executive Director of OncoLink, the world's largest award-winning Internet resource for cancer information.

Dr. Metz received a BS in Biology from Juniata College in 1989. He also received a MS in Clinical Immunology/Microbiology from Hahnemann University in 1991 and graduated medical school from Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in 1995. He then completed his Radiation Oncology residency training at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in 1999 where he has remained as faculty.

Prior to becoming Chair in 2015, Dr. Metz held a series of administrative positions within the department, beginning in 2005, he was appointed Director of Clinical Operations. In 2009, he was appointed Vice Chair of the Clinical Division in Radiation Oncology and in 2010 became the Director of Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement. In 2014, Dr. Metz was appointed Executive Vice Chair of the Department.

Dr. Metz led the development of the 5-room Roberts Proton Center, the largest proton center in the world completely integrated with conventional cancer services. He also oversaw the development of two single room proton centers at Lancaster General Hospital in central Pennsylvania in 2022 and at Virtua Voorhees Hospital in South Jersey in 2023. He is currently overseeing the development of a fourth proton center at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, which is scheduled to open in 2027.

Dr. Metz has become an international leader in the application of proton therapy for the treatment of a variety of malignancies. He is also leading the ultra-high dose (FLASH) radiation research program at Penn Medicine. FLASH protons is a novel treatment that can reduce a typical radiation course of 5-7 weeks to less than 1 second, while having the same tumor control with less side effects.

His clinical interests include the multidisciplinary management of gastrointestinal cancers, the integration of proton therapy in the cancer treatment paradigm, and the expansion of quality and safety initiatives to improve clinical outcomes for patients.