

## **Proton Collaborative Group (PCG) boosts its efforts to gather compelling clinical evidence on proton therapy**

**Warrenville, IL, September 13, 2017** - Proton Collaborative Group (PCG) is proud to announce the start of a large-scale initiative to enhance its clinical data collection efforts in the field of proton therapy. PCG currently houses the largest multi-institutional proton therapy patient registry with over 10,000 patients from 12 treatment facilities across the U.S. included in its database. PCG intends to expand its role in the collection of high quality data through the implementation of a more robust database which is reviewed in on a going basis by an expert International Data Steering Committee.

The enhanced database, “Alexandria”, will boost PCG’s registry to the next level. It will allow for collection of more comprehensive data, by providing a platform for advanced dosimetry and imaging data to be captured for all patients. This will greatly augment the current data entry and data quality assurance efforts. Data collection will be quicker and more robust, allowing for better data analysis.

Complementing the new database is a newly formed International Steering Committee which includes partnerships with experts in the field of proton therapy from the US and Europe. The committee will focus on creating standardized data collection points for use among participating registries across the world, will organize research efforts aimed at extracting evidence from the data collected, and will assist in creating patient selection models for proton treatment for use in insurance reimbursement efforts.

“The PCG’s mission is to improve the outcomes for cancer patients, both for survival and quality of life. As more proton therapy centers are opening, we want to ensure that this technology is accessible to all patients who can benefit from it. This requires appropriate treatment selection for each individual patient, clear justification of the treatment choice and adequate reimbursement. All of this requires gathering solid clinical data from multi-institution studies and registries” says William Hartsell, President of the PCG. ASTRO, in its recent updated Model Policies “Proton Beam Therapy” presents what the society believes to be correct coverage policies for radiation oncology services and proton therapy in particular. It includes a large range of indications if the patient is enrolled in either an Institutional Research Board (IRB)-approved study or in a multi-institutional registry. PCG has the capability to provide its members with a platform to facilitate the set-up of this multi-institutional framework. This will provide the evidence to optimize clinical practice as well as objective decision criteria for coverage by insurance companies.

The PCG currently counts 12-member institutions in the US, with new members expected to join in the coming months.

### **About PCG:**

Proton Collaborative Group is an independent 501(c)3 non-profit corporation that currently provides proton therapy-specific clinical research including a patient registry and five clinical trials at twelve sites across the U.S. To learn more about PCG, our member sites, or our registry and clinical trials please visit our website at [www.pcgresearch.org](http://www.pcgresearch.org) or email us at [HQ@pcgresearch.org](mailto:HQ@pcgresearch.org).