

Update of Saturday, 26 February 2005

This has been a “light” week of radiation; Monday was a holiday (Presidents’ Day) and the proton cyclotron was “down” Friday, meaning I took my last gamma treatment that afternoon instead.

Next week I have five proton treatments (assuming the machine is working) and then two more the following week, ending on 8 March. Candace and I plan to start or return to Ithaca Monday, 21 March, spending that night in Lenox, MA. This assumes that I am well enough to travel by then.

Despite the 3-day weekend (due to Monday being a holiday), this was a week of fatigue and weakness, which especially deepened over that weekend. I also had a bad night of sleep Wednesday, so Thursday was a rather bad day. Yesterday was somewhat better, but today I am again very tired. I only went to my Harvard office Tues and Wed.

We also had Fr. Matthews, our rector from Grace Church in Elmira, staying with us Wed/Thur/Fri nights. This meant some very nice dinners! He and Candace accompanied me Friday to my treatment (so they saw the gamma room at Linac6) and to my meeting with my radiation oncologist.

That meeting went well. He was pleased with the progress with the weakness in my arm (although I think this has become somewhat stagnant) and surprised that I am not having more trouble swallowing (must be all the red wine I’ve been imbibing). The radiation burns on my neck are doing OK, but the last seven proton treatments will be a challenge in that area. He also addressed some technical questions and concerns that I had.

I had pictures taken of me getting a proton treatment Wednesday. Using PowerPoint I assembled them into a file with notes and then wrote it as PDF to transfer to my web site. However, with our modem this transfer was going to take over an hour, so I aborted (we pay for phone use by the minute). This will have to wait until I am back at the Lab.

Boston is certainly a lot sunnier than I remember Ithaca being in January and February. Or maybe it is just that when I am in Ithaca I am

too busy to notice the sun. My stay here and my illness and recovery have started me to think about my work life and (i) whether I really want to (or am physically able to) return to such a frenetic pace and (ii) whether I am best using my gifts at Cornell. There is also the issue of our house – will I be able to maintain it and live in a rural environment on my own when Candace resumes seminary in the Fall? Lots to ponder.

Best wishes to all. Thanks for your continued thoughts and prayers.