



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hampton University Proton Cancer Institute, American Cancer Society Explore Strategic Collaboration to Advance the Future of Cancer Care

HAMPTON, Va. (July 21, 2026) – The Hampton University Proton Cancer Institute (Hampton Proton) welcomed executive leadership from the American Cancer Society (ACS) and Hampton University on June 30 for a first-of-its-kind strategic meeting focused on strengthening collaboration to advance cancer research, expand access to care, and improve outcomes for patients and communities.

The visit marked the first time American Cancer Society Chief Executive Officer Shane Jacobson toured a proton therapy center, creating a unique opportunity for leaders from both organizations to explore innovative ways to work together in research, advocacy, education, patient support, and community engagement.

American Cancer Society leaders participating in the visit included: Chief Executive Officer Shane Jacobson, Executive Vice President of the Southeast Region Kimberly Jackson, Christina Anunziata, MD, PhD, Chris Green, Vice President of Marketing and Communications, and Riguey King, Vice President of Community Engagement.

Representing Hampton University and Hampton Proton were Hampton University President Darrell K. Williams '83, Vice President for Research Dr. Neelam Azad, Hampton University Trustee Calvin L. Butts, Jr. '02, Hampton Proton Executive Director Scott Berry, and members of the Hampton Proton executive leadership team.

The day began with a tour of the Hampton University Proton Cancer Institute, where leaders learned more about proton therapy, patient care, and the center's impact across the Commonwealth of Virginia and beyond. Discussions continued with a strategic meeting focused on the organizations' shared commitment to accelerating cancer research, addressing disparities in cancer care, improving access to innovative treatments, and identifying opportunities for future collaboration. The visit concluded with a tour of Hampton University's campus, highlighting the University's expanding research enterprise and its commitment to education, workforce development, and improving community health.

As the first proton therapy center in Virginia, the eighth in the United States, and the only proton therapy center owned by a Historically Black College and University, Hampton

Proton is uniquely positioned to bring together clinical excellence, research, education, and community engagement in ways that advance health equity and improve cancer care.

Throughout the discussions, leaders emphasized that defeating cancer requires more than delivering exceptional treatment—it requires partnerships that connect research, education, advocacy, innovation, and patient support.

Williams spoke to the University's responsibility to lead and serve through its unique combination of education, healthcare, and community partnerships.

"Hampton University has long been a trusted source—not only for our students, but for our surrounding communities. Through initiatives like our Workforce Development Program, Hampton WellNest, and the Hampton University Proton Cancer Institute, we have an incredible opportunity to improve lives today while helping shape the future of cancer care."

Scott Berry, Executive Director of the Hampton University Proton Cancer Institute, said the meeting represents the beginning of what could become a transformational partnership.

"This visit represented far more than an introduction," said Scott Berry. "It brought together organizations that are enthusiastic about changing the future of cancer care. By combining our strengths in patient care, research, advocacy, and community engagement, we have an opportunity to create meaningful collaborations that will benefit patients, families, and communities throughout Virginia and beyond."

While the June 30 meeting marked the beginning of the relationship, both organizations expressed enthusiasm for continuing conversations and identifying collaborative initiatives that can advance research, strengthen patient support services, increase community outreach, and improve cancer outcomes for generations to come.

ABOUT HAMPTON UNIVERSITY PROTON CANCER INSTITUTE

The Hampton University Proton Cancer Institute is the first proton therapy center in the Commonwealth of Virginia, the eighth in the United States, and the only proton therapy center owned by a Historically Black College and University. Since opening in 2010, Hampton Proton has treated more than 5,000 patients from across the country and around the world. The Cancer Institute is committed to delivering exceptional patient-centered care while advancing cancer research, education, advocacy, and access to innovative treatment.

ABOUT HAMPTON UNIVERSITY

Hampton University is a prestigious Carnegie R2-designated research institution recognized for pioneering work in atmospheric science, cancer research, and cybersecurity. With an annual economic impact of \$530 million across the Commonwealth of Virginia, Hampton remains a leading engine of innovation and workforce development.

Founded in 1868, Hampton serves a diverse community of scholars from 44 states and 32 territories. The university is committed to academic excellence, global citizenship, and preparing students to lead with purpose and integrity. Learn more at www.hamptonu.edu

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