



Benjamin Lacombe:

Benjamin Lacombe R.T.(T), a San Diego native, pursued a pre-med education at Cornell University in 2007 and completed his Radiation Therapist training in 2014 at Cambridge Health in West Palm Beach, Florida. His passion for healthcare was inspired early on, assisting his parents in running a care facility for Dementia and Alzheimer’s patients, where he developed a deep commitment to compassionate patient care. Beginning his oncology career as a Radiation Therapist at the Scripps Proton Therapy Center in 2014, he operated treatments with the United States' first Varian ProBeam proton accelerator and now leads Clinical Operations at California Protons Cancer Therapy Center. Ben is dedicated to advocating for patients fighting for their health and continues to explore new ways to improve care delivery.



Karla Leach:

Karla graduated from MD Anderson’s Medical Dosimetry Program in 2008. Over the last fifteen years, she has gained experience in both photon and proton treatment planning across several different planning systems. She transitioned to Proton Therapy in 2015 at Texas Center for Proton Therapy and accepted the role of Dosimetry Supervisor at California Protons Cancer Therapy Center in San Diego in 2021. She has a passion for teaching and is dedicated to advancing planning techniques to give patients the highest quality of care. She was first author of “Beam-Specific Spot Guidance and Optimization for PBS Proton Treatment of Bilateral Head and Neck Cancers” and assisted in several other papers. She has also done several presentations on proton treatment planning processes and general education about proton therapy.



Timothy Kieper:

Dr. Tim Keiper is an Assistant Professor at the California Proton Therapy Center and has primary clinical coverage at the California Proton Therapy Center. Additionally, he holds the position of Associate Program Director for the UCSD Medical Physics Residency program.

Dr. Keiper's research is centered around motion management and adaptive radiotherapy. He has a keen interest in implementing scripts and coding within the Aria and Eclipse environments to enhance clinical efficiency and minimize errors. In the department, he serves as the Chair of the Social Planning and Outreach Committee and is a valued member of the Quality Committee and the Medical Physics Education Committee.