



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 5, 2025

Advocacy in Action: Hampton Proton Celebrates Bill Thomas, Recipient of the 2025 NAPT Champion Award for Leadership in Expanding Proton Therapy Access

HAMPTON, Va. — Hampton University Proton Cancer Institute (Hampton Proton) proudly celebrates Bill Thomas, Associate Vice President of Governmental Relations at Hampton University, who has been named the 2025 Champion Award recipient by the National Association for Proton Therapy (NAPT).



Tiffany Velez Rodgers presents the 2025 NAPT Champion Award to Bill Thomas in recognition of his leadership in expanding proton therapy access.

Presented during the 2025 National Proton Conference, held April 26–28 in Philadelphia, the award honors Thomas’s outstanding leadership in shaping policies that expand access to proton therapy, particularly within the Commonwealth of Virginia.

A Model for Patient-Centered Advocacy

The NAPT Champion Award is reserved for public officials who demonstrate extraordinary commitment to expanding patient access to proton therapy through

legislative and regulatory efforts. Thomas’s work has not only influenced key policy outcomes but has also sparked broader community engagement and awareness around equitable cancer care.

“Mr. Thomas has demonstrated exceptional leadership in government affairs and has been instrumental in galvanizing support for proton therapy through strategic collaboration with key stakeholders across the Commonwealth,” said Tiffany Velez Rodgers, Director of Marketing at Hampton Proton, as she presented the award. “He has advocated for cancer patients by engaging with legislators, health systems, and the broader community to highlight the urgent need for reform in the coverage of proton therapy.”

“Through his efforts, he not only influenced key policy outcomes—he has sparked a wave of community engagement and statewide awareness, proving that progress happens when advocacy is paired with action,” she added.

Thomas’s leadership reflects a growing recognition that health equity must be advanced not only in clinics and laboratories, but also in legislative chambers and local communities. He is dedicated to ensuring policy makers recognize that their influence, along with public engagement, is what drives progress and meaningful change.

A Vision for the Future of Proton Therapy

“I’m honored to receive the NAPT Champion Award and grateful to stand alongside so many advocates who are working to ensure every patient has access to the care they deserve,” said Thomas. “Proton therapy represents not just cutting-edge science, but real hope for families facing cancer. I believe our work is only just beginning — and I’m committed to supporting continued progress through advocacy, awareness, and bold investment in the future of cancer care.”

Thomas remains deeply committed to advancing equitable access to proton therapy — not only through policy advocacy, but also by championing continued research and expansion of clinical trial opportunities. His efforts reflect a long-term vision to ensure that this advanced cancer treatment reaches more patients in more communities. As he often says, his work is far from over.

Continued Commitment to Equity and Innovation

As one of the nation’s leading proton therapy centers, Hampton Proton remains dedicated to ensuring that all patients, especially those from underserved communities, have access to the most advanced cancer care available. Leaders like Bill Thomas are helping to shape a future where advocacy and access go hand in hand.

To learn more about Hampton Proton and its commitment to compassionate cancer care, visit www.hamptonproton.org.

ABOUT HAMPTON UNIVERSITY PROTON CANCER INSTITUTE

Hampton University Proton Cancer Institute, Cancer and Research Center (Hampton Proton) is a leading cancer treatment and research facility dedicated to advancing the fight against cancer. As pioneers in proton therapy and cutting-edge research, Hampton Proton provides compassionate care and precise treatments to patients while driving scientific discovery in the field of oncology. Headquartered in Hampton, Va., Hampton Proton, the eighth such center established in the country, is the only proton center owned and operated by a historically Black college and university (HBCU) and is committed to excellence in patient care guided by innovative research, advocacy, access to care and better outcomes. The institute treats several different types of cancer, including breast, prostate, pediatric, lung, head & neck, ocular, brain & spine and gastrointestinal.

Media Contact:

Lourdes Hernandez
Marketing Specialist II
Hampton University Proton Cancer Institute
Lourdes.Hernandez@hamptonproton.org

###