

For immediate release

Press Statement

13 December 2011

**Royal College of Radiologists welcomes
National Proton Beam Therapy Service**

Responding to the Department of Health's announcement that they will establish a new National Proton Beam Therapy Service in England, Dr Jane Barrett, President of The Royal College of Radiologists (RCR), said, "We welcome this important step towards ensuring that patients in the UK have access to Proton Beam Therapy here at home, and we are particularly pleased that this announcement is being made in 2011, the Year of Radiotherapy. This move will save selected patients from having to travel abroad for treatment, and it further underlines the vital importance of modern radiotherapy techniques in cancer treatment."

Dr Adrian Crellin, National Clinical Lead for Proton Beam Therapy and Dean of the RCR's Faculty of Clinical Oncology, said, "A Proton Beam Service in England will allow us to treat certain cancers, particularly in children, to not only minimise the late effects of treatment, but also to improve cure rates in selected rarer cancers. These developments will place the UK at the leading edge of radiotherapy technology and research."

Notes to Editors

1. For further information, please contact Dan Garbutt, RCR Communications Officer, 020 7299 1138 (direct line) or dan_garbutt@rcr.ac.uk
2. The Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) has approximately 8900 members and Fellows worldwide representing the disciplines of clinical oncology and clinical radiology. All members and Fellows of the College are registered medical or dental practitioners. The RCR exists to advance the science and practice of clinical radiology and clinical oncology through a range of activities, including setting and maintaining the standards for entry to, and practise in, the specialties of clinical radiology and clinical oncology, and arrangements for continuing professional development (CPD) in both specialties.