



**Thomas E. Merchant, D.O., Ph.D.**  
**Department of Radiation Oncology Chair**  
**St. Jude Children's Research Hospital**

Thomas E. Merchant, D.O., Ph.D., is the chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. In this position, he oversees the institution's programs that use radiation therapy to treat childhood cancer. Dr. Merchant also holds the Baddia J. Rashid Endowed Chair in Radiation Oncology.

Since joining St. Jude in 1996, Dr. Merchant has been instrumental in helping the hospital define the next generation of treatments that hold the best hope for improved outcomes and better long-term quality of life for children with brain and solid tumors. Radiation therapy, used alone or in combination with surgery and chemotherapy, is an integral component for successfully managing and treating pediatric tumors.

Dr. Merchant helped pioneer new radiotherapy treatments that serve as standards in the field. His work with conformal radiation therapy for central nervous system tumors is the basis for guidelines used in most of the national cooperative group pediatric brain tumor trials, and he has led the development of treatment guidelines for intensity-modulated radiation therapy and proton therapy in all types of pediatric brain and solid tumors.

Dr. Merchant also played a key role in creating the St. Jude Red Frog Events Proton Therapy Center, the world's first proton therapy center designed for and dedicated solely to the treatment of children. Proton therapy allows doctors to administer targeted, high-dose radiation while sparing surrounding healthy tissue from exposure.

Before his appointment at St. Jude, Dr. Merchant was an attending physician in the Department of Radiation Oncology at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York. He originally trained as a nuclear engineer at the University of Michigan. After completing his engineering degree, and prior to attending medical school at the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine, he worked in the area of radiation protection and safety for the French Atomic Energy Commission in Fontenay-aux-Roses, France. After medical school, Dr. Merchant



was a Fulbright Scholar to the Netherlands at the University of Utrecht where he received his Ph.D., cum laude, in experimental pathology.