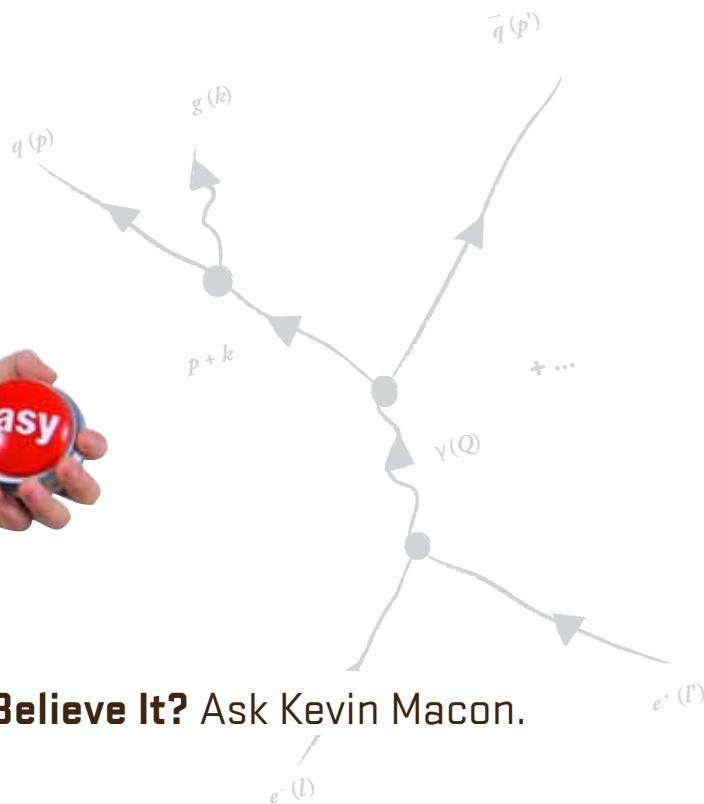
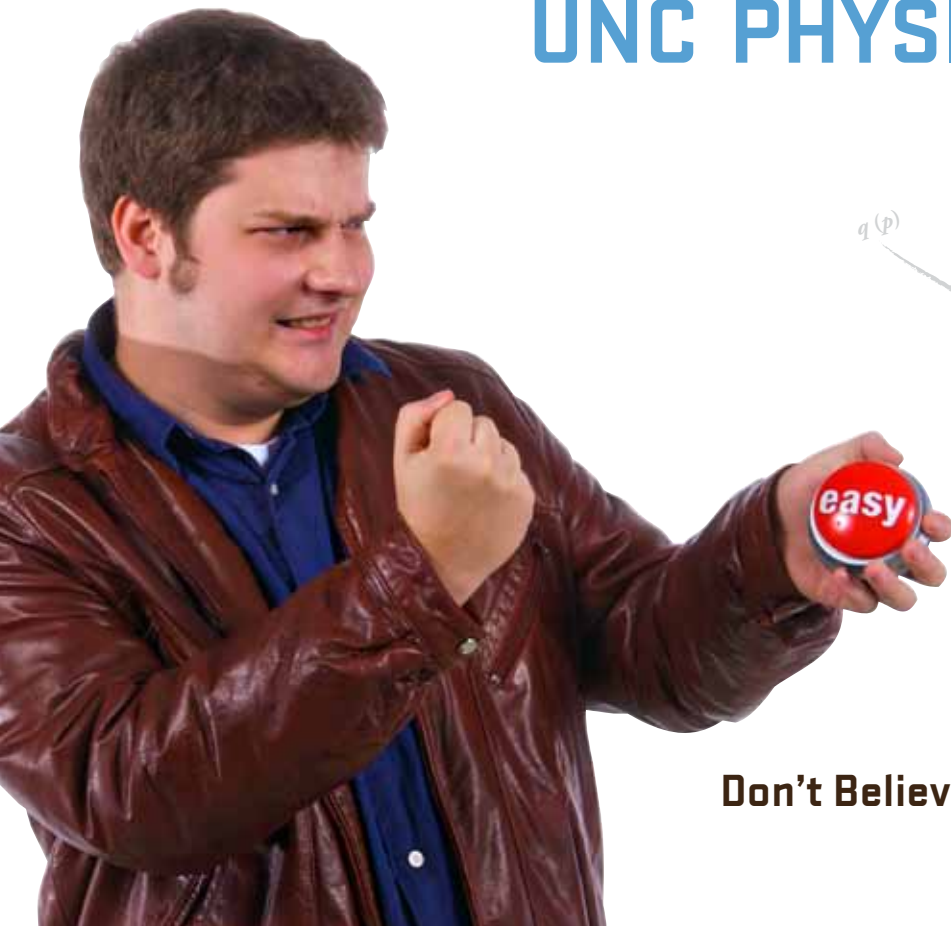


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Don't Believe It? Ask Kevin Macon.

Kevin Macon came to the University of North Carolina to study chemistry. But it gave him a bad reaction.

Now, nuclear medicine — that is the ticket. But what led him there was physics.

"I did research with (UNC professor) Dr. Reyco Henning at a nuclear laboratory where I got to see and be around accelerators," Macon, a senior physics major, said. "Understanding nuclear physics leads directly to medical treatments and how you can use big giant particle accelerators to improve people's health."

The proton beam accelerator, which is used at M.D. Anderson in Houston and other medical centers for the treatment of cancer patients, was born out of the development of physics principles by physicists. Macon says it's the development of those physics principles that is important. He says that is what makes physics-based discoveries boundless.

"If physics is easy, you're doing it wrong," Macon said. "But the point is what you get out of it. Understanding how complex the laws of nature can be and then breaking them down so you can almost predict how things will turn out, that's beautiful."

If you want to talk to Kevin about what it's like to major in physics, you can contact him at mokevin@email.unc.edu.

If you're interested in knowing more about the relationship between particle physics and medical treatment, check out:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/6403737.stm>

and <http://health.howstuffworks.com/proton-therapy.htm/printable>

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