ACCLAIMED CANCER RESEARCHER JOINS UNLV SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Dr. Parvesh Kumar will lead the school’s clinical research effort, cancer program and radiation oncology department; previously held leadership positions at Rutgers, USC and University of Kansas

LAS VEGAS – March 17, 2016 – The UNLV School of Medicine has hired internationally renowned radiation oncologist and cancer researcher Parvesh Kumar, MD to lead its cancer program and oversee its overall clinical research effort.

Dr. Kumar, who joined the school in February, has a national reputation for establishing and building academic departments of radiation oncology and clinical research programs. At UNLV he will serve as professor, chair of the department of radiation oncology, cancer program director, and senior associate dean of clinical research.

“We are so fortunate to have Dr. Kumar on our faculty,” said Dr. Barbara Atkinson, founding dean of the UNLV School of Medicine. “He brings incredible experience as a clinician, program administrator and researcher to our program.”

Dr. Kumar comes to UNLV from the University of Kansas School of Medicine, where he led the department of radiation oncology and was Associate Director of Clinical Research for the University of Kansas Cancer Center (KUCC). Under Dr. Kumar’s leadership, the radiation oncology program grew from one of the smallest into one of the largest programs in the United States. He expanded the faculty size and facilities by seven-fold, and tripled the patient volume. As the Associate Director of Clinical Research, he was also instrumental in helping the KUCC leadership team earn the coveted National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation in 2012.

An accomplished researcher, Dr. Kumar has led several funded investigator initiated and national cooperative group clinical trials in lung cancer, head and neck tumors and prostate cancer. He is a pioneer in the use of chemotherapy (docetaxel) with radiation in patients with locally advanced high-risk prostate cancer. He conducted the first Phase I clinical trial of concurrent docetaxel with radiation therapy, which established the safe doses of this drug for use with radiation in patients with high-risk prostate cancer. The Food and Drug Administration - approved Docetaxel for metastatic prostate cancer.

Since 2005, he has been selected by his peers as one of the “Best Doctors in America”. “I’ve been very fortunate to treat and cure a lot of patients,” said Dr. Kumar. “Over the years I’ve managed to stay in touch with many of my patients and some of them have become close friends.”

Prior to joining the University of Kansas School of Medicine, Dr. Kumar was the Chair of the radiation oncology department at the University of Southern California’s Keck School of Medicine, and he was the founding Chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology at the Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, where he also served as the Associate Cancer Center Director for the Cancer Institute of New Jersey, a NCI designated cancer center.

Dr. Kumar cites Dr. Atkinson as the primary reason for coming to UNLV. “She has been a transformational leader wherever she’s been,” he said. “She believes in excellence, a value we both share. The opportunity to work with her is one I could not pass up.”

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