Are you a Nurse Practitioner
Fresh Out of Grad School?

The Neuro-Oncology Program at the Moores Cancer Center, UC San Diego is looking for candidates who are interested in an exciting and rewarding career in neuro-oncology. Clinical training will be devoted to an intensive and diverse exposure to clinical neuro-oncology. Each trainee gains extensive experience in the full spectrum of diseases and problems encountered in neuro-oncology. There is comprehensive training and experience in the administration of chemotherapy and management of chemotherapy complications. The training also includes management of inpatients on the neuro-oncology service and neuro-oncology consultations requested by other services (oncology, medicine, neurology, neurosurgery). The clinic rotation includes attending several neuro-oncology staff clinics each week, multidisciplinary brain tumor clinic, and preparation of the weekly neuro-oncology clinical conference. The outpatient neuro-oncology nurses, nursing students, senior neurology residents and medical students also participate in these clinics. There are many learning opportunities with weekly lecture series (Neuro-Oncology Conference, Brain Tumor Board, Medical Oncology fellow seminars, and numerous basic/translational science lectures) as well as opportunity to learn techniques and methods in basic science and translational research.

Ideal candidates are compassionate, motivated, dynamic, and innovative individuals who thrive in a fast-paced academic environment.

For more information, please contact:
Santosh Kesari, MD, PhD
c/o Marlon G. Saria, MSN, RN, AOCNS
Neuro-Oncology Program
Moores Cancer Center, UC San Diego
3855 Heath Sciences Drive, Suite 3304
La Jolla, California 92037-0819
Office: (858)822-0733
Email: msaria@ucsd.edu

Santosh Kesari, MD, PhD
Translational Neuro-Oncology: Accelerating Novel Treatment Strategies for Brain Tumors
For the estimated 18,500 Americans who developed a brain or neurologic tumor in 2005, and the ever-growing number of patients with metastatic brain tumors, the need for better treatments and management strategies is acute. Dr. Santosh Kesari, MD, PhD, recognizes that in order to cure patients, there is a clear urgency to gain a better molecular and biological understanding of the disease. Additionally, Dr. Kesari has a long-standing interest in cancer stem cells and is focusing studies on their role in the formation of brain tumors and resistance to treatment. Dr. Kesari’s ultimate goal is to take scientific discoveries in the lab and create improved treatment therapies that can be used for patients with malignant gliomas and other brain tumors. By combining his experiences in the lab and the clinic, and by harnessing the relative strengths of surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and targeted drug treatments, Dr. Kesari stands at the brink of a new stage in the battle against brain tumors, which have a devastating impact on the lives of so many patients.

Dr. Kesari has found a potential genetic biomarker of patients who respond to the drug, Gleevec, and is actively investigating this discovery in clinical specimens and correlating his findings to patient outcomes. Such information will allow us to predict a patient’s response to treatment and help fulfill the hope of personalized-tailored cancer treatment in the future. He is initiating a biomarker-based prospective clinical trial based on this discovery.

Metastatic spread to the brain from breast, lung, and hematological cancers is an increasingly common problem due to better local treatments of the primary cancer. There is clearly a need to better understand the biological underpinnings of this problem and to develop novel CNS directed approaches to prevent brain metastases and/or to optimally treat at presentation.

Recognizing a need to integrate clinical research with pathology, stem cell, genomic, imaging and outcome data, Dr. Kesari is establishing a Translational Neuro-Oncology Center to better track outcomes, predict treatment responsiveness and improve care for patients.