Seattle Cancer Care Alliance Proton Therapy, A ProCure Center Appoints Dr. Ramesh Rengan as Medical Director

SEATTLE (January 29, 2014 ) – Seattle Cancer Care Alliance Proton Therapy, A ProCure Center, has named Dr. Ramesh Rengan as the center’s new medical director. In this role, Dr. Rengan will provide guidance and leadership while overseeing all cancer programs, research, projects and activities within the proton therapy center. He is a board-certified radiation oncologist who specializes in radiation treatment for lung cancer and melanoma patients at Seattle Cancer Care Alliance. Dr. Rengan will be working closely with Dr. Laramore, the center’s previous director and former chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology at the University of Washington, as he assumes his new role focused on patient care and research. Dr. Laramore will continue treating at the center. In addition to serving as medical director, Dr. Rengan is also an associate professor for the Department of Radiation Oncology at the University of Washington School of Medicine, a radiation oncologist at the University of Washington Medical Center, and an associate member of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

“We thank Dr. Laramore for his boundless work in taking the center from concept to completion,” stated Annika Andrews, president of SCCA Proton Therapy, A ProCure Center. “This month marked an important milestone for our center as we treated our 100th patient. We look forward to continuing our care for cancer patients across the Pacific Northwest and look forward to advancing the use of proton therapy through research.”

Before joining SCCA in 2013, Dr. Rengan was previously the Chief of Thoracic Service and Assistant Director of Clinical Operations for the Department of Radiation Oncology at the University of Pennsylvania, working in the Roberts Proton Therapy Center. He completed his residency in radiation oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and earned his medical degree (MD) and doctorate (PhD) from University of Michigan Medical School and Rackham School of Graduate Studies in biological chemistry.

Dr. Rengan practices a “patients come first” philosophy which he uses to guide the development of clinical and translational (bench-to-bedside) initiatives designed to improve clinical outcomes in lung cancer and melanoma patients. His research interests also include understanding the biology of lung cancer tumors in order to make radiation treatment more effective. Dr. Rengan is also very interested with investigating proton beam radiotherapy as a tool to optimize the treatment of a number of solid tumors.
“I believe that we have seen an explosion in our understanding of the biology of cancer itself over the past decade,” said Dr. Rengan, medical director of SCCA Proton Therapy, A ProCure Center. “As a field, we are moving away from ‘one-size fits all’ treatments to personalized medicine whereby each treatment is individualized to the biology of the tumor and ideally the patient, as found in proton therapy. These recent advancements inspire me and I hope that in my lifetime, we’ll see this approach integrated across all solid tumors, including lung cancer and melanoma.”

Proton therapy is an advanced and highly precise form of radiation treatment that allows doctors to focus radiation directly into the tumor, reducing radiation to healthy tissue and the risk of side effects. With one of the biggest concerns about treating lung cancer being how to radiate the tumor without unduly impacting the surrounding area, proton therapy is proving to be an excellent treatment modality. Protons allow doctors to focus radiation directly into the tumor, while delivering less radiation to the spinal cord, heart and healthy lung tissue, reducing the risk of side effects. Currently available at only 13 centers in the United States, studies have shown proton therapy to be beneficial in treating a broad range of tumors, including those of the brain, central nervous system, gastrointestinal tract, head and neck, breast, lung, and prostate, as well as sarcomas and certain pediatric cancers.

For more information about proton therapy, visit [www.sccaprotontherapy.com](http://www.sccaprotontherapy.com) or follow SCCA Proton Therapy on Twitter [@SCCAProtons](https://twitter.com/SCCAProtons).

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About Us

Seattle Cancer Care Alliance brings together the leading research teams and cancer specialists from Fred Hutch, Seattle Children’s, and UW Medicine. One extraordinary group whose sole purpose is the pursuit of better, longer, richer lives of our patients. Based in Seattle’s South Lake Union region, SCCA has six clinical care sites, including a medical oncology clinic at EvergreenHealth in Kirkland, Washington; medical and radiation oncology at UW Medicine/Northwest Hospital & Medical Center in Seattle, Washington, as well as network affiliation with hospitals in five states. For more information about SCCA, visit [www.seattlecca.org](http://www.seattlecca.org).

Better together.