

# Medical Oncologist Completes Prestigious Fellowship

Michael Salacz, M.D., returns to brain tumor program with advanced neuro-oncology training

**A**fter a year's absence, Saint Luke's comprehensive Brain Tumor Center will be reinvigorated with the return of medical oncologist Michael Salacz, M.D. Dr. Salacz just completed a fellowship in neuro-oncology at the Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center at Duke University. His training was under some of the nation's most prominent specialists at a center that consistently receives the National Cancer Institute's highest rating of "outstanding" in peer review evaluations.

"Medical oncology fellowship offers very little in neuro-oncology training," Dr. Salacz said. "Duke has one of the best reputations internationally for neuro-oncology specific training." His mentors were internationally recognized physician/scientists Henry Friedman, M.D., Allan Friedman, M.D., and James Vredenburgh, M.D.

The year-long intense focus on brain tumors sharpened his clinical and research skills. It also put him in rare company since no other oncologist or neurologist in the region has specific neuro-oncology training. In fact, Dr. Salacz is a trifecta of expertise with board certification in oncology, palliative medicine, and neuro-oncology (board eligible).

"The goal with these credentials and support of the Kansas City community is to further develop the Brain Tumor Center into a regional center of excellence," he said.

He looks forward to reconnecting with the program and renewing relationships with local and regional neurosurgeons and oncologists. Other

goals include attracting clinical protocols, generating investigator initiated trials, and expanding the existing supportive care services and research for patients.



**Michael Salacz, M.D.**

Saint Luke's Brain Tumor Center launched in 2005 and is a collaborative effort between Saint Luke's Cancer Institute and Saint Luke's Brain and Stroke Institute. The center offers diagnostics, neurosurgery, radiation oncology, medical and neuro-oncology, rehabilitation, home health and hospice, and an array of support services. A dedicated nurse navigator guides patients through the program with support and education during the entire diagnosis, treatment, and recovery process.

In addition to Dr. Salacz, the Brain Tumor Center medical team includes neurosurgeons Paul Camarata, M.D., Eric Flores, M.D., Darren Lovick, M.D., Phillip Hylton, M.D., Stephen Reintjes, M.D., Timothy Stepp, M.D.; radiation oncologists Susan Smith, M.D. and Terry Wall, M.D.; brain tumor nurse coordinator Michelle Martin; and nurse practitioner Ellen Juvet.

To make a referral or for more information about the center's services, call (816) 932-6015. ✦

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