New radiotherapy centre attracts staff to Colchester

A cancer specialist says the £25m state-of-the-art radiotherapy centre being built at Colchester General Hospital has played a key role in attracting him to Essex.

Dr Mukesh* has joined Colchester Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust to take up his first consultant post as a clinical oncologist (cancer specialist).

He trained as a cancer specialist at Addenbrooke’s Hospital, Cambridge, and has an active interest in cancer research.

“A key factor in attracting me to Colchester is the new radiotherapy centre being built at Colchester General Hospital,” he said.

“It will mean that patients living in north east Essex will no longer need to go to London for some of the more specialist types of radiotherapy.

“The new centre also means that Colchester will be able to play a bigger role in the field of cancer research.”

The first patients will be treated there in early 2014. Its facilities will include four brand-new linear accelerators (“linacs”), the hi-tech machines that are used to administer radiotherapy.

Dr Mukesh, 33, who is keen to maintain his links with Addenbrooke’s, spent six months working in Colchester as an oncology registrar from October 2007.

He has a special interest in the oncological management of breast cancer, especially the use of radiotherapy. He has co-authored several papers on this subject and last month published on the role of IMRT (Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy), an advanced radiotherapy technique, in breast cancer in the prestigious Journal of Clinical Oncology.

The study** was funded by leading research charity Breast Cancer Campaign which is calling for widespread access to IMRT for women with early breast cancer.

Dr Mukesh has recruited patients in several national chemotherapy and radiotherapy trials and recently spoke at the European Cancer Congress in Amsterdam about research he has been involved in.

He is currently based at Essex County Hospital but will relocate to Colchester General Hospital when the new radiotherapy centre opens.

More follows
New radiotherapy centre . . . 2

It will replace the current radiotherapy department at Essex County Hospital, which has three ageing linacs and opened half-a-century ago. It will serve the adult population of north east and mid Essex.

Dr Mukesh has replaced Dr Phil Murray who retired last month after joining the Trust in December 1992.

Later this month, Dr Charlotte Ingle will join the Trust, also from Addenbrooke’s, as an additional (fifth) consultant oncologist.

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