

Recognizing Outstanding Service Excellence



Charles Thomas, M.D.,
professor and chair, Radiation Oncology

Dr. Mark O'Hollaren, from Clinical Outreach, submitted the following nomination...

Dr. Jensen as the sole radiation oncologist in Coos Bay announced that he was leaving Coos Bay because he was simply “burning out”. This created great concern in his community, because without his care, cancer patients would have to travel a much greater distance to get their radiation treatments. Dr. Jensen said that among the reasons for his decision included the fact that he felt isolated, and that he didn't have the opportunity to bounce cases off colleagues, and that worried him because he felt he was losing some of the zest for practicing his specialty in a rural location. After becoming aware of this situation, Dr. Thomas took Carl “under his wing”, and arranged to have OHSU Radiation Oncology faculty cover for him when he needed a break, and scheduled regular visits to OHSU (one week every quarter) to have a professional change of venue and high-volume interaction with professional colleagues here. While Dr. Jensen is here on the hill, OHSU Radiation Oncology faculty journey to Coos Bay to cover Dr. Jensen's practice. The experience has been completely rejuvenating for Dr. Jensen. He not only decided to stay in Coos Bay, but explains that the experience and connection with us has both increased his practice enjoyment there and also had a positive effect locally, in his words, as OHSU faculty come down and work with local staff at the hospital in Coos Bay. Coos Bay kept their only radiation oncologist, OHSU has made a new friend across multiple areas of our mission, and the community is very grateful. Dr. Jensen credits Dr. Thomas with this positive turnaround. This kind of initiative and creative thinking brings more value that we realize back to OHSU and the communities we serve. Congrats to Dr. Thomas for a job well done.

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