



**By Jan Rahn**

*Managing Editor*

Access to a new oncologist at Perkins County Health Services will hopefully make dealing with cancer a little less stressful for patients who can cut their travel time.

Dr. Irfan Vaziri of North Platte began patient care on Tuesday, April 24, and will provide care on a monthly basis.

Board certified in both oncology and hematology, Dr. Vaziri will treat patients with all types of solid tumor cancers as well as those with blood disorders such as leukemia.

He also sees patients in Imperial once a month and in Ogallala twice per month.

Dr. Vaziri has been affiliated with the Great Plains Regional Medical Center in North Platte for several years, and during that time has worked closely with the University of Nebraska and with a corporate group in Colorado on new research studies for direction in treating patients with the most up-to-date protocol.

He said he is well acquainted with the internal medicine physicians in Grant, having discussed several cancer patients with them over the phone during the past few years, but is now able to collaborate with them on site when he comes to the clinic.

Born in Pakistan, Dr. Vaziri pursued his medical training in Karachi and came to the U.S. to pursue an internal medicine residency at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine in July 1992, followed by a fellowship in hematology/oncology at the University of Nebraska Medical Center from July 1995 to June 1998.

He continued medical training as an infectious disease fellow at the University of Texas Health Science Center until June 2000.

He excitedly returned to Pakistan to serve as Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine, heading up the Hematology/Oncology Section, however, security issues and economics in Pakistan drove Dr. Vaziri and his family back to the United States.

While attending an international cancer symposium in California in 2004, Dr. Vaziri talked to recruiters about opportunities in the oncology field within the U.S., and in 2005 became Medical Director of the Callahan Cancer Center at Great Plains Regional Medical Center in North Platte where he has served for the past seven years.

Dr. Vaziri has co-authored several medical journal publications on various types of cancer.

His wife, Rashida, is a teacher at the middle school in North Platte. The couple has two daughters—Soha will turn 13 this summer, and Anam will soon be 10 years old.

Dr. Vaziri has a brother in California, a sister in Massachusetts, and his mother, who still resides in Pakistan, spends six months of the year in the U.S. visiting her family.