

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Timothy Gregory, M.D.

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Joint Base Lewis McChord
Tacoma, Washington

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
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The path to Neuro-Oncology

Becoming one of two neuro-oncologists in the Military Health System is no easy task. Timothy Gregory, M.D., an alumnus of the MD Anderson Neuro-Oncology Fellowship program, credits his education and training, mentors, colleagues and patients for shaping him into the physician he is today and preparing him for his current role as an assistant professor of neuro-oncology at Uniformed Services University.

Gregory initially pursued a career in music but switched gears after his sister, Nicole, was diagnosed with Huntington's Disease, a rare, inherited neurological disorder affecting the nerves in the brain. He completed an undergraduate degree in Natural Sciences from the University of Pittsburgh and then continued his education at Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. Gregory knew he wanted to focus on neurology, but it wasn't until medical school rotations, when he met [Brett Theeler, M.D., an MD Anderson alumnus who became the first fellowship-trained neuro-oncologist in the Military Healthcare System](#), that Gregory began to consider a similar career path. His decision to specialize in neuro-oncology was solidified during a rotation in Seattle with John Henson, M.D.

"Dr. Henson's thoughtfulness and dedication at the bedside continue to resonate with me, as do the examples from the outstanding clinicians that I worked with at MD Anderson," Gregory said.

During his two years as a neuro-oncology fellow at MD Anderson, Gregory's primary focus was on clinical neuro-oncology, but he says he benefited greatly from working with diverse faculty members for research projects.

"Completing my fellowship training at MD Anderson was extremely instrumental in preparing me for my current position. The outstanding mentorship and the high volume of routine, rare and complex cases have given me a huge advantage in approaching the spectrum of neuro-oncologic issues," said Gregory, who completed his fellowship in 2023.

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“I believe my patients can feel a great degree of confidence in my training and knowing that if I reach the limits of my comfort zone, I have several esteemed colleagues I can call who consistently go above and beyond every day in the fight against nervous system cancers.”

Today, Gregory is stationed at Joint Base Lewis McChord in Tacoma, Washington, where he serves as assistant professor of neuro-oncology at Uniformed Services University and is a core faculty member in the hospital’s neurology residency program. He and Theeler remain the only neuro-oncologists across the Military Health System.

Gregory is currently focused on establishing the first Defense Department–run brain tumor center on the West Coast, bringing new treatment options to the Pacific Northwest and military population, and using telemedicine to provide care to servicemembers and dependents who lack access to neuro-oncology.

When asked what advice he would give to those pursuing a similar path, Gregory shared, “Find ways to truly know your patients and what is important to them and their families. Be prepared to walk alongside them through good and bad news and look for ways to advocate for their personal goals and needs. Fulfillment comes from the intersection of medical expertise and being able to uniquely apply it to the individual in front of you.”

In his free time, Gregory focuses on pursuing balance, fitness and wellness. Since returning to Washington, he, his wife, and their three kids have been making memories camping and hiking in the mountains of the Pacific Northwest. He continues to explore his passion for music by playing a variety of stringed instruments, including the guitar, banjo and mandolin. The Gregory family dog even has a daily game of frisbee reserved on his calendar.

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