

July 2, 2014

RVH trains new group of family docs

Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) continues its important work of training new family doctors as the newest group of family physician residents begin their final two years of training at RVH's Family Medicine Teaching Unit (FMTU). The program, which will train nine new residents, helps ease the shortage of family physicians in the area.

As RVH, a University of Toronto teaching hospital, welcomes the new group of physicians, another ten doctors prepare to graduate. Since the program began in 2009, 37 family medicine residents have trained at RVH, including this year's recent additions. Nineteen graduates have stayed, or plan to stay, in the area to set up their own practices, provide temporary coverage for area physicians or work in the health centre's Emergency and Hospitalist departments.

"For many years now, this region has suffered from a shortage of family physicians," says Janice Skot, president and CEO, RVH. "The situation has improved since the FMTU was established because we've been able to 'grow our own doctors'. Many physicians who have completed their training at RVH have gone on to establish practices in the area which has helped meet some of the demand for physicians. As we focus our efforts on increasing the teaching and research opportunities available at RVH, we plan to continue growing, and hopefully keeping, exceptional physicians in this region."

Drs. Dennis Fiddler, Mahdad Raad, Kyle Lee, Tanya Nadon, Willy Phan, Mina Salama, Eric Traficante, Kaitlyn Whelan, and Damien Yohn are beginning the last leg of their journey to become family physicians at RVH.

"The Family Medicine residency program offers residents the opportunity to practice medicine with a full caseload of patients while gaining invaluable knowledge as they work alongside RVH and the Barrie Community Family Health Team's skilled physicians," says Dr. Stu Murdoch, program director, FMTU. "These doctors acquire real-world, hands-on experience which makes them well-rounded for life as a physician in the community once they graduate."

Ten residents have graduated from the program this year including Drs. Chris Gall, Scott Chubbs, Leslie Morrison, Kim Thompson, Renee Sebastian, Matt Orava, Jordan Shaw, Manazir Walajahi, Negin Mastouri and Michelle van Walraven.

"Our program has far exceeded our expectations," says Dr. Murdoch. "We have seen some exceptional new doctors come through the FMTU's doors and as faculty, we are so proud to play a part in shaping their careers, passing along our knowledge and skills. And the residents bring such enthusiasm and passion for their patients and their work - it is contagious and they remind us of why we became physicians. We are better for having taught them."

*** Editors Note: Interviews with the FMTU residents are available upon request.*

Outline: Nine new medical residents join the Family Medicine Teaching Unit at Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre this summer to complete the final two years on their journey to becoming family physicians (from left) – Drs. Mina Salama, Kyle Lee, Dennis Fiddler, Kaitlyn Whelan, Damien Yohn, Tanya Nadon, Mahdad Raad, Eric Traficante and Willy Phan.

-30-

For more information:

Suzanne Legue
Chief Communications Officer
705-728-9090 ext. 41600

Jennifer Moore
Corporate Communications
705-728-9090 ext. 41618