



NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL

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NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Welcome to Northumberland! NHH welcomes obstetrician-gynecologist Dr. Asiya Hameed

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Wednesday, January 16, 2008 – Northumberland Hills Hospital is pleased to announce the arrival of a new member to the community's medical team. Dr. Asiya Hameed officially opened her office on December 17, 2007.

Specialized in obstetrics and gynecology, Dr. Hameed has over 20 years of experience. She spent the past six years at a hospital in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan where, on average, 1,400 babies were delivered per year. Also experienced in colposcopy, a test performed on women following a pap test indicating abnormal results, and urogynecology, a field of medicine that evaluates and helps manage bladder problems in women, Dr. Hameed brings to west Northumberland additional expertise in gynecology.

"I am very happy to have the opportunity to establish a practice here in Ontario," says Dr. Hameed. "On the obstetrical side, my practice will serve women with normal pregnancies as well as those with risk factors. I'm also looking forward—through the Ambulatory Care clinic here at Northumberland Hills—to continuing my work in gynecology. I am a member of the Colposcopy Society of Canada and I am now accepting referrals for colposcopies at NHH. I am also offering uro-dynamic assessments to women who are experiencing bladder problems due to childbirth, surgery and aging. NHH is a state-of-the art facility, well equipped with the tools and technologies used for diagnosis and management and I will put these to good use."

Asked what it was that attracted her to the area, she explained: "NHH advertised an opportunity for a second obstetrician-gynecologist in the journal of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada. I saw this, and decided to apply. I received a very fast and warm reply from NHH's Vice President of Patient Services Mary Anne Shill and she arranged a visit and meetings with both obstetrician-gynecologist Dr. Michael Green and other physicians in the area. The impression I received from the hospital, the community and the physicians was very positive."

Born in India, and fluent in five languages, Dr. Hameed has practised in India, the Middle East, the UK and, most recently, Saskatchewan. “I was attracted to Ontario for personal reasons, as well as for the fact that I felt that I would be closer to people of my own ethnic origin. Besides English I’m fluent in the East Indian languages of Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, Punjabi and the Middle Eastern language of Arabic. Many women who speak these languages live in this area, or very nearby, and I look forward to the opportunity to care for them in their mother tongue. Of course, I am fluent in English as well. Regardless of what language I may be required to speak, I practise my profession because I want to help people. I chose obstetrics and gynecology because I believe, as a woman, I will be able to help women. It is extremely satisfying to look after a woman who is pregnant... take her through her pregnancy and delivery, and make that a pleasurable experience for her and her whole family.”

To arrange an appointment for obstetrical or gynecological counsel, Dr. Hameed recommends that women have a referral from their family physician. Patients from west Northumberland and the surrounding communities are welcome immediately. In situations where a patient does not have a family physician, self-referrals will be accepted. Call 905-377-7796 to book an appointment with Dr. Hameed at her office, currently located at the Northumberland Hills Hospital at 1000 DePalma Drive, Cobourg.

“Physicians are in short supply in many parts of our country today, and we’re extremely pleased to welcome Dr. Hameed to this area,” says Mary Anne Shill, Vice President of Patient Services at Northumberland Hills. “Many pregnant women seek out the warmer feel of a smaller community hospital and, as such, more than 500 babies were brought into the world at NHH in the past year. To date, we’ve delivered this essential service to our community through a group of family physicians, obstetrician-gynecologist Dr. Michael Green and our anesthesiologists and nursing staff and midwife partners. With the addition of Dr. Hameed, we are looking forward to further enhancing our services for women.”

Prior to Dr. Hameed’s arrival last month, Dr. Green regularly provided on-call coverage to the hospital on a 24-7 basis. Actively involved in helping to attract Dr. Hameed to Northumberland, Dr. Green welcomes the second obstetrician-gynecologist. “Our interests and abilities complement each other very well. Dr. Hameed is a great addition to our medical team and I’m looking forward to working with her.”

For more information, or to arrange an interview, reporters are asked to contact Jennifer Gillard at 905-377-7757 or jgillard@nhh.ca.

About Northumberland Hills Hospital – The Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) is located approximately 100 kilometres east of Toronto. The 137-bed acute care hospital delivers a broad range of core services, including medical/surgical care, complex/long-term care, rehabilitation, palliative care, obstetrical care and intensive care. NHH also sponsors a Community Mental Health Centre and an Assertive Community Treatment Team. The hospital serves the catchment area of west Northumberland County. A mixed urban and rural population of approximately 60,000 residents, west Northumberland is comprised of the Town of Cobourg, the Municipality of Port Hope and the townships of Hamilton, Cramahe and Alnwick/Haldimand. NHH employs over 500 people and is an active member of the Central East LHIN. For more information, please visit www.nhh.ca.