

NHH welcomes Dr. Alison Tilley – Former surgical resident returns to join local surgical services team

NHH welcomed a new addition to its team this summer. Dr. Alison Tilley is one of three general surgeons now practicing full-time at the hospital, together with Dr. Andrew Stratford and Dr. Kaes Al-Ali. A fourth general surgeon, Dr. Haig Basmajian, recently transitioned to courtesy staff, supporting the team with surgical assistance as required, after almost 20 years of full-time service.

Dr. Tilley attended the University of Western Ontario, where she obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry and Biochemistry (with Distinction) and her Doctor of Medicine. Her general surgery residency was completed at Queen's University in Kingston, and it was through Queen's (and NHH's current Chief of Surgical Services, Dr. Andrew Stratford) that she became introduced to NHH.

"I had the opportunity to spend time here as a resident when I was at Queen's, working alongside both Dr. Stratford and Dr. Basmajian, and the experience was very, very positive. I remember driving back to Kingston and saying to my peers: "It's awesome there!"

When the opportunity presented itself to return to NHH, it was like coming full circle.

"The pieces all just seemed to come together. I am a true generalist, and my goal has always been to build a general surgery practice in a small- or medium-sized centre in the province, with diverse clinical opportunities and a positive, collegial environment where I can feel challenged. At the same time, I am interested in continuously broadening my scope of practice and my new colleagues here at NHH, and the diverse cases we see, will certainly help me to facilitate that."

Another attractive feature that Dr. Tilley credits for helping to draw her to NHH was the strong history the hospital has in supporting women's health and, related to that, diagnostic imaging.

"I was extremely impressed by NHH's Women's Health Centre, and the close collaboration between the whole Diagnostic Imaging department and the surgical services team to meet local patients' needs in a timely fashion. In addition to being a very attractive hospital, NHH is very well equipped, from a medical technology perspective, and this was a big part of my decision to relocate here. As well, there is a lot of local expertise available to tap in to as general surgeons, such as local plastic surgery, and this is very exciting."

Dr. Tilley moved to the community in the summer with her family and now shares office space with Drs. Stratford, Al-Ali and Basmajian in the Fleming Building in Cobourg. Referrals are available via area family physicians and she shares hospital duties with her colleagues to support NHH's outpatient, inpatient and emergency care. For further details please see the related news release on www.nhh.ca



(Left) Dr. Andrew Stratford (Chief of Surgical Services), and Dr. Haig Basmajian (centre) with Dr. Alison Tilley in the NHH Surgical Suite, September 2016

Call for interest – NHH Patient and Family Advisory Council

If you or your family member has been a patient at Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) in the past three years, and you're over the age of 18, the hospital would like you to consider joining its **Patient and Family Advisory Council**.

A new vehicle to ensure patient and caregiver perspectives are understood and actively considered throughout NHH, the Patient and Family Advisory Council will meet regularly to provide input to hospital staff, management, physicians and the Board on a variety of hospital activities, projects and committees. Opportunities will vary from short-term projects to participation in longer-term, standing committees.

"The patient and caregiver perspective is an essential resource that hospitals are looking to more and more to help continuously improve quality. Ours is, for the most part, a system designed by those who work within it. By considering how our processes are experienced by patients and caregivers, and working *with* them to develop solutions, we can learn a great deal and realize many improvements," said Linda Davis, NHH President and CEO. "Enhancement of patient-centred care has been a strategic priority of our Board for the past six years. In that time, NHH has been inviting and incorporating patient perspectives in many ways, with excellent result. The Advisory Council will provide further structure to these efforts while opening the door for additional dialogue."

Residents of west Northumberland who are interested in volunteering their time on the Council are invited to review the related **NHH Patient and Family Advisory Council - Frequently Asked Question** document and complete the **NHH Patient and Family Advisory Council - Expression of Interest Form** available at www.nhh.ca. Hard copies of these documents may also be picked up at the Inquiry Desk in the main (front) lobby of the hospital. If you do not have Internet access, and would like to receive an Expression of Interest form in the mail, please call the NHH Administration office at 905-372-6811, ext. 4004.

The inaugural NHH Patient and Family Advisory Council is expected to consist of five patient/family advisors and two NHH staff. The Council will meet as a group a minimum of four times per year. In addition to attending the quarterly Advisory Council meetings, Patient/Family Advisors will be expected to participate—as experience/interest directs—on specific hospital initiatives, projects and committees.

Completed Expressions of Interest must be received by October 21st for consideration in the inaugural Council.

Questions? Please contact Jennifer Gillard, Director, Communications and Community Engagement (905-377-7757 or jgillard@nhh.ca).