



NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rheumatologist welcomed to NHH medical team – Referrals for Dr. Jason An now being accepted

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Tuesday, March 1, 2022—Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) is pleased to announce the recruitment of Dr. Jason An, Rheumatologist, to its growing team of local specialists.

“It is my great pleasure to formally welcome Dr. An, MD, MSc, FRCPC, to NHH and Northumberland,” said Dr. Mukesh Bhargava, Chief of Staff. “Our recruitment focus in recent years has been strategically aimed at ensuring local patients have access to more of the specialty clinical services they need, closer to home. A key enabler of this is Ontario’s excellent [Telemedicine Network, OTN](#), one of the largest telemedicine networks in the world, which uses two-way videoconferencing to provide access to care for patients in hospitals and other health care locations in a manner that is efficient and accessible for both the patient and the provider.”

“NHH has previously welcomed two Neurologists to Northumberland, Dr. Philippe Rizek (2020) and Dr. Emily Crookshank (2021), through the creation of a unique ‘hosted’ OTN model,” said Dr. Bhargava. “Building on that successful model, which has significantly reduced local wait times for Neurology consultations from 6 to 24 months to 4 to 6 weeks, we are now welcoming Dr. Jason An. Concurrent with this has been the introduction of new virtual elements to the delivery of neonatal and pediatric critical care support, through a partnership with The Hospital for Sick Children, and community mental health and addiction supports, through our Rapid Access Addiction Medicine clinic. There are many opportunities to explore with the support of OTN and we aim to continue to explore them for the benefit of local residents in the months and years to come.”

Dr. An attended medical school at the University of Calgary, followed by an Internal Medicine Residency at the University of Alberta. He completed his Rheumatology Fellowship training at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, followed by a Fellowship in Rare Diseases at The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto where he focused on the genetic analysis of rare autoinflammatory and immune dysregulation disorders. Dr. An is currently also a Clinical Associate in the Division of Rheumatology at St. Michael’s Hospital, Toronto, and holds Courtesy Clinical Staff privileges at the Hospital for Sick Children, Division of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine.

“It is my great pleasure and privilege to join the Northumberland Hills Hospital network as a new Rheumatologist,” said Dr. An. “I very much look forward to working with the Northumberland Hills Hospital community.”

Beginning this month (March, 2022), Dr. An, with the support of NHH's Telemedicine Coordinator, Registered Nurse Rebecca Rutherford, will support local primary care providers and specialists by providing virtual rheumatology consultations for a range of inflammatory disorders such as arthritis, connective tissue diseases, and autoinflammatory conditions.

Referring providers are invited to fax OTN referrals directly to NHH, care of the OTN Coordinator, at 905-373-6972, with attention to the specialty required, e.g. Neurology, Rheumatology.

Media contact: Jennifer Gillard, Senior Director, Patient Experience, Public Affairs and Partnerships, 905-377-7757 or jgillard@nhh.ca.

About Northumberland Hills Hospital – Located approximately 100 kilometres east of Toronto, NHH delivers a broad range of acute, post-acute, outpatient and diagnostic services. Acute services include emergency and intensive care, medical/surgical care, obstetrical care and palliative care. Post-acute specialty services (PASS) include restorative care and rehabilitation. Mental health care, chemotherapy, dialysis and 16 other ambulatory care clinics are offered on an outpatient basis through partnerships with regional centres and nearby specialists. NHH offers a full range of diagnostic services, including magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT) and mammography. The hospital serves the catchment area of west Northumberland County. A mixed urban and rural population of approximately 60,000 residents, west Northumberland comprises the Town of Cobourg, the Municipality of Port Hope and the townships of Hamilton, Cramahe and Alnwick/Haldimand. NHH employs approximately 700 people and relies on the additional support provided by physicians, midwives and volunteers. NHH is an active member of Ontario Health (East) – formerly the Central East Local Health Integration Network. For more information, please visit www.nhh.ca or follow us on Facebook [@northumberlandhillshosp](https://www.facebook.com/northumberlandhillshosp) or Twitter [@NorHillsHosp](https://twitter.com/NorHillsHosp).

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