



NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL

NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Wednesday, September 21st, 2016—Northumberland Hills Hospital (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 this institution (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!”

Leading up to and during her undergraduate studies, Dr. Tilley spent five years as a Medical Assistant (Corporal) in the Canadian Forces Primary Reserve, gaining leadership, organization and teamwork skills. On completion of her surgical residency she joined Brockville General Hospital where she ran a traditional community practice of general surgery, including endoscopy, and management of breast, colon and skin cancers.

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.

"We are very pleased to welcome Dr. Tilley to Northumberland," said Dr. David Broderick, Chief of Staff. "She is a wonderful addition to the hospital, both in terms of her skill set and her interests."

"Dr. Tilley's surgical expertise will complement our team very well," said Dr. Andrew Stratford. "We are very pleased that her positive experience as a student with NHH has translated into a win-win for our community and for her."

For more information please contact Jennifer Gillard at jgillard@nhh.ca or 905-377-7757.

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 600 people and relies on the additional support provided by physicians and volunteers. NHH is an active member of the Central East Local Health Integration Network. For more information, please visit www.nhh.ca or follow us on Twitter [@NorHillsHosp](https://twitter.com/NorHillsHosp).

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