



**C R E D I T • V A L L E Y**  
THE CREDIT VALLEY HOSPITAL

**Family Medicine Teaching Unit  
Opens At Credit Valley**

Friday, December 1, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Mississauga, Ontario): One of the most common laments of new residents living in the Mississauga area is their inability to find a family doctor. The opening of a new education centre for family medicine specialists, will likely have a favorable impact on that dilemma. Today, The Credit Valley Hospital officially opened its Family Medicine Teaching Unit. Four residents from the University of Toronto's post graduate program are now training at Credit Valley's FMTU to become family physicians. In the future there will be 18 residents enrolled. The family medicine residents see patients while being monitored by a variety of family physicians.

Well known family physician Dr. David Clarkson manages the day to day operation of the FMTU and directs the CVH post-graduate program. He and Dr. Christine Pereira and Dr. Gihane Zarifa practice in the FMTU in order to provide full-time mentorship to the residents.

The patients seen by the residents will not be limited to those served by the family doctors. New patients will also come from The Credit Valley Hospital and that's a bonus for the hospital says hospital president and CEO Wayne Fyffe. "Because of the shortage of family physicians in the community, many patients requiring care arrive at our emergency department. Other patients who have surgery here, require followup care by a family physician. If they don't have a family doctor, we often keep them in hospital an extra day or two which decreases the availability of hospital beds for other patients. Now, we can discharge those patients to the doctors at the FMTU for followup."

Dr. Clarkson says the patients arriving at the FMTU from hospital coupled with those from the doctor's individual practices provide the family medicine residents with the opportunity of a lifetime. "Credit Valley is a jewel in terms of the quality of medical staff and the richness of the clinical work the medical residents will experience. A teaching practice like this depends on both."

*World Class. Right Here.*

Dr. Paul Philbrook, the chief of family medicine at Credit Valley was instrumental in the development of the Family Medicine Teaching Unit. He says it will take at least two years before the impact of these additional physicians is felt because “the family medicine residents will likely only see two patients per hour, compared with the seasoned MD who sees eight or more patients per hour. The real impact on family medicine support in the community will come after the two year residency is completed when they will be qualified as family physicians. We hope by that time, some will have firmly established roots in our community and set up their permanent practices here, thereby increasing the number of family physicians available in the Mississauga area.”

Speaking on behalf of Minister of Health and Long-Term Care George Smitherman, Mississauga West MPP Bob Delaney said "This initiative is an example of how our health care partners are working in innovative ways to increase capacity in Ontario's health care system. By increasing the number of doctors in the Mississauga community, local residents will enjoy greater access to health care services where and when they need it. Our government is committed to building a system where physicians and other health care professionals can respond even more effectively to patient needs."

Dr. David Tannenbaum, the director of post graduate education for the Faculty of Medicine at University of Toronto says the FMTU provides the family medicine residents with the full continuum of patient care, from prenatal to geriatric care, in collaboration with a team of health care professionals. “This approach complements primary care reform and is consistent with the province’s move to Family Health Teams.”

The four medical residents will complete their family medicine training in June 2008.

**For More Information Contact:**

Wendy Johnson ABC APR  
Director, Community Relations and Communications  
905-813-2617  
wjohnson@cvh.on.ca