

## GRAND ROUNDS

RVH welcomed The Ottawa Hospital's Chief of Radiology Dr. Mark Schweitzer and Executive Director of the Ottawa Hospital and Region Imaging Associates (OHRIA) Mario Villemaire as special guest speakers at its May 24 board meeting.

Both are at the head of OHRIA, a partnership among the current 56 radiologists in the Department of Diagnostic Imaging at The Ottawa Hospital. The group provides expert emergency/trauma, body, cardiac, breast, musculoskeletal, thoracic, and neuroradiology imaging services and interventional body and neuro-interventional radiology services.

The presentation by the radiologists was a timely discussion as Renfrew Victoria Hospital is in the process of reaching an agreement with the OHRIA for outreach coverage. OHRIA currently serves The Ottawa Hospital and regional communities such as Almonte, Arnprior and Winchester hospitals.

"OHRIA views this new venture with RVH as a partnership, and this has been evident throughout the process," says RVH's Vice President of Corporate Services, Julia Boudreau. "They have demonstrated nothing but respect for the needs of our organization, our medical staff and, most importantly, the patients who we serve."

"We have a tradition of covering outside of The Ottawa Hospital," noted Schweitzer that evening. "We pride ourselves on being flexible, family-oriented and focused on partnerships." He also mentioned that RVH and their practice merge on another important front: "We are both very patient-centred."

"This relationship represents another milestone in terms of bringing the quality of care that one would receive and expect from a teaching hospital to the residents of Renfrew and area," notes Boudreau.

Dr. Schweitzer, a specialist in musculoskeletal radiology, spoke passionately at the meeting about his profession to the members of the board, hospital administrators and some of the RVH Diagnostic Imaging team: "It's a fascinating job and fun to practice."

Phil Crozier, head of RVH's Diagnostic Imaging department, says it is a wonderful opportunity to partner with the OHRIA and The Ottawa Hospital. He explains that approximately 10 of their radiologists have been providing on-site service in Renfrew since February, while the remainder have reported remotely for both RVH and St. Francis Memorial Hospital in Barry's Bay.

"Our staff and patients are very fortunate to have access to this degree of knowledge and expertise," says Crozier.

In addition to the radiologists from OHRIA, Dr. Colin Cunningham, who has provided service to RVH for more than 20 years, will continue to provide both on-site and remote services.

Randy Penney, RVH CEO and President, says that it is a complex agreement, involving sister hospital SFMH as well. "Our hospitals have a longstanding relationship with The Ottawa Hospital. From nephrology to oncology, we have been well supported by The Ottawa Hospital. Radiology is a natural extension and I am excited about the depth of expertise and the quality of services they will offer our patients."

"Integration of the hospitals' picture archiving and communication systems (PACS) is an integral component and, once complete, will offer a seamless process for images and reports to move between facilities," notes Peter Payton, Director of Information Technology at RVH.

Villemaire mentioned that integrating with PACS is vital for Quality Assessment purposes. Penney assures that they are "working through these hurdles" and comments on how both Villemaire and Dr. Schweitzer have been like a breath of fresh air for our Diagnostic Imaging needs. "The quality of the staff is phenomenal and we really do appreciate everything they have done and will do for us and our patients."



RVH's Vice President of Corporate Services Julia Boudreau thanks Dr. Mark Schweitzer and OHRIA's Executive Director Mario Villemaire for their presentation about OHRIA radiology services at the May meeting of the RVH Board of Directors.