

## GRAND ROUNDS

RVH recently welcomed an extremely valuable resource to our health care team.

October 3 was the first official day on the job for Dr. Shanti Nemani, an Internist, who specializes in diseases affecting internal organs.

Dr. Nemani is the third doctor to sign an agreement with the Renfrew and Area Health Services Village Inc., an organization that offers incentives to attract physicians and other health care workers to our area.

RVH was in need of hiring a new Internist since Dr. Sharon Collins, our current Internist, is now semi-retired.

Internists manage the vast majority of all acute and chronic medical conditions, focusing on the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of adult diseases.

Locally, high rates of heart and kidney disease, along with diabetes, drive the need for an on-site Internist to a necessity.

“Having an Internist locally available as an expert second opinion is an asset our

community is fortunate to have,” comments RVH Chief of Staff, Dr. John Collins. “Having Dr. Nemani on site to manage the complex, time-consuming cases also frees up our busy family physicians to attend to the large volume of patients awaiting care.”

With extensive medical training in India and more recently completing a four-year residency in internal medicine at the University of Ottawa, the newest recruit came to RVH with a long list of credentials and glowing recommendations, as read by Randy Penney, RVH’s President and CEO, at the announcement of his hiring on September 13.

Penney also noted that Dr. Nemani had been exploring options, and we are delighted that he chose Renfrew to set up his practice.

“Dr. Nemani will be here on site to assist all of our family doctors with more complex medical cases,” Penney explained. He will also operate a clinic once a month at our sister site, St. Francis Memorial Hospital in Barry’s Bay.

General practitioners will have him as a resource and be able to refer patients directly to Dr. Nemani for specialized care, saving them the trip into Ottawa.

He will also provide care to any hospitalized or ambulatory care patients at RVH.

Working in partnership with family doctors and others involved in a patient’s care will enhance the overall quality of care provided.

Dr. Nemani has a clinical interest in cardiology and respirology with an emphasis on COPD (emphysema and chronic bronchitis) and asthma.

His close ties with The Ottawa Hospital will also enhance the level of care provided to local patients, Penney mentioned.

Some of the sub-specialties in internal

medicine include cardiology, immunology/allergy, critical care, gastroenterology, haematology, infectious diseases, medical oncology, nephrology, neurology, geriatric medicine and rheumatology.

At RVH, Dr. Nemani will be heavily involved in ongoing programs such as pulmonary function tests (PFTs) and cardiac stress testing, says Julia Boudreau, RVH’s Vice-President of Corporate Services. He is also interested in providing allergy testing.

The doctor and his family—his wife and two daughters—are going to be living here in town and supporting our community. “I am so pleased we elected to stay here,” Dr. Nemani said, smiling at the press conference last month.



Internist Dr. Shanti Nemani, seated at the table beside Admaston/Bromley Mayor Raye-Anne Briscoe, is welcomed to RVH at a September 13 press conference.