

SFMH Welcomes New Radiology Partnership

St. Francis Memorial Hospital (SFMH) is happy to announce a new partnership with The Ottawa Hospital for the provision of Radiology services.

Dr. Mark Schweitzer, Chief of Radiology for The Ottawa Hospital and Mario Vllemaire, Executive Director of the Ottawa Hospital and Region Imaging Associates (OHRIA) initially met with the administration and medical staff of SFMH in June to discuss the proposal and were excited last month to announce that an agreement had been reached to provide services to both SFMH and Renfrew Victoria Hospital (RVH).

Both are at the head of OHRIA, a partnership among the current 56 radiologists in the Department of Medical 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.

“OHRIA views this new venture with SFMH and RVH as a partnership, and this has been evident throughout the process,” says SFMH Chief Operating Officer, Jeremy Stevenson. “They have demonstrated nothing but respect for the needs of our organization, our medical staff and, most importantly, the patients we serve.”

“We have a tradition of covering outside of The Ottawa Hospital,” noted Schweitzer. “We pride ourselves on being flexible, family-orientated and focused on partnerships.” OHRIA also serves regional communities such as Almonte, Arnprior and Winchester hospitals. He continues by mentioning that SFMH and RVH practices merge on another important front: “We are all 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 our communities,” notes Stevenson.

Alison Bishop, manager of SFMH Diagnostic Imaging department, says it is a wonderful opportunity to partner with the OHRIA and The Ottawa Hospital. While there could be a future opportunity for radiologists to provide on-site service, the bulk of the service will be reported remotely.

“Our staff and patients are very fortunate to have access to this group’s degree of knowledge and expertise,” says Bishop.

In addition to the radiologist from OHRIA, Dr. Colin Cunningham, who has provided service to SFMH for more than 10 years, will continue to provide both on-site and remote services.

Randy Penney, SFMH CEO says that it is a complex agreement, involving sister hospital RVH 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 and SFMH.

“Already, the turn around time and quality of reporting is phenomenal” says Chief of Staff, Dr. Bruce Harris. “We really do appreciate everything they have done and will do for us and our patients.”

CAPTION FOR PICTURES:

SFMH MRT Jan Leigh-Mossley previews the digital image taken in Barry’s Bay before sending it to be reported on by the Radiologists at The Ottawa Hospital

Dr. Daniela Iancu, a Radiologist with the OHRIA group, views and dictates her report from the SFMH/RVH PACS station.