

For Immediate Release

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Halton Healthcare Services Upgrades Angiography-Interventional Suite in Oakville

Sophisticated instrument guidance, the ability to capture high resolution 3-D images of the vascular (circulatory system), and special software which significantly reduces patients' exposure to radiation are just a few of the many advanced features of Halton Healthcare Services' (HHS) new upgraded Angiography-Interventional Suite at its Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital (OTMH) site. The recent replacement project included the renovation of the existing Angiography-Interventional room and the installation of Philip's *new Allura Xper FD 20 Angiography unit*. This new state-of-the-art equipment provides the communities served by HHS with access to the latest Interventional Radiology (IR) technology and non-surgical treatment options.

"Guided by real time X-ray images, specially trained Interventional Radiologists can perform minimally invasive, non-surgical, procedures by manipulating catheters, wires, and other miniature instruments through a network of blood vessels, ducts and other pathways, to diagnose and treat a multitude of diseases," explains Dr. Robert Yu, Chief, HHS Diagnostic Imaging Department and Interventional Radiologist. "IR technology has really evolved over the last few years and this upgrade has provided us with some incredible new capabilities."

"In addition to higher resolution imaging, the new unit is equipped with a number of elaborate features. It can generate CT-like scans while the patient is on the procedure table so there's no need to move the patient during complex procedures," explains Dr. Yu. "It also comes with sophisticated instrument guidance that provides mapping, which helps us safely navigate around major organs when inserting needles and catheters. This is invaluable when we are trying to reach a mass deep in the body through a tiny incision during biopsies or procedures."

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“It also has some amazing vascular applications. The new machine provides three-dimensional angiograms or X-ray pictures of the blood vessels, so now we can examine the blood vessels and circulatory system from different angles with remarkable clarity,” adds Dr. Chris Mongiardi, HHS Interventional Radiologist Specialist and Clinical Lead for IR, who was recently recruited to HHS because of his Interventional experience.

“With this technology we can see, identify and block a bleeding blood vessel to stop gastrointestinal bleeds and haemorrhages or shrink fibroids. While we could stent and unclog vessels with the old equipment, we can now perform these functions with more precision and ease, even in the minute peripheral vessels or in the case of our dialysis patients, in larger veins,” adds Dr. Yu. “Whether we are performing biopsies to rule out cancer or creating blood vessel access for drugs, these new technological advancements and many others, enhance our ability navigate our instruments in intricate spaces with more finesse and enables us to perform more complex and advanced procedures locally at our community hospital.”

“Despite all these bells and whistles, the new equipment uses less radiation, and its software tracks the amount of radiation exposure to patients and their healthcare providers during procedures,” adds Dr. Mongiardi. “This is a great safety feature for everyone involved.”

HHS was able to upgrade its Angiography-Interventional Suite thanks to the generosity of the Beamish Family of the WB Family Foundation, who donated five million dollars in the summer of 2011 to help enhance Diagnostic Services at both the existing Oakville Hospital site as well as the New Oakville Hospital.

“Our new Angio-Interventional machine is just one of a number of new Diagnostic Imaging equipment upgrades that has been made possible through the generosity of the WB Family Foundation. This type of support enables us to purchase the most current technology so we can provide the best possible care to our patients,” explains Dr. Yu. “In this case, the new technology is allowing us to elevate the care we provide to our

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communities, by making a wide array of new minimally invasive procedures available locally.”

“This tremendous gift is helping to ensure that Halton residents have improved access to this advanced diagnostic imaging technology in their communities today and in the future,” concludes John Oliver, President and CEO of HHS. “On behalf of all HHS staff, physicians and volunteers I would like to once again extend our sincere thanks to the WB Family Foundation for their very generous donation.”

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For more information:

Zita Taksas-Raponi
Public Relations Officer
Halton Healthcare Services
905-845-2571, ext. 6774