

MERRIMACK VALLEY HOSPITAL

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For Immediate Release

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**Merrimack Valley Hospital Welcomes New Surgeon—
Dr. Kathryn Hughes Joins Medical Staff**

Haverhill, MA — Merrimack Valley Hospital is pleased to announce that Kathryn Hughes, M.D., has joined the hospital's medical staff. Dr. Hughes is Board Certified in General Surgery and will provide a range of surgical services with a specialty in breast surgery and minimally invasive surgery. Her practice, Mill City Surgical Associates, will be located at the hospital, 140 Lincoln Avenue, in Haverhill, MA.

The doctor received her medical degree from the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences in Washington, DC. She began training at the University of Nevada School of Medicine's Department of Surgery completing her training as Resident and Chief Resident at George Washington University Medical Center in Washington, DC. Dr. Hughes is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

Her professional experience includes work as Chief of Surgery at Lowell General Hospital, Lowell, MA and Associate Chief of Surgery at Saints Medical Center, Lowell, MA. She is the founding member of Mill City Surgical Associates and previously worked as an Associate at Georgia Surgical Professional Associates in Atlanta Georgia and Lowell Surgical Associates in Lowell, Massachusetts. She has also served on numerous boards and committees at aforementioned hospitals.

Dr. Hughes brings a special focus to the surgical experience, especially for women patients: an opportunity for patients facing surgery to be seen by a female M.D. who specializes in surgery of the breast and minimally invasive surgery. She strives to increase the comfort level and allay fears in those patients who are apprehensive about undergoing a surgical procedure. She states, "I want my patients to understand and be comfortable with any procedure they undergo. I want them to know that the care they receive is the same, excellent care I would recommend to my own family."

She is happy to be back in New England, residing in North Andover, as she has a large, extended Greek family in the area. She is excited to be joining the Merrimack Valley Hospital team and becoming an important part of the Greater Haverhill community. Dr. Hughes enjoys cooking, reading, music, movies, and travel, and looks forward to taking in the many cultural activities that the Merrimack Valley offers.

Her office hours are by appointment, with a referral from the patient's primary care physician. To schedule an appointment, please call (978) 420-1050.

Merrimack Valley Hospital maintains 108 acute care beds, 17 adult behavioral medicine beds, and 3 pediatric beds. All are private rooms. The hospital's clinical strengths include a 24-hour emergency department; orthopedic, endoscopic and general surgery; and adult behavioral medicine care with a focus on geriatric issues. MVH also provides a wide range of outpatient services, such as surgical day care; x-rays; MRI exams; PET-Scans; 64-Slice CT Scans; digital mammography; bone density testing; dysphasia testing; nuclear medicine; physical therapy; pain management center; and sleep lab.

The hospital's awards for excellence include the #1 Nursing Team in New England Award, 2003 (*Advance for Nursing Magazine*); National Quality Leader Award for Pneumonia Care, 2006 (CareScience Select Practice); High Reliability Cardiac Care Award, 2006 (MassPRO); Top 100 Best Acute Care Hospital Award, 2004 (Total Benchmark Solutions); and Top Ranked Community Value Provider Award, 2007 (Cleverley & Associates). An affiliate of Essent Healthcare, Inc., the hospital serves Merrimack Valley and southern New Hampshire. More information can be found at www.merrimackvalleyhospital.com.