

MERRIMACK VALLEY HOSPITAL

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For Immediate Release

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**Merrimack Valley Hospital Expands GI Department—
Dr. Arati Pratap Joins Medical Staff**

Haverhill, MA — Merrimack Valley Hospital is pleased to announce that Arati Pratap, M.D., has joined the hospital's medical staff. Dr. Pratap will provide gastroenterology services, treating patients with gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), pancreatitis, liver disease, colon cancer, and other GI disorders. Her office will be located at 62 Brown Street, Suite 207 in Haverhill, MA.

Dr. Pratap offers a unique opportunity, as one of only a few female gastroenterologists, for women to be treated by a female M.D. for their GI care and screening colonoscopies—women who might not otherwise feel comfortable undergoing these procedures.

The doctor received her medical degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and completed her internship and residency in Internal Medicine at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. She completed her fellowship in Gastroenterology at Boston Medical Center, Boston University School of Medicine. She is Board Certified in internal medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine, and is currently board eligible in Gastroenterology.

Her professional experience includes work as a Hospitalist at Massachusetts General Hospital, and as an Instructor in Medicine at Harvard Medical School and BU School of Medicine. She has received numerous awards for her contributions in medical research. As a gastroenterology fellow at Boston University School of Medicine, her research focused on colon cancer screening, and she has presented this research at national meetings.

Dr. Pratap also brings a personal perspective to her practice, stating, "My patients are very important to me. I strive to do for each patient what I would do for a family member."

Residing in Andover, MA with her husband and 5-month-old baby girl, she is very excited to be joining the Merrimack Valley Hospital team and plans on becoming an involved member of the Greater Haverhill community. Haverhill offers her many opportunities to enjoy her hobbies of hiking, exercising, and cross-country skiing.

Dr. Pratap is currently accepting new patients and will begin seeing patients on September 8. To schedule an appointment, please call (978) 420-1530.

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; oncology; adult behavioral medicine care with a focus on geriatric issues; and transitional care. 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; and physical therapy.

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.