



*A New Day. A New Vision for the Valley.*

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## Merrimack Valley Hospital Announces the Return of Dr. Rami Rustum to the Pain Management Center

Haverhill, MA-January 14, 2009-Rami Rustum, M.D. has returned to Merrimack Valley Hospital as director of the Pain Management Center.

Dr. Rustum served as director of the Pain Management Center at Merrimack Valley Hospital until just over a year ago when he left to serve as chief of the Department of Anesthesia and Pain Management at Lawrence General Hospital.

Merrimack Valley Hospital is pleased to have him back.

"I am very pleased that Dr. Rustum is returning to Merrimack Valley Hospital so patients in our service area will once again be able to receive the pain management expertise he provides," said Merrimack Valley Hospital CEO Michael Collins.

"I am excited to be back and lead the hospital's effort to provide much needed pain care, and service its patients and the residents of this valley," said Dr. Rustum.

The goal of the center is to provide a meaningful reduction in pain so patients can return to the activities they have been missing. The team at the center strives to understand each patient's needs in order to offer the best options.

The center treats spine related pain such as herniated discs, sciatica, collapsed vertebrae, spinal stenosis, back pain and neck pain, as well as other pain syndromes, including cancer related pain, shingles and post herpetic neuralgia, complex regional pain syndrome, arthritis, neuropathy and nerve injury and headaches.

Treatments are provided in collaboration with referring physicians using the latest advances in pain medicine including physical therapy, relaxation strategies, medications and injections.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Rustum, please call (978) 521-3657.

Dr. Rustum earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the High Institute of Technology in Syria and his Medical Degree from Tishreen University, Tishreen Medical School in Syria. His residency in general surgery was at Damascus General Hospital, Damascus Medical School in Syria.

Dr. Rustum's research fellowship in Nutrition and Metabolism was at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School in Boston. He completed an externship in surgery at St. Elizabeth's Medical Center, Tufts Medical School Quincy Hospital and Boston University Medical School. His internship in general surgery was at St. Elizabeth's Medical Center, Tufts Medical School, and his residency in Anesthesiology and Critical Care was completed at St. Elizabeth's Medical Center, Tufts Medical School. Dr. Rustum also completed a Fellowship in the Pain Management Center at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School.

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About Merrimack Valley Hospital:

*Merrimack Valley Hospital maintains 108 acute care bed and 17 adult behavioral medicine beds; all are private rooms. The hospital's clinical strengths include a 24-hour emergency department; orthopedic, endoscopic and general surgery; adult behavioral medicine care with a focus on geriatric issues, a comprehensive Pain Management Center, and a Sleep Study Lab. MVH also provides a wide range of outpatient services, such as bone density testing; dysphasia testing; echocardiograms; electroencephalograms (EEG); electromyography (EMG); full-field digital mammography; magnetic resonance imaging (MRI); position emission tomography (PET-Scan); pulmonary function testing (PFT); nuclear medicine; surgical day care; ultrasound (general & obstetrical), and physical therapy and x-rays, and 64-Slice CT scans.*

*The hospital's awards for excellence include the Excellence Through Insight Award, 2008 (HealthStream Research); Best in Value Hospitals, 2008 (Data Advantage); #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](http://www.merrimackvalleyhospital.com).*