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Merrimack Valley Hospital Announces New Vascular Surgeon

January 6, 2009: Merrimack Valley Hospital is proud to announce that Vascular Surgeon Walter Kwass, M.D. has joined the staff.

Dr. Kwass, who has over thirty years of experience in vascular surgery, is a Fellow of the American College of Surgery and Diplomate of the Vascular Board of the American Board of Surgery.

Dr. Kwass attended Amherst College in Massachusetts and New York University School of Medicine. His internship and residency in surgery were at Tufts New England Medical Center, as was his fellowship in vascular surgery.

"I am proud that we were able to recruit a board certified physician of his stature. He has over thirty years of experience and will be an invaluable resource in meeting the needs of patients in our community who require the services of a vascular surgeon," said Merrimack Valley Hospital CEO Michael Collins.

Dr. Kwass comes from an established practice in New Haven, Connecticut. He moved here in part to be closer to family. He is the brother of Dr. George Kwass, Chairman of Pathology, at Merrimack Valley Hospital.

Dr. Kwass is pleased to be at Merrimack Valley Hospital because he is filling a void: With the opening of his practice, Dr. Kwass will bring a vascular service dedicated to the greater Haverhill area.

"I am looking forward to the opportunity to start a new practice in vascular surgery at Merrimack valley Hospital. The idea of bringing thirty years of experience to a completely new venture is very exciting to me. I think I can provide a seasoned approach to patients and their referring doctor, while incorporating some of the newest techniques and concepts my specialty has to offer. I am board certified in vascular surgery, re-certified twice, and a member of the Society for Vascular Surgery and our regional New England Society for Vascular Surgery," said Dr. Kwass.

Dr. Kwass has a special interest in varicose veins and minimally invasive ways to treat them, like injection treatments, laser and the VNUS closure procedure which uses heat to seal the vein. He performs extensive arterial surgery as well, with a particular interest in carotid artery disease and the arteries of the legs.

Other special interests are lower extremity issues, including ulcers and diabetic foot problems, and long-term management of vascular disease.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Kwass, please call (978) 420-1050.

About Merrimack Valley Hospital:

Merrimack Valley Hospital maintains 108 acute care beds 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. 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 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.