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For immediate release

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Merrimack Valley Hospital Announces New Gastroenterologist

August 3, 2009--Merrimack Valley Hospital is pleased to announce that Gastroenterologist Bridget Jennings Seymour, MD has joined the staff.

Dr. Seymour is a graduate of Albany Medical College and completed internship and residency at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, PA. She also completed her fellowship in gastroenterology and hepatology at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. Dr. Seymour is board certified in internal medicine.

"Merrimack Valley Hospital is pleased to welcome Dr. Bridget Seymour. She will be a welcome addition to our medical staff, and she will be located in the medical office building on the hospital campus," said Merrimack Valley Hospital CEO Michael Collins.

Dr. Seymour is a member of the American Medical Association, American Gastroenterological Association, American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, and the American College of Gastroenterology.

Dr. Seymour has had articles published, including two in the American Journal of Gastroenterology on Lyme induced gastroparesis and tuberculous involvement in the esophagus. She has also presented her research nationally on numerous topics including markers of liver cancer in hepatitis C patients and novel bowel preparations for wireless capsule endoscopy.

Dr. Seymour will be working with Dr. Francis MacMillan Jr. at Merrimack Valley Gastroenterology, 62 Brown Street, Suite 207, in Haverhill. She can be reached at (978) 420-1530.

Her interests include travel, hiking, reading, water activities and spending time with family. Her professional interests are liver disease, inflammatory bowel disease, women's health, and colorectal cancer screening.

About Merrimack Valley Hospital:

Merrimack Valley Hospital maintains 107 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, 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); physical therapy; 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.