



October 6, 2020

June Porter  
Joint Municipal Physician Recruitment Committee Chair,  
Town of The Blue Mountains  
32 Mill Street, Box 310,  
Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0

Dear Ms. Porter,

Thank you for your letter inquiring about any plans which GBHS might have regarding recruitment of a geriatric specialist. Your timing is quite remarkable as I am delighted to inform you that Dr. Ali Ahmad will be joining the organization this month. Dr. Ahmad is a specialist in Internal Medicine with fellowship training in Geriatrics. We consider ourselves, and the region, to be very fortunate to have recruited him as specialists in this field are few and far between. Furthermore, it is very unusual for these specialists to be attracted to rural areas.

It is my understanding that he will be initiating his practice with coverage of the Internal Medicine service responsibilities, and building his referral practice in Geriatrics. He will undoubtedly forward communications to the referring practitioners in the region with contact details and an outline of services he will be offering. I am aware that he has an interest in outreach to the communities and providing educational opportunities for primary care providers in the region. At the risk of speaking on his behalf, I am sure that he would appreciate any support available from your group with respect to these outreach activities.

Most of the recruiting efforts of GBHS are directed at the need for primary care physicians within the more rural communities we serve. In addition, it is crucial that we also direct these resources toward maintaining the core specialty services provided at the Owen Sound site. We have long recognized geriatrics as an area of need throughout our region and are ecstatic that we have been able to recruit in such a manner as to address multiple needs.

I am sure that your organization joins ours in welcoming Dr. Ahmad to our community.

Again, thank you for expressing your concerns to me.

Sincerely,

Paul F. Middlebrook, MD  
Chief of Staff, GBHS

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**GBHS Markdale Hospital**

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**GBHS Meaford Hospital**

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**GBHS Owen Sound Hospital**

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**GBHS Southampton Hospital**

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