

Renfrew Victoria Hospital News Release

(For Immediate Release)

RVH to expand professional team with new surgeon in 2012

Renfrew Victoria Hospital will welcome a new general surgeon to its professional team in May 2012.

Dr. Susan Krajewski, who grew up in Ottawa and spent her summers at a family cottage on Golden Lake, received her medical degree from the University of Toronto in 2005. In 2008, she graduated from Harvard University with a Master of Public Health degree. She completed her residency as a General Surgeon at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in 2011.

During the course of her educational endeavours, Dr. Krajewski authored peer-reviewed articles, presented at numerous conferences and took on volunteer/leadership roles for various organizations such as the B.C. Section of General Surgery.

Dr. Krajewski will provide a clinic at St. Francis Memorial Hospital in Barry's Bay as part of the partnership agreement with RVH.

"On behalf of the Renfrew Victoria Hospital, I am very pleased to welcome Susan and her family to our hospital and community. Our current surgeon, Dr. Lance Miller, who has provided exemplary service to this community for so many years, had indicated his intention to step aside in May of 2012. Our Medical Advisory Committee, with support from our administration, established specific skills, knowledge and experience that we would like to see the next surgeon possess. Susan has met all of the criteria and more. With her clinical knowledge and skills, we look forward to welcoming her to our surgical program. Susan will be able to assist our organization in making sure that patients have access to care close to home. The references to date on Susan have been outstanding. Her academic qualifications from Guelph, Toronto and Harvard, her surgical experience and familiarity with Renfrew County will make her a great addition to our medical community," says Randy Penney, President and CEO of RVH.

The Renfrew and Area Health Services Village will be supporting Dr. Krajewski through its physician recruitment incentive program.

"We're very pleased, along with the municipalities involved and our many local business partners, to offer our support in bringing such a high-calibre physician to the area to fill the impending need," says Health Services Village Development Officer Norm Lemke.

Admaston Bromley Mayor Raye-Anne Briscoe, Chair of Renfrew and Area Health Services Village, notes the importance of having a general surgeon in our small rural hospitals and adds, "We thank Dr. Lance Miller for building the practice and providing such an important service for so many years and for working towards a seamless transition as he prepares to step down. Our small community hospitals are very fortunate to acquire a talented new general surgeon in Dr. Susan Krajewski."

Dr. Krajewski visited RVH at the end of November to meet with the staff, physicians and administration team as well as tour the facility and learn about the existing surgical program.

"We chose to come to Renfrew because it was an opportunity not only to have a varied general surgery practice, but also to be a part of a community," comments Dr. Krajewski. "On our site visit, we were especially impressed with the cohesive working environment, the friendliness of the staff and the openness of the administration. All staff and physicians seem to share a common goal of developing quality care and making Renfrew a centre of health care excellence."

She also appreciates that Dr. Miller has created and maintained a comprehensive surgical practice and looks forward to his mentorship in transitioning into her new role at RVH.

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Dr. Krajewski recently completed a six-month locum at Mount St. Joseph's Hospital in Vancouver and says, "I am hoping to continue to provide quality cancer care for the people of Renfrew county closer to home," adding, "RVH has a great surgical program in place and I hope to build on that program with the introduction of laparoscopic colon surgery, which has been shown to decrease length of stay in the hospital and get patients back to work faster."

RVH looks forward to offering expanded procedures to Renfrew and the surrounding area. We will be investing up to \$125,000 for the equipment necessary for these new procedures as part of our corporate commitment to the surgical program.

As part of her locum, Dr. Krajewski completed a clinical traineeship in breast cancer surgery from UBC. She notes, "One of my areas of interest is cancer surgery, specifically surgery for breast and colorectal cancer."

On a personal level, Dr. Krajewski speaks three languages—English, French and Spanish—fluently. Her interests outside of work include downhill skiing, camping, hiking, yoga and travel. She has played lacrosse at university and team Ontario levels. She is married to Louis Watson, a registered nurse who works in the operating room and they have a son, Noah, who turned one year old this month.

"I grew up in Ottawa and we are looking forward to raising our family in the Ottawa Valley," says Dr. Krajewski.

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For more information please contact Randy Penney, President and CEO, Renfrew Victoria Hospital, 613-432-4851, ext. 260.

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