



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

From: Avita Health System
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Avita Health System Welcomes Pulmonologist / Critical Care Physician

GALION – October 28, 2011 – Avita Health System is welcoming James D. Heddleson, DO, board-certified Pulmonologist and Critical Care physician, who will be caring for critically ill patients at both Bucyrus and Galion Community Hospitals.

Dr. Heddleson will serve Avita Health System in two capacities: Pulmonary Medicine and Critical Care. As a Pulmonologist, Dr. Heddleson will care for patients with diseases or abnormalities of the lungs or cardio-pulmonary system and will be responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of these conditions. The cardio-pulmonary system consists of the heart, lungs, blood vessels and all organs that work together to help a person breathe and take in oxygen.

As a Critical Care physician, which can also be referred to as an Intensivist, Dr. Heddleson will direct the care of patients in the ICU who have life-threatening conditions such as cardiac arrest, respiratory failure, sepsis, shock, or severe infections. A Critical Care physician is important in a small-town hospital because unstable conditions require intensive monitoring, highly trained nursing staff, and an experienced subspecialty-trained physician to improve the quality of care and lessen the chance of a transfer to another hospital.

“I am very focused on providing top-quality therapeutic and diagnostic care to patients who need pulmonary medicine,” comments Dr. Heddleson. “With my experience and training, however, I am also excited to deliver the highest quality of critical care medicine for patients at both Galion and Bucyrus Community Hospitals. Critically ill patients and their families now have the opportunity to have access to a critical care physician 24 hours 7 days a week right here in Crawford County. This drastically lowers the possibility of patients having to be transferred from Galion or Bucyrus to distant tertiary care centers, when many can be effectively managed closer to home.”

Dr. Heddleson obtained his Doctorate of Osteopathy (D.O.) at the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed his residency at Doctors Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, where he also served as Academic Chief Resident through 2004. Dr. Heddleson also completed a Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine Fellowship at both Genesys Regional Medical Center in Grand Blanc, Michigan, and Doctors Hospital. Dr. Heddleson comes to Avita from MedCentral Health System, where he served as Pulmonary and Critical Care subspecialist and Director of Intensive Care Units Committee from 2007 through 2011.

Dr. Heddleson is accepting new pulmonary medicine patients. Appointments may be made by calling 419-462-4588. For further information on Avita Health System providers, visit www.avitahealth.org.

** Photo of Dr. James Heddleson attached.*

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