

Pembroke Regional Hospital's Newest Surgeon Brings Specialized Expertise To The Orthopaedics Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PEMBROKE – The surgical team at Pembroke Regional Hospital is excited to announce the recent arrival of orthopaedic surgeon Dr. George Mathew.

Dr. Mathew who began seeing patients in early January, joins Dr. Christopher de Jesus and Dr. Natasha Holder as the department's third orthopaedic surgeon, following the departure of Dr. Ingrid Radovanovic.

"Dr. Mathew exemplifies a team player," said PRH Chief of Surgery Dr. Colleen Haney. "His skill, compassion and focus on patient care make him an excellent addition to our surgical team."

Born and raised in India, Dr. Mathew was no stranger to the healthcare field as his mother had a 28-year career as a nurse and his father was a physiotherapist. He said it was through his father's specialty that he developed an interest in orthopaedics.

"In physiotherapy you see the great results that come from you work with patients," Dr. Mathew said.

"I have that same experience in orthopaedics – it's very satisfying. I love it when my patients have been treated and come back to me with a smile to say that they have been given their life back. To see the results is very rewarding," Dr. Mathew said.

Dr. Mathew earned his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degrees at the University of Madras in India, after which he specialized in orthopaedics, earning a diploma in that specialty at the Manipal Academy of Higher Education.

Recognizing that most of his mentors in the field were trained in Great Britain, Dr. Mathew then spent six years in England, earning fellowships from the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh and Dublin (FRCSI) and a Master of Science at the University of Central Lancashire. During that time he also worked at the world famous Wrightington hospital where joint replacement surgery was pioneered.

With a desire to pursue further hands-on clinical research, Dr. Mathew's education journey brought him to Canada's McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario where he completed two years of clinical research.

Dr. Mathew finished his Residency in 2014 after which he did three Fellowships, the first in lower limb reconstruction at the University of Toronto through Sunnybrook Hospital, the second at St. Michael's Hospital in community orthopaedics and a final fellowship in foot and ankle surgery at the Jewish General Hospital McGill University in Montreal.

“It's been a long, fascinating journey,” Dr. Mathew said of his formal education which ended last July and spanned several continents, included clinical, research and hands-on training, allowed for teaching opportunities, publications and presentations and led him to a point where he was seeking a place to set up a permanent practice.

Since July of 2017, Dr. Mathew took on a number of short-term placements in Newfoundland, the Hamilton area and at Pembroke Regional Hospital this past October.

“Of all the places I have worked, I enjoyed my time here the most. I enjoyed the camaraderie here and the level of teamwork I experienced,” he said, adding that the surgical team is a great group that gets along which made it an easy decision for him when offered the position in an orthopaedics program which is still relatively new.

Among other skills, Dr. Mathew brings to the program experience and expertise in lower extremity reconstruction in addition to the core procedures such as hip and knee replacement, and foot and ankle work.

Dr. Mathew said he's looking forward to helping the team expand the program, adding that he has been warmly welcomed by all.

“There is an amazing sense of gratitude from patients here that I have not seen in other places,” Dr. Mathew said, adding that many have expressed their thanks for him selecting our community.

And in the coming months he also looks forward to having his wife, son and daughter move to the area from the family's current home in Hamilton.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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