

Trillium trains family doctors for the future

Radhika Panjwani

Jul 03, 2009 - 6:22 PM

<http://mississauga.com/news/article/32138--trillium-trains-family-doctors-for-the-future>



Meet the Docs. Trillium Health Centre and Summerville Family Medicine Teaching Unit launched an initiative yesterday that will provide thousands of Mississauga residents with access to a family doctor. The first four physicians to participate in the program, from left, Ravjit Ahluwalia, Casey Corkum, Laurence Biro and Gaurav Puri are currently accepting new patients. *Submitted photo*

As many as 1,000 Mississauga families without a family doctor will now be able to find one, thanks to four new physicians who are doing their post-graduate training at Trillium Health Centre.

The physicians, who took over their new responsibilities yesterday, are part of a collaborative effort between Trillium and Mississauga-based Summerville Family Medicine Teaching Unit.

The Summerville FMTU is a four-site healthcare clinic whose 25 physicians provide services to more than 30,000 patients in west Toronto and Mississauga. The satellite clinics - three in Mississauga and one in Etobicoke - are staffed with nurses, doctors, social workers, dieticians, psychologists and other specialists who play a crucial role in improving quality of care, said Dr. Michael Kates, chief of family medicine and director of the teaching unit at Trillium.

Kates said the new doctors - Ravjit Ahluwalia, Casey Corkum, Laurence Biro and Gaurav Puri - have set up shop at 101 Queensway W., one of the Summerville sites, right by Trillium. Over the next two years, the doctors, under the supervision of Kates and three other Trillium doctors, will see patients and complete their post-graduate training in family medicine. After that, they'll have the option of continuing their practice in Mississauga or going elsewhere.

"It's a win-win for our community because it addresses a shortage of physicians in the area," Kates said. "This is a busy city and there's still need for family doctors. We're hoping these physicians will set up shop in our community."

The new doctors are the first group of physicians to take part in the collaborative training program, said Kates.

"These physicians are our pioneers," he said. "They're breaking ice for us."

Kates said that, through the program, Trillium hopes to train at least 18 residents by 2012 to help cope with the shortage of family physicians in Mississauga.

He said Credit Valley Hospital has been running a similar program for the last four years. Kates said the new resident doctors will split their time between treating patients and rotating through hospital shifts in palliative care, rehabilitative medicine, psychiatry and other areas.

The training program is part of a Queen's Park plan to increase the number of family physicians in Ontario.

Those in need of a family physician can visit www.trilliumhealthcentre.org/health/findDoctor.html or call 905-272-9900 for more information.