**June 5, 2017**

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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

***MHA Recruits OB/GYN***

**(Strathroy, ON) –** The MHA is thrilled to announce that Dr. Niharika Chandra has joined the Middlesex Hospital Alliance (MHA) team at the Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital (SMGH) site. Dr. Chandra is a specialist in Obstetrics and Gynecology and is excited to provide access to quality obstetrical and gynecological health care to women in Strathroy and the surrounding areas.

 In addition to obstetrics, Dr. Chandra will provide a wide range of gynaecological services. Her private clinic and the ambulatory care clinic at SMGH will be used for outpatient services such as IUD insertions, pessary care and colposcopy, and for the medical management of many gynaecological disorders. Dr. Chandra will also perform gynaecological surgeries, including but not limited to endometrial ablations with hysteroscopy, treatment of mild endometriosis, ovarian cyst removal and hysterectomy.

Her passion for women's health led her to pursue her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Western University following the completion of her medical training at McGill University. She feels privileged to be able to share her expertise with the women of this community.

 “The warmth of the people and the culture is what initially attracted me to the organization,” said Dr. Chandra. “I was extremely impressed with how Hospital staff, physicians and administration sincerely demonstrate their commitment to patient and family centred care. The dedication to care and the overall atmosphere at MHA is second to none,” said Dr. Chandra.  “I believe I can provide a seasoned approach to patients and their referring doctor, while incorporating some of the newest techniques my specialty has to offer.”

As a Community hospital SMGH strives to provide a fully functional obstetrical program. Our vision is to ensure high quality obstetrical care for low-risk deliveries is available 24 hours a day, every day of the year for women who would like to have care closer to home. SMGH provides epidural service 24/7 and is fortunate to have four dedicated family physicians committed to providing these services together with our new Obstetrician/Gynecologist, Dr. Niharika Chandra. The Obstetrical Program also has specially trained nurses and our birthing facilities include family-centred birthing rooms, a labour room and a whirlpool tub.

“I am delighted by this announcement as it is key to enabling us to continue to deliver on our ability to meet the needs of patients in our area. The recruitment of an OB/GYN has been a top priority for the Board of Directors to support our Clinical Services Plan”, said Dawn Butler, Chair, MHA Board of Directors.

Dr. Chandra has officially started at MHA, and is accepting new patients. Referrals can be made by calling **519-205-2000** or faxed to **519-205-2003.**

MHA Chief of Staff Dr. Gary Perkin said, "Dr. Chandra is a welcome addition to our medical community. She is very warm and friendly, and brings with her a great deal of expertise. Dr. Chandra is a great addition to our OB/GYN team.”

MHA President and CEO Todd Stepanuik stated, “During the Clinical Services Planning consultations with stakeholders, it was identified that being able to provide OB/GYN services for our patients closer to home was a priority for MHA. With the addition of Dr. Chandra, we are delighted to be able to offer these services.”

About MHA:

The Middlesex Hospital Alliance (MHA) is comprised of two fully-accredited partner sites: Four Counties Health Services and Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital.

A progressive, team-oriented and technologically adept organization of excellence, the MHA is creating a more integrated and seamless approach to treatment by embracing and seeking out partnerships, through collaboration and investing in people. This coordinated approach helps to ensure that a high level of service is provided while reducing costs and continually enhancing quality.

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