

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## SBGHC APPOINTS NEW GENERAL SURGEON

April 20, 2020 – South Bruce Grey Health Centre (SBGHC) and the Brockton and Area Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee are very pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. John Stirrat as SBGHC's new General Surgeon. Dr. Stirrat will be starting his new role with SBGHC on July 14, 2020.

Dr. Stirrat will complete the final portion of his five-year General Surgery residency at the University of Toronto this spring, and is currently completing additional training in Caesarian Sections at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. In his final year of residency, he was appointed Chief Resident at Sunnybrook, which is the busiest trauma centre in the country, with responsibility for coordinating over 20 surgical residents at various points through the year.

With a desire to practice community-based General Surgery, Dr. Stirrat completed all of his elective rotations in small communities outside of the Greater Toronto Area, including Dunnville, Port Perry, Collingwood, Barrie and Peterborough.

Dr. Stirrat will work out of the SBGHC operating rooms in Walkerton and Kincardine, and together with Dr. Hector Duque and Dr. Kellen Kieffer, will provide joint coverage for surgical services across all four sites of SBGHC and the Hanover & District Hospital.

The Brockton and Area Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee, led by Dr. Paul McArthur, Dr. Amanda Wilhelm, and Chair Kelly Fotheringham played an integral role in bringing Dr. Stirrat to SBGHC with the support of the Municipality of Brockton and the Municipality of South Bruce.

"We are looking forward to a fresh start with a personable, family and community focused general surgeon, with whom we expect to build on and solidify the last couple of years of general surgery teamwork and cooperation in South Bruce Grey counties for many years to come," says Dr. McArthur.

"With great experience for a young surgeon, strong references, and well developed interpersonal skills, Dr. Stirrat clearly rose to the top of the list of high caliber candidates interviewed for this position," says Michael Barrett, President and CEO. "SBGHC is very pleased to have Dr. Stirrat join the SBGHC team, and we look forward to having him work with our physicians and staff to continue to strengthen the SBGHC surgical program."

Dr. Stirrat will replace SBGHC's previous General Surgeon, Dr. Zeeshan Rana, who resigned in February of this year. SBGHC would like to extend our thanks to Drs. Duque and Kieffer for providing surgical coverage during this time.

Together with his wife Elaine and young son James, Dr. Stirrat plans to settle in Walkerton as he begins his practice.

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