NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

From: Galion Community Hospital
Contact: Linda Hearn, Community Relations & Marketing
Galion Community Hospital (419) 468-0567

New Physician Joins Galion Community Hospital

GALION - Galion Community Hospital has announced that Francis X. Blais, D.O., F.A.C.O.I., will join the hospital's physician team in mid-September. Board-certified in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases, Dr. Blais will concentrate on treating patients 18 years of age and older.

Earning his B.A. in Biology from Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts, Dr. Blais continued his studies through the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Pennsylvania, where he obtained his D.O. His internship and residency were completed at Doctors Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, and an Infectious Diseases Fellowship followed at Albany Medical College in Albany, New York.

Beginning a career as an educator, Dr. Blais' teaching career placed him in Albany, New York, Chicago, Illinois and Fort Worth, Texas, before bringing him back to Ohio and Doctors Hospital. As the director of Internal Medicine Residency, he instructed new physicians during their residency training. In addition, he also worked with new physicians while serving the Ohio University College of Medicine as a Clinical Professor of Medicine.

A brief interruption during his professorship to work on his Masters in Health Professions Education (MHPE) sent Dr. Blais to the University of Maastricht in The Netherlands. In

addition to his attending duties throughout his teaching experience, Dr. Blais has brought his expertise to the John Peter Smith County Hospital, delivering service to HIV patients.

Dr. Blais has authored an extensive list of publications, and has been featured in the Journal of the American Osteopathic Association, the New England Journal of Medicine and the Journal of Cancer Education, among others. A long list of professional presentations has taken him throughout the United States to places such as Florida, Massachusetts, Louisiana, and Arizona.

Jerry Morasko, President and CEO for Galion Community Hospital, said, "Dr. Blais' arrival is the start of some exciting events for our hospital. It's no secret that this area suffers from a physician shortage so we are focusing on attracting physicians. It's a priority. Dr. Blais represents the high caliber of quality, sincere dedication and concern for patient care that we require. We welcome him to our GCH family."

Practicing internal medicine in Galion, Dr. Blais will be located within Galion Community Hospital. Internal medicine is the medical specialty concerned with the diagnosis, management and nonsurgical treatment of unusual or serious diseases. Dr. Blais will be the first of several physicians to move to a newly remodeled clinic located within the hospital. Patients may find his offices by entering through the main lobby and turning left at the atrium elevators.

Dr. Blais and his wife, Rosemarie, have two grown children. An avid reader, Dr. Blais enjoys traveling, woodworking and has an interest in motorcycles.

Dr. Blais is currently taking new patients, although some insurance acceptance is pending. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call (419) 462-4560.

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