

**Media contact:**

Kelly M. Perritt

[kelly.perritt@providencehospitals.com](mailto:kelly.perritt@providencehospitals.com)

Mobile: 803-315-1515

For Release: November 3, 2016

**THREE RIVERS MEDICAL ASSOCIATES JOINS PROVIDENCE HEALTH**

**COLUMBIA, S.C.** – Providence Health is pleased to announce the addition of Three Rivers Medical Associates to its team of primary care and internal medicine providers. With offices located in Irmo, downtown Columbia, and Northeast Columbia, the new practice adds thirteen locally established physicians and two nurse practitioners to Providence’s primary care offerings.

Providence Health is particularly excited about the partnership because of the specialized focus on adult medicine that these providers have. Because of the disease management needs of the aging population, Three Rivers views healthcare as a true partnership between patients and physicians to ensure that all chronic management needs are met. This includes seeing patients when they are hospitalized as inpatients. In addition, Three Rivers also works with the patients to schedule regular follow-up exams and screenings to identify and treat health concerns as early as possible so patients can live a full, active and comfortable life, despite the additional health challenges of aging.

“When building a team of physicians, you want to be able to address the needs of your community with additional talented doctors who have a proven track record of quality, compassionate care,” says Scott Campbell, Market Chief Executive Officer at Providence Health. “The team at Three Rivers Medical Associates embodies that, and we are thrilled to have them join in our effort to bring high-quality care to the community young and old.”

Three Rivers Medical Associates will be located at the following addresses:

- **Downtown** - 3700 Forest Drive, Columbia, SC 29204, 803-799-1922
- **Irmo** - 7430 College St., Irmo, SC 29063, 803-732-4001
- **Northeast** - 114 Gateway Corporate Blvd. Columbia, SC 29203, 803-365-8670

Read below for more information on each of the physicians.

**Amjad AbdulRahman, MD – Internal Medicine**

Dr. AbdulRahman is board certified in internal medicine and a specialist in clinical hypertension. Dr. AbdulRahman received his bachelor's and medical degree from the University of Aleppo and completed his residency training at St. Luke's Hospital in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Dr. AbdulRahman joined Three Rivers in 2004.

**J. Richard Allison III, MD, – Internal Medicine**

Dr. Allison has practiced in the Columbia area for more than 30 years and joined Three Rivers in 1999. He received his bachelor's degree from Davidson College and his medical degree from Duke University. Dr. Allison completed his residency at Dorn VA Medical Center and Palmetto Health Richland.

**Christopher B. Ballou, MD – Internal Medicine, Pediatrics**

Dr. Ballou is board certified in internal medicine and pediatrics. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina and his medical degree from the University of South Carolina School of Medicine. He completed his residency at Palmetto Health Richland.

**D. Keith Bridgers, MD, MSc - Internal Medicine**

Dr. Bridgers received his bachelor's and medical degree from the University of South Carolina. He completed an internship and residency in Internal Medicine at Mount Auburn Hospital, a Harvard teaching institution. He went on to complete a research and teaching fellowship in General Internal Medicine at the Boston University School of Medicine while completing an MSc degree in Biostatistics and Epidemiology from the Boston University School of Public Health. During his time in Boston, he held faculty teaching positions at both the Boston University School of Medicine and Harvard Medical School where he taught medical students the art of physical diagnosis and supervised Internal Medicine Interns and Residents as Attending Physician. He returned home to Columbia and joined Three Rivers Medical Associates in 2002.

**Rosalie E. Browning, MD - Internal Medicine**

Dr. Browning is board certified in internal medicine. She received her bachelor's degree from Central Wesleyan and her medical degree from the Medical University of South Carolina. She completed her residency training at Palmetto Health Richland. She has served as an internist at Dorn Veterans Administration Hospital and as an associate professor of medicine at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine. Dr. Browning has been with Three Rivers since 1995.

**Binyue “Kitty” Chang, MD, PhD - Internal Medicine**

Dr. Chang is board certified in internal medicine. Dr. Chang received a Bachelor of Medicine from Luzhou Medical College (Sichuan, China), and a PhD in Biomedical Science University of South Carolina School of Medicine here in Columbia, SC. She completed her residency in internal medicine at Berkshire Medical Center, Pittsfield, MA.

**John Gould III, DO, FACP - Internal Medicine, Hospice and Palliative Medicine**

Dr. Gould is board certified in internal medicine and hospice and palliative medicine, and is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians. Dr. Gould received his Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science and his Doctor of

Osteopathic Medicine from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed his residency at Palmetto Health Richland and joined Three Rivers in June 2004.

**L. Carey Hite, MD - Internal Medicine, Family Medicine**

Dr. Hite is board certified in internal medicine. He received his bachelor's degree from Davidson College and his medical degree from the Medical University of South Carolina. He completed his residency training at Palmetto Health Richland and DeWitt Army Community Hospital. Dr. Hite has practiced in Columbia since 1986.

**Leroy J. Huffman, MD, FACP - Internal Medicine**

Dr. Huffman is board certified in internal medicine with added qualifications in geriatric medicine, and is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians. He received his bachelor's degree from Yale University and his medical degree from the University of Maryland School of Medicine. He completed his residency at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine. Dr. Huffman practiced in the VA system for many years before joining Three Rivers in 1999.

**Elizabeth A. LeBel, MD, FACP - Hospice and Palliative Medicine, Internal Medicine**

Dr. LeBel is board certified in internal medicine and hospice and palliative medicine, and is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians. She is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, where she attended the Wharton School of Business as well as the School of Medicine. Her postgraduate training was initially in surgery and she completed an internal medicine residency at Oregon Health Sciences University. She has worked in a number of settings including outpatient, inpatient, nursing home, geropsychiatry and emergency department. Her interests include dive medicine (she is a DAN referral physician) as well as women's issues and dementia. She has been at Three Rivers in Irmo since 2005.

**Dana M. I. Nairn, MD - Internal Medicine**

Dr. Nairn is board certified in integrative holistic medicine. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of South Carolina and her medical degree from USC School of Medicine. Dr. Nairn began her medical training at Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic. She completed her residency training at Palmetto Health Richland. Dr. Nairn is an established internist and an assistant professor with USC School of Medicine.

**Sarah M. Schumacher, DO - Family Medicine, Geriatric Medicine**

Dr. Schumacher is a graduate of the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine in Biddleford, Maine and specializes in providing primary care services to older patients. She is board certified by the American Board of Family Medicine with focuses in geriatric medicine and hospice and palliative medicine. She completed her residency at the Warren Hospital Family Practice Residency Program, which emphasized geriatric care.



**Peggy V. Toliver-Dingle, MD - Geriatric Medicine, Internal Medicine**

Dr. Toliver-Dingle is board certified in internal medicine with added qualifications in geriatric medicine. Dr. Dingle holds a bachelor's degree from Occidental College and medical degree from Tulane University School of Medicine. She completed her residency training at Los Angeles County–USC Medical Center.

**About Providence Health:**

A part of LifePoint Health, Providence Health is the leading provider of cardiovascular and orthopedic services in the Midlands. Providence is composed of two hospitals, numerous physician practices, several rehabilitation centers, two sleep centers, an imaging and diagnostics lab, a school of cardiac diagnostics and an accredited chest pain center. In total, Providence employs more than 1,800 dedicated staff. Founded in 1938 by the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, Providence is known statewide for outstanding clinical quality and compassionate care. Providence Health was recognized nationally by U.S. News & World Report, tying for second place as the Best Hospital in South Carolina. In addition, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services awarded Providence Health a 4-star rating, which is the highest rank issued to a Columbia health care entity. The Providence open heart surgery program has consistently ranked in the top 15 percent of open heart programs in the nation. Providence has received the South Carolina BlueCross BlueShield Blue Distinction Center designation for orthopedics. For more information, call 800-424-DOCS or visit [YourProvidenceHealth.com](http://YourProvidenceHealth.com).

-###-