

Hospital's Rehab Department Welcomes New Medical Director

ROME – August 2003, Chul Jo Yang, M.D. has been appointed rehabilitation medical director of Rome Memorial Hospital's acute inpatient rehabilitation program.

Accredited by Commission for the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, the 14-bed rehabilitation unit helps patients regain the greatest level of functional independence possible through physical, occupational and speech therapy. The individualized treatment plans combine comprehensive therapy with emotional support to help patients reach their goals after a debilitating injury or illness, such as a stroke.



Chul Jo Yang, M.D. 1

"I truly believe that patient care is for the patient, and therefore decision making should be shared," Dr. Yang said. "Our job as the professional is to provide a thorough assessment, present the most up-to-date options and provide the patient with our guidance. But first and foremost, we must listen to what the patient wants and needs. The patient and the patient's family come first."

Dr. Yang graduated from the Yon-Sei University College of Medicine in Seoul, Korea, and completed his residency in physical medicine and rehabilitation at the Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine at New York University Medical Center. He is board certified and has been in the practice of physical medicine and rehabilitation in the Central New York region since 1979, when he founded Central New York Physiatry.

According to Program Director Mary Lou Kunkel, Dr. Yang will oversee clinical aspects and medical rehabilitation care standards of the hospital's acute rehabilitation program. Medical rehabilitation care will be rendered by Central New York Physiatry, which also includes Dr. Yang's associates, Anne Mathews, M.D., and Amarish R. Kapasi, M.D.

"Their expertise will be an excellent addition to our rehabilitation program," said Kunkel. "Dr. Yang is well respected because of his many years of experience and his commitment to his patients. He is a progressive physician who seeks information on the latest advancements in rehabilitation and enthusiastically shares that knowledge with the rehab team."

Over the years, Dr. Yang has witnessed an evolution in medical rehabilitation care. The acute inpatient rehab program used to be very narrowly defined and limited primarily to 10 conditions for admissions, he explained. Federal reimbursement programs recently have recognized 21 different conditions for admission. These 21 include almost any condition that involves functional impairment.

Located on the fourth floor of Rome Memorial Hospital, the 14-bed rehabilitation unit was opened in 1998. Information regarding admission to the rehab program may be obtained by calling 338-7600.