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NEW RHEUMATOLOGIST ADDS SPECIALIZED CARE AT RMH

Rush Memorial Hospital is quickly becoming a center for medical specialties in South-eastern Indiana. The recent addition of Dr. Denise Thornberry, who is the only full-time rheumatologist in the area, to the staff of RMH, adds a whole new array of treatment options available to local citizens.

Many people suffer from disorders such as rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, osteoporosis, lupus erythematosus, tendinitis, gout, and fibromyalgia. These disorders can be both painful and performance altering and, in time very disabling. Fortunately, rheumatologists have developed many new and effective methods of managing these conditions.

Dr. Thornberry, who is accepting new patients, is a graduate of the Indiana University School of Medicine. She did both her internship and residency at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis and had her Fellowship at the IU Medical Center. Dr. Thornberry is board certified in Internal Medicine and Rheumatology and has 27 years of clinical experience. Her practice includes the diagnosis and treatment of rheumatic diseases involving joints, muscles, and connective tissues around the joints and bones.

"There are three primary reasons I'm very happy to be at Rush Memorial Hospital, Dr. Thornberry said, "First is the high quality of the administration of this hospital. Second is the dedication I've seen to high quality patient care. Third is the commitment of the staff to the concept of being patient-focused. The level of commitment of the staff is really marvelous." Dr. Thornberry said she evaluated the hospital thoroughly before making the decision to come here. "There were really no surprises when I came, although I must admit I have been most impressed with how gracious my new patients have been and what a caring community this is," she emphasized. Of equal importance to Dr. Thornberry is the way in which the hospital reaches out to the community. "At larger hospitals patients may get lost in the shuffle, so there is rarely the same level of personal interaction between doctor and patient that I believe is so important to good medical care. That's not the case here," Dr. Thornberry pointed out.

Further commenting about Rush Memorial, Dr. Thornberry said, "This is a far more sophisticated healthcare facility than local people may realize. During the short time I've been here, I have seen how this hospital has evolved into a very professional healthcare facility, staffed by dedicated professionals who, incidentally, are happy in their work – and that positively impacts everyone's attitude. This is a very friendly place! These are also some of the reasons I chose to come here."

Dr. Thornberry is also concerned about increasing the level of patient responsibility to keep themselves healthy. "People need to seriously consider adopting a healthier lifestyle, which means a healthier diet, regular exercise, and to quit smoking.

For me, Rush Memorial is a much more manageable sized facility. It's refreshing to be here because of the commitment of the staff and the absence of excessive bureaucracy interferes with delivering the best medical care possible," Dr. Thornberry said.