

Granville Surgical Associates

Offering Expanded Access to Care for a Rural Community

Recently, Granville Health System welcomed two new general surgeons to Granville Surgical Associates. The arrival of Shane Hodge, DO, FACOS and Naveen Kumar, MD is part of a current overarching expansion of physician services occurring throughout Granville Health System (GHS). In addition to general surgery, GHS has welcomed new providers in Pediatrics, Hospitalist services, ENT, Urology, and Gastroenterology.

“Under the leadership of the GHS Board of Trustees and Medical Staff, the organization is making health care easier and more convenient for our community,” said Granville Health System Interim CEO Cristina R. Carroll. “We are pleased to increase the access to quality surgical care for our patients.”

With the addition of Dr. Hodge and Dr. Kumar, patients have experienced decreased wait times for appointments and the practice has increased its volume with a broader selection of surgical services offered.

Rural Health Care: A Focus on Community

Granville County is largely a rural area of more than 531 square miles and a population of less than 60,000, with more than 15% at or below the poverty level. Granville Health System, a community hospital in the truest sense, serves this area. GHS is an independent, non-profit, 62-bed hospital with a volunteer governing board from the local area. The main hospital is just a short drive from Raleigh and Durham.

“Our community appreciates that GHS is locally-owned,” said Carroll. “We take pride in caring for the community because we are the community.”

Dr. Kumar and Dr. Hodge share the same philosophy with regard to building their practice and together focus on





Dr. Naveen Kumar discusses the importance of wound care with a patient.

relationship building with the patients they serve.

“Particularly with wound care, we have found it ideal for the patient to have a relationship with our team,” Dr. Kumar said. “When a rare complication arises, we have the ability to see the patient quickly for additional treatment. I want to avoid patients delaying care because they’re anxious about getting in touch with me.”

“Both Dr. Kumar and I are a good fit with GHS because we want to build a practice focused on community,” said Dr. Hodge. “We are striving to help people, that’s why we entered this field.”

Another benefit of this approach to relationship building for patients is that they receive concierge-style medicine. They have direct access to a well-trained surgeon and a top-notch surgical care team.

“Direct access to a well-qualified surgeon is something that I’ve found to be missing in many larger health systems,” said Dr. Hodge. “I value the opportunity to practice medicine in an environment where I have direct ownership of my patients and their outcomes.”

The surgeons fill a gap in local services as many older patients in the community need quality surgical care and are not comfortable traveling outside of the area.

“Our patients are relieved to find they can get a diagnosis, pre-op care, lab work, imaging, surgery and wound care all performed locally,” said Dr. Hodge. “They find it more convenient for both themselves and their families than having to travel.”

Dr. Shan Hodge eases a patient’s anxiety about an upcoming surgical procedure.





A Commitment to Quality Care and Patient Safety

“As a general surgeon, we have all the education and training of surgeons at larger, urban hospitals,” said Dr. Hodge. “We have a wide set of skills because we perform a wide range of procedures. There are times we refer to tertiary care facilities and specialists when necessary. We do find most procedures can be performed here at Granville Health System and both quality and patient

safety are always our main focus.”

A focus to quality care and patient safety has paid off for Granville Health System. The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Group has recognized the attention to quality and patient safety with back-to-back “A” ratings for both spring and fall reporting periods in 2017.

The Leapfrog Group is a non-profit organization committed to driving quality, safety, and transparency in the U.S. health care system.

Developed under the guidance of an expert panel, Leapfrog’s Hospital Safety Grade uses 30 measures of publicly available hospital safety data to assign A, B, C, D and F letter grades to hospitals nationwide. The safety grade is calculated by top patient safety experts and is peer-reviewed. The information is fully transparent and free to the public. Granville Health System is one of the select hospitals, out of more than 2,600 U.S. hospitals, to receive an “A” for its commitment to reducing errors, infections, and accidents that can harm patients.

Specifically, Granville Health System received excellent scores in the areas of infection control, preventing complications from surgery, wound care, avoiding patient safety issues, ensuring the timely response of hospital staff to patient needs, and communication with patients from both doctors and nurses.

“Our patients are the clear winners because they receive a high level of surgical care right here in our community knowing their hospital remains focused on quality and patient safety,” says Dr. Naveen Kumar

Shane Hodge, DO, FACOS

Dr. Hodge has a passion for general surgery. He describes himself as the “Swiss Army Knife” of the health system, taking appointment referrals from local and regional physicians in addition to patients referred by a busy GHS Emergency Department.

“My focus is on minimally invasive procedures, such as colorectal surgery and laparoscopic hernia repair as well as cholecystectomy and appendectomy. Minimally invasive procedures are really the best approach for the patient,” Dr. Hodge said. “They lead to a faster recovery and require less time in the hospital. We continue moving in that direction and receive feedback from patients that they

are appreciative and surprised by the shorter recovery times.”

Dr. Hodge joined GHS in March 2017. He previously led the General Surgery program at Wilkes Regional Medical Center in North Wilkesboro, NC. Dr. Hodge also served as the Chief Surgical Resident at Genesys Regional Medical Center located in Grand Blanc, MI. He is currently the Vice Chief of the GHS Medical Staff and Chief of the Peer Review Committee. Dr. Hodge is certified by the American Osteopathic Board of Surgery and has been at Granville Surgical Associates for one year.

Naveen Kumar, MD

A highly skilled general surgeon, Dr. Kumar specializes in breast care. He provides a comprehensive breast care program for women including biopsy, lumpectomy, mastectomy, modified radical mastectomy, and breast reduction for women with back and shoulder pain.

Also serving as the Medical Director for the Wound Care Center at Granville Surgical Associates, Dr. Kumar provides specialized treatment for chronic or non-healing wounds. He offers both clinic-based as well as operative procedures for wounds.

“Access to a qualified team close to home is ideal for wound care,” said Dr. Kumar. “It’s critically important to closely monitor these wounds until they are fully healed, so we make it easy for patients to see a physician for any complications or concerns.”

Dr. Kumar is a graduate of Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia, PA. He completed his general surgery residency at

St. Barnabas Medical Center (Robert Wood Johnson-Barnabas) and received further training in plastic surgery at Duke University Hospital. This specialized training and experience will allow Dr. Kumar to continue to broaden the services offered locally through Granville Surgical Associates where he has practiced since August 2017.

About Granville Health System

For more than 98 years, Granville Health System has been delivering quality health care close to home. To meet the growing needs of our community, Granville Health System has expanded its services throughout Granville County, offering convenient access to medical care where you work and live. GHS received the Community Value Index Five-Star Hospital Award, placing GHS in the top 20% of hospitals in the country in offering financial value to the communities served, while reinvesting back into facilities in order to provide for current and emerging health needs. Recently, Granville Health System was named one of the nation’s Top Performers on Key Quality Measures by The Joint Commission, the leading accreditor of health care organizations in America. The GHS main campus is located at 1010 College Street, Oxford, North Carolina. For more information about Granville Health System visit GHS online at ghsHospital.org.

About Granville Surgical Associates:

Granville Surgical Associates is located on the campus of Granville Medical Center at 103 Professional Park Drive in Oxford, NC. For more information on the practice or to schedule an appointment, please contact the staff at 919.603.0368.

“OUR PATIENTS ARE THE CLEAR WINNERS BECAUSE THEY RECEIVE A HIGH LEVEL OF SURGICAL CARE RIGHT HERE IN OUR COMMUNITY KNOWING THEIR HOSPITAL REMAINS FOCUSED ON QUALITY AND PATIENT SAFETY.”

- DR. NAVEEN KUMAR



Shane Hodge, DO, FACOS



Naveen Kumar, MD