

# NEWS RELEASE



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**For Immediate Release**

## **PHYSICIAN TO OPEN OFFICE IN ROANOKE RAPIDS**

*Dr. O'Connor is Gastroenterologist.*

**ROANOKE RAPIDS, NC (January 4, 2010)—Dr. Rory V. O'Connor, a physician who specializes in digestive health, will open his office at Halifax Medical Plaza next month.**

Dr. O'Connor is a Gastroenterologist, a physician with dedicated training and unique experience in the management of diseases of the gastrointestinal tract and liver. These physicians are popularly known as GI doctors.

“We are delighted to welcome Dr. O'Connor to the staff of Halifax Regional,” said Will Mahone, president. “He comes to us with the highest level of professional training and many years of experience.”

Dr. O'Connor is Certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in both Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology.

A native of Chicago, Dr. O'Connor moved to Los Angeles as a child. He graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Sciences degree from Loyola University of Los Angeles.

He earned his medical degree from the University of California, San Francisco. He then spent three years as an intern and resident at Wadsworth VA/ UCLA Medical Centers in Los Angeles.

Dr. O'Connor continued his professional training through a Fellowship at the University of California, San Diego. Fellowship training is an intense, rigorous program where gastroenterologists learn directly from nationally recognized experts in the field and develop a detailed understanding of gastrointestinal diseases.

After these five years of specialized training, Dr. O'Connor joined a medical practice in California and spent 13 years in Gastroenterology. In 1998, he moved to Hawaii where he continued his practice.

He will open his office in Roanoke Rapids on February 22 in the Halifax Medical Plaza off Smith Church Road. For information or an appointment, call 252 535-1800.

"My wife and I are 'empty nesters' with our children either in college or graduates, so we wanted to move back to the mainland to be closer to them as they go forward in their lives," said Dr. O'Connor.

"We are attracted to the Roanoke Rapids area by the people," said Dr. O'Connor. "The community is wonderfully welcoming and genuine.

"My wife always has pursued equestrian activities, and the area is a wonderful region for her to continue her pursuits," he added. "While on Maui, I was the endoscopy director at our hospital, which is virtually the same size as Halifax Regional. Likewise, our community on Maui is similar in size to the community served by Halifax Regional."

Dr. O'Connor will work closely with the staff in the Endoscopy Suite at Halifax Regional, where he will perform a full range of endoscopic procedures.

"Dr. O'Connor is well known for his communication skills with patients," said Mahone. "He has demonstrated excellent care in management of his patients, in terms of cost-effectiveness and positive outcomes."

Dr. O'Connor and his wife, Daren, have been married for 26 years. They met during his residency when she was a nurse in an emergency room. They have three children: Brendan who is married and works in San Diego, Shane, a student at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, and Aileen, a student at Skidmore College in New York.

In his leisure time, Dr. O'Connor is the "stable boy" for his wife's equestrian's activities, likes to follow college sports and play softball, football and ride his bike.

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#### **About Halifax Regional**

Halifax Regional Medical Center is licensed for 204 beds, including psychiatric and nursery. A non-profit organization, Halifax Regional is fully accredited by the Joint Commission. For more information, visit [www.halifaxregional.org](http://www.halifaxregional.org).