

## RVH announces specialized obstetrical ultrasound services



RVH sonography student Jessica Bosse performs a 16-week ultrasound on patient Sam deWal. Through a new agreement between RVH's Medical Imaging Department and TOH, obstetrical ultrasounds will now be read by obstetricians.

A new affiliation between Renfrew Victoria Hospital and The Ottawa Hospital will provide access to specialists for obstetrical ultrasound services.

"This is another example of the strong support and collaboration that exists between RVH and The Ottawa Hospital, bringing high-quality services closer to home for our residents," notes Julia Boudreau, RVH CEO.

Obstetricians Vincent della Zazzera and Griffith Jones will now be reporting ultrasounds performed at RVH for pregnancies over 16 weeks of gestation.

"With the increasing complexity of medicine today, RVH continues to collaborate with specialists in their field to bring the best quality care to our patients right here at home, states Dr. Steve Radke, RVH Chief of Staff.

Doctors della Zazzera and Jones have full-time practices in Ottawa. Dr. Jones is a member of the Maternal Fetal Medicine team at The Ottawa Hospital,

General Campus, and the Medical Director of OB-GYN Ultrasound. Dr. Vince della Zazzerra is an OB-GYN specialist at the Montfort Hospital and Director of Premier Imaging in Orleans.

"We look forward to providing our services and being able to assist referring physicians with choosing the obstetrical path for patients in Renfrew County," states Dr. Jones.

Currently, ultrasounds are read by general radiologists. The new partnership means that in addition to a report of findings, family doctors may also receive clinical advice on treatment plans/next steps, which would be out of scope for radiologists to provide.

For soon-to-be-mom Sam deWal, knowing that her ultrasound will be read by specialists is reassuring. "It's good to know, I feel very confident."

Doctors della Zazzera and Jones are also very familiar with the structure of perinatal care within Eastern Ontario.

"This allows us to make suggestions not only appropriate to the clinical situation, but also that reflect local organization of maternity care and referral patterns," notes Dr. Jones.

Critical case reports will be performed in a 24-hour timeframe and non-urgent reports within three days.

"This is a wonderful addition to our team and for our referring physician group," says Lisa Wherry, Manager Medical Imaging. "It will mean improved continuity of care for obstetrical patients in Renfrew and area."

RVH's sonographers will have a direct connection with the obstetricians and physicians will also be able to connect with them directly in cases when they have concerns.