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DR. MATHEW AND DR. JACOB RENEW KVHC DENTAL CONTRACTS

MILLINOCKET, ME – March 2, 2007 -- Katahdin Valley Health Center, with offices in Patten, Houlton, Island Falls and Millinocket, is pleased to announce that Lisa Jacob, D.D.S., M.S. and Bibby Mathew, D.M.D. have renewed their employment contracts with KVHC.

Drs. Jacob and Mathew are committed to continuing their specialized dentistry practices at KVHC's dental clinic, on a full-time basis, through July 2009.

Dr. Jacob specializes in pediatric dentistry and will continue to serve as KVHC's Dental Director. Her professional interests focus on oral health care for children in under-served geographical regions.

Since her arrival at KVHC in 2005, Dr. Jacob is very active volunteering at area schools, day care centers, pre-school programs, health fairs and other community health events, providing oral health education programs to area children and adults.

“As dental director for KVHC, I want to continue to lead our dental team.

“As a pediatric dentist, my goal is to educate as many people as possible about oral health care.

“Dental decay is the most common chronic childhood disease in America, affecting half of first graders and three out of four high school juniors. In Maine, preliminary data of children screened in 2004 found that more than 40% of third graders already have a history of dental decay, such as fillings.

“Oral health is connected to overall health. Dental decay is caused by a bacterial infection. Left untreated, it can contribute to other health problems. Recent research suggests that untreated dental disease can increase one’s risk for heart and lung disease and, for pregnant women, increase the risk of premature births.

“Dental disease is largely preventable. In fact, 90% of dental decay can be prevented with dental sealants. Children with dental sealants and regular dental visits have only one fourth as much tooth decay as those without. Sealants are placed on any teeth that are at risk for decay. Oral hygiene instructions, diet and good nutrition are stressed by all our dental health care providers.

“As a pediatric dentist, I want to continue to provide high quality dental services to the children of our community, particularly to those children who are uninsured or under-insured and may not otherwise have access to primary oral health care,” said Dr. Jacob.

Dr. Jacob earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in biology, graduating *cum laude*, in 1993 from Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas. In 1997 she received her Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston. Dr. Jacob completed her general practice residency at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Houston in 1998. She received her Certificate of Pediatric Dentistry and Masters of Science degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston in 2005 and is working towards a Masters of Public Health degree from Texas A&M.

Dr. Jacob is a member of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, American Dental Association, Maine Dental Association and Penobscot Valley Dental Society.

Dr. Mathew’s professional interests focus on oral health care for adults. His services include comprehensive oral exams, preventative and restorative dental work, extractions and other dental treatments.

“KVHC’s dental team provides quality dental care services for people of all ages in our community,” said Dr. Mathew.

“One of the primary goals of KVHC’s dental team is to prevent dental disease and educate our citizens about oral health. At the dental clinic, the dentist will evaluate the person’s teeth and determine if any fillings are needed. Children and adults with dental insurance are much more likely to have timely visits to a dentist. In Maine we have made concerted efforts to improve access to health insurance, but what is still missing from the conversation is the fact that dental care is vital to both oral and overall health. Today, there are three times more people without dental insurance as there are without health insurance.

“We have state-of-the-art equipment to enhance our dental examinations. We are able to provide comprehensive dental care to all patients in the Katahdin Region.

“As a Federally Qualified Health Center, KVHC provides high quality care to low-income, uninsured and under-insured community members who may not otherwise have our services available to them. Of course, we also accept those who are fortunate to have dental insurance,” said Dr. Mathew.

Dr. Mathew earned his Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Gwynedd-Mercy College in Gwynedd Valley, Pennsylvania in 1996 and his Dental degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine in 2001. He completed his general practice residency program at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, Texas in 2002.

Dr. Mathew has practiced general dentistry since 2002. Prior to 2002, he worked as a registered respiratory therapist at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and Germantown and Frankford Hospitals in Philadelphia.

Dr. Mathew is a member of the American Dental Association, Academy of General Dentistry, American Dental Society of Anesthesiology, Maine Dental Association and Penobscot Valley Dental Society.

KVHC Executive Director Durward Humphrey said, “We are very pleased that Dr. Jacob and Dr. Mathew elected to renew their contracts with KVHC for an extended period of time. Their combined dental experience, Dr. Jacob’s expertise in pediatric dentistry and Dr. Mathew’s vast knowledge of adult dentistry, is invaluable to the KVHC organization and to the children and adults of central, eastern and northern Maine.

“They will continue to partner with Gary Steinberg, D.M.D. and hygienists Nancy Boyd-Bears and Vicky Perz who complement our dental team to bring quality dental services to our region. KVHC is very fortunate to have Dr. Jacob and Dr. Mathew on our dental team,” said Humphrey.

Drs. Jacob and Mathew offer a full-service dental practice for people of all ages. Their primary focus is to prevent dental decay by maintaining good oral hygiene. They use the latest techniques to restore broken and decayed teeth.

KVHC does not discriminate based on ability to pay. MaineCare is accepted at KVHC’s dental clinic. Sliding fee programs are available. Patients with MediCare, MaineCare or other health insurance coverage may qualify for sliding fee programs or be eligible for reduced fees.

Appointments can be made by calling 207-723-6565 or 1-866-366-5842 [toll free].

Katahdin Valley Health Center (KVHC) is a provider of high quality, cost effective primary health, dental, substance abuse and mental health care to the people in the Greater Katahdin Region. A Federally Qualified Health Center, KVHC is a nonprofit business governed by a board of directors, comprised of area volunteers, funded by a federal grant under Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. KVHC employs 60 people at its facilities in Millinocket, Houlton, Island Falls and Patten.

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