Atlantic Hospice Appoints new Administrative Medical Director,  
John Gregory, MD

Summit, NJ, June 22, 2006 -- John Gregory, MD, director of the Palliative Care Program at Overlook Hospital, was appointed by Atlantic Hospice as Administrative Medical Director. In his new role, Dr. Gregory will provide medical leadership, clinical expertise and administrative oversight to the hospice team. Dr. Gregory will be joining current hospice physicians, Janice Baker, MD; John Conti, MD; and Karen Knops, MD.

Dr. Gregory will focus on integrating palliative care principles into the Atlantic Hospice program. This will enable Atlantic Hospice to develop an "open access" philosophy. Open access would permit patients with life-limiting illness, with a prognosis of six months or less, who are receiving therapies for palliation, such as radiation therapy, to be eligible for the hospice program. The criteria for hospice admission would change from the traditional approach in which hospice patients discontinue therapies, such as radiation and chemotherapy, to a more open approach in which palliative treatments are considered if appropriate for the comfort of the hospice patient.

Atlantic Hospice provides compassionate end-of-life care in the comfort and familiarity of a private home or nursing facility.

Hospice care focuses on enhancing the quality of life for those dying of advanced illness, as well as supporting family members and caregivers through their loss. As one of the first hospices in New Jersey — and the U.S. — Atlantic has over 25 years of experience serving Essex, Morris, Somerset and Union counties. The Atlantic Hospice focus is on comforting and supporting not only the patient’s physical issues, but his or her emotional and spiritual needs as well.

When aggressive curative treatment like chemotherapy, radiation or experimental therapies is no longer appropriate, you or your loved one may be referred to Atlantic Hospice. Hospice nurse liaisons are available on site at Morristown Memorial Hospital, Overlook Hospital, and Mountainside Hospital.

Atlantic Hospice accepts most medical insurance plans, including Medicare and Medicaid, which cover hospice care for the last six months of life. Atlantic Hospice will take care of verifying your insurance benefits and eligibility so you don't have to worry about it. It is encouraged to designate a family member or caregiver to act as a main point of contact for the hospice team.
Services
A physician and a registered nurse work together to develop a plan of care that's just right for you.
Total Care Management — coordination of patient care with physician and hospice team.

24-Hour On-Call Services — access to nurse for questions, concerns and emergency visits at anytime.

Skilled Nursing Care — regularly scheduled visits by a registered nurse who attends to medical needs and coordinates care provided by other hospice professionals.

Home Health Aide Care — personal care (bathing, meal preparation, etc.) by a certified, specially trained hospice professional. Private duty care is also available.

Counseling Services — emotional and spiritual support by social workers and chaplains.

Medical Supplies & Equipment — arrangement for delivery, maintenance and pickup of necessary items (hospital beds, wheelchairs, oxygen equipment, etc.)

Caregiver Instruction — guidance and support on caring for the patient.

Respite Care — temporary caregiver relief by local facilities such as nursing homes.

Bereavement Services — support and follow-up for families coping with their loss.

Volunteer Services — non-medical services such as patient companionship, errand running and caregiver relief by specially trained hospice volunteers.

Medication Monitoring — provision and coordination of patient medication with focus on pain management and symptom control.

Call Atlantic Hospice anytime, seven days a week, at (973) 379-8440.

Atlantic Hospice is part of Atlantic Health, which includes Morristown Memorial Hospital, Overlook Hospital, Mountainside Hospital, Goryeb Children’s Medical Center, Carol G. Simon Cancer Center, Gagnon Heart Hospital, and Atlantic Neuroscience Institute.

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