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RALEIGH NEUROLOGY ASSOCIATES OPENS NEW FIXED MRI

*Comprehensive Review of the New MRI at Raleigh Neurology Associates and
What it Means to the Neurology Patients in the Greater Triangle Area.*

Raleigh, NC.—September 3, 2008— Raleigh Neurology Associates, Inc. announced today that the growing multi-site practice has installed a new, state of the art fixed MRI available for immediate use in its new location at 1520 Sunday Drive St., #117, in Raleigh NC. This new GE HDi1.5 Tesla scanner is the only one of its kind in the Triangle and one of the first in North Carolina. It provides the exceptional MRI examinations for the patients of Raleigh Neurology.

Why would a patient choose Raleigh Neurology to have an MRI examination? According to Steve Smith, Administrative Manager at Raleigh Neurology, “The MRI facility at Raleigh Neurology is a great place to come for this procedure. This is a very patient-friendly place to visit. The MRI team is completely staffed with trained professionals who handle thousands of cases per year.” Mr. Smith goes on to say, “There is a neuroradiologist on site Monday through Friday who will interpret the scan and work with the technologists to ensure a proper procedure. You can usually park within fifty feet of the MRI suite and this is helpful for those who have a difficult time ambulating.”

A key aspect to MRI care at Raleigh Neurology is the neuroradiologist on staff who is present during the examination and subspecializes in neuroimaging. The radiologists, in addition to being diplomats of the American Board of Radiology, have completed fellowships in neuroradiology. A benefit to patients, provided by the on-site neuroradiologist, is that examinations can be tailored to the specific needs of the individual patient. If additional or special sequences are thought needed by the neuroradiologist, they can be performed during the patient’s initial visit, usually obviating the need for a return visit. If intravenous contrast is needed, and was not initially requested by the attending neurologist, the neuroradiologist can contact the neurologist for concurrence, and contrast can be given during the patient’s initial visit, again potentially avoiding the need for a return visit. At many hospitals, when fine-tuning of the MRI orders is needed, the patient may be required to return for an additional appointment. Raleigh Neurology

recognizes the convenience to patients, in addition to the financial savings, that consolidation of medical services into one visit provides.

The MRI technologists, working at Raleigh Neurology, are all members of the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists, and are also trained in the specialty of Magnetic Resonance Imaging.

At Raleigh Neurology, all communication about the patient's medical care takes place under one roof. The images from the MRI examination are available immediately to Raleigh Neurology physicians. Formal reports of the MRI are delivered to the Raleigh Neurology physicians within one day, and usually within minutes to hours of the examination.

Every effort is made to accommodate the patient at Raleigh Neurology. If multiple tests are needed, the scheduling staff does its best to ensure that all testing is done in one visit. Because it is an office setting, all of the scheduling at Raleigh Neurology is outpatient only. There are no inpatients that have priority on the schedules, as can be the case in the hospital setting.

Raleigh Neurology has endeavored to make the patient's experience as comfortable as possible while undergoing an MRI at their facility. Several services have been put in place at no extra charge to further this goal. To help with the noise created by the MRI unit, earplugs are provided to patients (and to parents of children). A mirror on the head coil that is used for MRI's of the brain allows patients to see beyond the bore of the MRI unit, easing the potential claustrophobic sensation. Patient motion can degrade MRI images. The GE HDi MRI scanner is equipped with special software that helps compensate for patient motion, assuring high-resolution images. Private changing rooms are present in our MRI suite, and patients are given scrubs to wear during the examination. These scrubs seem to be preferred over the more common, and often embarrassing, hospital gowns. Our dedicated MRI technologists are trained in helping patients who may be uneasy with the MRI examinations. For those patients who are quite claustrophobic, intravenous Valium is available to assist them with the examination.

Children, along with adults, can have their MRI performed at Raleigh Neurology. Raleigh Neurology states that parents of children are welcomed, and that they are encouraged to be in the scanning area with the child so that they may provide reassurance, if needed.

The MRI at Raleigh Neurology is open 7 days a week; 7 am to 11 pm Monday through Friday, and 7 am to 8 pm on weekends. Dr. Kenneth Carnes said, "Bottom line is the MRI at Raleigh Neurology offers the latest technology in a convenient location with friendly staff, and quicker referral times."

About Raleigh Neurology Associates

Founded in 1983, by Dr. Keith L. Hull, Jr. and Dr. S. Mitchell Freedman, Raleigh Neurology Associates is now one of the largest neurology practices in the southeast. Raleigh Neurology Associates has grown in its twenty-five year history to a thriving neurology practice in 4 locations in the Triangle, providing comprehensive neurological care for over 159,000 people in our community. While the practice's increased size enables Raleigh Neurology to offer specialists in many neurological areas, they strive to maintain the patient care and attention on which the practice was created.

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