

**PRESS RELEASE:**

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On-Call Media Cell: (828) 674-2358

**Dr. Dennis to speak on Parkinson's disease at Pardee Rehab and Wellness Center**

*(Hendersonville, N.C.)* Mike Dennis, M.D., an honorary medical staff member at Pardee, will provide a free presentation on the symptoms and treatment of Parkinson's disease on Tuesday, April 13 from 4 until 5 p.m. at the Pardee Rehab and Wellness Center in conference rooms 1 and 2. Registration is not required.

April is internationally recognized as Parkinson's Awareness Month. Parkinson's disease is a movement disorder that is chronic and progressive. It is a neurological disorder and although promising research is being conducted, there is currently no cure or definitive cause of Parkinson's disease. It effects balance, walking, speech and swallowing and can impact activities of daily living such as driving, cooking and dressing.

"Parkinson's disease affects many in our community. Nearly one-million Americans are living with Parkinson's," said Lucy Butler, a speech therapist at the Pardee Rehab and Wellness Center. "Approximately 60,000 Americans are diagnosed with Parkinson's disease each year, and this number does not reflect the thousands of cases that go undetected." The incidence of Parkinson's increases with age, but an estimated four percent of people with the disease are diagnosed before the age of 50.



Therapies are available to address some symptoms of Parkinson's disease. The Lee Silverman Voice Treatment (LSVT/LOUD) was developed in the 1980's and is a well-researched approach to improving the speech of individuals who have Parkinson's disease. A physical therapy program (LSVT/BIG) has been developed using many of the concepts of the LSVT/LOUD. The Pardee Rehab and Wellness Center has therapists certified in both LSVT/LOUD and the LSVT/BIG. For more information about Parkinson's disease, please contact Lucy Butler at (828) 698-6774.

[Pardee Hospital](http://www.pardeehospital.org) is a not-for-profit community hospital founded in 1953. The main hospital is licensed for 222 acute care beds and is the second largest employer in [Henderson County](http://www.pardeehospital.org). The hospital has several locations separate from the main campus, including an adult day services center, a health education center in the Blue Ridge Mall, home care services, a rehab and wellness center, a midwifery program, various family and internal medicine practices, and an urgent care facility. For more information or to find a physician, call 1-866-790-WELL (9355) or visit [www.pardeehospital.org](http://www.pardeehospital.org).

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