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# Mercy Southeast Expands Gastroenterology Team

AUGUST 13TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Mercy Southeast's team of gastroenterology specialists is growing with the addition of Cody Kern, MD.

Dr. Kern began seeing patients at Mercy Clinic Gastroenterology – Broadway on August 12. The clinic, located at 1723 Broadway, Suite 315, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, works to prevent, diagnose and treat disorders of the digestive system.

“I’m looking forward to serving the community I’ve always considered my home,” Dr. Kern said. “I’m excited to join such a strong group of physicians and advanced practice providers, who are already providing great gastroenterology care to Southeast Missouri.”

Joining Mercy Southeast brings Dr. Kern full circle.

“My initial exposure to health care was actually as a volunteer at this hospital and shadowing while a teenager and in my early twenties,” he said. “Shadowing with my now partner, Dr. Brent Keller, is what first sparked my interest in gastroenterology.”

Dr. Kern will join Dr. Keller, Dr. Shane Hendon and nurse practitioners Andrew Garner and Kaitlin Roslen to provide a wide range of diagnostic and treatment services.

Dr. Kern earned an undergraduate degree in biology from William Woods University in Fulton, Missouri, and his medical degree from the University of Missouri – Columbia School of Medicine. He completed an internal medicine residency and his gastroenterology fellowship at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, where he’s lived the last six years.

A native of New Hamburg, Dr. Kern is excited to return to Southeast Missouri along with his wife, Claire, their two young children and their goldendoodle, Henry.

“It had always been our intention to return to the area,” he said. “Our friends and family are here. We cannot imagine a better place to raise our children. I am a member of the Knights of Columbus Council in Oran and St. Lawrence Church in New Hamburg. My wife and I hope to continue becoming more involved in our community now that we have returned home.”

*[Mercy](#), one of the 20 largest U.S. health systems and named the top large system in the U.S. for excellent patient experience by NRC Health, serves millions annually with nationally recognized quality care and one of the nation’s largest Accountable Care Organizations. Mercy is a highly integrated, multi-state health care system including more than 50 acute care and specialty (heart, children’s, orthopedic and rehab) hospitals, convenient and urgent care locations, imaging centers and pharmacies. Mercy has over 900 physician practice locations and outpatient facilities, more than 4,500 physicians and advanced practitioners and more than 47,000 co-workers serving patients and families across Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma. Mercy also has clinics, outpatient services and outreach ministries in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.*

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