

## **Graystone Ear, Nose & Throat Joins Carolina Ear, Nose & Throat Head and Neck Surgery Center**

Hickory, NC – Graystone Ear, Nose & Throat Associates, PA has joined Carolina Ear, Nose & Throat Head and Neck Surgery Center, effective January 1, 2011. The two specialty medical practices will continue to provide services under one name, Carolina Ear, Nose & Throat Head and Neck Surgery Center.

Graystone Ear, Nose & Throat, formerly located at Tate Blvd. SE in Hickory and E. Gaston Street in Lincolnton, will move to Carolina Ear, Nose & Throat offices at 304 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, Hickory and 751 South Laurel Street, Lincolnton.

“This combination of physicians and healthcare professionals provides the best resources and strength in the field of otolaryngology in the Catawba Valley area,” stated Dr. Willard C Harrill, President and CEO of Carolina Ear, Nose & Throat Head and Neck Surgery Center. “We are committed to healthcare excellence with a clear strategy: one practice, one philosophy, and one goal to provide the best ear, nose and throat care.”

Harrill pointed out that today, medical cost and access are more important than ever. “Our physicians are dedicated to making this region a leader in both medical advances and health care cost containment. If the Unifour region is going to remain competitive on a global basis, a healthy workforce and an efficient, cost effective delivery of health care will be vital.”

Dr. Robert C. Williams, Dr. Frank W. Mauldin, and Tyler Allen-PA-C, formerly associated with Graystone ENT, will continue to provide medical services at the new Carolina ENT locations. Audiology/hearing aid services as well as allergy clinic services will continue to be provided.

“Both Dr. Mauldin and I are excited to bring together two top quality, long-established medical practices to deliver the best medical care for patients and the communities we serve,” said Dr. Robert C. Williams, who was associated with Graystone ENT for more than 32 years. Dr. Mauldin joined the Graystone ENT staff in 1993.

“We will work with our patients to make the integration as smooth as possible. Patients will have the same access to physicians and receive the highest standard of healthcare they have come to expect and trust,” said Williams.

Carolina Ear, Nose & Throat Head and Neck Surgery Center was originally founded as Viewmont Ear, Nose & Throat by Dr. Harry. L. King in 1979. The practice changed names in 1999 after Dr. Harrill joined the staff. Dr. King died unexpectedly in a 2001 plane crash.

In 1968, Dr. Robert D. O'Connor began the practice that became known as Graystone Ear, Nose & Throat in the Medical Arts Building in downtown Hickory. Dr. Jack W. Thornton joined him one year later. Both doctors are now retired. In 1974, the practice moved to Graystone Place off Fairgrove Church Road and shared a building with Graystone Eye. When space became limited in 2002, Graystone ENT doubled its office size by moving to Tate Medical Commons.

***About Carolina Ear, Nose & Throat Head and Neck Surgery Center***

Carolina Ear, Nose & Throat Head and Neck Surgery Center specializes in the medical and surgical treatment of the ear, nose, throat and sinuses for adults and children. It's state-of-the art facility includes an on-site CT scanner for immediate imaging and evaluation of chronic sinusitis, chronic ear disease, and cancers and tumors of the head and neck; an outpatient surgical and allergy center specializing in the treatment of sinus and nasal disorders; a speech and swallowing center; and a full-service audiology department featuring a comprehensive balance and hearing disorder clinic, including hearing aid fitting.

All physicians at Carolina Ear, Nose & Throat Head and Neck Surgery Center are board-certified or board-eligible by the American Board of Otolaryngology.

Carolina Ear, Nose & Throat Head and Neck Surgery Center is located in the Harry L. King Medical Building in the Viewmont section of Hickory with satellite offices in Lincolnton, Denver/Lake Norman, and Mooresville.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 828-322-2183, or visit the website at [www.carolinaearnosethroat.com](http://www.carolinaearnosethroat.com)