NOTE FROM THE CEO
‘Everyone Can Save A Life’

Community News
Congratulations Go To...!

Live-Learn-Grow
UH Goes ‘Red’
Around the Block

Welcome Our New Security Force
Use It or Lose It!
Community Health & Wellness Festival

UH Hosts Women’s Wellness Summit

Heart and Soul
Welcome from Judy Persichilli, Acting President & CEO

One Goal. One Passion. Every Patient. Every Time.

When I came out of retirement to be appointed State Monitor for University Hospital last summer, I can’t tell you how many people asked me, “Why are you going to Newark?”

My answer was: You have asked the wrong question, the question is, “Why are you going back to Newark?”

I told them the same thing that I’ll tell you now. First, I spent almost three years developing a love for this city during my time at the Rutgers College of Nursing. But even more importantly, during my career, I have developed a true appreciation and genuine fondness for people who deliver care in urban centers and for those that they care for. I’ve been in New Brunswick, in Trenton, in Camden, and in West Philadelphia. These remarkable cities are home to some of the most vulnerable populations – individuals who need us the most. And at the end of the day, I consider myself first and foremost to be a caregiver.

I love what we do here at University Hospital. I never would have accepted this role anywhere else. It has been my honor to work with you all. And as my time here comes to a close, I want you to know how deeply impacted I have been by your commitment to the very special community that we have this opportunity and privilege to serve. Through all of your hard work and dedication, we are going to improve the health of Newark for generations to come.

Appreciating that impact is one of the most important things that each and every one of us can do here. I hope all of you have the opportunity to reflect on this awesome responsibility that has been entrusted to you, and to look in the mirror at the end of the work day and say to yourself, “I made a difference in the lives of people today.”

‘EVERYONE CAN SAVE A LIFE’

Numerous myths and misconceptions have hampered organ and tissue donation, limiting the level of public participation. To dispel those myths and encourage greater participation, University Hospital and the New Jersey Sharing Network hosted a community education event called “Everyone Can Save a Life.” Religious leaders, transplant surgeons, organ recipients, donor families health educators, and other advocates presented on the issues involved in organ donation and transplantation.
GOVERNOR, FIRST LADY VISIT UH

When Governor Phil Murphy needed to sign four bills addressing maternal health, he chose University Hospital for the ceremony. Joined by First Lady Tammy Murphy, state Health Commissioner Dr. Shereef Elnahal, state Human Services Commissioner Carole Johnson, legislative leaders and Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, the Governor reiterated his support for University Hospital.

Our hospital was chosen for the ceremony because we have achieved some of the best maternal health outcomes in New Jersey, with very low C-section and episiotomy rates. As a Baby-Friendly Hospital, we make sure that every new mother who delivers here learns about breast feeding before discharge. The First Lady, who has embraced maternal health as her signature policy initiative, also toured the Labor & Delivery suite.

WELCOME DR. SHEREEF ELNAHAL

Dr. Shereef Elnahal, our newly appointed President and CEO, introduced himself to University Hospital employees at a pair of Town Halls conducted in mid-May. Introduced by Acting President and CEO Judy Persichilli, Dr. Elnahal, currently the state Commissioner of Health, said his two bedrock principles will be creating a culture of respect and a culture of reliability and safety.

“You can be quite confident that I will make sure that respect is the most important principal in my leadership style, in my interaction with all of you, and in how we take this organization forward,” he said.

Dr. Elnahal earned his medical degree from Harvard Medical School and an MBA from Harvard Business School. He served in the Obama Administration with the Department of Veterans Affairs before his appointment to run the state Department of Health.
University Hospital formally rededicated the Eric Muñoz Trauma Center on the 10th anniversary of the death of the longtime trauma surgeon and former state Assemblyman whose many contributions continue to resonate today for our hospital and New Jersey.

Dr. Muñoz’s widow, Assemblywoman Nancy Muñoz, and family members were on hand for the rededication ceremony, along with long-time colleagues, and state Senators Teresa Ruiz and Tom Kean, Jr., and Assemblymembers Eliana Pintor Marin, Jon Bramnick and Ralph Caputo. Dr. Mark Wade, Director of the Newark Health Department, represented the City of Newark.

“Eric Muñoz was a dedicated public servant in every sense of the word,” said Acting University Hospital President and CEO Judy Persichilli. “He worked here at University Hospital for over 20 years as a trauma surgeon, a medical director, and a hospital administrator. And on top of that dedication, Eric Muñoz was also a dedicated public official, serving in the New Jersey Assembly from 2001 until his all-too premature death in 2009.”

More than 120 Newark-area women attended a Women’s Wellness Summit that University Hospital hosted in partnership with the Newark Board of Education. Newark Board of Education Superintendent Roger León, Newark City Council President Mildred Crump and Central Ward Councilwoman LaMonica McIver delivered motivating remarks. The event was designed to encourage women to focus on self-care and the importance of maintaining their health. Workshops, resource information and free screenings were offered, led by an all-female team of doctors, social workers and educators.
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

University Hospital (UH) is a Regional Perinatal Center (RPC) that provides care to the most complex and high-risk pregnancies. Even with the high acuity index of its patients, the hospital's Obstetrics, Gynecology & Women's Health practice boasts some of the best health outcomes in the State of New Jersey:

- UH has the 2nd lowest C-section rate among all hospitals;
- UH is 1st in successful vaginal birth after C-section (Vaginal Birth After Cesarean (VBAC));
- UH has a 0% elective C-section rate; and
- UH ranks among the lowest in episiotomy rates.

ABOUT OUR REGIONAL PERINATAL CENTER

We are equipped to handle the most complicated pregnancies and the most medically fragile newborns.

Some of our high-risk obstetric and neonatal care services include:

- Counseling for women with chronic health conditions
- Pregnant women with multiples or previous pre-term infant
- Women with significant medical problems such as HIV, diabetes, fetal complications or substance addiction
- Evaluation and prevention of pre-term births and pregnancy loss

We treat the high-risk and special cases, but we are here for normal pregnancies too.

• University Hospital was the first and is the only hospital in Essex County to be designated as a Baby-Friendly Hospital by Baby-Friendly USA as part of a global program by the World Health Organization and UNICEF to encourage mothers to nourish their babies with breast milk rather than formula.
PRESIDENT’S AWARDS PRESENTED

Acting President and CEO Judy Persichilli presented the first annual winners of the President’s Awards, an employee recognition program in which nominees are selected by their peers. Winners are selected quarterly and from that pool the President’s Award winners are chosen in three categories.

Speech Therapist Jan Ward was presented the Outstanding Patient Care Award for consistently going beyond her proscribed duties to serve patients. She was nominated by Sima Farid, a social worker, who said, “Jan is a very caring and compassionate employee who consistently goes beyond her overall duties to ensure patients feel comfortable and receive optimal care.”

The Outstanding Service and Support Award was presented to Curtis Robinson, Supervisor Implant Coordination. Robinson received eight nominations, including from five doctors. “Curtis is always available when needed,” said one of the nominations. “He responds to requests immediately and is open, honest, and transparent when dealing with others.”

The Equipment Handlers captured the TEAM Award. The eight-member team evolved from an initiative started in September 2008 to keep UH nursing staff supplied with clean, functional patient care equipment on a timely basis. The Equipment Handlers perform equipment inventories, assemble traction beds, assist with rental equipment, clean equipment and perform a variety of other duties.

CONGRATULATIONS GO TO...!
COMMUNITY NEWS

UH LAUNCHES HEALTHY WORKFORCE CAMPAIGN

University Hospital has enlisted the help of Dr. Renee Thompson, an RN who has devoted her career to eradicating nurse bullying and incivility within the healthcare system, to undertake a Healthy Workforce initiative throughout the hospital. The program includes education and training for dealing effectively with disruptive behaviors, effective communication, conflict resolution and developing emotional intelligence.

“I had a corporate job at a large health system and I spent a lot of time speaking with nurse focus groups, finding out from the nurses what they needed to be successful and what were some of the barriers,” Thompson said. “All they wanted to talk about was how poorly the other nurses treated them. It reminded me of my own experiences when I was a new nurse; I almost quit three weeks after I started because of the really horrific way somebody treated me.”

From that experience was born a new career for Thompson as CEO and Founder of the Healthy Workforce Institute.

“There is a lot more stress in healthcare than in other industries,” she said. “We don’t do a good job teaching coping mechanisms to people in healthcare. Instead, we lash out at each other to cope with stress.

“Our focus is on cultivating a professional, supportive, nurturing and respectful workforce culture,” Thompson added. “We want to cultivate a culture where people feel very good about the work they are doing, they feel supported by their peers, and they feel that they are a team.”

UH Goes ‘Red’

National Wear Red Day was again a big hit at UH with a host of events to spread the word on the dangers of heart disease to women. Created by the American Heart Association, the Go Red campaign is designed to raise awareness around heart disease, the single greatest threat to women’s health. Dr. Pallavi Solanki, Director of University Hospital’s Heart Failure Clinic, delivered a standing room only presentation on “Cardiovascular Diseases in Women.” Other events included the presentation of “Healthy Heart” entrees in the Garden Café, a “Healthy Heart” cooking demonstration, and a trivia contest.
A new uniformed security force will take over at University Hospital in mid-June under a contract signed with Allied Universal. Outfitted in grey shirts, black pants and black ties, the Allied security force will replace the Rutgers Police Department. The new force is expected to include 78 full-time officers providing 24/7 coverage. Rick Maldonado, a 26-year veteran of the Newark Police Department, has joined the hospital as the new Director of Security. The new officers are busy learning about University Hospital and also being trained on how to de-escalate potentially dangerous situations as they arise.

As part of the Allied contract, an extensive security risk assessment of the hospital was launched in partnership with the NJ Department of Homeland Security. In addition, a Command Center is being established. Allied officers will coordinate with the Rutgers Police Department on incidents that occur in common areas.

The University Hospital Department of Human Resources reminds you that the deadline for using excess vacation carryover time is approaching on June 30th. Up to one year’s worth of vacation time can be carried over into the following year; excess time over that amount will be lost. Employees who have had their time-off requests denied for other causes, may apply for a waiver.

More than 200 Newark residents came out to attend a Community Health & Wellness Festival hosted by University Hospital at the Spencer Miller Community School in Newark. Health screenings, interactive workshops, and family entertainment were provided during the festival, which was held in partnership with Councilwoman LaMonica McIver and the Islamic Community Health Collaborative.

Get Involved with Community Events at UH

USE IT OR LOSE IT!

COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLNESS FESTIVAL