



UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
Newark, New Jersey

*****PRESS RELEASE*****

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UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL ANNOUNCES RECEIPT OF ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD FROM NJ DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Newark, NJ – University Hospital was honored today with an Antimicrobial Stewardship Recognition Award. The award was received from the New Jersey Department of Health, and announced today at the annual N.J. Antimicrobial Stewardship Collaborative Conference.

Each year, more than 700,000 people worldwide die due to antimicrobial resistant infections. Antimicrobial resistance is one of the greatest threats facing healthcare on a national and global level. Antimicrobial stewardship is the effort to measure and improve how antibiotics are prescribed by clinicians and used by patients.

The New Jersey Antimicrobial Stewardship Recognition Program is a New Jersey Department of Health Program that recognizes institutions for their antimicrobial stewardship programs. These stewardship programs foster optimal therapies, protect patients from dangerous antimicrobial resistant infections, and safeguard a vulnerable drug supply. Today's Bronze Award recognizes University Hospital as a local leader in antimicrobial stewardship practices to improve antibiotic prescribing and use.

“We recognize the important role we play in promoting best practices in antibiotic use so they are used appropriately,” said **Dr. Debra Chew, Medical Director of Infection Prevention and Control and Antimicrobial Stewardship Program at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School**. “We are committed to fighting antimicrobial resistance and improving patient care. We can do that through responsible stewardship so that patients can get the right antibiotic, at the right dose, by the right route, for the right duration.”

“Antimicrobial resistance is a global public health concern. The misuse of antibiotics results in not only increased antibiotic resistance, but to poorer health outcomes and increased mortality rates,” said **Dr. Shereef Elnahal, CEO and President of University Hospital**. “I am proud of the work that we have done here at University Hospital to lead in being responsible stewards of these life-saving drugs.”

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About University Hospital

University Hospital is part of one of the nation's leading academic medical centers and is the Level 1 Trauma Center for Northern New Jersey. Located at University Heights in Newark, University Hospital is a principal teaching hospital of Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences and a regional resource for advanced services across many medical specialties. For more information about University Hospital, please visit www.uhnj.org.