



**UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL**  
Newark, New Jersey

**\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 11, 2019

**MEDIA CONTACT**

[media@uhnj.com](mailto:media@uhnj.com)

**UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL NAMES DR. CHRIS T. PERNELL AS  
CHIEF STRATEGIC INTEGRATION AND HEALTH EQUITY OFFICER**

**Newark, New Jersey** – This week, University Hospital welcomed Dr. Chris. T. Pernell, MD, MPH, FACPM, as the hospital’s Chief Strategic Integration and Health Equity Officer. Dr. Pernell is a proven leader and physician who has focused on health justice, community-based advocacy, and total population health promotion and disease prevention throughout her career.

“We are very excited to have Dr. Pernell join the University Hospital team,” **said Dr. Shereef Elnahal, CEO and President of University Hospital.** “With her extensive experience, she will help us meet expectations set out in our Strategic Plan to deliver high quality, safe, and reliable care, all while tackling the health disparities in our community. We will benefit greatly from her deep understanding of community-focused healthcare and advocacy, as we build a culture that focuses quality and equity.”

Prior to joining University Hospital, Dr. Pernell served as the program leader for the 1199SEIU/League Labor Management Initiatives Workplace and Community Health Program. There she provided oversight for the implementation of a population health strategy to spur the culture of health, drive systems innovation, and improve the health and well-being of healthcare workers in the workplace and communities where they lived. Dr. Pernell has also led community initiatives in the Greater Newark region that focused on dynamic well-being and health promotion to vulnerable groups.

“I am honored to join University Hospital and to help lead this institution toward fulfilling its mission of serving the greater Newark area through a community-focused approach to healthcare,” **said Dr. Pernell.** “As the state’s only public hospital and the largest provider of healthcare for uninsured people, the hospital is critically important to the patients it serves. I am excited to build upon the innovative community-based programs that have been implemented in recent months, while working to improve access to much needed care and exploring even more ways the hospital can better serve our community.”

A graduate of Princeton University cum laude, Dr. Pernell earned her medical degree at Duke University School of Medicine. She continued on to the Columbia Mailman School of Public Health, where she received a Master of Public Health, and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, where she performed a General Preventive Medicine Residency. She is a fellow of the American College of Preventive Medicine and serves as an adjunct associate professor at the NYU College of Global Public Health.

###

### **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](http://www.uhnj.org).