



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 11, 2021

MEDIA CONTACT

media@uhnj.org

(973) 634-8298

UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL LIVER TRANSPLANT PROGRAM LED BY RUTGERS NEW JERSEY MEDICAL SCHOOL PHYSICIANS RANKED NO. 1 IN THE COUNTRY

New Jersey's First Liver Transplant Center is National Leader in One-Year Survival Rate

NEWARK, NJ — The Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) has distinguished the liver transplant program at the University Hospital Center for Advanced Liver Diseases and Transplantation as the national leader in one-year survival rate. The Center is led by the nationally-recognized physicians at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School.

With an estimated one-year survival rate of 98.7%, the Center for Advanced Liver Diseases and Transplantation was rated as the top center of its kind in the country. University Hospital shares the top spot with Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts, a teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School, which has the same estimated survival rate.

The liver transplant center at University Hospital and Rutgers New Jersey Medical School is the first in New Jersey and one of 61 such centers nationally. Since it opened in 1989, the center has performed more than 1,500 liver transplant surgeries, including over 80 transplants in the last two years alone. The SRTR, operated by the Chronic Disease Research Group, a division of the Hennepin Healthcare Research Institute, is a federally supported program.

“Being ranked as a top facility by the SRTR affirms that we are one of the top liver transplant programs in the entire nation,” said **Dr. Nikolaos Pyrsopoulos, Medical Director of the Liver Transplant Program at University Hospital**. “The SRTR ranking broadens our profile and enhances the awareness of University Hospital, and our partners at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, to the larger world.”

“People already know University Hospital as a leading academic medical center and the Level 1 Trauma Center for Northern New Jersey. We are honored by this recognition and pleased to add the liver transplant program as another point of pride for the institution,” said **Dr. James V. Guarrera, Chief of Service – Surgery and Program and Surgical Director of Liver Transplantation at University Hospital**.

“This designation reinforces our position as one of the outstanding liver transplant centers in the country, and reinforces our role as New Jersey’s public hospital and a northeast healthcare powerhouse,” said **Shereef Elnahal, MD, MBA, President and CEO of University Hospital**. “Lives are literally being saved because of the Center for Advanced Liver Diseases and

Transplantation, the leadership of Drs. Pirsopoulos and Guarrera, our dedicated team members, and the active support of our partners at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School.”

###

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.

About Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

Founded in 1954, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School is the oldest school of medicine in the state. Today it is part of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey and graduates approximately 170 physicians a year. In addition to providing the MD degree, the school offers MD/PhD, MD/MPH and MD/MBA degrees through collaborations with other institutions of higher education. Dedicated to excellence in education, research, clinical care and community outreach, the medical school comprises 20 academic departments and works with several healthcare partners, including its principal teaching hospital, University Hospital. Its faculty consists of numerous world-renowned scientists and many of the region’s “top doctors.” Home to the nation’s oldest student-run clinic, New Jersey Medical School hosts more than 50 centers and institutes, including the Public Health Research Institute Center, the Global Tuberculosis Institute and the Neurological Institute of New Jersey. For more information please visit: njms.rutgers.edu.

###