



Monmouth Medical Center (MMC) is one of 34 U.S. hospitals to be honored by the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) with their Lantern Award, which recognizes emergency departments that demonstrate exceptional and innovative performance in leadership, practice, education, advocacy, and research. “This award is such a testament to you and your team – to be able to achieve this award during one of the most challenging times in healthcare, you should be so proud,” ENA President Jennifer Schmitz said in announcing MMC’s award.

In 2021, the MMC Emergency Department received the Crisis Response Team Award from the New Jersey chapter of the ENA in recognition of significant contributions and response to the challenges of the public health crisis stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. “They are a focused and dedicated team, especially with COVID-19, they exemplify altruism, resiliency and endurance — showing up to work every day to provide culturally competent and congruent care to our patients,” said Sharmine Brassington, PhD (c), MSN, RN, Administrative Director of Emergency Services.

Chief Nursing Officer Darla Harmer, MSN, RN, NE-BC, noted that the Emergency Department’s patient satisfaction scores have been consistently high. “The Lantern Award serves as a visible symbol to our community that excellence is valued, and that exceptional care is provided in our Emergency Department,” she said.

MMC has been recognized by Healthgrades for excellence in women’s care, receiving the 2022 Obstetrics and Gynecology and Labor and Delivery Excellence Awards. For seven consecutive years, MMC has received these distinctions, ranking among the top 5% of hospitals evaluated. More than 6,000 babies are born at MMC annually, more than any other regional facility.

“The recognition from Healthgrades is representative of our deep commitment to providing superior care to women of all ages through a comprehensive range of women’s services,” said Suzanne Sernal, DNP, APN-BC, RNC-OB, C-ONQS, Vice President of Women’s Services, RWJBarnabas Health.



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## Inaugural Money List for America's Best Hospital

The digital platform Money recently announced its inaugural list of the Best Hospitals in America, with Monmouth Medical Center among just 148 U.S. hospitals to receive the award.

Among the criteria that weighed heavily in the Best Hospitals in America List selection process was a hospital's infection rates, maternity care, pediatrics, medication management, hand hygiene practices, nursing workforce, and critical care.

The recognition comes on the heels of MMC receiving its 15th consecutive Leapfrog Grade A rating in the spring. It also follows an announcement last fall of MMC's recognition for a third time as a Top Teaching Hospital by The Leapfrog Group, which is widely acknowledged as one of the most competitive honors American hospitals can receive.

"Every member of our team is essential to achieving and sustaining these outstanding results," said MMC and Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus President and CEO Eric Carney. "These recognitions are a testament to our staff's unwavering commitment to our patients, our communities and each other. They truly make a difference to those we serve.



President and CEO Eric Carney and Chief Nursing Officer Darla Harmer, shown center, gather with hospital team members to celebrate the recognition by the digital platform Money as one of the Best Hospitals in America.

## A nationally recognized leader in minimally invasive thoracic procedures joins Monmouth Medical Center, bringing unparalleled expertise.

Richard S. Lazzaro, MD joins us from Northwell Health, where he served as System Director of Robotic Thoracic Surgery and as Chief of Thoracic Surgery and Director of Robotic Thoracic Surgery at Lenox Hill Hospital.

Dr. Lazzaro has pioneered many groundbreaking firsts in minimally invasive surgery and is recognized nationally as a leader in this field. He made medical history in 2018 when he performed the world's first robotic repair of a collapsed trachea.

Minimally invasive surgery is associated with less pain, a shorter hospital stay and quicker recovery, along with reduced risk of infection and less scarring. Dr. Lazzaro uses minimally invasive techniques such as robotic surgery and video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery (VATS) for more than 95 percent of his patients to treat a wide variety of thoracic conditions.

Asked why he chose to join the team, Dr. Lazzaro notes that he has lived in Monmouth County since 2005, and that he is excited to bring the same level of care he established in New York programs to his home community.

"Together with my RWJBarnabas Health colleagues in surgery, pulmonology, internal medicine, radiology, pathology, oncology and gastroenterology, we will deliver the highest level of thoracic care to patients," he says.



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