

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL SOMERSET



RWJBarnabas
HEALTH

Robert Wood Johnson
University Hospital
Somerset

LEADERSHIP MESSAGE



As we celebrate the 125th anniversary of our hospital's incorporation this year, we continue to build on our legacy of caring for generations of families from Somerville and throughout Central New Jersey.

We're proud to be nationally recognized for the quality of care we provide. Our accolades this past year included an "A" Patient Safety Grade from the Leapfrog Group, designation as one of Healthgrades top 250 hospitals in the nation and recognition by *U.S. News & World Report* for maternity care and hip replacement surgery. This year we became the first hospital in New Jersey – and only the fourth nationwide – to receive Health Equity Accreditation from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

Over the past year we have made significant investments in facility improvements and new technologies, including the completion of a new two-story expansion with all-private patient rooms; a Cardiac PET/CT for advanced cardiac imaging; an additional mammography unit to expand our breast cancer screening capabilities; and new robotic aquablation therapy for the treatment of enlarged prostates. In addition, we've welcomed new medical specialists, including emergency general surgeons, who have helped us expand the health care services we provide to our community close to home.

Our efforts extend far beyond our hospital walls with community outreach, social impact and investment initiatives to improve the health of our diverse communities. In 2024, we expanded our efforts to address food insecurity by partnering with Share My Meals to distribute surplus food from our cafeteria to help those in need. We also welcomed two new families to our Healing Homes transitional housing program.

We are so fortunate to have the best physicians, Magnet-designated nurses and dedicated staff that have strengthened our reputation for personalized, compassionate care.

Thanks to our entire team, our community partners and our generous supporters who together help us advance our mission to build a healthier New Jersey!

Deirdre A. Blaus
Interim Chief Administrative Officer

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Board of Directors

Jack Morris, Chair	Steven K. Libutti, MD, FACS	Susan Reinhard, PhD
Dory B. Altmann, MD, FACC, SM	Nina D. Melker	Dominick Salvemini
Bill Arnold	Amy Murtha, MD	Rev. Dr. DeForest B. Soaries, Jr., Secretary
Robert L. Barchi, MD, PhD	Lester J. Owens	Paul V. Stahlin, Vice Chair
Arthur J. Cifelli	Christopher J. Paladino	Eliza Stasi
John Hoffman, Esq., Treasurer	John A. Papa	Brian L. Strom, MD, MPH
Paul D. Hubert	Nell Maloney Patel, MD	Robert T. Zito
Alan Lee	Daniel Quirk, MD	

Emeritus Directors

Elliot Cohen	John L. Colaizzi, PhD, RPh
--------------	----------------------------

Executive Team

Deirdre A. Blaus, Interim Chief Administrative Officer
Anthony Altobelli III, MD, FACC, Interim Chief Medical Officer
Kristopher Bryans, Director, Information Technology Services
Donna Castronovo, Vice President, Development, Somerset Health Care Foundation
Heather Cowperthwaite, Vice President, Human Resources
CJ Cruz, Administrative Director, Operations
John DiLeo, Vice President, Finance
Sunitha John, MSN, RN-RM, CNOR, Assistant Vice President, Perioperative and Perinatal Services
Jamie Perry, MSN, RN, NE-BC, Vice President, Nursing Operations and Behavioral Health
Kathleen Roberts, Assistant Vice President, Marketing & Communications
Kerstin Scheper, DNP, RN, OCN, GERO-BC, NE-BC, Assistant Vice President, Cancer Services
Michael Valendo, DNP, RN, NE-BC, CEN, Chief Nursing Officer

Medical Staff Leadership

Michael Rodricks, MD, President
Narinder Dhillon-Athwal, MD, Vice President
Neel Shah, MD, Secretary/Treasurer

Medical Executive Committee

Mayoor Bhatt, MD	Alan Hecht, DMD	Abraham Simon, DO
Christopher Crean, MD	Pavan Khurana, MD	Brian Stanford, DO
Thomas DeAngelis, MD	Thangamani Seenivasan, MD	
Lalitha Hansch, MD	Robert Segal, MD	

Members-at-Large

Jeremy Baron, MD	Meena Seenivasan, MD	Megan Madara, APN
Parag Patel, MD	Jaya Singh, MD	

OVERVIEW



Founded in 1899, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital (RWJUH) Somerset, an RWJBarnabas Health facility, provides comprehensive emergency, medical/surgical and rehabilitative services to residents throughout Central New Jersey.

RWJUH Somerset completed construction of its 76,000-square-foot, two-story vertical expansion project in November 2024. The top floor of the new addition includes 45 all-private patient rooms for post-surgical and medical/surgical patients and a therapy gym for joint surgery patients. The second floor is reserved for future growth. Construction on the project began in December 2022. It is the most significant construction on the hospital's campus since 2007 when the hospital built its Steeplechase Cancer Center. With the new addition, two-thirds of the hospital's medical/surgical patient rooms will be private.

RWJUH Somerset expanded its cardiology services in 2024 with the addition of Cardiac PET/CT advanced cardiac diagnostic imaging for the early detection of heart disease and the evaluation of heart damage following a heart attack. The hospital completed the final phase of its five-year Cardiology Services expansion project in late 2023, which included renovations to its Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory, renovation of the hospital's 2-East and 2-West Cardiac Pavilions and relocation of its Cardiac Diagnostic Testing Department to renovated space, consolidating all Cardiology Services on the hospital's second floor.

Its Steeplechase Cancer Center provides state-of-the-art outpatient cancer care services, including radiation oncology, 3-D mammography, infusion therapy, a lung cancer screening program, a smoking cessation program, nutritional counseling, complementary medicine services and a boutique. A third 3-D mammography unit was added at the Sanofi US Breast Care Program in 2024. In partnership with Rutgers Cancer Institute, the center offers access to the latest treatment and clinical trials.

Each year, the hospital performs about 6,600 surgeries in a wide range of specialties, including in the fields of vascular disease, urology, gynecology, oncology, orthopedics, spine, podiatry, bariatrics, general and gender affirmation surgeries. In 2024, RWJUH Somerset introduced robotic aquablation therapy for the treatment of benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), a non-cancerous condition in men which leads to urinary issues such as weak stream, frequently getting up at night to use the bathroom and urinary incontinence. The procedure uses waterjets guided by the AquaBeam Robotic System to remove prostate tissue.





RWJUH Somerset's 28-bed inpatient Behavioral Health Unit provides care for ages 18 and older, treating both voluntary and involuntary patients. The hospital's Crisis Center, located in the Emergency Department, also offers emergency care for patients in crisis situations, including those who are suicidal. Three levels of outpatient behavioral health services are also offered, including a partial hospitalization program, intensive outpatient treatment and traditional outpatient services. The hospital's Eating Disorders Program – one of only two inpatient programs in New Jersey – provides treatment for patients aged 14 and older. Partial hospital and outpatient care are also available.

The hospital's maternity unit features modern private rooms, a Level II Intermediate Care Nursery and 24/7 neonatology and anesthesiology services.

It is the first hospital in New Jersey to offer specialized primary care services for LGBTQ+ adults at its Babs Siperstein PROUD Center, including hormone therapy and monitoring, HIV prevention, health education and counseling. The center welcomed James Kostek, DO, a family practitioner with RWJBarnabas Health Medical Group, as its new medical director in January 2024.

Outpatient services include radiology, laboratory, wound care, diabetes management, nutritional counseling and physical, occupational and speech therapy. In addition, the hospital offers outpatient services at convenient locations throughout Central New Jersey, including physical therapy locations in Bridgewater, Flemington, Hillsborough and Princeton; and sleep medicine, cardiac rehabilitation and laboratory services in Hillsborough.

A teaching hospital affiliated with Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, the hospital maintains a family medicine residency program with 21 residents. Its Graduate Medical Education Program also includes residents in urology and anesthesia.

Vital Statistics



343
Beds



2,100
Employees



900
Physicians



80
Volunteers



650
Nurses



14,600
Admissions



800
Births



51,000
ER visits



206,000
Outpatient visits



6,600
Surgeries

HONORS & AWARDS

RWJUH Somerset is nationally recognized for the quality care that we provide to our community.

Those recognitions include:

- Nationally recognition as a Magnet® hospital for nursing excellence by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.
- “A” Patient Safety Grade from the Leapfrog Group in Fall 2024.
- Health Equity Accreditation from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). RWJUH Somerset was the first hospital in New Jersey and only the fourth hospital or health system in the country to achieve this accreditation.
- America’s 250 Best Hospitals recognition by Healthgrades in 2024, ranking in the top 5% of hospitals nationwide for overall clinical performance.
- Healthgrades rating of America’s 100 Best Hospitals for Pulmonary Care, Stroke Care, Gastrointestinal Care, Gastrointestinal Surgery and Critical Care.
- Recognition as ‘High performing’ in the treatment of two procedures and conditions in U.S. News & World Report’s 2024-25 Best Hospitals rankings and ratings. The hospital was recognized for the treatment of hip replacement surgery and maternity care.
- 2025 Specialty Excellence Awards from Healthgrades, which were announced in fall 2024:
 - Healthgrades Neurosciences Excellence Award, ranking in the top 5% in the nation
 - Healthgrades Stroke Care Excellence Award, ranking in the top 5% in the nation
 - Healthgrades Pulmonary Care Excellence Award, ranking in the top 5% in the nation
 - Healthgrades Gastrointestinal Care Excellence Award, ranking in the top 5% in the nation
 - Healthgrades Gastrointestinal Surgery Excellence Award, ranking in the top 5% in the nation
 - Healthgrades Critical Care Excellence Award, ranking in the top 5% in the nation
 - Healthgrades Surgical Care Excellence Award, ranking among the top 10% in the nation
- Healthgrades rating of 5-stars for colorectal surgeries, vaginal delivery and C-section delivery and the treatment of heart attacks, heart failure, stroke, COPD, pneumonia, GI bleeds, bowel obstructions, sepsis, respiratory failure and hip fractures.
- Designation as a “Leader in LGBTQ Health Care Equality” by the Human Rights Campaign.
- Joint Commission’s Gold Seal of Approval for total knee and total hip replacement surgery and its acute myocardial infarction (heart attack) program.
- Designation as a Primary Stroke Center by the Joint Commission and the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services.
- American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s Get with the Guidelines® Stroke GOLD PLUS Achievement Award.
- Recognition as a NICHE (Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders) hospital.
- Accreditation by the Commission on Cancer, a quality program of the American College of Surgeons.
- Designation as a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence by the American College of Radiology and accredited by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers.
- Most Wired recognition from The College of Health Care Information Management Executives (CHIME).



RWJUH Somerset was the first hospital in New Jersey to receive Health Equity Accreditation from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). From left to right: Perry Farhat, Director, Diversity and Inclusion; Heather Cowperthwaite, Vice President, Human Resources; Mark Manigan, President and CEO, RWJBarnabas Health; Serena Collado, Director, Community Health Department; Andrew Thomas, Vice President, Social Impact, RWJBarnabas Health; Alexandra Rodriguez, Director, Patient Experience; and Deirdre Blas, Interim Chief Administrative Officer.



A QUALITY PROGRAM
of the AMERICAN COLLEGE
OF SURGEONS

CLINICAL AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH SERVICES

CLINICAL SERVICES

- Behavioral Health
- Breast Care
- Cardiology
- Critical Care
- Diabetes Prevention and Management
- Eating Disorders
- Emergency Medicine
- Endoscopy
- Laboratory Services, including Blood Donor Program
- Maternity
- Neuroscience
- Oncology Services
- Orthopedics
- PROUD Family Health, specialized primary care services for the LGBTQ+ community
- Radiology
- Rehabilitation Services (Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech & Hearing, Cardiac Rehab)
- Respiratory
- Sleep Medicine
- Surgery
- Vascular Lab
- Wound Care

COMMUNITY BENEFITS



The hospital provides nearly \$1 million in free community services and education annually, including more than 600 health education events and 175 health screenings. Other community benefit activities included free annual cardiac athletic screenings for young athletes in the community, food donations, with 482 chickens and turkeys donated to area food pantries for Thanksgiving, and a number of charitable “drives” including Adopt A Family Programs for Thanksgiving and Christmas, a diaper drive, warm blanket drive and back-to-school drive.

SOCIAL IMPACT AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT INITIATIVES

Two families moved into RWJUH Somerset’s Healing Homes in the fall of 2024. Healing Homes offers housing for 18-24 months for an individual or individual family in Somerset County who has a chronic or acute health condition that causes financial hardship and leaves them unable to afford housing and/or the basic cost of living.

In February 2024, RWJUH Somerset launched a partnership with Share My Meals, a non-profit organization based in Princeton, to donate surplus food from its cafeteria to help support families in its community who are experiencing food insecurity. In the first year of this partnership, the hospital donated more than 4,100 surplus meals (5,100 pounds of food) from its cafeteria to support food insecure families in its community. Since the food was not sent to a landfill, the donations avoided 23,000 pounds in carbon dioxide emissions.



About RWJBarnabas Health

RWJBarnabas Health is New Jersey's largest and most comprehensive academic health system, caring for more than five million people annually. Nationally renowned for quality and safety, the system includes 14 hospitals and 9,000 affiliated physicians integrated to provide care at more than 700 patient care locations.

RWJBarnabas Health partners with its diverse communities to build and sustain a healthier New Jersey. It provides patient-centered care in a compassionate and equitable manner and is the state's largest safety-net provider and leader in addressing the social determinants of health. RWJBarnabas Health provides food to the hungry, housing for the homeless and economic opportunities to those most vulnerable.

RWJBarnabas Health's commitment to enhancing access to care includes a transformative partnership with Rutgers University, including the Rutgers Cancer Institute — the state's only NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

RWJBarnabas Health is among New Jersey's largest private employers, with more than 43,000 employees, contributing more than \$5.5 billion to the state economy every year. For more information, visit [rwjbh.org](https://www.rwjbh.org)



Our mission: We are an academic health system, partnering with our communities to build and sustain a healthier New Jersey.