

For Media Inquiries,
Please email
media@uhnj.org

04/22/25

[Return to All News](#) 

DR. KAITLAN BASTON APPOINTED INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

Dr. Baston Has Served as the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health Since 2023 and Will Serve as Interim Replacement for CEO & President Ed Jimenez

NEWARK – [University Hospital](#) today announced the appointment of Dr. Kaitlan Baston, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health, as interim CEO effective May 3, 2025. While Dr. Baston will not be applying for the permanent position, she has agreed to temporarily fill the role of Chief Executive Officer and President Ed Jimenez to ensure a smooth transition while the

Dr. Baston, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.P., was nominated by Governor Phil Murphy to begin serving as Commissioner of Health on July 25, 2023, and was confirmed on March 18, 2024.

“Dr. Baston brings extraordinary expertise in both clinical and operational leadership. I am confident that, under her interim guidance, University Hospital will continue to advance its mission—delivering exceptional care, driving innovation, and building on a legacy of service to the community,” **said [Tanya L. Freeman, Chair of the University Hospital Board of Directors](#)**.

“Dr. Kaitlan Baston has dedicated her life to delivering quality health care to those most in need,” **said [Governor Phil Murphy](#)**. “As Commissioner, she has done a tremendous job leading the New Jersey Department of Health. I am confident that Dr. Baston will be an exceptional interim CEO of University Hospital.”

“I am honored to lead the Hospital during this period of transition. Having worked in healthcare for my entire career, I understand firsthand the importance of clear and effective leadership in building trust internally and in the community,” **said [Dr. Baston, incoming interim CEO](#)**. “I look forward to building upon Ed’s work to expand access to innovative care, advance the master plan, and support our staff.”

Dr. Baston began her career as a full-spectrum family physician focused on underserved populations. Before arriving in New Jersey, her work ranged from public health projects in Rwanda to public maternity and trauma hospitals in the Dominican Republic. She also provided full spectrum family planning services and worked at a bilingual community health center in Seattle, Washington.

Prior to her tenure as Commissioner, Dr. Baston served as the Division Head of Addiction Medicine and Medical Director of the Center for Healing at Cooper University Health Care. Dr. Baston founded the Center for Healing, which provides integrated pain, addiction, and behavioral health care and undergraduate and graduate medical education in addiction medicine and research. Additionally, Dr. Baston acted as an Assistant Professor of Medicine at [Cooper Medical School of Rowan University](#).

Dr. Baston is dual boarded in Family Medicine and Addiction Medicine, obtained a master’s degree in Neuroscience from Kings College, London, and graduated from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, PA.

Dr. Baston will hold the position of interim CEO while the [University Hospital Board of Directors](#), led by [Tanya L. Freeman](#), conducts a search for a permanent replacement.

[University Hospital](#) is New Jersey's only public academic medical center and the principal teaching hospital for all Rutgers Newark-based medical education, including Rutgers New Jersey Medical School and Rutgers New Jersey Dental School. The hospital is the only State-Certified Level 1 Trauma Center in Northern New Jersey. For more information about University Hospital, please visit www.uhnj.org.

OTHER RECENT NEWS STORIES

04/28/25

GROUNDBREAKING UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL EMS PROGRAM IS FIRST STATE-CERTIFIED LEVEL 1 TRAUMA CENTER TO BRING LIFE-SAVING BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS TO PREHOSPITAL SETTING IN NEW JERSEY

NEWARK, NJ: University Hospital is proud to announce the launch of a new lifesaving, ambulance-based blood transfusion program aimed at improving patient outcomes in critically injured patients. This new initiative, which is only available in a handful of hospitals across the country,

v specially-trained University Hospital paramedics
v ability to administer blood transfusions [...]

07/19/24

UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL UNAFFECTED BY NATIONWIDE IT DISRUPTIONS

University Hospital in Newark is unaffected by the nationwide technology impact. All facilities are operating as normal. We understand other hospitals in Northern New Jersey have been affected and, as the only State-designated Level 1 Trauma Center in the region, we are standing by to help other institutions and the communities they serve. The 911 [...]

[More](#) 

07/11/24

**UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL'S LIVER
TRANSPLANT PROGRAM, LED BY
RUTGERS NEW JERSEY MEDICAL
SCHOOL PHYSICIANS, ONCE
AGAIN RANKED TOP IN THE
NATION**

Newark, NJ: University Hospital's Center for Liver Transplantation, led by nationally-recognized physicians at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School (NJMS), has once again been recognized as the nation's top leader in three-year liver transplantation survival, setting a new benchmark for excellence. According to a report released by the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) on July [...]

More 



Email

Signup

Submit

Menu

[For UH Employees](#)

[Privacy](#)

[Compliance](#)

[Careers](#)

[Price Transparency](#)

[Nondiscrimination Statement](#)

Contact

[150 Bergen St](#)
[Newark, NJ 07103](#)
[\(973\) 972-4300](#)

