

UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL ENTERS IN CLINICAL PARTNERSHIP TO ENHANCE ITS CHAPLAINCY DEPARTMENT

HealthCare Chaplaincy Network's Collaboration Marks First in Newark

New York, N.Y. (June 21, 2017) – HealthCare Chaplaincy Network (HCCN) has begun a clinical partnership with University Hospital (UH) in Newark, NJ. This is the first hospital in Newark – the largest city in New Jersey – to collaborate with HCCN to enhance its spiritual care department.

As a partner institution, UH will benefit from HCCN's clinical expertise in integrating spiritual care as a unique contributor to evidence-based best practices within patient-centered healthcare. In addition to staffing their chaplaincy services department, HCCN will provide a wide range of value-added services. University Hospital's Chief Experience Officer, Joan Dauhajre, after evaluating the hospital from a patient's perspective, initiated the partnership to elevate UH's spiritual care services.

"The hospital did not have a formalized program and depended on volunteer chaplains," said Dauhajre. "HCCN allows us to develop an official structure that serves our patients, families, staff and physicians, in addition to being a training site for future chaplains."

HCCN assumes full management of the Department of Chaplaincy Services. After a focused recruitment, HCCN was pleased to hire Helen Kurczynski to serve as Manager of Chaplaincy Services. In this role, Kurczynski, in consultation with HCCN, will actively work to assess the strengths and needs of University Hospital so as to implement an integrated, multifaceted Chaplaincy Department which will serve the spiritual and religious needs of patients, their loved ones, the staff and all who are part of the UH community.

"We have hosted clinical partnerships for over 20 years," explained Rev. Eric J. Hall, HCCN's president and CEO. "It is our pleasure to venture into this agreement with a Level 1 Trauma Center, as we feel that our expertise will be strongly utilized to strengthen University Hospital's patient care."

HCCN's proficiencies include – but are not limited to – multi-faith spiritual care resources, such as telechaplaincy services, spiritual care websites, and HCCN-TV Spiritual Care Network; evidence-based quality indicators as demonstrated in the Excellence in Spiritual Care Award; and robust educational initiatives – both as continuing education for chaplains and through HCCN's chaplaincy training program – CPE.org – to build and grow the field of spiritual care.

As a clinical partner, University Hospital joins other institutions in HCCN's ongoing dedication to the development of clinical chaplaincy programs, including Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, NYU Langone Medical Center, NYU Winthrop Hospital and St. Mary's Center.

About HealthCare Chaplaincy Network

HealthCare Chaplaincy Network is a global healthcare nonprofit organization that offers spiritual care information and resources, and professional chaplaincy services in hospitals other health care settings and online. Its mission is to advance the integration of spiritual care in healthcare through clinical practice, research and education in order to increase patient satisfaction and help people faced with illness and grief find comfort and meaning – whoever they are, whatever they believe, wherever they are. For more information, visit www.healthcarechaplancy.org, call 212-644-1111 and connect with us on Twitter and Facebook.

About University Hospital

University Hospital is 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, New Jersey, University Hospital is a principal teaching hospital of Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences and a regional resource for advanced services across many medical specialties. In September, the Hospital announced a partnership with Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey to expand cancer services across Essex County. For more information about University Hospital, please visit <http://www.uhnj.org/>.

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