2020 AT A GLANCE

- Hospital Admissions: 30,032
- Emergency Department Visits: 68,575
- Urgent Care Visits: 35,199
- Outpatient Visits: 1.6+ Million
- Cancer Visits (Outpatient & Inpatient): 109,112
- Surgical Cases: 24,041
- Trauma Cases: 4,485

- Transfers From Area Hospitals: 6,501
- Employees: 8,575
- Physicians: 1,136
- Licensed Beds: 663
- Outpatient Locations: 105+
- Operating Revenue: $1.5 Billion
- Active Patients: From All 50 States/35 Countries

OUR MISSION

To serve, to heal, to educate.

OUR VISION

We will be the best place to be a patient, the best place to work, and the best place to learn and practice medicine.
March 2021

Dear Friends,

When the first case of COVID-19 was detected in the U.S. in January 2020, none of us could have predicted its profound impact on our families, communities, nation, and world. In fact, COVID-19 ultimately disrupted virtually every aspect of our lives. Health systems had to completely rethink their operations as they worked to care for those stricken with COVID-19 while protecting staff and non-COVID-19 patients from contracting the virus.

True to the Cooper mission To Serve, To Heal, To Educate, our team rose to the challenge. Cooper quickly set up its Incident Management Team to address the pandemic and provide guidelines to care for patients and protect our team and the community. Our team showed tremendous leadership in providing personal protective equipment to our clinical teams, conducting COVID-19 testing, and communicating effectively. Our efforts were recognized both across New Jersey and nationally.

Cooper was also chosen by the Governor to coordinate the state’s response to COVID-19 in Southern New Jersey. Our hospital was also designated as one of the first in the state to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and to coordinate and support vaccination efforts in the region. Cooper was the first health system to create a neighborhood-based vaccination and education center. Our efforts focused on residents in Camden, an area that has been hit hard by the pandemic.

Cooper was also one of a few health systems to support its team members with a “hero pay” bonus, recognizing their courage and commitment to the community during this unprecedented time. In another effort to support and engage our team members, we created a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Leadership Council to add structure and focus on creating a sense of belonging and ownership at Cooper.

Although COVID-19 was—and still is—an unthinkable tragedy, it allowed Cooper to demonstrate the tremendous leadership, compassion, and expertise of its team. As a prominent academic health system, Cooper is emerging from this pandemic stronger and more hopeful than ever. In fact, our clinical experts are highly sought after, and they currently treat patients from all 50 states and from 35 countries.

We want to thank our Cooper team and our many patients for their continued trust. We humbly present you with our Annual Report for 2020—a year we will not soon forget.

Sincerely,

George E. Norcross III
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Anthony J. Mazzarelli, MD, JD, MBE
Co-President/CEO

Kevin M. O’Dowd, JD
Co-President/CEO

Cooper University Health Care
MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper: South Jersey’s Largest and Most Experienced Cancer Team

Now in its seventh year of providing cancer patients in the region with compassionate and innovative care, MD Anderson at Cooper continues to transform cancer care in our region by expanding its capabilities with the addition of new technologies, programs, and treatments. More local residents are making MD Anderson at Cooper their first choice for cancer care, and it is now the highest-volume cancer center in South Jersey. Our cancer specialists care for patients in a number of locations, including Camden, Cherry Hill, Egg Harbor Township, Mount Laurel, Sewell, Voorhees, and Willingboro.

As a leading academic health system, Cooper provides the highest quality of care. We are proud to have received the following awards in 2020, recognizing that our efforts have delivered outcomes for our patients that are among the best in the nation.

- For the second year in a row, U.S. News & World Report awarded Cooper its High Performing Hospital designation in treating chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder and heart failure.
- For the second year in a row, in 2020, Cooper received the prestigious 2020 Patient Safety Excellence Award from Healthgrades, placing us among the top 5% of hospitals in the nation for patient safety.
- Healthgrades also recognized Cooper as a 2020 Five-Star Achiever for Coronary Bypass Surgery, Defibrillator Procedures, and Treatment of Pancreatitis.
- Newsweek named Cooper a Top Maternity Hospital and one of the World’s Best Hospitals in Orthopaedics.
- The American College of Cardiology awarded Cooper a Transcatheter Valve Center Certification—the first health system in the Delaware Valley to earn this distinction.
- Cooper was honored to be named a Get With The Guidelines: Gold Plus Performance Achievement in Stroke program and a Mission Lifeline: Silver Cardiac Care program by the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association.
- The American Orthopaedic Association presented the Cooper Bone and Joint Institute with the Star Performer Recognition award for participation in its Own the Bone® program.
- Cooper was awarded the designation of Antimicrobial Stewardship Center of Excellence by the Infectious Diseases Society of America.
- The Society of Thoracic Surgeons awarded Cooper Three Stars, their highest rating, for Coronary Bypass Artery Grafting (CABG) Surgery.
- The Cooper Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery Center was once again named a Bariatric Center of Excellence by OPTUM/United Healthcare.
- Cooper earned recertification as an Advanced Comprehensive Stroke Center by The Joint Commission.
- Cooper Trauma Center was again designated a Verified Level I Trauma Center—one of only three in New Jersey—earning high marks in all areas from the American College of Surgeons.
The year 2020 was unlike any other—when the COVID-19 pandemic struck, the entire Cooper team worked together to respond on behalf of our patients, the community, and our fellow team members. We quickly formed an Incident Management Team (IMT) of experts across the health system. The IMT focused on establishing processes, protocols, and communications to ensure safe patient care, community education, and strategies to minimize transmission of the virus.

The Incident Management Team led the effort on the following actions:

- **Clinical Safety:** Developed protocols to ensure the proper use and conservation of personal protective equipment (PPE) to ensure the safety of clinical team members and patients, despite supply chain shortages.

- **Preventive Measures:** Designed and employed COVID-19 patient screening processes and service protocols.

- **Supplemental Clinics:** Led a cross-departmental team that constructed five military-grade tents on hospital property to serve as supplemental clinics, discharge lounges, and drive-up COVID-19 testing sites.

- **Technology:** Provided mobile devices to allow COVID-19 patients to keep connected with their families despite visitation restrictions; developed a “touchless” experience using apps and texting for office visits; expanded telehealth visits; and used video and audio monitoring of COVID-19 patients to reduce virus transmission and the use of PPE.

- **Patient Flow:** Effectively and efficiently supported elective procedures, surgeries, and treatments to minimize the disruption of care for non-COVID-19 patients.

Cooper demonstrated its commitment to its employees by distributing a “hero pay” bonus for the extraordinary efforts undertaken to care for COVID-19 patients and serve the community. The announcement was made by Board Chairman George E. Norcross III (center) and Co-CEOs Anthony J. Mazzarelli, MD, JD, MBE and Kevin M. O’Dowd, JD (left and right).

Maritza Cotto, MD, FACC, FASE

The United States Navy's Blue Angels saluted Cooper's front-line heroes with a flyover of the Cooper Health Sciences Campus in April.
Cooper Rapidly Deploys Telehealth to Ensure Continuity of Care During the Pandemic

When it became clear that physical distancing was a key component in reducing transmission of the virus, Cooper responded quickly to develop alternative means of providing patient care. Cooper’s Information Technology and Informatics teams greatly expanded our telehealth program in less than a week, and patients were able to consult with a Cooper physician via phone or computer for non-urgent issues.

Facility Upgrades to Fight COVID-19

Cooper made significant facility improvements during the COVID-19 pandemic to reduce transmission of the virus, treat patients safely, and provide vital testing services. Renovations and upgrades to laboratory equipment allowed for rapid processing of COVID-19 tests at the hospital. Military-grade tents erected in the Kelemen Circle provided supplemental clinical space. Additional tents erected near the hospital served as drive-through COVID-19 testing sites. A number of Cooper facilities were equipped with enhanced airflow and HEPA filtration to reduce transmission of the virus. As an added safety measure, Cooper had plexiglass installed in our inpatient and outpatient facilities and on tables in the hospital dining room.

Community Response

Even at the height of the pandemic, Cooper maintained our commitment to promoting health and wellness to patients of all ages and walks of life—including the most vulnerable and underserved. Many of our existing programs were converted to virtual learning to maintain a focus on well-being amidst the crisis, and we developed informational events to educate the public about COVID-19. The Foundation seeks to improve the health of our community. Their efforts continued nonstop throughout the pandemic.

Tenth Annual Red Hot Gala @ Home Surpasses Previous Fundraising Records

Cooper’s annual Red Hot Gala raised $1.8 million to support our commitment to improving quality of life in the community and providing exceptional medical care and services to patients. The virtual event honored Susan Bass Levin, who retired as President of the Foundation in 2020.

Pink Roses Teal Magnolias Raises More Than $600,000

Although the COVID-19 pandemic presented new challenges to Cooper’s Annual Pink Roses Teal Magnolias (PRTM) event, organizers and supporters rallied to raise more than $611,000 through various virtual, outdoor, and online events. These vital funds support breast and gynecologic cancer research and clinical programs at MUH Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper. The signature brunch was renamed Pink Roses Teal Magnolias@Home and became a virtual event highlighting the cancer programs that it supports and thanking donors, sponsors, and community partners. The program also honored Cooper employees at MUH Anderson at Cooper, who faced each challenge created by the pandemic with courage. Their dedication to our patients never flagged. The Cooper Foundation further engaged the community by hosting a physically distant outdoor brunch and golf outing on October 5. More than 120 guests and golfers attended the event at Ramblewood Country Club in Mt. Laurel, New Jersey. The event was hosted by Ron Jaworski, former Philadelphia Eagle, and his wife, Liz, a cancer survivor and a member of the PKIM Host Committee. Since the first brunch in 2010, PKIM has raised more than $3 million to support research, the Patient in Need Fund, new technology, survivorship programs, the Diane Barton Complementary Medicine Program, and other patient initiatives.

The Cooper Foundation and Norcross Foundation Distribute Over 300,000 Masks

To reduce the spread of COVID-19, The Cooper Foundation and Norcross Foundation collaborated to provide more than 300,000 reusable and washable fabric face masks to patients, staff, first responders, and community members. Cooper coordinated the distribution of masks to residents in Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester counties and collaborated with local officials to prioritize distribution to those most at risk. As part of this effort, all students in Camden city public, renaissance, charter, and faith-based schools received masks.

Lockheed Martin Awards $500,000 Grant for PPE for Employees

Recognizing the critical need to protect front line health care workers, Lockheed Martin awarded Cooper a $500,000 grant to purchase personal protective equipment (PPE), including N95 respirators, surgical masks, gloves, gowns, and eye protection. Lockheed Martin provided the grant in acknowledgement of Cooper’s role as the region’s leading academic health system and only Level I Trauma Center. The donation was in honor of a Lockheed Martin employee who spent more than 30 days at Cooper University Hospital being treated for COVID-19.

In addition to the grant, Lockheed Martin supported Cooper throughout the pandemic in numerous ways, including donating cell phones to facilitate communication between hospitalized patients and their families and providing more than 1,600 meals to staff.

U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of New Jersey Presents Kevin M. O’Dowd, JD, Cooper Co-CEO, with the First-Ever Distinguished Alumnus Award

Co-CEO Kevin M. O’Dowd received the first-ever Distinguished Alumnus Award from U.S. Attorney Craig Carpenito for his leadership in the state’s response to COVID-19. In March 2020, Cooper was designated as the State’s Southern Regional Coordinator for COVID-19 response, and O’Dowd served as the New Jersey Department of Health’s regional lead in connection with COVID-19 response efforts in the state’s seven southernmost counties.

Cooper Foundation COVID-19 Assistance Fund Supports Front-Line Workers

In March 2020, The Cooper Foundation established the COVID-19 Assistance Fund to provide support to front line health care workers. Individuals and businesses immediately rose to the occasion by donating more than 21,000 meals for health care workers. Other donations included PPE, such as N95 respirator masks, surgical masks, gowns, gloves, and eye shields. In addition to providing an opportunity for financial donations to Cooper, the Foundation website also allowed community members to submit thank you notes to health care professionals. As of January, more than $2 million monetary and in-kind donations have supported the fund.

Giving Back: The Cooper Foundation

The Cooper Foundation raises and administers charitable funds to support the community and Cooper’s mission To Serve, To Heal, To Educate. Through a wide range of initiatives, the Foundation seeks to improve the health of our community. Their efforts continued nonstop throughout the pandemic.

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Cooper’s front-line staff received an outpouring of meal donations from generous people, organizations, and businesses. This community support kept our team strong.
Backpacks and School Supplies Donated to Camden Students

For the past 10 years, Cooper employees have generously donated backpacks and school supplies to Camden students. The tradition continued in 2020, but with a different approach because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Cooper Foundation asked employees to make online monetary donations to help underwrite the cost of 3,800 backpacks and supplies for children at KIPP Cooper Norcross Academy, Lanning Square Primary and Middle School, Whittier Middle School, and the new high school at Sumner. The Foundation purchased the backpacks and supplies for distribution at the schools. Operation Backpack looked different in 2020, but the result was the same. Children received the supplies they needed for school, whether learning remotely or in the classroom.

Sneakers for Heroes

Sneakers for Heroes and Boston-based streetwear and sneaker retailer Concepts joined forces to donate 1,000 pairs of sneakers for Cooper’s medical residents and fellows. Sneakers for Heroes is an initiative to distribute free footwear to medical professionals fighting on the front lines during the COVID-19 pandemic. The organization partners with footwear manufacturers and retailers to deliver brand new sneakers directly to essential medical workers. The donation was made possible, in part, by the efforts of Michael Post, DO, a fifth-year fellow in the Division of Pulmonary/Critical Care Medicine at Cooper.

Philadelphia 76ers and Cooper Team Up to Donate Toys to Area Children

On December 21, members of the Philadelphia 76ers and The Cooper Foundation dropped by the Center for Family Services to donate 1,000 new toys and games for Camden children through the Season of Giving program.

Thanksgiving Meals Delivered to 1,900 Senior Citizens in Camden

The Cooper Foundation partnered with local community leaders and volunteers to deliver 1,900 Thanksgiving meals to senior residents of Camden who were unable to leave their homes because of COVID-19. Cooper, community partners, and others devised an innovative system to safely prepare and deliver meals to those who might otherwise have gone without. With funding provided by a generous gift from a local couple and their grown children, turkey dinners with all the fixings were distributed to residents at 14 apartment complexes and senior housing facilities in the city.

Community Health

Cooper Community Health prides itself on providing high-quality care to all who enter our doors, but our concern for the community extends far beyond the hospital campus. Through a wide range of community health initiatives, we collaborate with local organizations to address barriers to health care and deliver essential health screenings, education, and other vital resources to those who might otherwise go without. The advent of the COVID-19 pandemic increased the need for services in the community and presented new challenges to delivering aid. Thanks to a dedicated and creative staff, Cooper led the way in COVID-19 education and prevention efforts in the community and addressed new challenges while continuing to offer education, health screenings, and other essential community support services.

Cooper and Partners Address Food Insecurity in the Community

As the pandemic took an increasing toll on the job market, Cooper mobilized efforts to address food insecurity not only for patients but also for the entire community. Partnering with the Food Bank of South Jersey and Touch New Jersey Food Pantry in Camden, Cooper organized food distribution events that were held each week. Families of pediatric patients in need received food distributions on Wednesdays, and anyone in the community could receive food packages on Mondays. Cooper Community Health also supported the Hope Mobile Pop-Up Food Pantry, in collaboration with the South Jersey Food Bank and the Salvation Army Kroc Center in Camden, to provide food to families.

Community Grants Awarded to Camden City Nonprofit Organizations

Thirty-three nonprofit organizations in Camden received grant awards from the Camden Community Grant Program. The goal of the program is to address social determinants of health by funding initiatives that focus on community building activities, including improvements to housing, workforce and leadership development, coalition building, and health improvement. The $1 million Camden Community Grant Program was established by founding sponsors Conner, Strong & Buckelew, American Water, the Michaels Organization, National Freight Industries, and The Cooper Foundation.
Community Health Education

New Jersey Cancer Screening Project staff hosted colon cancer awareness education booths at the Willingboro Library, the Cooper Voorhees Campus, and Cooper University Hospital. Visitors were offered colon cancer education materials and FIT kits, which are in-home tests for colon cancer detection. A Cooper advanced practice nurse (APN) also provided education to staff at Becker School in Camden on cancer risks, screening, and assessment.

Helping Our Heroes Program

Throughout 2020, Cooper continued to work with community fire departments to provide preventive screenings and education to first responders. The Helping Our Heroes program offered skin cancer and blood pressure screenings and education on the risk of cardiovascular disease and prostate, lung, and colorectal cancers.

Military, Diplomatic, Veterans, and First Responder Programs

Cooper’s mission to serve manifests itself in many ways, none of which is more important than providing the highest-quality care to those who defend and support our country and community. Our work in this area falls into three categories: providing direct care to veterans, active military members, and their families through HeroCare Connect; offering training and education to military trauma teams so that they may deliver lifesaving care in the field; and recognizing active military members and veterans who both work for Cooper and seek care here. Although the COVID-19 pandemic temporarily disrupted some of our initiatives, we are proud of the contributions that our military staff made in supporting pandemic-related activities as well as the efforts our team made to continue to provide services and training to these deserving individuals.

The Cooper Heroism Award

The Cooper Heroism Award was established in 2019 to honor employees who have shown heroic efforts in the community. In 2020, Cooper honored two staff members, Entela Ahmeti, APN, and Yesenia Santiago, for their lifesaving actions.

Entela Ahmeti, APN

Revives Man After Kickboxing Class

After finishing her shift on February 13, Entela “Annie” Ahmeti, an APN in Vascular Surgery, went to the gym for her evening kickboxing class. She was chatting with friends after class when a man collapsed. Annie, who has been a Cooper employee since 2010, quickly established that he was unresponsive and had no pulse. She took control of the scene, directing one person to bring her the AED and another to call 911. She connected the man to the AED, delivered a shock, and then performed CPR. When EMS arrived, the man was awake and talking!

Yesenia Santiago

Saves Man Stricken in Camden

In August, Yesenia “Yesi” Santiago, a nonmedical case manager for Cooper’s Early Intervention Program (EIP), was driving through Camden when she noticed an unresponsive man lying on the ground. She found that the man had a very weak pulse, and she quickly enlisted a bystander to call 911 and help her perform CPR. While they were waiting for EMS, another citizen arrived and administered Narcan. The man’s color slowly returned with the chest compressions, and he briefly regained consciousness. Yesi stayed with the man until EMS arrived, and she provided a report of what had transpired. Yesi, who has been a Cooper employee for 22 years and with the EIP since 2005, says that this is not the first time she has stopped to help a community member in need.

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HeroCare Connect

Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, when State-issued executive orders limited access to medical care, the HeroCare Connect team ensured that the needs of our military patients were met. HeroCare Connect is jointly run by Cooper and Deborah Heart and Lung Center, which adapted quickly, arranging telemedicine appointments and transportation to overcome barriers to care for those who bravely served our country.

HeroCare Connect Awarded Two Grants to Expand Outreach to the Military Community

Two significant grants increased the ability of HeroCare Connect to provide our military heroes with timely access to medical care. These grants underscore the value of the HeroCare Connect program and recognize its three-year track record of outstanding patient outcomes.

The grant awarded by The Nicholson Foundation supported an analysis of how best to align HeroCare Connect with the pillars and requirements of the federal Veterans Administration Mission Act, and will help the program to prepare for the future. The New Jersey Department of Health provided an integrated care grant to help reduce health care disparities, improve access to services, and streamline the process of obtaining care for active duty military and veterans. By leveraging this grant, HeroCare Connect was able to enhance and expand its comprehensive, integrated care network by increasing health care screenings, improving access to primary care, providing behavioral health assessments, and ensuring timely access to specialty care. We were pleased to learn that the grant will be extended, based on its value and success.

Military Trauma Training

Cooper makes the most of our expertise in trauma, surgery, and critical care by providing a wide range of military, diplomatic, and field surgical training programs. We are proud and honored to be the only hospital in the U.S. to have trained elite medical providers from every branch of our nation’s armed forces; many local, state, and federal government agencies; and international partners.

2020 Highlights Include:

Special Operations Combat Medic Training Course

Cooper remains one of only five hospitals in the country with the expertise to provide training to Special Operations Combat Medic Biomedics (SOCMB) or who hold or are designated for assignment to special operations medical positions. In 2020, Cooper provided five training courses for 67 SOCMBs, helping to sustain the military's strategic mission of supplying capable medical assets to the force. We are proud and pleased that our outstanding safety protocols resulted in zero SOCMB students contracting COVID-19 while on rotation at Cooper.

Development of Advanced Surgical Skills for Exposure in Trauma Course Program

With the help of a grant provided by The Cooper Foundation, an Advanced Surgical Skills for Exposure in Trauma (ASET) course was developed to enhance education to midlevel and senior surgical residents, trauma and acute care surgical fellows, and surgeons. The course provides an extensive review of the anatomy to improve students’ technical ability to expose critical structures that may require acute surgical intervention to save life or limb. The student-to-faculty ratio is low, allowing extensive faculty guidance and interaction with students. This is the first comprehensive military/civilian training platform at Cooper.

Cooper Partners With U.S. Navy for Anesthesia Residency Program

Cooper expanded its comprehensive military training program by collaborating with the U.S. Navy to provide clinical rotations to Navy senior anesthesia medical residents. The program provides a two-month visiting clinical rotation for residents currently receiving training at Portsmouth Naval Medical Center in Virginia. The first four participants began a rotation at Cooper during the summer of 2020.

The Nicholson Foundation

provided an award to Annie Ahmeti, APN, (left) and Yesenia Santiago (right). [Photo by Cooper University Hospital, 2020]
VOICE Hosts Veterans Day Speaking Panel at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

Cooper’s veterans outreach group, VOICE, invited Cooper Medical School of Rowan University (CMSRU) medical students to a Veterans Day panel, where Cooper physicians and nurses who have served our country shared their stories and discussed their experiences in the military and the practice of medicine. Speakers included Col. Kirby Gross, MD, FACS, U.S. Army Active Duty Trauma Surgeon and instructor with Cooper’s Army Military-Civilian Trauma Team; Porch’s Army Military-Civilian Trauma Team; Dr. John Chovanes, DO, FACS, USAR; Anthony J. Mazzarelli, MD; Joseph Milton; and Bradford Bitting, former U.S. Army Forward Operator, combat veteran, and two-time Purple Heart recipient.

Cooper Expands Army Medical Department Military-Civilian Trauma Team Training (AMCT3) Program

In 2019, Cooper became the first U.S. health system to provide advanced surgical trauma training to the elite Forward Re-suscitation Surgical Team (FRST) through the Army Medical Department Military-Civilian Trauma Team Training (AMCT3) program. In 2020, Cooper expanded the program with a cardio-thoracic surgeon, an emergency medicine physician, and a trauma surgeon. Cooper is the only AMCT3 site with an embedded active duty trauma surgeon, neurosurgeon and now cardio-thoracic surgeon. These clinical professionals join a trauma nurse, a critical care nurse, a perioperative nurse, an emergency medicine physician, and a neurosurgeon, all active-duty officers embedded at Cooper, to provide forward surgical team training.

Memorial Day Commemoration Includes Messages From Previous Military Employee of the Year Award Winners

Every year, a group of citizens and military veterans who have served their country and now reside in the region are honored with the title of Cooper Employee of the Year Award. This award recognizes the contributions and sacrifices made by individuals who have served in the military and who have continued to serve their community. The recipients of this award are part of a special group of people who have dedicated their lives to serving others.

Cooper Honors Two Staff Members With Military Employee of the Year Award

Karen Gruber, a U.S. Navy veteran and 31-year Cooper team member, currently serves as Assistant Vice President of Nursing Operations. Throughout the pandemic, she worked closely with the COVID-19 Regional Command Center to establish a field base to treat COVID-19 patients and launch COVID-19 testing sites. She has also led numerous initiatives to improve patient access and increase health screenings. Karen is an active member of the New Jersey Hospital Association Organization of Nurse Leaders.

Joseph Milton is also a U.S. Navy veteran and a 30-year Cooper team member. In addition to his daily responsibilities as an orthopaedic technician, he has worked closely with Cooper’s Military, Diplomatic, and Field Affairs Program to help integrate visiting military and State Department trainees into the orthopaedics department. Joe volunteers with his church in his spare time.

John Chovanes, DO, FACS, USAR

A trauma surgeon at Cooper and the founding Medical Director of Cooper’s Section of Military, Diplomatic, and Field Affairs. Dr. Chovanes is also a trauma surgeon in the U.S. Army. At the time of the Memorial Day event, he was stationed in Afghanistan with the Army’s Golden Hour Offset Surgical Team.

Ella Hawk, MSN, RN, AGACNP-BC

A thoracic surgery nurse practitioner at MD Anderson at Cooper. She also serves as a nurse in the U.S. Navy Reserve and was deployed in New York City in response to COVID-19 efforts there.

Cooper Provides Readiness Training Programs as Part of SMART Program

Although limited to just one class in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Cooper provided specialized hands-on medical training to Army active duty, reserve, and National Guard personnel as part of Operation SMART (Strategic Medical Asset Readiness Training). Cooper began offering this training in 2019 and is one of just three health systems in the nation to do so.

Cooper Continues to Support U.S. Department of State Project Guardian

Cooper has continued to partner with the U.S. State Department to train their elite Operational Medical Specialists, providing more than 28 weeks of training in 2020. Project Guardian, which is the only program of its kind in the world, matches Emergency Management Specialists with Cooper trauma surgeons and physicians who provide five weeks of real-world trauma center and emergency department experience to help specialists to keep their skills sharp.

Cooper Trains Advanced Capability Paramedics and Physician Assistants

Cooper continues to partner with the U.S. Department of Justice to train their elite Tactical Medical Specialists in an intensive two-part training program for those who provide care in high-stress tactical environments.

Cooper Joins U.S. Army Partnership for Youth Success Program

In the continuous pursuit of opportunities to support those who served in the military, Cooper became a participating employer with the U.S. Army Partnership for Youth Success (PaYS) program in 2020. The PaYS program is a strategic partnership between the Army and a cross-section of private industry, academia, and federal, state, and local public institutions. The program guarantees soldiers a job interview and possible employment after their service in the Army and provides America’s youth with the opportunity to simultaneously serve their country and prepare for their future.

2020 Military Promotions

- John Chovanes, DO, FACS, USAR, was promoted to the grade of Colonel in the United States Army Reserve.
- Timothy Galvin, MSN, RN, CCRN-K, was promoted to the grade of Major in the Delaware Air National Guard.

Mr. Galvin is the Administrative Director in the Department of Surgery, Division of Trauma, Military, Diplomatic, and Field Surgical Affairs Section at Cooper.
On April 27, Cooper opened the doors to the new Cooper Specialty Care at Cherry Hill, which is an investment of more than $60 million. Located at 2339 W. Route 70, adjacent to the Crowne Plaza Hotel, the center features more than a dozen high-demand adult health care specialties and diagnostic services. With an area of approximately 100,000 square feet, Cooper Specialty Care offers 113 examination and procedural rooms, outpatient services, and numerous patient amenities, including express self-check-in stations. To improve patient care and convenience, several Cooper outpatient practices, including cardiology, physical therapy, orthopaedics, and pulmonology, were relocated to this brand new, state-of-the-art multispecialty center.

Despite the Pandemic, Cooper Continued to Grow

Cooper Specialty Care at Cherry Hill Opens

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The Recovery Village Cherry Hill at Cooper Opens

The Recovery Village Cherry Hill at Cooper, a joint venture between Cooper University Health Care and Advanced Recovery Systems (ARS), fulfilled its promise of bringing addiction recovery services to South Jersey when its doors opened for outpatient care on November 9. Inpatient services began on February 18, 2021. The $27 million, state-of-the-art center offers 90 inpatient beds in 55,000 square feet of space. Programs include detoxification, therapy, group meetings, recreation, and ongoing recovery support.

With facilities currently in five states, ARS is a national leader in operating effective treatment centers for those struggling with drug addiction. Cooper’s Addiction Medicine Program, one of the leading programs in New Jersey, provides medical oversight at the new facility.
To ensure a steady stream of high-quality clinical staff and to sustain our commitment to serving the community, Cooper has created strategic partnerships to provide individuals entering health occupations with practical experience. Cooper partnered with Lincoln Technical Institute to provide clinical rotations to licensed practical nurse (LPN) students who traditionally perform their rotations in nursing homes and long-term care facilities. When those opportunities were closed to students because of the prevalence of COVID-19 in many of the facilities, Cooper stepped in to fill the gap.

In response to community need for critical care services, Cooper opened a new 28-bed Trauma and Surgical Intensive Care Unit (TICU) in the Roberts Pavilion. “When a patient has a serious illness or has suffered serious trauma, people in the region rely on Cooper and the high caliber of trauma and specialty care we provide, and this new unit will help us increase our capacity to take care of critically ill patients,” said John M. Porter, MD, FACS, Director, Center for Trauma Services, Chief, Division of Trauma, Surgical Critical Care, and Acute Care Surgery Trauma Medical Director.

The construction added 28 beds to the intensive care unit, increasing Cooper’s total capacity to 86. Cooper is the only Level 1 Trauma Center in South Jersey and the foremost provider of critical care services in the area. The new TICU provides trauma care, vascular surgery and neurosurgery services, and post-acute surgical care. It offers strategically located nursing stations designed for optimum visibility, upgraded patient beds specially designed for critical care, and a patient monitoring system with an intelligent design that allows effortless intrahospital transport.

Planning for the Future, Providing Opportunity

To ensure a steady stream of high-quality clinical staff and to sustain our commitment to serving the community, Cooper has created strategic partnerships to provide individuals entering health occupations with practical experience. Cooper partnered with Lincoln Technical Institute to provide clinical rotations to licensed practical nurse (LPN) students who traditionally perform their rotations in nursing homes and long-term care facilities. When those opportunities were closed to students because of the prevalence of COVID-19 in many of the facilities, Cooper stepped in to fill the gap.

To serve TO SERVE Cooper's helicopter fleet includes Cooper 1 and Cooper 2. The helicopters are based at the Millville Municipal Airport and the Flying W Airport in Medford, respectively, to ensure that transport is just minutes away in any part of the region.

Pictured (left to right): Kathy Devine, RN, DRNP; Robert Hockel; Anthony J. Mazzarelli, MD; Kevin M. O'Dowd, JD; Eric Kupersmith, MD; Diane Floyd, MSN, CCRN, TCRN, NE-BC; Steven E. Ross, MD; and John M. Porter, MD, at the Pavilion 10 Trauma and Surgical Intensive Care Unit ribbon cutting.

When LPN students who were placed in Cooper practices exceeded expectations, many were offered full-time positions. Cooper’s continuing apprenticeship program, in collaboration with the American Training Center, provided new opportunities to those who were displaced from their jobs as a result of COVID-19. With the help of a grant provided through the National Labor Board, students received medical assistant training and then served a full-year apprenticeship at Cooper. Five individuals were hired in 2020, and an additional 12 were hired in January 2021.
Cooper Nurses: Unsurpassed Expertise and Compassion

Cooper nurses play a vital role in delivering expert treatment and creating a caring environment where patients can heal and return to an optimal level of health. Their job was made more difficult this year as the COVID-19 pandemic filled hospitals to capacity at the same time that new safety protocols were needed to prevent the spread of the virus. Visitor restrictions created an additional burden for all clinicians, including nurses, who had to step in and provide extraordinary support and compassion to COVID-19 patients and their families, often holding mobile devices for very ill patients so that they could speak with family members.

Despite the challenges, Cooper nurses continued to deliver care to patients with an unsurpassed combination of clinical expertise and compassion, and they played key roles in responding to the pandemic, both in our hospital and in the community.

Fostering Clinical Excellence in Nursing

To continue to promote clinical excellence, Cooper nurses created four teams to develop a nursing vision statement, expand a shared governance model, implemented a robust clinical practice model, and defined the culture of caring that is at the core of nursing at Cooper. This established framework supports professional nursing practice across the continuum of care in diverse care settings.

Cooper restructured its nursing professional ladder to recognize career growth and differentiate between levels of nursing care and expertise. To further increase the competency level of Cooper nurses and expand the number of trained critical care nurses, we created a critical care cross-training program for medical-surgical nurses.

We continue to see growth of our advanced practice provider (APP) workforce, with APPs working in every institute and center across the organization. APPs make up approximately 25% of our total medical staff and include NPs, PAs, and CRNAs.

2020 Nurse of the Year

Steven Teitelman, RN, BSN, of Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey, was named Cooper’s 2020 Nurse of the Year. Teitelman, a Flight Nurse Coordinator with Cooper’s Air Medical Services, also received the Barbara and Jack Tarditi Award for Excellence in Nursing Mentorship Award as part of Cooper’s Annual Nursing Excellence Awards presented during National Nurses’ Week.

“Steve is the model nurse, as he remains dedicated to helping his colleagues provide the best possible care and embracing challenges along the way,” said Kathy Devine, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer at Cooper. “Cooper’s Air Medical Services is a crucial program, providing transportation services to critically ill and injured patients. Steve is a valued member of that team and a true leader.”
Nursing Excellence Awards

The 2020 honorees reflect the high caliber of the outstanding teamwork that translates into exceptional patient outcomes:

- Judy Acredo, CCT
  Critical Care Technician, Pavilion 7, is the recipient of the Carol G. Traczyk Compassion Award.

- Agnes Asamoa, RN, BSN, OCN
  Oncology, Pavilion 8, is the recipient of the Rose Smith & Sue Zambito Memorial for Excellence in Oncology Nursing.

- Karen Babik, BSN, CCRN
  Critical Care, Trauma, is the recipient of the Excellence in Trauma Nursing Award.

- Toya Bennett, RN, BSN
  Pavilion 6, is the recipient of the Ruth Parray/Morestem Auxiliary Award for Excellence in Geriatric Nursing.

- Gina Brouster, RN, BSN
  Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, is the recipient of the Dr. Ronald Bernardin Memorial Award for Pediatric Excellence.

- Nicole Caristo, RN, BSN
  Intensive Care Unit, is the recipient of the William & Henry Arden Award for Excellence in Critical Care Nursing.

- Shelby Casey, RN, BSN
  Kelemen 9, is the recipient of the Selma & Martin Hirsch Award for Excellence in Medical Surgical Nursing.

- Maryanne Figueroa, RN, BSN, CNOR
  Voorhees Surgery Center, is the recipient of the Philip & Carole Norcross Award for Excellence in Perioperative Nursing.

- Diane Fletcher, MSN, RN, CBC, CCBE
  Labor and Delivery, is the recipient of the Charlotte Tobiason Memorial Award for Excellence in Nursing.

- Lizele Granada, DNP, RN-BC
  Senior Medical Informatics Nursing Research, is the recipient of the Barbara & Jack Tarditi Award of Excellence in Critical Care.

- Kelemen North/South 9 Team
  is the recipient of the Outstanding Team Award.

- Elizabeth Locke, RN, BSN, CEN
  Critical Care Unit, is the recipient of the Cooper Heart Institute & The Heart House Award of Excellence in Cardiovascular Nursing.

- Lawrence Mathewus, MD
  Critical Care Unit, is the recipient of the Nursing Alumni Excellence Award for Nursing-Psychiatric Partnership.

- Anna McCausland, RN, BSN, RN-C
  Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, is the recipient of the John Henry Krenerberger Memorial Award for Excellence in Neonatal Nursing.

- Hilary Oldt, LSW
  Transition Navigator, Transitional Care, is the recipient of the Barbara & Jack Tarditi Award for Excellence in Service (Non-Nursing).

- Jamie Rubino, DPT
  Physical Therapy, is the recipient of the Women’s Board of Cooper University Health Care Allied Health Professional Excellence Award.

- James Scharff, RN
  Emergency Department, is the recipient of the Lynn Nelson Award for Excellence in Nursing.

- Lisa Schrieter, RN, BSN, CAPA
  Clinical Director, Post-Anesthesia Care Unit, is the recipient of the Philip & Carol Norcross Award for Nurse Leadership.

- Amanda Snyder, LPN
  Practice LPN, Ripa Center, is the recipient of the Women’s Board of Cooper University Health Care Award for Excellence in Ambulatory Nursing.

- Rosemarie Stag, MSN, RN, APN-C, FNP-C
  Medicine, is the recipient of the Morestem Auxiliary Award of Excellence in Advanced Practice Nursing.

- Steven Teitelman, RN, BSN, CCRN, CCRN-CMC, CTRN CEN, TCN, MICP, NRP
  Flight Nurse Coordinator, Air Medical Services, is the recipient of the Barbara & Jack Tarditi Award for Excellence in Nursing Mentorship.

- Julie Whitman, RN, BSN
  MD Anderson at Cooper, is the recipient of the Franklin Morse Archer, Jr. & Mary Joy Renee Memorial Award for Excellence in Oncology Nursing.

- Rebecca Yarnell, RN, BSN
  Intensive Care Unit, is the recipient of the Shaina Horton Memorial Award for Excellence in Service.

2020 DAISY Award Recipients

The DAISY Award is an international award program that recognizes excellence in the nursing profession. It was created by the DAISY Foundation to acknowledge the extraordinary compassion, outstanding clinical skills, and personalized care that nurses deliver every day.

Our 2020 recipients:

- Christine Abacan, BSN, RN-BC — Pavilion 8
- Jessica Carr, RN — Intensive Care Unit
- Phyllis Mazzuleo, BSN, RN — Critical Care Unit
- Emily Farth, BSN, RN — Emergency Department
- Morgan Ford, BSN, RN — Kelemen 10
- Julie Johnson, RN — Labor and Delivery
- Susan Kiepacki, RN — Pediatrics
- Tracy McCullough, BSN, RN — Cooper Digestive Health Institute
- Jessica Passaro, BSN, CCRN — Trauma Intensive Care Unit
- Madeline Shannon, BSN, RN — Kelemen 9
- Aaron Yang, BSN, RN — Pavilion 7
- Cristine Yumang, BSN, RN — Pavilion 6

Cooper Nurses Share Their Expertise

In addition to providing care to our patients, many Cooper nurses engage in academic and research pursuits. The following Cooper nurses made presentations or had papers published in 2020:

- Nicole Caristo, RN, Critical Care Nurse, was selected to serve on a panel during a statewide Nursing Schwartz Rounds, Staying Strong Through Stress.
- Diane Floyd, RN, presented at the Urogen Health & Sciences University Hospital fall trauma conference on Whole Blood and Massive Transfusion Geriatric Trauma Activation.
- Barbara Cottrell, RN, and Shannon Patel, RN, presented at the Helene Fuld Health Trust National Institute for Evidence-Based Practice in Nursing and Healthcare on Evidence-Based Decision Making.
- Taylor Baston, RN, and Shannon Patel, RN, presented at the New Jersey Organization of Nurse Leaders annual retreat on the topic of Authentic Leadership During the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Congratulations to Staci Oertle, MSN, APN, ANP-BC, AOCNP, the first recipient of the Medical Staff APP Leadership Award.
Physician Medical Staff: Unrivaled Expertise

As the only academic Level I Trauma Center in South Jersey, Cooper provides a breadth and depth of expertise that is unrivaled in the region. Cooper’s experts are highly sought after and are currently treating patients from all 50 states and from 35 countries.

With more than 800 physicians and surgeons practicing in more than 75 specialties, we continue to expand, adding physicians who are leaders in their fields. Additionally, Cooper’s specialists continue to use cutting-edge technology and the most advanced techniques available to treat our growing number of patients.

Cooper’s commitment to the communities we serve fuels our drive for continued excellence and innovation. The unparalleled quality of care we provide makes us the most trusted and respected health care system in the area.

A New Provider Group Created — Cooper Care Alliance

Cooper expanded its ability to serve more patients by establishing the Cooper Care Alliance (CCA). The physicians in CCA are employed by Cooper, but do not have the academic faculty appointments at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University as do physicians in the Cooper University Physicians group.

CCA was created to increase the number of high-quality, community-based physicians who serve patients in the region but do not currently teach. CCA patients benefit from the advanced care that they have come to expect at Cooper as well as access to more coordinated care through Cooper’s extensive network of experts practicing in more than 75 specialties. CCA physicians also benefit by having access to the administrative, operations, and technology resources that a large academic health system such as Cooper offers. CCA is Cooper’s second physician group and has already grown to more than 21 physicians and nine advanced practice providers.

Physician Engagement

Elizabeth Cerceo, MD, Hospitalist, and David Shersher, MD, Co-Director of Aerodigestive Program and Thoracic, Lung, and Esophageal Surgeon, led the physician engagement group that was developed to increase dialogue between physicians to improve physician satisfaction at Cooper. A COVID-19 engagement group was also developed to answer clinical questions about the virus throughout the pandemic.

The Cooper Provider of the Quarter distinction recognizes Cooper physicians, advanced practice nurses, physician assistants, and certified registered nurse anesthetists. Recipients are nominated by their peers for their professionalism, interpersonal skills, effective communication, teamwork, and dedication to research and education. Nominees exemplify Cooper’s core values and service standards and demonstrate achievement of results to further Cooper’s strategic imperatives.

FIRST QUARTER
Nitin K. Puri, MD
Head of the Division of Critical Care Medicine
Co-Medical Director, Center for Critical Care Medicine
Associate Professor of Medicine, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

SECOND QUARTER
Philip J. Fizur, PsyD
Clinical Health Psychologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

THIRD QUARTER
Jillian C. Smith, MD
Medical Director of Urgent Care
Attending Physician, Department of Emergency Medicine
Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

FOURTH QUARTER
Ryna K. Then, MD
Director, Stroke Program
Inpatient Services, Department of Neurology
Assistant Professor of Neurology, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University
MD Anderson at Cooper Nurses Forge New Paths in Cancer Care Through Innovative Treatment, Patient Experience, and Nursing Excellence

In 2020, MD Anderson at Cooper nurses played a pivotal role in bringing advanced treatment options to patients; expanding our clinical trials program, extending our cancer outreach, education and screening services; and enhancing the patient experience through nurse navigation services, nurse triage, and ongoing patient education. Our nurses are committed to continuous learning. In fact, 72% of our cancer center nurses have achieved Oncology Certification and many have been recognized for their distinguished service, leadership, and contributions to academic and clinical research initiatives. A breakthrough quality improvement initiative led by the nursing team resulted in a 3% reduction in emergency room visits by patients undergoing cancer treatment.

New Treatment Improves Outcomes for Patients

In December, MD Anderson at Cooper began offering Lutathera, an innovative treatment option for patients with a rare form of cancer. Lutathera is a targeted radioactive drug approved for treating patients with advanced gastroentero-pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors, a rare category of tumors that can form in the pancreas or other parts of the gastrointestinal tract. Although this treatment is not a cure, clinical trials show that patients treated with Lutathera had a 79% reduction in the risk of disease progression or death compared with other treatment options for this type of cancer. Lutathera is given intravenously. Once inside the body, the drug attaches to a receptor in the tumor and emits radiation to attack the cancer cells from within.

MD Anderson at Cooper Takes Part in Phase 2 Clinical Trial for IOVANCE

MD Anderson at Cooper is one of only 20 cancer centers in the U.S., and the only cancer center in the Philadelphia-South Jersey region, to offer patients access to a Phase 2 clinical trial for Iovance’s new immunotherapy. Based on tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes, it is known as adoptive T-cell therapy. Iovance’s autologous, ready-to-infuse cell therapy has demonstrated efficacy in treating metastatic melanoma, cancers of the head and neck, and cervical cancer. This technology is potentially applicable to bladder, colorectal, and other tumors. MD Anderson at Cooper is proud to offer this groundbreaking treatment technology to our patients through our relationship with MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas.

Voorhees Facility Upgraded

To enrich our patients’ experience and meet the growing need for services, the Voorhees location of MD Anderson at Cooper underwent a significant expansion and renovation. The upgrades included adding examination rooms and infusion bays, relocating the pharmacy, and expanding the on-site laboratory. The site now houses 37 examination rooms and 27 infusion bays to better serve patients. The construction of separate check-in and check-out windows increases efficiency and provides better patient flow through the building.

Revolutionizing Cancer Care with New Technology

MD Anderson at Cooper finalized the installation of a groundbreaking image-guided radiation treatment system that combines magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and linear accelerator radiation treatment (Linac) into one powerful device. The new device gives radiation oncologists the ability to deliver more effective treatment, while minimizing damage to surrounding healthy tissue in complex cases. The MR Linac allows our radiation oncology team to see a tumor, track its movement, and deliver radiation therapy more precisely than ever before. MD Anderson at Cooper is one of only five facilities in the U.S. to offer MR Linac radiation therapy. The radiation oncology team began treating patients using this new technology in January 2021.

Reimagining Cancer Education and Support in the Time of COVID-19

As soon as in-person meetings became difficult because of COVID-19, the staff at MD Anderson at Cooper immediately transitioned their education, support, and complementary medicine programs to a call-in format. A full calendar of webinars, support groups, and education sessions allows patients to participate in programs designed to help them manage their cancer diagnosis, treatment, recovery, and survivorship.

Frank W. Bowen III, MD, FACS
Director, Thoracic Surgical Oncology and Thoracic Aortic Surgery; Associate Director, Cooper Aortic Center
As South Jersey’s leading academic health system, training the next generation of medical professionals is vital to our mission. Our medical staff shares their expertise with tomorrow’s physicians by serving as the faculty of Cooper Medical School at Rowan University (CMSRU).

When the COVID-19 pandemic began to increase the number of patients requiring treatment, residents (graduates of medical school who are training in a medical specialty) served on the front lines of care, but their education never stopped. Working closely with residency directors, Antoinette Spevetz, MD, FCCM, FACP, FCCP, Critical Care Intensivist and head of Graduate Medical Education, led efforts to design a structure for residents and fellows (medical school graduates training further in a medical subspecialty) to support surge efforts.

Although the American Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) pandemic response plan stated that resident education could be suspended entirely in the event of a pandemic and residents could be used solely for clinical purposes, the efforts of Dr. Spevetz made it possible for Cooper to stay true to its mission to educate and allowed residents and fellows to continue their vital training.

While the year was vastly different from what residents and fellows originally imagined, innovations ensured that they did not miss out on vital learning and important rites of passage.

Class of 2024 Takes Part in Pandemic-Era White Coat Ceremony

CMSRU continued its annual tradition of welcoming new students into the profession of medicine during a special White Coat Ceremony, pandemic style. The 110 new students and speakers gathered in Rowan University’s large concert hall, where they could follow physical distancing protocols. Parents, friends, loved ones, faculty, and fellow students watched the event virtually. More than 500 viewers tuned in for the livestream of the event on YouTube. Ali Houshmand, PhD, president of Rowan University, and Anthony Lowman, PhD, Provost, were on hand to welcome and congratulate the newest medical students on behalf of the entire Rowan community and the Rowan Board of Trustees. Stephen Trzeciak, MD, MPH, Professor and Chair of Medicine at CMSRU and Chief of Medicine at Cooper, was the keynote speaker. CMSRU’s newest first-year medical students join the 321 students currently enrolled in the school to bring the entire student body to 431.
In mid-March, the Governor of New Jersey’s executive order mandating strict physical distancing led to the suspension of clinical rotations for CMSRU students, and classes were moved online. Although they could not be on-site, medical students devised ways to help fellow health care professionals and the Camden community. They planned blood drives, designed 3D-printed face masks, organized PPE donations from local businesses, and set up virtual visits with seniors and others in assisted living facilities.

Fourth-year medical students from CMSRU also developed an innovative program to communicate information between ICU physicians at Cooper and the patients’ families. Known as CritiCell Connections, a program to assist Cooper University Hospital to communicate with the families of hospitalized patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. “It is a little bit scary to think about, but then you think about the people who are already in there doing the work every single day,” Nowlan says. “The leadership is awesome. I trust them implicitly with making the right decisions for staff safety and PPE issues. I also think, when you’re starting a really hard program and it’s already hard, you can do anything after that.”

Research at Cooper Translates to Patient Care

Cooper Investigates Cell-Based Therapies to Treat Abdominal Aortic Aneurism
Abdominal aortic aneurism (AAA) continues to be among the most serious medical conditions, and there is currently no treatment. AAA develops when the wall of the lower portion of the aorta—the major vessel that supplies blood to the lower half of the body—begins to bulge or bulge. If the wall bursts, the patient likely will not survive. Using cell-based therapies, Cooper researchers are exploring treatments to slow or even stop the condition’s progression.

Stem Cell-Based Therapy Shows Promise in Treating Intimal Hyperplasia
Intimal hyperplasia is an abnormal accumulation of cells on the innermost coat of blood vessels, usually caused by trauma. Cooper is engaged in promising preliminary research showing that intimal hyperplasia can be slowed by exposing injured cells to stem cell-based suspensions or concentrations. The goal of stem cell therapies would be to decrease the acute intimal hyperplasia response to endothelial interventions so that arteries remain open longer in the presence and absence of stents.

Epigenetic Therapy Research Expands at MD Anderson at Cooper
The exploration of the use of epigenetic drugs to treat cancer and possibly identify an individual’s predisposition to cancer continues. Epigenetic therapy is being explored in the treatment of cancer of the pancreas, lungs, and breast and with hyperthermic intraportal chemotherapy, a cancer treatment that involves filling the abdominal cavity with heated chemotherapy drugs.
PREMIER INSTITUTES

• **MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper**, through a partnership with the nation’s leading cancer center, offers advanced multidisciplinary cancer treatments, innovative technologies, cutting-edge clinical trials, and comprehensive supportive care services.

• **The Surgical Services Institute** offers advanced treatment options in 12 specialty surgical areas, including ear, nose, and throat; pain management; colorectal; general; plastic and reconstructive; oral and maxillofacial; thoracic; urologic; and vascular. It is also home to the Cooper Aortic Center, the Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery Center, the Level I Adult Trauma Center, and the Level II Pediatric Trauma Center.

• **The Adult Health Institute** is an extensive network of primary and specialty care services, including dermatology and dermatologic surgery, endocrinology, family medicine, geriatric medicine, infectious disease, internal medicine, nephrology, palliative care, and pulmonary medicine. Cooper Digestive Health Institute, the largest freestanding endoscopic center in South Jersey, provides a full range of gastrointestinal services, with satellite offices throughout the region.

• **Cooper Heart Institute/Cardiac Partners** at Cooper and Inspira is one of the most comprehensive cardiovascular programs in the region, providing a full range of heart care, from prevention and diagnosis to the most innovative nonsurgical techniques and surgical treatments, including stenting procedures, heart surgery, and minimally invasive procedures. These services span everything from diagnosis to advanced heart surgery to cardiac rehabilitation.

• **Cooper Bone and Joint Institute** offers high-quality orthopaedic care with the latest technological advances. The integrated team includes fellowship-trained and board-certified experts in orthopaedics, rheumatology, podiatry, and rehabilitation for arthritis pain, sprains and strains, tendon or ligament injury, tendinitis, broken bones, dislocations, trauma, and more.

• **Cooper Neurological Institute (CNI)** is dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of neurological and neurosurgical issues, including epilepsy, movement disorders, headache, and trauma as well as brain, spine, and pituitary cancer. The CNI is recognized as a Comprehensive Stroke Center by The Joint Commission.

• **The Women’s and Children’s Institute** is home to the Children’s Regional Hospital at Cooper, South Jersey’s only state-designated hospital for children, offering 27 pediatric subspecialties. Women’s health care services include obstetrics and gynecology, maternal-fetal medicine, urogynecology, and the Ripa Center for Women’s Health and Wellness at Cooper, which provides primary and multispecialty care, radiology services, and wellness education.

• **The Urban Health Institute** is redesigning health care to meet the needs of an underserved population. Its founding principle is to ensure that community residents have access to quality preventive care and the tools to manage complex medical conditions. This institute includes Cooper Advanced Care Center, with primary care and medical and surgical specialties, and the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers, whose key role is knowledge dissemination and communication among organizations in Camden.

• **The Center for Critical Care Services** provides the highest level of lifesaving inpatient care for seriously ill and injured patients. The Center is staffed by physician experts in sepsis, cardiogenic shock, and respiratory failure.

• **The Center for Urgent and Emergent Services** provides 24/7 access to immediate care, whether through the emergency department, 911 emergency medical services, toxicology, disaster medicine, air medical services, or the transfer center. Cooper urgent care centers take emergency department staffing to the community and offer extended day, evening, and weekend hours for patients of all ages.

• **The Center for Population Health** helps Cooper to implement new patient care strategies to improve patient experience and reduce costs.

• **The Center for Trauma Services** is a Level I Adult Trauma Center and Level II Pediatric Trauma Center that cares for severely injured patients involved in motor vehicle crashes, falls, industrial accidents, and acts of violence. It offers an active community education program in trauma prevention and safety. Cooper is the only hospital in the region that provides trauma care for adults and children.

Although COVID-19 was—and still is—an unthinkable tragedy, it allowed Cooper to demonstrate the tremendous leadership, compassion, and expertise of its team. As a prominent academic health system, Cooper is emerging from this pandemic stronger and more hopeful than ever.

GEORGE E. NORCROSS III
CHAIRMAN