2018 AT A GLANCE

- Employees: 7,695
- Medical Staff: 907
- Licensed Beds: 635
- Hospital Admissions: 28,716
- Emergency Department Visits: 80,802
- Urgent Care Visits: 46,511
- Outpatient Visits (Hospital and Physician Offices): 1,672,772
- Outpatient Locations: 105+
- Surgical Cases: 23,110
- Trauma Cases: 3,766
- Cancer Visits
  - Inpatient: 3,083
  - Outpatient: 120,160
- Transfers from Area Hospitals: 7,357

OUR MISSION

To Serve.
To Heal.
To Educate.

We accomplish our mission through innovative and effective systems of care and by bringing people and resources together, creating value for our patients and the community.

OUR VISION

Cooper University Health Care will be the premier health care provider in the region, driven by our exceptional people delivering a world-class patient experience, one patient at a time, and through our commitment to educating the providers of the future.
Dear Friends,

Cooper University Health Care has deep roots in Camden, a connection that is demonstrated by more than 130 years as an anchor institution. In recent years our city has been undergoing significant revitalization, and we are proud to be a leader in this effort to make Camden a better, safer, and healthier place to live and work.

As the leading academic health system in the region, we are honored that more people than ever are choosing Cooper for their health care needs. Cooper employees feel a sense of responsibility to provide for and ensure the health and well-being of the residents of this city and this region. This report illustrates how we take that responsibility to heart, as we further our mission to serve, to heal, and to educate. Notably:

- Investing in our community through education, job creation, career training, and a new $15 minimum wage for our employees. Cooper was the first health system in the state to increase its minimum wage, and other health systems in the tristate area followed our lead
- Employing the largest number of Camden residents
- Expanding our clinical services and facilities to meet the growing demand—from new operating rooms and a diagnostic mammography center, to updated landscaping, pedestrian crossings and parks, Emergency Department expansion, and a new power plant on the Health Sciences Campus
- Extending our care beyond the walls of our hospital, through myriad community-based initiatives including health screenings, school outreach, and support of Camden youth sports programs

Cooper is proud to be a catalyst working to transform our community for the better. In fact, Camden’s employment rate has increased 24.7 percent in the past few years—with 55.4 percent of the jobs in the health care and education sectors. Camden’s poverty rate has dropped 25 percent, as more residents are getting back to work—many at jobs that didn’t exist in previous years. And our neighborhoods are safer: the crime rate is at a 50-year low, thanks to an aggressive community-policing program.

As Camden continues this exciting upward trajectory, Cooper remains committed to its success by meeting the health care needs of the community we are privileged to serve.

Sincerely,

George E. Norcross III
Chairman
Board of Trustees
Newly renovated hospital helipad that supports Cooper's Trauma and Critical Care transport services. Updated safety enhancements help us better serve our patients needing these advanced life-saving services.
2018: An Award-Winning Year for Cooper

Cooper’s commitment to delivering consistently high-quality, advanced care continues to earn us local and national recognition. We’re proud to announce that Cooper received these accolades in 2018:

- The New Jersey Hospital Association presented Cooper and the Deborah Heart and Lung Center’s HeroCare Connect program its Community Outreach Award, recognizing our dedication to serving veterans, active military, and their families by streamlining their access to specialty care.
- Cooper improved its Leapfrog Group Hospital Safety Grade from a C to a B in 2018.
- Cooper was named to the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s Get With The Guidelines Stroke Silver Plus and Target: Stroke Honor Roll-Elite level for the quality of our stroke care.
- Verified Trauma Center status from the American College of Surgeons through 2020 for our Level I Trauma Center, and through 2021 for our Level II Pediatric Trauma Center.
- Cooper’s Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery Center earned accreditation from the American College of Surgeons Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program.
- Our Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery Center also received recognition from Advanta Institutes of Quality: Bariatric Surgery Network.
- The American Orthopaedic Association gave Cooper its Star Performer Recognition Award for the Cooper Bone and Joint Institute’s Own the Bone® initiative.
- AllCare Health Alliance, Cooper’s Accountable Care Organization, was awarded the Medicare ACO High Performance Award by Premier in the category Generated Savings to Medicare.
- City of Camden officials recognized the Cooper Emergency Medical Services (EMS) team for Outstanding Lifesaving Efforts.
- Cooper was the recipient of multiple eHealthcare Leadership Awards, including Best Internet Home Page (Gold Award), Best Overall Internet Site (Silver Award), and Best Doctor Directory (Platinum Award).
- The prestigious U.S. News & World Report recognized Cooper as a High Performer (its top category) for two procedures/conditions: Colon Cancer Surgery and Heart Failure.
- Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey recognized Cooper as a Blue Distinction Center+ for bariatric surgery, cancer care, cardiac care, and maternity care.
- MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper received Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey Blue Distinction Center designation for cancer care.

2018 Major Facility Improvements

As demand for Cooper’s services continues to grow, so does our need for expanded facilities and programs. The past year saw significant achievements:

- Eight New Operating Rooms (OR) Bring System-Wide Total to 36
  - To meet the demand for Cooper’s expert surgeons, eight new ORs were added at the hospital, including two interventional procedure rooms for electrophysiology and a vascular lab, increasing the total number of ORs system-wide to 36. To support this expansion, we also added a new pre-operative and post-anesthesia care unit (PACU), completed major upgrades to our Central Sterile Processing procedures, and acquired new equipment.

- New iTRACK System Improves Emergency Department Patient Flow
  - As part of Cooper’s 5,500-square-foot Emergency Department (ED) expansion, which added new and much-needed state-of-the-art exam rooms, we also initiated an iTRACK system to improve the flow of patients through the ED, reducing patient wait times, and boosting patient and staff satisfaction.

Cooper Civic Leadership Award

To serve the people of Camden, Cooper launched an award program of its own, creating the Cooper Civic Leadership Award of $1,000 for a Rutgers University—Camden student who exemplifies outstanding service to the Camden community. The inaugural 2018 award was given to Shenelle Alexander, an undergraduate nursing student at Rutgers University—Camden, pictured here with Anthony Welch, VP of Government and Community Relations.
**Co-Generation Power Facility Nears Completion**
Work continued in 2018 on Cooper’s innovative co-generation facility, which will provide more efficient energy and power, cooling, and heating in the event of a power outage. The facility is scheduled to go online in April of 2019.

**Expanded Radiology Resources**
Cooper expanded some vital radiological imaging capabilities with the completion of two new fluoroscopy (medical imaging) rooms. In addition, two more fluoroscopy rooms and an X-ray room are scheduled for completion in 2019, followed by construction of an interventional radiology procedure room, and a pre-op and recovery unit for all of Radiology.

**Specialty Care Center in Cherry Hill**
In a major initiative, work has begun on a specialty care center on Route 70 in Cherry Hill that will house specialists in neurology, orthopaedics, cardiology, surgical services, and endocrinology, as well as physical/occupational therapy, outpatient laboratory services, and cardiac rehabilitation. Completion is slated for early 2020.

**New John E. Kostic Pediatric Outpatient Infusion Center Opens**
The John E. Kostic Pediatric Outpatient Infusion Center—made possible by a $400,000 donation to the Cooper Foundation from the John E. Kostic Memorial Foundation—was dedicated in February. The new center provides infusion therapy to infants, children, and adolescents who need IV therapy for acute and chronic illnesses including diabetes and other endocrine disorders, as well as blood, genetic, and gastrointestinal disorders. With this new outpatient unit, children in need of infusion services no longer have to be admitted to an inpatient unit.

**New Cooper Conference Center Readies for Opening**
Construction began on a new 10,000-square-foot Cooper Conference Center to be used as training and meeting rooms for physicians, residents, and medical school students as part of Cooper’s academic medical mission. The new, more easily accessible conference center is scheduled to be completed in spring of 2019 and will allow current training rooms to be transformed into state-of-the-art patient rooms in the hospital’s Roberts Pavilion.
The 2018 Cooper Norcross Run the Bridge was a huge success, with nearly 4,500 participants running in the 10K race or joining in the two mile walk. Proceeds of the race benefit the Larc School in Bellmawr, NJ, which serves students with a wide range of moderate to severe disabilities.
Giving Back to the Community

Cooper employees are focused on making the communities we serve healthier places to live, play, and work. These are highlights of how Cooper has served the community in 2018:

Operation Backpack Program Helps Students Succeed

Ensuring that students have the tools for a successful start to the school year, the Cooper Foundation provided more than 1,300 backpacks filled with school supplies to students at the KIPP Cooper Norcross Lanning Square and John Greenleaf Whittier schools, and the Center for Family Services Head Start students at Lanning Square. This initiative was made possible through the generosity of Cooper employees.

For the third consecutive year, Cooper’s Emergency Medical Services (EMS) met a key eight-minute response time national benchmark for advanced life-support calls—keeping the promise Cooper made to improve response times when it took over EMS.

This achievement is even more significant since Cooper’s EMS experienced a 47 percent increase in emergency calls for the year.

Prior to Cooper taking over EMS in 2016, an independent study indicated Advanced Life Support (ALS) responses in Camden met the eight-minute benchmark on only 70 percent of calls.

In the past year, Cooper EMS averaged 125 daily Basic Life Support (BLS) and ALS transport calls combined, up from an average of 104 daily dispatches in 2016 and 113 in 2017.

Teddy Bear Clinic Expands

More than 150 kindergartners participated in the “Teddy Goes to Cooper” program, designed to provide Camden schoolchildren with a positive encounter at Cooper to understand that it is a place for healing and care. In addition to the KIPP Cooper Norcross Academy, children from the U.S. Wiggins College Preparatory Lab Family School in Camden participated. Each child had the opportunity to see the inside of an ambulance and was given a stuffed teddy bear that received an “x-ray, stitches, and vaccinations” to educate children about common medical procedures.

Cooper Employees “Adopt” 150 Families for the Holidays

For the ninth year in a row, Cooper employees—through the Cooper Foundation and in partnership with Volunteers of America Delaware Valley—“adopted” 150 Camden families. The families received gift cards, toys, clothing, housewares, and other items, helping make their season brighter.

Summer Reading Program Keeps Children Engaged

Camden children participated in Cooper Learning Center’s Summer Reading Institute, which provides educational support to grade-school students when school isn’t in session. The program was offered at the KIPP Cooper Norcross Academy for its second summer, and for the first time was also offered at St. Anthony of Padua School in Cramer Hill—engaging some 60 students.

Cooper Day of Service

On June 28, Cooper doctors, nurses, administrative leaders, and allied health professionals fanned out across eight different sites in Camden, Burlington, and Gloucester counties for a day of community service. Cooper employees worked in community gardens, prepared meals at the Cathedral Kitchen, helped out at an animal shelter, organized donations at a food pantry, and volunteered with other community organizations in South Jersey.

Camden Families Benefit From Christmas Meals

The Cooper Foundation provided 150 Camden families with a turkey and all the side dishes (along with books and toys for the kids) for a warm, hearty, and healthy meal.

Cooper Launches Innovative School-Based Health Clinic

In September 2018, Cooper opened an innovative school-based health clinic at the KIPP Cooper Norcross Academy Lanning Square School to provide sick and well visits for students at KIPP, U.S. Wiggins College Preparatory Lab Family School, and Center for Family Services Head Start students. The goal of the clinic—which is part of the Camden Promise Neighborhood—is to keep students from missing valuable learning time and provide timely access to annual well visits. The Cooper-operated health clinic is supported through funding from the U.S. Department of Education. Cooper provides an advanced practice nurse and clinical practice specialist to administer care.

Helping Keep Kids Warm

The Cooper Foundation donated more than 200 new winter coats and gloves to students at the KIPP Cooper Norcross Academy at the start of the cold-weather season in 2018.

Cooper EMS Response Time Exceeds National Standards

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<table>
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<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tbody>
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Camden Health & Athletic Association
The Cooper Foundation, the Norcross Foundation, and AmeriHealth joined forces to create the Camden Health & Athletic Association (CHAA), a nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding Camden’s youth sports programs and health initiatives. In 2018:

- CHAA performed 150 free physicals for young athletes participating in sports programs in 2018.
- The organization hosted its inaugural Summer Youth Basketball League, a six-week competitive league with eight teams from across the city. CHAA also supported two other summer basketball programs in Camden, for a total of nearly 300 children ages 8 to 14 participating in CHAA’s summer basketball programs.
- CHAA established its first-ever Summer Golf Academy, introducing 11 Camden kids between 11 and 13 to the fundamentals of golf and to business and career opportunities associated with the game. The free six-week program, sponsored by the Michael’s Organization, which offered participants two-hour lessons twice a week, and supplied golf clubs and balls.

Camden children participating in the Camden Health & Athletic Association sports program photographed with Camden County Police officers.

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Camden children participating in the Camden Health & Athletic Association sports program photographed with Camden County Police officers.

Ninth Annual Summer in the City Music Festival Provides Free Fun
The Cooper Foundation kicked off its free Summer in the City Music Festival in the Park. This popular event brings the community together while showcasing the neighborhood parks and positive changes in the Cooper Plaza and Lanning Square neighborhoods. The festival is a collaboration of the Cooper Foundation, Cooper’s Ferry Partnership, Cooper Lanning Civic Association, Lanning Square West Residents in Action, sponsorships from the City of Camden, and Garden State Discovery Museum.

Dedication of Second KIPP Cooper Norcross Academy Middle School
National, state, and local leaders joined students, families, and teachers May 7 for the dedication of the KIPP Cooper Norcross Academy John Greenleaf Whittier Middle School, the third school to open under the Urban Hope Act—a pilot program to provide students in Camden, Newark, and Trenton access to new, quality public schools in their communities. The newly renovated school provides a rigorous college-preparatory curriculum beginning in the fifth grade and will expand to the eighth grade over the next two years, ultimately serving 440 Camden students.

The school offers guaranteed enrollment for children from adjacent neighborhoods.

Born Learning Trail Comes to Life
Cooper teamed up with the United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey and Parkside Business and Community in Partnership, Inc., to install a new Born Learning Trail at Farnham Park in Camden—the first of its kind in Camden County. A Born Learning Trail is a series of signs accompanied by colorful shapes and designs painted on the walkway to enhance learning. Cooper employees installed the signs and painted the walkway designs, demonstrating our commitment to giving back to the City of Camden.

Drills at the Camden Health & Athletic Association Summer Youth Basketball League.
Community Health: Promoting Wellness Beyond Hospital Walls

To help remove barriers to accessing health care, Cooper reaches out to the communities we serve, providing free services and resources where people live, work, and congregate. Some highlights of our 2018 Community Health initiatives:

Preventive Screenings at Local Health And Wellness Fairs
Preventive health care works—but only if people have access to it. That’s why Cooper takes its resources on the road to a variety of community-based health and wellness fairs. There we provide preventive screenings—partially for the uninsured and underinsured—so attendees can take steps to prevent onset of illnesses like diabetes or heart disease. In 2018, Cooper providers attended dozens of health fairs in the South Jersey region, performing hundreds of screening tests including foot and eye exams, skin checks for skin cancer, and stroke risk assessments to identify and educate on stroke risk factors.

Chronic-Disease Education Helps Residents Make Smart Health Choices
Because self-management is a vital part of living with a chronic disease, Cooper offered its first six-week program to educate and empower adults with such conditions as diabetes, high blood pressure, and congestive heart failure. Modeled on the respected Stanford Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, Cooper’s free program is offered on the Voorhees campus.

Community Health Education Extends Cooper’s Reach
Cooper’s physicians, nurses, and health educators regularly present on a number of health topics at community sites including workplaces, schools, churches, and community centers. In 2018, our experts were invited to speak at events on topics as diverse as substance abuse awareness, healthy lifestyle habits, nutrition, infant and child well care, smoking cessation, cancer, and heart disease.

Health Fairs for Kids Teach Good Health Habits
Children’s Regional Hospital at Cooper serves the children of southern New Jersey, allowing them to get the most advanced care close to home. For more than 12 years, the Children’s Regional Hospital at Cooper has hosted a health fair for children from the Veterans Memorial Family School, doubling attendance and Cooper’s impact on the community.

Cooper Helps Keep Kids Safe
Safe Kids Southern New Jersey provides dedicated staff, operational support, and other resources to keep kids safe. Among the initiatives we participated in last year:

- **Walk to School Day:** We partnered with Yorkshire Elementary School in Camden to provide pedestrian safety education to its nearly 600 students, walking to school with the children October 10.
- **Child passenger safety:** We held nine monthly programs at which car seats are checked for proper installation, along with workshops for parents and others who transport children. We installed more than 850 car seats and distributed more than 100 car seats to needy families.
- **Bike safety presentations in schools:** We partnered with local police departments to hold bike rodeos where children ride safely obstacle courses. We distributed more than 200 helmets to local children.
- **Home safety presentations:** Held at local centers such as Head Start, we distributed free home-safety devices to families in need. The topics included medication safety and fire prevention.
- **Water safety presentations for parents and children:** We distributed Designated Water Watcher tags with whistle lanyards to families.

In 2018, we expanded to include the U.S. Wiggins College Preparatory Lab Family School, doubling attendance and Cooper’s impact on the community.

Healthy snacks served as well. In 2018, we expanded to include the U.S. Wiggins College Preparatory Lab Family School, doubling attendance and Cooper’s impact on the community.

Cooper Foundation: Supporting Our Patients and Community

**Red Hot Gala Sets a New Fund-Raising Record**

The Eighth Annual Cooper Red Hot Gala raised a record-breaking $2.1 million to benefit the Ripa Center for Women’s Health and Wellness at Cooper, as well as women’s health programs throughout the health system. More than 1,000 attended the April 27 event, which has raised a total of $12.1 million since 2011—making it one of the region’s largest charitable fund-raisers. Last year’s event honored Robin L. Perry, MD, Chairman and Chief, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Terry Ricca, RN, Senior Vice President, Institute Strategy, Access, and Chief Experience Officer.

**Ninth Annual Pink Roses Teal Magnolias Brunch Raises $850,000**

More than 700 people attended the 2018 Pink Roses Teal Magnolias Brunch October 28, raising $850,000 for breast and gynecologic cancer research and clinical programs at MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper. The event honored Dianne Hyman, RN, Transition Care Manager; Pallav K. Mehta, MD, Director, Integrative Oncology, and Roland Schwaerting, MD, Chairman and Chief, Department of Pathology. It also included a Survivors March to recognize all cancer survivors in attendance. Since it was first held in 2010, the Pink Roses Teal Magnolias Brunch has raised funds totaling $5.35 million.

**Jim Fifis Lung Cancer Research Fund Dinner Raises $110,000**

Another Foundation initiative marking its eighth year in 2018 was the Jim Fifis Lung Cancer Research Fund Dinner, which raised $110,000 for the lung cancer program at MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper. More than 300 people gathered at Ponzo’s in Cherry Hill for the September 25 event, which celebrated the life of the longtime Ponzo’s owner before he died of lung cancer in 2007. Since its founding in 2011, the Fifis Fund has raised a total of $870,000 to support lung cancer clinical research, the high-risk lung cancer screening program, and several innovative tools for diagnosing and staging lung cancer.

**Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation Awards $982,000 Grant to Cooper Foundation**

The Cooper Foundation received a $982,000 grant from the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation to support the work of Cooper’s Urban Health Institute. These funds will support a new initiative—Reducing Disparities in Cardiovascular Care Through Optimization of Risk Factors in Vulnerable Populations—that will provide behavior-change support, focus attention on social determinants of health, connect patients to community resources, and enhance medication adherence with the help of an interdisciplinary team.

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Caring for U.S. Military and First Responders:
Serving Those Who Serve Us

As part of our mission, Cooper is committed to providing the highest quality health care to those who risk their lives for our country and our communities. In 2018, we continued to expand and enhance our portfolio of programs and services designed to meet the unique needs of active and retired military, veterans, their families, and first responders:

**HeroCare Connect Earns Recognition From NJ Hospital Association**

The year 2018 marked the first full year of operation for HeroCare Connect, an innovative partnership between Cooper and Deborah Heart and Lung Center. The program links South Jersey military families—active, veterans, and their dependents—with expedited access to specialty care, supplementing the primary care available on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. The concierge program offers initial appointments with a specialist within 24 to 48 hours. Since the launch of operations in June 2017, HeroCare Connect has coordinated initial specialist appointments for more than 3,000 patients at Cooper and Deborah.

**“Helping Our Heroes” Stay Healthy**

To help keep our first responders healthy, Cooper and the Camden County Board of Freeholders teamed up to offer “Helping Our Heroes,” a preventive screening program that offers the more than 2,800 active firefighters and EMIs in Camden County on-site cardiovascular risk assessments and annual wellness physicals, as well as preventive cancer screenings. More than 75 firefighters in Collingswood, Hi-Nella, Pennsauken, Washington Township, and Westmont took part in the free screenings last year.

**Training Military Trauma Teams**

Because of our expertise in trauma, surgery, and critical care, Cooper provides a wide range of military, diplomatic, and field-affairs training programs. In fact, Cooper is the only hospital in the nation to have trained elite medical providers from every U.S. military branch, as well as multiple local, state, and federal government agencies and international partners. Partnership programs include:

- **Army Military-Civilian Trauma Team Training (AMCT³) program**: This is the result of a 2017 congressional mandate aimed at advancing the military’s readiness by partnering with high-volume civilian trauma centers to gain critical skills.

- **Special Operations Combat Medic (SOCM) Training Course**: Cooper is one of only five hospitals in the country that provides training to Special Operations Combat Medics from the U.S. military’s Special Operations Command, which includes Army and Navy enlisted members who hold or are designated for assignment to a Special Operations Medical position. In 2018, Cooper provided eight 36-week training courses for 71 SOCMs.

- **U.S. State Department “Project Guardian” for Emergency Management Specialists**: This training program—the only one of its kind in the world—matches Emergency Management Specialists with Cooper trauma surgeons and physicians who treat patients in our high-volume trauma center and ED, providing five weeks of real-world experience to refresh their clinical skills. Emergency Management comprises physicians, physician assistants, and paramedics who serve in high-threat embassies, consulates, and active war zones.

- **FBI Hostage Rescue Team Training**: This program provides a clinical-skills refresher for physicians, physician assistants, and paramedics who serve in high-threat Department of Justice operations.

In 2018, Cooper entered into an agreement with the U.S. Army to provide advanced surgical trauma training to the Army’s elite Forward Resuscitation Surgical Team (FRST), making Cooper the first in the nation to provide this training. Through the program, a U.S. Army surgeon, emergency medicine physician, nurse anesthetist, intensive care nurse, and emergency nurse are fully embedded members of the Cooper clinical staff for three years to obtain firsthand training at Cooper’s high-volume, high-acuity trauma center.
On May 22, Cooper presented the 2018 Cooper Military Employee of the Year Award to trauma surgeon John Chovanes, DO, FACS, LTC, USAR MC, at a Memorial Day celebration for Cooper employees who are veterans or active military. It is one of two events held each year to honor employees with a military connection. (The other is held in conjunction with Veterans Day.)

After serving as an EMT, paramedic, ER nurse, and flight paramedic, Dr. Chovanes became a physician, completing a residency in general surgery and a double fellowship in trauma surgery and surgical critical care. While completing his medical training in July 2001, he enlisted as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve Medical Corps. On 9/11 Chovanes was among the first responders at the World Trade Center. He has continued to save lives as a civilian trauma surgeon and a military surgeon. He has completed five tours of duty in the Army Medical Corps, the most recent to the Middle East last year.

The Cooper Military Employee of the Year Award was established to formally recognize the outstanding contributions by a Cooper staff member to the health system, the community, and the nation—in support of Cooper’s mission to serve, to heal, to educate.

Stop the Bleed Training
Stop the Bleed (STB) training is part of a national initiative to put knowledge gained by first responders and the military into the hands of the public to help manage life-threatening bleeding in cases of acts of violence, motor vehicle accidents, or other disasters. With the aim of making STB training as common as CPR training, Cooper’s Trauma Division and EMS Outreach offer a free one-hour class at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University every other Wednesday, as well as at off-site locations such as churches and schools when requested. In 2018, Cooper held more than 60 STB classes, educating more than 1,200 lay people on how to apply tourniquets, pack a wound, and open a victim’s airway. Classes are taught by Cooper employees who volunteer their time to support this important program. Cooper’s EMS Outreach also provided STB training to emergency responders and other organizations on request, educating nearly 300 people.

Cooper Earns High Marks for Its Care of Military, Veterans, and First Responders
Cooper received grant funding from the New Jersey Department of Health to initiate a pilot program to further develop a comprehensive integrated care network in southern New Jersey to serve the needs of active military personnel, veterans, and first responders. The Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs evaluated Cooper’s performance, and determined that Cooper met all of its objectives, exceeding their goals and objectives in such areas as providing health care screenings, primary care visits, behavioral health evaluations, subspecialty care visits, and same-day appointments, leading to what the report called “overwhelming success.”

Cooper Honors Trauma Surgeon With Military Employee of the Year Award
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Cooper volunteers at the second annual Summerfest held at the Funplex in Mount Laurel. Veterans, military, and first responders who attended were offered a variety of health screenings—and a fun day with family.

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As a leading academic health system in the region, Cooper is home to highly advanced medical expertise and exceptional teams of physicians, nurses, and other caregivers. They not only possess outstanding clinical skills to treat illness and restore health, but also strive to empower patients to make the best choices in order to prevent disease. They demonstrate this commitment with every patient interaction, every day.

**Nursing: Outstanding People, Exemplary Care**

While the medical and technological aspects of nursing have significantly evolved since the time of Florence Nightingale, the essential role of the nurse remains the same: provide a safe and caring environment that promotes patient safety, healing, and well-being. We know that our effectiveness as a health care organization is inextricably linked to clinical skills and patient care—which is why we engage and attract the best and brightest nurses. Some highlights of our nurses’ achievements in 2018:

**Improving Safety and Efficiency**

Our nurses led multiple initiatives in 2018 to improve safety and efficiency. These included initiating daily safety huddles to further foster a culture of safety at Cooper; helping launch the iTRACK system in the Emergency Department to ease patient throughput and increase patient satisfaction; and participating in a multifaceted effort to reduce errors in Central Sterile Processing by 75 percent through education, team engagement, and equipment enhancement.

The nursing staff also partnered with Informatics, devising a nurse work list that could be updated instantly—a boost in efficiency and real-time documentation. With a focus on the patient experience, Roberts Pavilion Five, Six, Seven, and Nine, as well as the NICU, exceeded their goal for overall inpatient, “rate the hospital and communication with nurses scores”. The nurses’ role in the early identification of sepsis infections contributed to the successful achievement of a significant reduction in sepsis-related mortality. Cooper nurses collaborated with multidisciplinary teams to strive for positive patient outcomes related to infection prevention. Fall-reduction strategies included participation in the New Jersey Falls program, with a significant reduction in falls with injury, and performed better as compared with similar hospitals nationwide over the last 12 months.

**KUDOS**

Cooper nurses earned a multitude of well-deserved awards and recognition in 2018:

**2018 Nursing Excellence Awards**

These awards honored 22 nurses and collaborative care providers and teams for their outstanding contributions to excellence in patient care. Award winners were nominated by their colleagues for their commitment to upholding the Cooper mission. The theme for 2018’s Nursing Excellence Awards: “A Hero Lies in You.”

**Nurse of the Year: VINCENT PANNONE, RN, BSN**

Vincent Pannone, RN, BSN, of Sicklerville, NJ, was named Cooper’s Nurse of the Year at the 2018 Nursing Excellence Awards.

Pannone, who joined Cooper in 2016, is an Operating Room nurse who completed the hospital’s six-month Perioperative training program after earning his nursing degree. He received the Cooper Nurse of the Year Award and the Philip and Carole Norcross Award for Excellence in Perioperative Nursing. Pannone said he was surprised and honored to be singled out by his peers.

“I’m still so new, with so much yet to learn, I just never would have guessed that I’d be named Nurse of the Year,” he said. “Sometimes you’re just working so hard and you think no one’s watching, but others do see your work ethic and compassion. I’m grateful.”

**2018 DAISY Award Winners**

The DAISY Award is an international program to reward excellence in the nursing profession. It was created by the DAISY Foundation to recognize the extraordinary compassion, outstanding clinical skills, and personalized care nurses exhibit every day. Our 2018 award winners:

- Thomas Egan, RN
  Cardiac Care Unit (CCU)

- Nicholas Knight, RN
  Cardiology–Pavilion Nine

- Chevron Johnson, RN
  Surgical Intermediate Unit–Pavilion Six

- James Matthew Kucharski, RN
  Cardiac Intermediate Unit–Pavilion Nine

- Christine Yumang, RN
  Surgical Intermediate Unit–Pavilion Six

**MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper Nursing Accomplishments include:**

- Nursing department achieved the goal of reducing ED visits: Reduced patient utilization of Emergency Room visits, from 15 percent in 2016 to two percent in 2018
- First collaborative Nursing Conference with Rutgers in 2018 on Current Trends in Cancer Care
- Increased staff’s oncology certifications: Goal set at 50 percent, finished 2018 at 65 percent
- Expanded Triage protocols to link with key home care providers: Developed resource for improved at home assessment of our cancer patients
- Developed Care Transition Navigator role to enhance coordination between inpatient/outpatient transition impacting readmission rates
- Lung Nurse Navigator led the development of Tobacco cessation program and counseling with patients.

**A Focus on Professional Development**

Providing opportunities for professional development is an integral part of Cooper’s commitment to our nurses; this is reflected in the appointment of Jennifer Glendenning, RN, MSN, to the post of Assistant Vice President for Professional Development. In the realm of education and training, 12 nurses graduated from Cooper’s comprehensive Perioperative training program, and a nursing Grand Rounds program was initiated by our Advanced Practice Providers. Cooper’s Nurse Residency program provided supportive, sequential learning experiences including didactic classroom lectures, structured computer-based learning, and clinical experiences incorporating simulations and hands-on skill development to all new-to-practice nurses.

**Nursing Leadership Advancements**

Kathy Devore, RN, DHRN was appointed Chief Nursing Officer and Senior Vice President in October. In this role, she is responsible for professional nursing practice across the continuum of care, and has administrative and operational leadership responsibility for Nursing and Patient Care Services.
Celebrating Our Providers of the Quarter

The Provider of the Quarter Recognition Program is designed to recognize Cooper Physicians, Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs), Physician Assistants (PAs), and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) who were nominated by their peers for their professionalism, interpersonal skills, effective communication, teamwork, and dedication to research and education. Nominees exemplify our core values and service standards and demonstrate achievement of results to further Cooper’s strategic imperatives.

Notable Physician Appointments and Achievements

Cooper is the only academic medical center based in South Jersey, and employs more than 630 physicians and surgeons in more than 75 specialties. We continue to expand—adding top physicians in their fields, the most advanced services, cutting-edge programs—to meet the needs of our community.

We attract some of the most highly trained and experienced physicians, surgeons, and advanced practice nurses in the nation. Here are some of their achievements in the past year:

**New Physician-Led Training Initiatives**

As part of Cooper’s commitment to training the next generation of physicians:

- **Nadir Ahmad, MD, FACS**, Head of the Division of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery, spearheaded establishment of an ear, nose, and throat (ENT) residency program at Cooper in 2018—one of the first new programs of its kind in the U.S. in more than a decade
- **Kristin L. Brill, MD, FACS**, Program Director, Janet Knowles Breast Cancer Center, and Director, Section of Breast Surgery, was named program director for a new breast surgical oncology fellowship program at MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper
- **Todd L. Siegal, MD**, Interim Vice Chair/Chief of Radiology, led the establishment of a one-year Women’s Imaging Fellowship, the first such program in South Jersey

**Kudos**

- **Warren R. Heymann, MD**, received the 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Medical Dermatological Society
- **Kaitlan Baston, MD, MSc**, was an Innovation Hero finalist for NJ Biz’s 2018 Healthcare Heroes Awards

**FIRST QUARTER**

**Nadir Ahmad, MD, FACS**  
Head of the Division of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery  
Director of the Head and Neck Cancer Program at MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper  
Associate Professor of Surgery at the Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

**SECOND QUARTER**

**Richard D. Lackman, MD**  
Associate Director of the Division of Orthopaedic Oncology within the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery  
Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at the Cooper Medical School of Rowan University  
Adjunct Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston

**THIRD QUARTER**

**Lisa B. Butler, MSN, APN**  
Lead APN for the Center for Urgent and Emergent Services (CUES)

**FOURTH QUARTER**

**Gregory J. Kubicek, MD**  
Co-Director of Neuro-Radiosurgery at MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper  
Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology at the Cooper Medical School of Rowan University  
Adjunct Professor of Radiation Oncology at the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston

Kaitlan Baston, MD, MSc  
was named Medical Director, Addiction Medicine, at Cooper’s Urban Health Institute

Erik C. Freeland, DO  
became the new Division Head for Foot and Ankle Surgery

Stephen W. Trzeciak, MD, MPH  
accepted the post of the Edward D. Viner Chair of Medicine and Medical Director of Cooper’s Adult Health Institute

Eric E. Kupersmith, MD, SFHM  
was named Chief Physician Executive. He joined Cooper in 1995 and served as Chief Medical Officer and Senior Vice President of Hospital Operations with oversight of hospital-based services
MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper
Cooper’s partnership with the renowned MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston continues to transform cancer care in the South Jersey region. It’s no surprise—the Texas facility has been named one of the leading hospitals for cancer care by U.S. News & World Report 14 times in the past 17 years, including 2018. With the clinical integration between our two programs, MD Anderson at Cooper physicians adhere to the same philosophy, process, and guidelines—and patients here benefit from the same proven practice standards and treatment protocols as in Houston.

MD Anderson at Cooper has become a leading cancer center in the region with more than 100,000 treatment encounters and 70,000 physician visits in a single year, ranking as the first choice for cancer care among patients surveyed by an independent research firm.

The cancer center team launched three innovative clinical programs in 2018—the Rare Cancers Program, Second Opinion Program, and the Aerodigestive Program (for the diagnosis and treatment of esophageal cancer). Through these new programs, we broaden the scope of services to meet the unique needs of cancer patients.

Here’s a look at some of the notable milestones of 2018:

**MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper anniversary event.**

**Cooper Hosts Biden Cancer Community Summit**
On September 21, MD Anderson at Cooper—in conjunction with U.S. Congressman Donald Norcross—participated in the national Biden Cancer Community Summit to hear local perspectives on treatment, proposals for federal actions, and personal stories from a panel of cancer survivors, family caregivers, doctors, and nurses. The Biden Cancer Initiative was launched to form a cohesive, comprehensive, and timely approach to cancer prevention, diagnosis, research, and care.

**New Breast Surgical Oncology Fellowship Program**
MD Anderson at Cooper received approval from the Society of Surgical Oncology to establish the only Breast Surgical Oncology Fellowship Program in South Jersey—one of 52 programs in the nation—affirming the quality of the curriculum and faculty at our cancer center. The new program will enable Cooper to prepare surgeons to become experts in the surgical management of breast cancer and advanced surgical techniques. The Janet Knowles Breast Cancer Center at MD Anderson at Cooper is one of the region’s leading providers of comprehensive breast cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment services.

**New Outpatient Diagnostic Mammography Center**
Expanding to meet growing patient demand, MD Anderson at Cooper opened a new outpatient diagnostic mammography center on its Camden campus in 2018. This one-stop center offers diagnostic mammograms, biopsies, and ultrasound services. The space includes a consultation area, reading room, and comfortable waiting areas for patients. The facility also provides a separate waiting area for male patients.

**Cancer Screenings Help Save Lives**
MD Anderson at Cooper is committed not only to providing the best possible care to people who have cancer, but also to make screening and early detection as accessible as possible—especially for the underinsured population.

Our screening clinics provide more than 2,700 free or low-cost screenings for breast, cervical, prostate, colorectal, skin, and oral cancer for those who may not have the resources to access these life-saving services.

**Subaru and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society “Blanket” Cancer Patients in Warmth**
In September, executives from Subaru of America’s corporate headquarters and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) delivered messages of hope and 100 specially made blankets to outpatients at MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper. Their aim was to help encourage patients and keep them warm as they continue their fight against cancer. The event was part of an initiative by Subaru of America and LLS to provide much needed support and “warmth” to cancer patients and their families in communities across the country.

**Breast Imaging Fellowship**
Cooper received accreditation from the Society of Breast Imaging to offer the first Women’s Imaging Fellowship in South Jersey. One candidate will enter into the program each year starting in the 2020-21 academic year. The Cooper Breast Imaging Center is a high-volume breast imaging center with offices in Voorhees and Camden. The center offers the full array of breast imaging and image-guided procedures including digital mammography, digital breast tomosynthesis, contrast-enhanced spectral mammography, ultrasound, and breast MRI. We have five fellowship-trained breast imagers within the Department of Radiology to serve our patients with the highest level of care. Since partnering with MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, our growing patient population and our level of expertise rival some of the finest breast programs in the country.

**Celebrate Our Five-Year Anniversary**
Cooper’s partnership with the renowned MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston continues to transform cancer care in the South Jersey region. It’s no surprise—the Texas facility has been named one of the leading hospitals for cancer care by U.S. News & World Report 14 times in the past 17 years, including 2018. With the clinical integration between our two programs, MD Anderson at Cooper physicians adhere to the same philosophy, process, and guidelines—and patients here benefit from the same proven practice standards and treatment protocols as in Houston.

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TO EDUCATE

2018 Cooper Medical School of Rowan University Commencement
As an academic health system, teaching is a core component of Cooper’s mission to train the next generation of medical professionals. In their roles as faculty members at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University (CMSRU), our physicians are committed to sharing the knowledge and experience they have acquired with the next generation of physicians. And through their research, they can affect countless patients’ lives for generations to come.

**Strengthening the Region’s Workforce**

As the largest employer of Camden’s residents, Cooper continually invests in the community through education, job creation, and career training. Here are a few examples:

- **Medical Assistant Training Program**: Established to fill the need for entry-level medical assistants in Camden, this Cooper program offers trainees full-time employment at Cooper or at another local health-care system on completion.

- **Cooper Health Careers Initiative**: A partnership with Camden County and Hopeworks, this program provides free medical-coding training for Camden residents—and a job at Cooper on completion.

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**Cooper Medical School of Rowan University**

Since opening on the Cooper Health Sciences Campus in 2012, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University (CMSRU) has graduated 173 new physicians, helping address the critical shortage of doctors in our region and beyond.

**Hosting a Major Research Symposium**

In October, CMSRU hosted Advancing Research in Camden—a major Rowan University–wide biomedical- and bioengineering-focused research symposium. It included plenary sessions by two nationally renowned keynote speakers, a poster session with 130 different presentations by Rowan faculty research scientists, and ample opportunity for networking. More than 350 people attended the inaugural event aimed at promoting collaboration in research.

**Sixth Annual Berkowitz Family Foundation Lecture**

The featured speaker at the 2018 Berkowitz Family Foundation Lecture, Daniela Lamas, MD—author of *You Can Stop Humming Now: A Doctor’s Stories of Life, Death, and In Between*—discussed her innovative approach to caring for patients struggling to cope with the challenges of life with chronic illness. This well-attended annual lecture for medical students and faculty is presented by the Cooper Foundation, Cooper University Health Care, and CMSRU and is funded by the Berkowitz Family Foundation.

**CMSRU Researchers Help Discover 11 New Epilepsy Genes**

Professors in the Department of Biomedical Science at CMSRU collaborated on an important study published December 10 in *Nature Communications* that identifies 11 new epilepsy genes not previously linked to the disorder. The discovery triples the number of known susceptibility genes for epilepsy and provides critical clues for future research. The CMSRU neuroscientists are members of an international consortium to identify genes that cause epilepsy. CMSRU, in partnership with Cooper University Health Care, is the eighth clinical site to join the Philadelphia Consortium. An Institutional Review Board approval is in place to begin collecting epilepsy-patient tissue samples at Cooper beginning in 2019.

**Camden Institutions Partner to Research Ways to Fight Opioid Addiction**

Opioid overdoses continue to climb in New Jersey, with 2018 the deadliest year to date. To help fight this urgent public health concern, the Corell Institute for Medical Research, Cooper University Health Care, and CMSRU launched the Camden Opioid Research Initiative (CORI), a first-of-its-kind undertaking to investigate the genetic and biological factors that contribute to the development of opioid-use disorder. CORI will take a three-pronged approach to its research, including a novel biobank of biological samples collected from individuals who have died from an overdose, along with a pair of studies to investigate the genetic and nongenetic factors that underlie opioid-use disorder.

**New ENT Residency Program**

Cooper and CMSRU received approval in 2018 from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) to establish an otolaryngology head-and-neck surgery (ENT) residency program. This highly specialized surgical training program is only the second of its kind in the state. ENT residency training is in high demand and typically one of the most competitive residency programs nationally. Cooper will welcome its first ENT resident to the five-year training program in 2019.

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**CMSRU's Class of 2018**

Match Day for the Medical School’s Class of 2018

Cooper Medical School of Rowan University’s Class of 2018 joined thousands of medical students and graduates around the world in learning the specialty and location of the residency programs where they will train for the next three to seven years during an exciting Match Day ceremony March 16. Thirty-five of the 73 CMSRU students will enter primary-care training programs, and 26 percent of the class will remain in New Jersey to complete their training—including 12 who matched at Cooper University Health Care. Nationally, students matched at a range of esteemed programs, including Baylor, Brown, Cornell, Duke, Georgetown, UC-Irvine, UCLA, University of Pennsylvania, and Yale.

**73 Newly Minted Physicians In CMSRU’s 2018 Graduating Class**

On May 11, 73 CMSRU students were awarded their medical degrees—the medical school’s third graduating class and the largest to date. The event was held on the University Green of Rowan University’s main campus in Glassboro. Attendees heard from guest speaker and CMSRU Medal of Excellence recipient Darrell G. Kirch, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Association of American Medical Colleges, who urged graduates to stay focused on the needs of their patients and be champions of those with socioeconomic barriers to the outstanding medical care available in the U.S.
Identical twins Samantha and Susana Collazo became the first Camden residents to earn medical degrees from Cooper Medical School of Rowan University in 2018. While they didn’t travel far to attend medical school, their journey is an inspiring one, fueled by love.

The youngest of six children, the twins grew up in a two-bedroom home in the Cramer Hill section of Camden. Their parents—a mechanic and a custodian—pushed them to excel academically at Harry D. Cahary Elementary School, Veterans Memorial Middle School, and Charles E. Brimm Medical Arts High School, a Camden magnet school for students interested in health careers.

Expectations from their teachers over the years were equally high. Notably, their Brimm genetics teacher inspired them to think about medical school after the twins aced a hugely difficult exam: he returned their graded tests with “Dr.” written before each of their names. His vote of confidence had an impact.

“It was the first time someone called me Dr. Collazo,” says Samantha, the eldest by five minutes. “And I was in 10th grade!”

The girls attended Rutgers University-New Brunswick together, earning bachelors’ degrees in exercise science and sport studies. Then they heard about CMSRU’s PULSE initiative (Premedical Urban Leaders Success in the Sciences program) connected them with Simon Wooten, a medical school student from Cooper Medical School of Rowan University in Morristown.

“PULSE made it obvious to Sam and I that CMSRU was where we wanted to be,” says Susana. “The program gave us the confidence that we were capable of being medical students.”

Their familiarity with the medical school through PULSE helped, they say. They also appreciated that CMSRU faculty members have an open-door policy that makes a real difference. The medical school’s active-style learning within a group setting also appealed to them.

Ultimately, it was the medical school’s mission to serve Camden residents that made CMSRU their ideal choice—a mission the twins took to heart.

While CMSRU students are required to complete 40 hours of community service, Samantha and Susana easily surpassed 100. They founded a CMSRU site for LUCY (Lifting Up Camden’s Youth), an outreach program targeting at-risk teens. They taught English as a Second Language to native speakers of Spanish and Russian; worked on blood drives; organized brown-bag meals for Camden residents for the American Red Cross; and led family connections activities at a local community center.

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His vote of confidence had an impact. “It was the first time someone called me Dr. Collazo,” says Samantha, the eldest by five minutes. “And I was in 10th grade!” The girls attended Rutgers University-New Brunswick together, earning bachelors’ degrees in exercise science and sport studies. Then they heard about CMSRU’s PULSE initiative (Premedical Urban Leaders Success in the Sciences program) connected them with Simon Wooten, a medical school student from Cooper Medical School of Rowan University in Morristown. “PULSE made it obvious to Sam and I that CMSRU was where we wanted to be,” says Susana. “The program gave us the confidence that we were capable of being medical students.” Their familiarity with the medical school through PULSE helped, they say. They also appreciated that CMSRU faculty members have an open-door policy that makes a real difference. The medical school’s active-style learning within a group setting also appealed to them. Ultimately, it was the medical school’s mission to serve Camden residents that made CMSRU their ideal choice—a mission the twins took to heart. While CMSRU students are required to complete 40 hours of community service, Samantha and Susana easily surpassed 100. They founded a CMSRU site for LUCY (Lifting Up Camden’s Youth), an outreach program targeting at-risk teens. They taught English as a Second Language to native speakers of Spanish and Russian; worked on blood drives; organized brown-bag meals for Camden residents for the American Red Cross; and led family connections activities at a local community center.

Samantha and Susana agreed that being close to their family while attending medical school was extremely helpful. Fittingly, they are now in residencies in Camden. Samantha is training in obstetrics and gynecology, while Susana is training in pediatrics. They applied for a “couple’s match” and landed residencies together at Atlantic Health System in Morristown. They are delighted to call CMSRU their medical school alma mater.

Medical School Receives $2 Million Grant To Enhance Primary Care

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, awarded a five-year, $2 million grant to CMSRU for its Champions for Health Advancement Through Mentoring and Primary Care Partnerships (CHAMPP) program. CHAMPP will enhance primary care by establishing a fellowship program to train and mentor community-based physicians and physician assistants, training fellows in methods to improve access to care, quality, and cost so they can bring their training back to their community primary-care practices.

Street Medicine: CMSRU Students Help The Homeless Where They Live

Every Saturday morning, regardless of the weather, about two dozen students participating in CMSRU’s Street Medicine Outreach provide support, supplies, basic medical care, and health screenings to homeless individuals in the encampments where they reside. They also help connect the homeless with primary care clinics as well as community resources and social services. This is one of numerous ways medical students give back: during the 2017-18 academic year, CMSRU’s 300 students completed more than 316,000 hours of service to the Camden community.

Research: Expanding the Frontiers of Medicine

Cooper’s research mission is to harness innovation to improve the standard of care for the people we serve, through a collaborative effort with the Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, as well as other leading academic centers and corporate partners. Our research program also provides training experience for residents in the Department of Surgery, as well as fellows from MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper. Our research is translational. This means that our projects strive to translate findings from the bench into real-world medical practice in order to affect health outcomes. We currently focus on regenerative medicine, trauma-based wound healing, and epigenetics. Highlights from 2018:

New Osteoarthritis (OA) Pain Therapy Under FDA Review

Cooper University Health Care has served as the primary site and core lab for an FDA investigational device exemption (IDE) clinical study for treating osteoarthritis pain, with Lawrence S. Miller, MD, Chairman and Chief of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery, serving as principal investigator. The study has been submitted to the FDA for approval and, if successful, will mark one of the first approved uses of liposuction cell therapy for treating OA pain in the knee—a major advance that will benefit OA sufferers around the world.

Medical Marijuana Grand Rounds

In a sign of the changing times, CMSRU and Cooper University Health Care hosted New Jersey Health Commissioner Shereef Elnahal, MD, for a special Grand Rounds lecture last September about the state Department of Health’s Medical Marijuana program. In the CE-accredited lecture to medical students, residents, and faculty, Dr. Elnahal noted that more than 22,000 patients, 650 physicians, and 3,000 caregivers were participating in the New Jersey program at that time, and that five new qualifying medical conditions had been added.
Cooper Launches Study into the Effect of Cannabis on Wound Healing

Last year Cooper initiated a research effort to study the effect of cannabis on surgical-wound healing. With all the legislation moving forward in the U.S. to approve cannabis for various medical purposes, there has been no assessment of its safety and efficacy when it comes to surgical-wound healing. This study seeks to provide information based on scientific evidence.

Five Surgeons Join Cooper’s Research Efforts

Five surgeons joined Cooper’s research program in 2018—a big leap for our program, according to Spencer A. Brown, PhD, Director of Surgical Research.

On the Forefront of Medical Research

Our medical staff—who serve as faculty at the Cooper Medical School of Rowan University—are engaged in an array of publicly and privately funded research projects. Last year CMSRU faculty received nearly $10 million in research funding and published 433 scholarly research articles.

Two Cooper Proposals Under Consideration By the U.S. Department of Defense

Due to Cooper’s focus on research in the area of wound healing and infections, we were invited to submit two full proposals to the U.S. Department of Defense in 2018. This is significant because applicants usually must submit a pre-proposal for review prior to submitting a full proposal. Cooper is proposing to work with a novel biotech company that makes an antibiotic-laden material, which can be bioengineered and customized for individual patient needs.

Engaging and Teaching the Next Generation of Researchers

As part of our mission to serve, Cooper’s Surgical Research operation is involved in various initiatives to engage and teach the next generation of physician-scientists:

- Nearly a dozen CMSRU medical students are involved in our projects
- We have certified lab rotation with Rowan College at Burlington County, offering an introduction to our research enterprise at the community-college level to hand-selected students
- Every year, four residents and one fellow complete their research rotation in Surgical Research

Cooper Research Institute

Premier Institutes

- MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper, through a partnership with one of the nation’s leading cancer centers, offers advanced, multidisciplinary cancer treatment, innovative technologies, cutting-edge clinical trials, and comprehensive supportive care services.
- Surgical Services Institute offers advanced surgical options in 12 specialty areas including ear, nose, and throat; pain management; colorectal; general; plastic and reconstructive; oral and maxillofacial; thoracic; urology; 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.
- Adult Health Institute provides coordinated care via Cooper’s extensive network of primary and specialty care services, including dermatology and dermatologic surgery, endocrinology, family medicine, geriatric medicine, infectious diseases, internal medicine, nephrology, palliative care, and pulmonary medicine. It is also home to the Cooper Digestive Health Institute—South Jersey’s largest freestanding endoscopic center, providing 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. Our combined services span everything from diagnosis to advanced heart surgery and cardiac rehabilitation.
- Center for Critical Care Services provides the highest level of life-saving inpatient care for the seriously ill and injured. The Center is staffed by physician experts in sepsis, cardiogenic shock, and respiratory failure, and serves as a major referral source for area hospitals.
- 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. Our Urgent Care centers take ED staffing out to the community and offer extended day, evening, and weekend hours for patients of all ages.
- 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 orthopedics, rheumatology, podiatry, and rehabilitation for arthritis, pain, sprains and strains, tendon or ligament injuries, tendinitis, broken bones, dislocations, trauma, and more.
- Cooper Neurological Institute (CNI) is specifically dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of neurological and neurosurgical issues including epilepsy, movement disorders, headache, trauma to the brain, spine problems, and pituitary cancer. The CNI is recognized as a Comprehensive Stroke Center by the Joint Commission, the national accreditation and certification organization.
- 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—and the Ripa Center for Women’s Health and Wellness at Cooper, which provides primary and multispecialty care, radiology services, and wellness education.
- 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 when needed. This includes the 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 the City of Camden.