

2024 | EXTRAORDINARY HAPPENS HERE.

Annual Report



April 2025



Dear Friends,

We are proud to present Cooper University Health Care's 2024 Annual Report—a reflection of our unwavering commitment to our mission: to serve, to heal, to educate. This year, we celebrate remarkable growth, transformative milestones, and national recognition that reinforce our position as South Jersey's leading academic health system.

One of the most significant milestones of 2024 was Cooper's continued growth. Cooper is advancing its \$3 billion Project Imagine—a transformative expansion of our Camden campus. This critical investment underscores our enduring commitment to exceptional health care, economic growth, and opportunity in Camden and the region. Cooper's Moorestown campus, our largest ambulatory facility, fully opened with its state-of-the-art outpatient surgical center, physical therapy, medical imaging, and MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper's Radiation Oncology and Infusion Center.

On July 1, 2024, Cape Regional Health System officially became part of Cooper University Health Care, marking a historic moment for health care in Cape May and Atlantic counties. With this transition, Cape Regional Medical Center was renamed Cooper University Hospital Cape Regional, extending Cooper's award-winning clinical expertise and resources to the Jersey Shore community. MD Anderson at Cooper continued to strengthen its standing as one of the region's premier cancer centers by becoming the first in the Philadelphia metro area—and among the first in the nation—to offer two new groundbreaking cancer treatments.

Cooper continues to defy the national trend of health systems in financial crisis. Over the past seven years, Cooper has experienced strong patient volume growth as well as double-digit revenue growth. **Cooper earned an historic A+ credit rating from Fitch Ratings**, marking the highest credit rating in the organization's 137-year history. **Cooper was also ranked a Top Regional Hospital** and as a high-performing hospital nationally in 11 specialty services by *U.S. News & World Report*. Additionally, *Newsweek* recognized Cooper as **one of America's Best-in-State Employers**—a testament to the dedication of our exceptional team.

Cooper had another successful year in 2024. We are honored that more people than ever trust Cooper University Health Care for their health care needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'George E. Norcross, III'.

George E. Norcross, III
Chairman, Board of Trustees

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kevin M. O'Dowd, JD'.

Kevin M. O'Dowd, JD
Co-President/CEO

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anthony J. Mazzarelli, MD, JD, MBE'.

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

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AWARDS

As a leading academic health system, Cooper is recognized both regionally and nationally for high quality of care. We are proud to have received:



Cooper Earns an A+ Credit Rating from Fitch Ratings—The Highest in Its 137-Year History
Cooper University Health Care has achieved a historic milestone by earning an A+ credit rating from Fitch Ratings, marking the highest credit rating in the organization's 137-year history. This prestigious rating reflects Cooper's strong financial performance, stability, and continued growth as a leading health care provider in the region.

**WE RECEIVE
AWARDS
BECAUSE WE
DON'T FOCUS
ON THEM.**



U.S. News & World Report recognized Cooper as one of the top hospitals in New Jersey and the Philadelphia region. Cooper also ranked as a high-performing hospital nationally in 10 specialty services and received recognition for equitable access.



The American Heart Association awarded Cooper the following recognitions:
Get with the Guidelines® Gold Plus with Target: Heart Failure Honor with Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll
Get with the Guidelines® Gold Plus with Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite, Advanced Therapy: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll

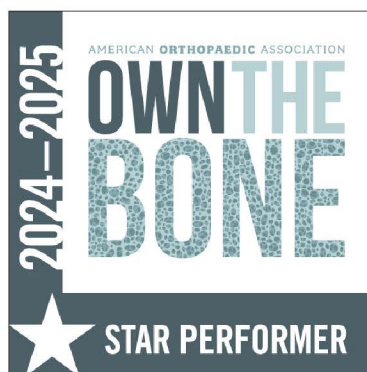
Cooper was again named one of **America's Best Employers by Forbes**, one of the nation's leading business publications – one of only 12 health systems in New Jersey to make the Forbes list.



Cooper is recognized by the **American College of Surgeons for surgical quality** and maintaining the highest standards in surgical care.

Newsweek named Cooper one of **America's Best Maternity Hospitals** and two of its surgeons among **America's Best Vascular Surgeons** and **America's Best Prostate Cancer Surgeons**.





The American Orthopaedic Association presented the Cooper Bone and Joint Institute with the **Star Performer Recognition Award** for its Own the Bone® program.



WebMD®

Cooper was recognized as a **WebMD Patient Choice** for outstanding care in several specialties and was a **Medscape Provider Choice** in cardiology and oncology.



Cooper earned **The Joint Commission Gold Seal of Approval®** and the **American Heart Association/ American Stroke Association Heart-Check mark** for Advanced Certification for Comprehensive Stroke Centers.



Cooper is recognized as a **Blue Distinction Center+ for Cardiac Care** in the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association's Blue Distinction Specialty Care program.



TRI-STATE HRMA

Cooper was recognized as a
Regional Large Company HR Department of the Year
at the Tri-State Human Resource Management
Association Annual Awards.

Cooper earned the designation of **LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality High Performer**
in the HRC Foundation's Healthcare Equality Index.

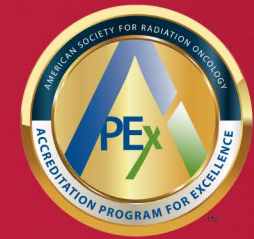


**LAUDED BY OUR PEERS.
APPLAUDED BY OUR PATIENTS.**

MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER AT COOPER

THE REGION'S LARGEST AND MOST EXPERIENCED CANCER TEAM

MD Anderson at Cooper is the region's leading cancer center. Recognized for our **comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach to cancer care**, our patients benefit from cutting-edge diagnostic and treatment technologies, personalized care plans, and access to cancer specialists across all cancer types. Our team is committed to advancing cancer care through groundbreaking clinical research and providing a full spectrum of supportive services, all while ensuring an exceptional patient experience.



Pictured at the Radiation Oncology Center in Mt. Laurel are (left) **Anthony Dragun, MD**, Chairman and Chief, Department of Radiation Oncology and (right) **Gary A. Eastwick, MD**, Radiation Oncologist.

MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper Achieves Accreditation for Excellence in Radiation Oncology Services

In April, MD Anderson at Cooper achieved certification by the American Society for Radiation Oncology's Accreditation Program for Excellence (APEX) for its Camden, Voorhees, and Mount Laurel locations. This prestigious accreditation recognizes the high-quality, patient-centered care provided by the center's radiation oncology team. This achievement reflects our commitment to safety, quality, and exceptional patient care. Cooper University Hospital Cape Regional Radiation Oncology also received APEX accreditation in 2024.

NO ONE FIGHTS CANCER ALONE.

MD Anderson at Cooper Prostate Cancer Surgeon Named Among America's Best in 2024

Jeffrey J. Tomaszewski, MD, Head, Division of Urology and Director, Genitourinary Oncology Center at MD Anderson at Cooper, was named one of America's Best Prostate Cancer Surgeons by Newsweek and Statista. He is one of only 150 surgeons nationwide to receive this prestigious honor.

Dr. Tomaszewski and the urologic oncology team are among the few skilled in performing Retzius-sparing prostatectomy, which significantly improves post-operative continence and enhances early return of erectile function. MD Anderson at Cooper urologic oncologists perform almost all prostatectomies using this approach.

TOP DOCTORS



Pink Roses Teal Magnolias Heroes



Christina S. Chu, MD, FACOG



Pauline Germaine, DO



Rebecca J. Jaslow, MD

More than 350 guests attended the Pink Roses Teal Magnolias fundraising brunch held in October to benefit MD Anderson at Cooper breast and gynecologic cancer programs. This year's event recognized three exceptional physicians—**Christina S. Chu, MD, FACOG, Gynecologic Oncologist; Pauline Germaine, DO, Diagnostic Radiologist and Breast Imaging Specialist; and Rebecca J. Jaslow, MD, Medical Oncologist specializing in breast cancer and cancer genetics**—as the 2024 Pink & Teal Heroes for their relentless dedication to advancing cancer care. Their leadership and innovation reflect the event's core values of hope, healing, and community.

Hematologic Cancer Suite Ribbon Cutting

In November, MD Anderson at Cooper celebrated the opening of its new Hematologic Cancer Suite in Camden. This state-of-the-art facility is dedicated to the care of patients with blood cancers, including leukemia, lymphoma, and multiple myeloma.

The Hematologic Cancer Program is led by **Roger K. Strair, MD, PhD**, Director, Blood and Marrow Transplant and Cellular Therapy Program and, **Tulin Budak-Alpdogan, MD**, Head, Section of Hematology.



MD Anderson at Cooper Among First in the U.S. to Offer Groundbreaking Liver Cancer Treatment

MD Anderson at Cooper was one of only 20 cancer centers worldwide, and the first in New Jersey and the Philadelphia region, to offer histotripsy — a revolutionary new treatment for liver cancer. Histotripsy uses sound waves to destroy cancerous liver tumors. Studies show it has a 95% success rate in destroying tumors without harming surrounding tissues. **Young Ki Hong, MD, MPH, FACS, FSSO**, leads the team.



Members of the clinical team for the first histotripsy case (left to right): **Ashley Ziernicki, Operating Room Coordinator; Natasha Sabando, Surgical Technician; Janet Zerno, RN, Associate Director, Surgical Services; Doreen Morales, RN, Operating Room Nurse; and Young Ki Hong, MD, MPH, FACS, FSSO, Head, Division, Surgical Oncology.**

TO SERVE

Transforming Health Care in South Jersey: Cape Regional Becomes Part of Cooper

On July 1, 2024, Cooper University Health Care acquired Cape Regional Health System, marking a historic milestone in health care for Cape May and Atlantic counties. With this transition, Cape Regional Medical Center was renamed Cooper University Hospital Cape Regional, expanding Cooper's presence and commitment to delivering high-quality, advanced medical care to communities along the Jersey Shore. First announced in December 2022, and finalized after regulatory approval in May 2024, it represents a shared vision of excellence and accessibility in patient care.





Ryan P. McSorley, DO, General Surgeon

As South Jersey's leading academic health system and home to MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper, Cooper brings its award-winning clinical expertise and resources to Cape Regional, which is known for its patient-centered care. Cooper is committed to ensuring that residents and visitors of Cape May and Atlantic counties will have access to a broader range of primary and specialty care services.

With a commitment to excellence, customer service, and expanded access to advanced care in the communities we serve, Cooper continues to reinforce its role as the region's leading academic health system.



In Memoriam: Edward D. Viner, MD

Edward D. Viner, MD, Chief Emeritus of Cooper's Department of Medicine, Professor at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, and member of the Board of Trustees, passed away December 1. A pioneer in end-of-life care, Dr. Viner leaves a profound legacy of compassion, dedication to medicine, and service to the community.

Dr. Viner's distinguished career began at Harvard College, followed by medical studies at the University of Pennsylvania. He was recognized as one of the region's leading internal medicine specialists. His personal experience with illness ignited his passion for hospice care, leading him to establish the first hospice program in the Philadelphia region in 1975. Dr. Viner's work in end-of-life care had a lasting impact, and he advocated for dignified care at the national level, including testifying before the House Select Committee on Aging in 1985.

In 1987, Dr. Viner became Chief of Medicine at Cooper, where he led the adoption of the first hospitalist system in the Philadelphia area and laid the foundation for the Cooper Medical School of Rowan University. He received numerous accolades throughout his career, including the prestigious Laureateship from the American College of Physicians NJ Chapter and the Philadelphia Caring Award.

To honor his legacy, Cooper dedicated the Dr. Edward D. Viner Intensive Care Unit and established the first endowed chief position in his name. Dr. Viner's impact on Cooper, medical education, and patient care will continue to inspire generations.

Cooper 25-Year Club

On May 21, Cooper honored its dedicated team members by celebrating the 25-Year Club, recognizing those who have devoted 25 or more years of service. This special event took place at the TRIAD1828 CENTRE in Camden, bringing together long-standing employees to commemorate their commitment and invaluable contributions to Cooper's success.

More than 200 team members attended the event, enjoying an evening of celebration, appreciation, camaraderie, and reflection on the impact of their decades-long dedication. The event served as a testament to Cooper's strong culture of longevity and excellence, reinforcing the organization's deep gratitude for its team members unwavering service.



Sharon Cartwright, RN (left), and April M. Douglass-Bright, MD (right)



George E. Norcross, III, Chairman, Cooper Health System

Grand Opening of the New Cooper and Inspira Neuroscience Location

Cooper and Inspira Neuroscience celebrated the grand opening of their newest ambulatory office, located at 1450 Almonesson Road in Deptford. This state-of-the-art, multispecialty office features spacious exam rooms, private consultation rooms, and advanced on-site electromyography (EMG), and electroencephalogram (EEG) machines, enhancing the patient experience and care capabilities.

Cooper and Inspira Neuroscience brings advanced neurological and neurosurgical care to the Deptford community, improving local access to both surgical and nonsurgical services for the brain, spinal cord, and central nervous system. The new location exemplifies our shared commitment to providing comprehensive and cutting-edge neuroscience care to the community.



New Center for LGBTQ+ Health

Cooper celebrated the ribbon cutting of the new Center for LGBTQ+ Health, located at 17 West Knight Avenue in Collingswood. This milestone reflects Cooper's ongoing commitment to providing inclusive and culturally competent care to all patients.



New Ambulatory Surgery Center at Moorestown Campus

On May 28, Cooper opened its new outpatient surgery center at the Moorestown Campus. The facility boasts six advanced operating rooms and three procedure rooms, specializing in minimally invasive surgeries that offer reduced pain, fewer complications, and quicker recovery times. With private recovery rooms and comfortable waiting areas for families, the center is dedicated to delivering an exceptional patient experience.



Cooper Pediatric Care at Camden Unveils Modern Office Renovation

Children's Regional Hospital at Cooper in Camden completed a beautiful renovation of the Cooper Pediatric Care outpatient office in the Sheridan Pavilion, Suite 200. The modern, functional redesign enhances the patient experience for both primary and specialty care.

A new sensory exam room, designed for patients with sensory sensitivities, features calming colors, adjustable lighting, and sound-dampening materials. The waiting area includes spacious seating, ambient lighting, and interactive activities to create a welcoming, child-friendly environment.



The Recovery Village Cherry Hill at Cooper

In November, the Recovery Village Cherry Hill at Cooper hosted a dedication ceremony for its **FORTITUDE program, honoring the legacy of Francis Elmer Beach, father of N.J. State Senator Jim Beach**, in recognition of his contributions to both country and community. A decorated Marine Corps veteran, Beach's legacy of service is now honored through the program, which supports veterans and first responders facing addiction and mental health challenges. The ceremony celebrated Beach's lifelong commitment to service, and Cooper's partnership with Advanced Recovery Systems in this initiative highlights the organization's continued dedication to providing specialized care for military personnel, veterans, and their families.



THE RECOVERY VILLAGE
CHERRY HILL
Cooper



George E. Norcross, III, Chairman, Cooper Health System



Beach family

New Multispecialty Center Opens in Camden

Cooper opened a new Multispecialty Center at 808 Market Street, offering outpatient services such as primary care, psychiatry, obstetrics, and care for patients with substance use disorders. The integrated facility fosters collaboration among care teams and provides a holistic approach to treatment, with amenities such as shower and laundry facilities and patient navigators for ongoing support. The center also supports programs such as **EMPOWR**, which assists pregnant or parenting patients with substance use disorders.



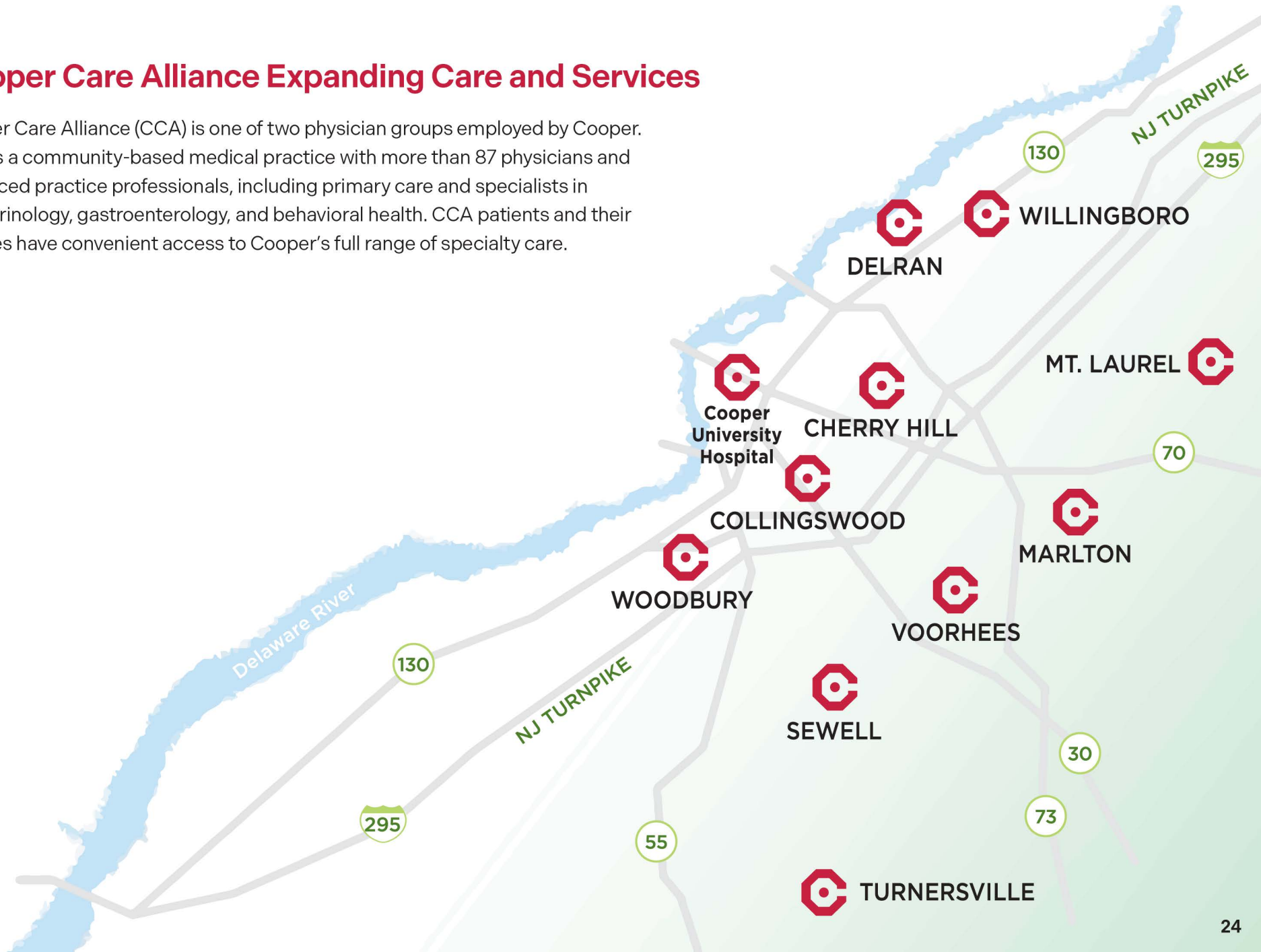
New Mobile Health Services Unit

Cooper's Center for Healing unveiled a new mobile health services van that will help expand outreach to those in Camden with substance use disorders. The new unit was purchased through a grant from Camden County as part of the nationwide opioid settlement payment to states.



Cooper Care Alliance Expanding Care and Services

Cooper Care Alliance (CCA) is one of two physician groups employed by Cooper. CCA is a community-based medical practice with more than 87 physicians and advanced practice professionals, including primary care and specialists in endocrinology, gastroenterology, and behavioral health. CCA patients and their families have convenient access to Cooper's full range of specialty care.



Red Hot Gala

The Cooper Foundation raised nearly \$4 million through its 14th Annual Red Hot Gala, breaking previous records, with more sponsors, attendees, and donations than ever before. The Gala was held on September 27 at the TRIAD1828 CENTRE on the Camden waterfront, where the extraordinary legacy and community impact of local legends **Ron and Liz Jaworski** were celebrated with nearly 1,000 guests. Several NFL greats and Philadelphia Eagles legends also showed their support to celebrate the Jaworskis' remarkable impact both on and off the field.



Military

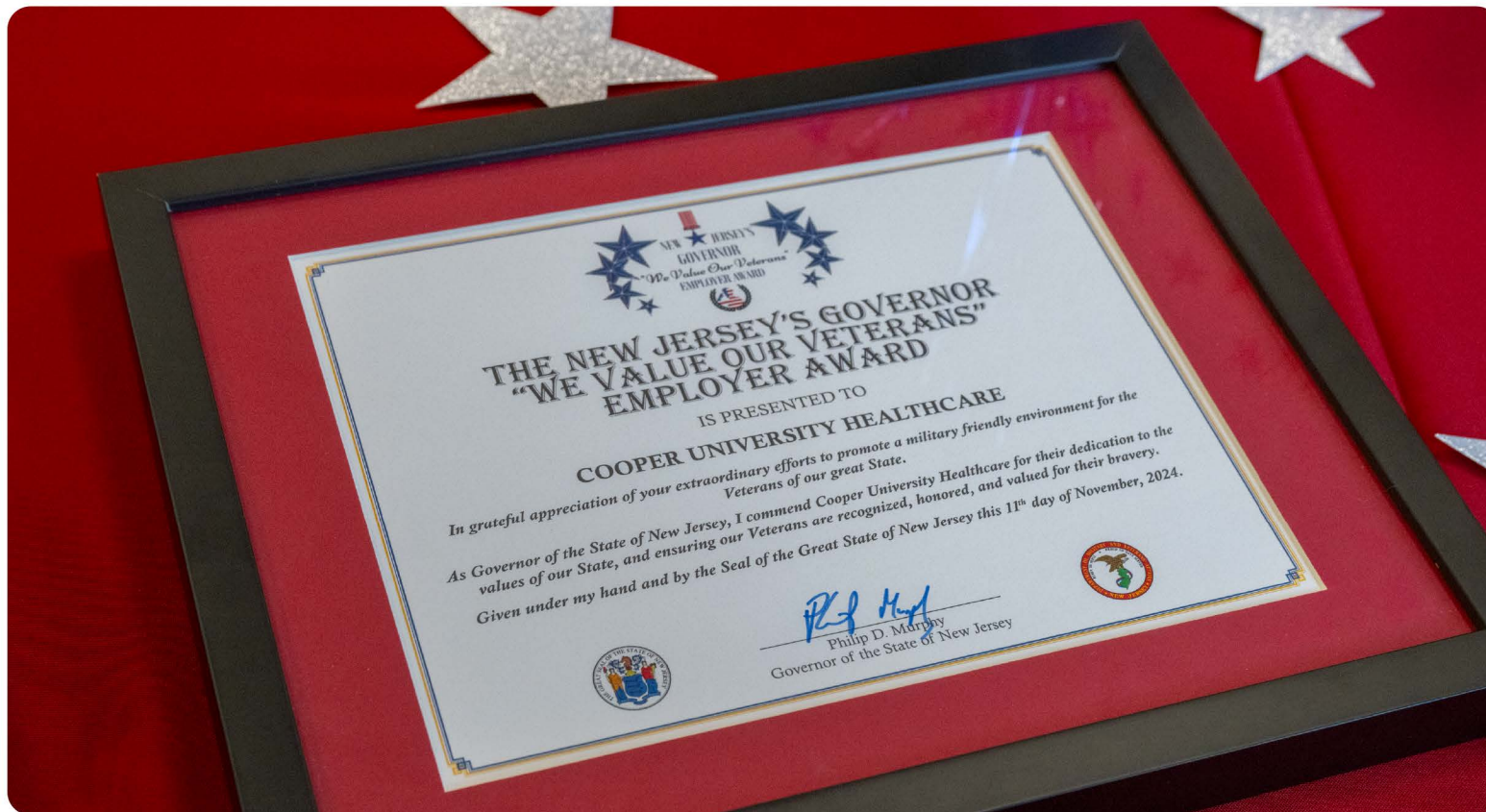
Cooper is at the forefront of scientific and technological innovation aimed at improving medical care for the **U.S. Armed Forces**. Cooper's research initiatives are advancing trauma care technologies that benefit both military personnel and civilians. Through Cooper's **military clinical training program**, life-saving medical advancements are integrated into training for non-trauma trained military personnel. As a trusted partner in training **all branches of Special Operations Forces medical teams**, Cooper provides critical expertise to enhance battlefield medical care.



In May 2024, Cooper's Section of Military, Diplomatic, and Field Surgical Affairs training program teamed up with the Salem County Sheriff's Office and the Salem County Office of Emergency Management to present the week-long Mid-Atlantic Severe Situation Exercise (MASSE) to provide intensive point-of-injury field training for emergency responders with cadavers in a simulated real-world setting. More than 275 military learners, law enforcement, tactical EMS team, firefighters and rescue EMS personnel from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New York attended the event to help them refresh and/or gain new skills in responding to potential real-world situations.

Cooper Receives “We Value Our Veterans” Award

Cooper was recognized with the **“We Value Our Veterans”** Employer Award by the N.J. Governor’s Department of Veterans Affairs for its commitment to supporting veterans and veteran causes. This recognition highlights Cooper’s efforts, including employing veterans and supporting veteran-related events.



Cooper Honors Armed Forces Persons of the Year

Cooper recognized **Jim Baca and Samantha Millspaugh** as the 2024 Armed Forces Persons of the Year for both their military service and their impactful roles within the Cooper community.

Jim Baca (left), a former hospital corpsman who served in the U.S. Navy, is currently the Senior Operations Director for the Cooper University Health Care/Cooper Medical School of Rowan University Simulation and Clinical Education Center in Camden. His dedication to advancing clinical training, combined with his leadership, rooted in military discipline and strategic planning, has significantly enhanced Cooper's educational and training programs. Baca also serves as a part-time paramedic with Cooper's Emergency Medical Services, demonstrating his ongoing commitment to the health and well-being of the community.

Samantha Millspaugh, MS, CCC-SLP (right), a speech and language pathologist at Cooper University Hospital Cape Regional, served as a Petty Officer 2nd Class in the U.S. Coast Guard. Her military background has greatly influenced her approach to patient care, emphasizing resilience, teamwork, communication, and steadfast support for others.



Leading in Trauma and Military Medical Training

As the only Level I Trauma Center in southern New Jersey, Cooper is a recognized leader in trauma surgery and critical care. We are proud to train elite medical providers from all branches of the U.S. military as well as local, state, and international partners. Cooper was the first hospital in the nation to establish the Army Military Civilian Trauma Training Program (AMCT3) and is one of only three hospitals nationwide to offer specialized training through the SMART initiative for military personnel.



HeroCare Connect: Supporting Veterans, Active-Duty Personnel, and Their Families

In 2024, Cooper scheduled more than 2,500 specialty care appointments, including more than 500 same-day appointments, in support of the HeroCare Connect health care concierge program, a partnership between Cooper and Deborah Heart and Lung Center, in support of the region's active and retired military.



TO HEAL

Dr. Francis R. Spitz Appointed Chief of Surgery

Francis R. Spitz, MD, FACS, was appointed Chief and Chair of Surgery at Cooper and Cooper Medical School of Rowan University. Dr. Spitz, who joined Cooper in 2009, has held leadership roles including Vice Chair of Surgery and Head of the Division of General Surgery at Cooper. A respected academic and clinical surgeon, he has published nearly 100 peer-reviewed works and serves on the editorial board of *Annals of Surgical Oncology*. Dr. Spitz also serves as Deputy Director, MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper.



Physicians and Advanced Practice Professionals of the Quarter

The Cooper Physician and Advanced Practice Professional of the Quarter Awards recognize outstanding contributions from Cooper physicians, advanced practice nurses, physician assistants, and certified registered nurse anesthetists. Nominated by their peers, recipients exemplify excellence in professionalism, interpersonal skills, effective communication, teamwork, and a commitment to advancing research and education. This distinction honors those who consistently go above and beyond in their dedication to providing exceptional care and fostering a collaborative, supportive environment for both patients and colleagues.

Physicians

Q1



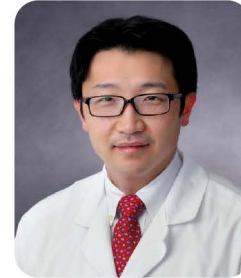
Sabina Amin, MD
Head, Division of Interventional Radiology, Program Director, Diagnostic Radiology Residency

Q2



Cody B. Clinton, DO
Sports Medicine Physician, Department of Orthopaedics

Q3



Tae Won B. Kim, MD
Head, Division of Orthopaedic Oncology, Director Rare Cancers Program

Q4



Roger K. Strair, MD, PhD
Director, Blood & Marrow Transplant and Cellular Therapy Program, Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology

Advanced Practice Professionals

Q1



Christopher Campanella, PA-C
Physician Assistant, Department of Neurology

Q2



Anita M. Miller, MSN, CRNA
Director/Chief CRNA, Department of Anesthesiology

Q3

Adisa Kljucic, APN-C, APP
Division of Cardiac Surgery

Q4



Lucy Flood, MSN, APN, FNP-C
Addiction Medicine

Cooper Catheterization Lab Receives ACC Accreditation

The Cooper Catheterization Lab team celebrated accreditation by the American College of Cardiology, recognizing Cooper as having the latest science and improvement systems for pre-, peri-, and post-procedures essential to the safe care and efficient scheduling of patients.





Cooper and Inspira Cardiac Care Team Celebrates Patient Milestone

A special reunion took place at Cooper October 17, 2024, when Marjorie Couch, a heart attack survivor, reunited with her medical teams from Cooper and Inspira Cardiac Care, in celebration of her recovery, two years after she received an Impella heart pump.

Leading the Region With Groundbreaking Cardiology Procedures

Cooper is the first health system in the region, and one of only a few in the country, to use the **FARAPULSE™ PFA System by Boston Scientific** for treatment of atrial fibrillation (AFib), or an irregular or rapid heart rhythm. FARAPULSE™ uses ultra-rapid electrical pulses, called pulsed field ablation, to treat AFib versus traditional radiofrequency or cryothermal ablation.

Ketan Gala, MD, FACC, clinical cardiologist and Medical Director of the Advanced Heart Failure Program and Adam Levine, DO, FACC, FSCAI, interventional cardiologist, implanted the hospital's first two **CardioMEMS™ HF Systems by Abbot**, launching a new and innovative monitoring tool for patients with heart failure.



A team of cardiologists at Cooper was the first in the region to implant the **EVOQUE tricuspid valve replacement system**, the first transcatheter therapy to receive U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval for the treatment of tricuspid regurgitation. The EVOQUE system is indicated for the improvement of health status in patients with tricuspid regurgitation. These patients often have no other treatment options.

Neuroscience Team Completes First Vivistim® Procedure in South Jersey

In a milestone for stroke rehabilitation in the region, a Cooper and Inspira Neuroscience team, led by Daniel A. Tonetti, MD, MS, cerebrovascular and endovascular neurosurgeon and Director of Cerebrovascular Neurosurgery and the Acute Stroke and NeuroInterventional Suite, successfully completed South Jersey's first procedure using the FDA-approved **Vivistim® Paired VNS™ System**.

This groundbreaking technology uses nerve stimulation to enhance upper limb function in stroke survivors during rehabilitation. Proven to generate two to three times more hand and arm function compared with therapy alone, the Vivistim® system facilitates neuroplasticity and strengthens neural connections, significantly improving the quality of life for survivors of chronic ischemic stroke.

For those who continue to face moderate to severe deficits in arm and hand function even six months after a stroke, this innovative system offers new hope and a path to recovery.





C.A.R.E.S.

Cooper Nursing introduced a new professional practice model in 2024. The C.A.R.E.S. model is built on the foundation of compassion, advocacy, reliability, engagement, and skill, and it illustrates how Cooper nurses deliver extraordinary care to our patients and communities. To learn more about the C.A.R.E.S. model and how it helps guide nursing practice, [click here](#)

Nurse Residency Program

Cooper is proud to offer a nurse residency program that supports new-to-practice nurses' successful transition to professional practice. In 2024, 124 nurse residents graduated from the program, which boasted a 12-month satisfaction rating above state and national benchmarks.





Accelerated Nursing Education Program

In 2024, Cooper partnered with Thomas Edison State University and BAYADA Home Health Care to form The Thomas Edison State University (TESU) Accelerated BSN BAYADA Scholars Track at Cooper University Health Care. The 15-month Bachelor of Science in Nursing program is designed for adults who have earned a bachelor's degree and are interested in becoming registered nurses. Recent college graduates and midcareer professionals who want to find meaningful and mission-driven work will have an opportunity to complete a nursing degree in a little more than a year. There are currently 30 students enrolled in the program.



2024 Nursing Excellence Awards

Cooper's Nursing Excellence Awards recognize exceptional professional nurses and advanced practice nurses as well as members of the collaborative care teams that support nursing. Award winners are nominated by colleagues for their commitment to upholding the Cooper mission. Awards are supported by gifts from generous donors to The Cooper Foundation. [Click here](#) to view the full list of award recipients.

2024 Nurse of the Year

Genalyn Vargas, MSN, RN-BC, was named Cooper's 2024 William A. Schwartz, Jr. Nurse of the Year. Vargas, who works in Cooper's Trauma Step Down Unit, also received the Ruth Parry/Moorestown Auxiliary Award for Excellence in Geriatric Nursing. Both honors were part of Cooper's Annual Nursing Excellence Awards, which are presented in conjunction with National Nurses Week.

Genalyn Vargas, MSN, RN-BC



2024 DAISY Award Recipients

The DAISY Award is an international program that recognizes excellence in the nursing profession. It was created by the DAISY Foundation to acknowledge the extraordinary compassion, outstanding clinical skills, and professional care that nurses deliver every day. [Click here](#) to view the recipients.



Center for Advanced Practice Symposium

The Center for Advanced Practice hosted their Annual APP Symposium at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Cherry Hill on November 1. The event highlighted advances in patient care, with Cooper advanced practice professionals sharing research and best practice findings with their peers in the field.



Respiratory Therapy Honored With Apex Recognition

Cooper's Respiratory Therapy team was one of only 29 recipients honored with the American Association for Respiratory Care's 2023-2024 Apex Recognition Award. This prestigious award, a first for Cooper, distinguishes programs for their commitment to excellence in professional development, evidence-based care, patient safety, and quality improvement.

Cooper launched a respiratory therapy residency program aimed at supporting new-to-practice respiratory therapists as they enter the workforce. Cooper has had two cohorts to date, with a 100% conversion rate from graduate respiratory therapist to licensed therapist.



Cooper Air Medical Services

Cooper Air Medical Services continues to demonstrate consistent growth in transport volume. In 2024, there was a 9% increase in the number of patients transported from outlying hospitals to Cooper. Cooper Air Medical Services bridges the geographic gap and minimizes delays in getting critical patients with time sensitive illnesses and injuries to Cooper for care.



Emergency Medical Services

Cooper EMS received the Mission: Lifeline EMS Gold award, the highest-level of recognition from the American Heart Association, for cardiac and neurological care provided by our EMS team.

Cooper partnered with Atlantic Cape Community College (ACCC) to provide paramedic students with a site to complete their 400-hour clinical internship. Of six applicants, Cooper accepted two students, who upon successful completion of their internship and licensure have accepted positions as full-time paramedics with Cooper EMS. In spring 2025, Cooper will host two additional ACCC students for their clinical internships.

In 2024, **Cooper Advanced Life Support (ALS)** units arrived within the critical eight-minute benchmark on 91% of ALS calls. Cooper ALS units have met this benchmark every year since inception of the service. This quality measure demonstrates our commitment to providing the highest level of service.



TO EDUCATE

Cooper Medical School of Rowan University: Match Day Sets Record

On Match Day, medical students nationwide learn where they will train for their residency. In 2024, Match Day at CMSRU saw its largest class, with 49% entering primary care and 51% pursuing specialty residencies. Of these students, 35% will stay in New Jersey, with 21 matching at Cooper.

CMSRU Recognized Among Best Medical Schools

CMSRU earned top rankings in the 2024 U.S. News & World Report **Best Medical Schools** list, achieving **Tier 2 in Primary Care**—the highest in the Philadelphia region and New Jersey—and **Tier 3 in Research**.



CMSRU Dedicates Humanism Center to Edward D. Viner, MD

CMSRU named its Center for Humanism in honor of its founder, Edward D. Viner, MD.

Dr. Viner was a pioneer in medicine and founded the Humanism Center in 2015 to embed humanistic values in medical training. As CMSRU's honorary first dean, he played a key role in establishing the four-year medical school in Camden, NJ.

The renaming follows a generous gift from an anonymous donor recognizing Dr. Viner's lasting impact on medical education.

Class of 2024 Commencement

In May, CMSRU celebrated its largest graduating class to date—109 students. Dean Annette C. Reboli, MD, commended the Class of 2024 for their resilience during the pandemic and emphasized empathy, humility, and patient advocacy.

Keynote speaker Dr. Darilyn Moyer, CEO of the American College of Physicians, spoke about the essential values of humility, curiosity, resilience, and continuous learning in medicine.

The ceremony concluded with the hooding of each graduate and the recitation of the Hippocratic Oath, marking their transition to physicians. The Class of 2024 joins more than 630 CMSRU alumni in practice and training nationwide.





CMSRU Welcomes 113 Future Physicians at White Coat Ceremony

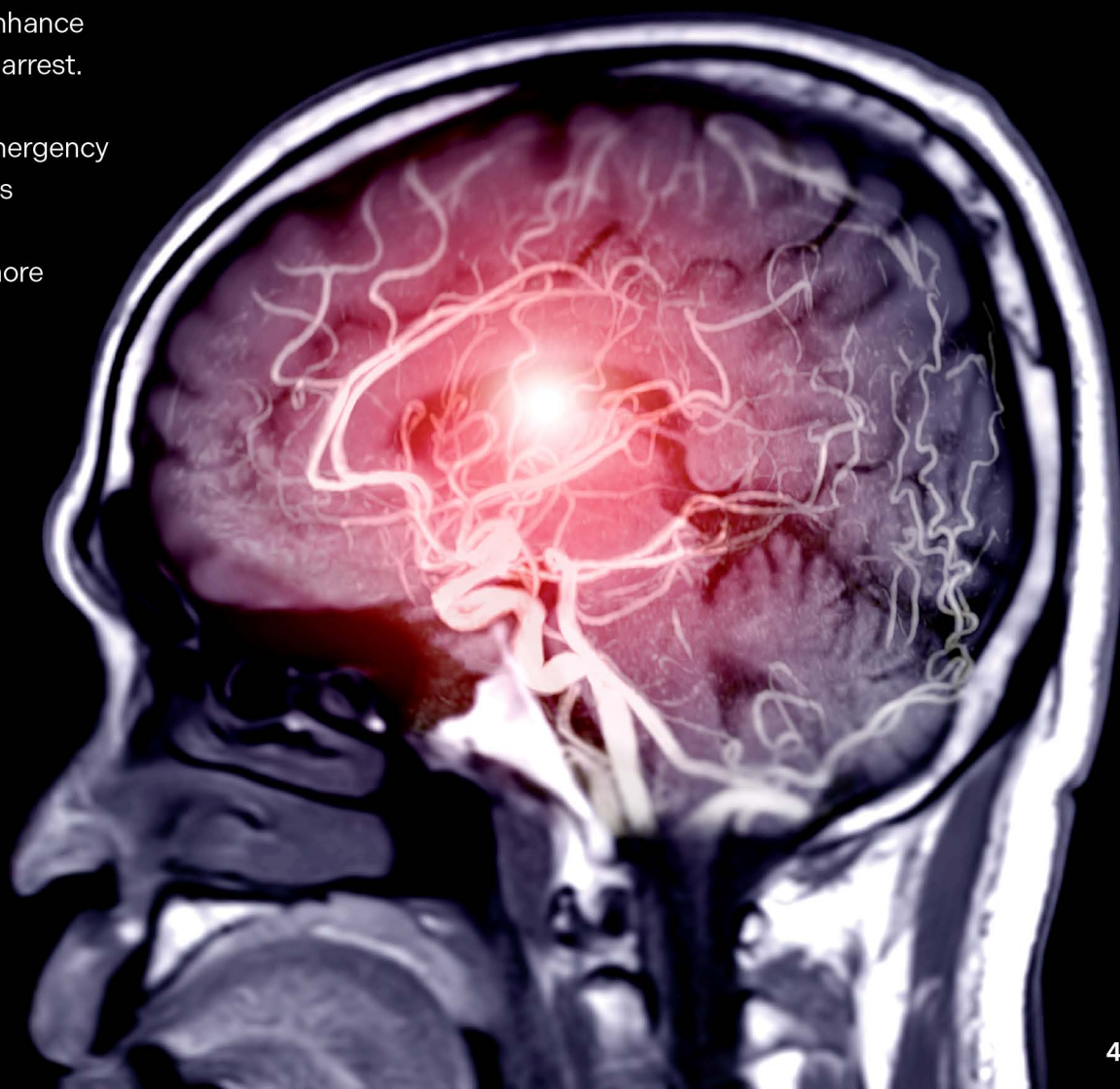
On August 9, 113 students from CMSRU's Class of 2028 donned their white coats, marking their entry into the medical profession. The White Coat Ceremony included the traditional cloaking ceremony and the students' first recitation of the Hippocratic Oath.

The event honored Dr. Edward Viner with the Rowan University Medal of Excellence for his contributions to medical education and patient care.

Multidisciplinary Neurological Recovery Study

J. Hope Kilgannon, MD, Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine, serves as Cooper's principal investigator for the ICECAP trial, a landmark NIH-funded multicenter study. This randomized controlled trial explores optimal targeted temperature management strategies to enhance neurological recovery in survivors of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest.

The study involves multidisciplinary collaboration across Emergency Medicine, Critical Care, Cardiology, and Neurology, as well as prehospital emergency medical services. Cooper has distinguished itself as a leading enrollment center among more than 75 participating sites nationwide, reinforcing its commitment to advancing neurological recovery research.



Barrett's Esophagus Research

The Division of Gastroenterology is actively participating in the NIH-funded SURVENT trial, a landmark multicenter study comparing surveillance and endoscopic eradication therapy for patients with Barrett's esophagus with low-grade dysplasia. Led by Anthony Infantolino, MD, FACP, FACG, AGAF, MASGE, and Christina Tofani, MD, FACG, FASG, experts in Barrett's esophagus, the study strengthens Cooper's collaboration with the MD Anderson at Cooper team in managing Barrett's esophagus and early esophageal cancer.

MD Anderson at Cooper Research: Advancing Cancer Care Through Innovation

The MD Anderson at Cooper research team had a record-breaking year in 2024 with 21 new clinical trials opened, 440 patients who took part in a research study, and 61 patients who were treated during therapeutic clinical trials that provide new and cutting-edge treatment options.

MD Anderson at Cooper was recognized by our partner MD Anderson Cancer Center with Research Engagement and Top Investigator Enrollment awards for leading an innovative clinical trial that aims to make radiation therapy even more precise and comfortable for patients with head and neck cancer by 3D printing customized oral stents.

Our team is supporting new cancer discoveries by launching the Cooper Coriell Biobank, part of the Camden Cancer Research Center, to create a biospecimen resource available to cancer researchers to find new cancer targets and develop better treatments.

Cooper Innovation Center

The Cooper Innovation Center (CIC) was established to protect and advance both patentable and unpatentable ideas related to products and processes developed by Cooper team members.

In 2024, the CIC received 17 invention disclosures, with eight patent applications submitted to the U.S. Patent Office. Additionally, the CIC secured \$625,000 in external funding for technology development and executed seven license or option agreements to commercialize Cooper technologies.

The CIC remains dedicated to driving innovation and transforming novel ideas into real-world solutions.



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.



2024 at a Glance

Cooper University Health Care

Hospital Admissions: 32,546

Emergency Department Visits: 84,719

Urgent Care Visits: 64,438

Outpatient Visits: 2.4 Million

Cancer Visits

- Outpatient: 142,205

- Inpatient: 3,254

Surgical Cases: 34,240

Trauma Cases: 5,358

Transfers From Area Hospitals: 7,900

Cooper Team Members: 11,124

Employed Physicians: 1,074

Licensed Beds: 663

Outpatient Locations: 130

Operating Revenue: \$2.44 Billion

Active Patients: From All 50 States and More Than 35 Countries

Cooper University Hospital Cape Regional*

Hospital Admissions: 2,855

Emergency Department Visits: 20,235

Urgent Care Visits: 35,855

Outpatient Visits: 147,051

Surgical Cases: 1,703

Cooper Cape Team Members: 1,500

Employed Physicians: 72

Licensed Beds: 242

Outpatient Locations: 33

Operating Revenue: \$71,567,903

*Data from July – December 2024, numbers are not included in CUHC data.



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