

Robert Garrett, FACHE

Robert C. Garrett is the CEO of Hackensack Meridian Health, New Jersey's largest and most comprehensive health network.

Mr. Garrett launched his career at Hackensack University Medical Center in 1981 and served as president and CEO of the Hackensack University Health Network from November 2009 through July 2016. Mr. Garrett dramatically expanded the network through a series of acquisitions, partnerships and affiliations. In July 2016, the network merged with Meridian Health creating one of the largest health networks in New Jersey, known as Hackensack Meridian Health. The network comprises 17 hospitals from Bergen to Ocean counties, with 4,757 beds, 7,000 credentialed physicians, more than 500 patient care locations and 35,000 team members. This extensive breadth of services enables the network to reach two-thirds of New Jersey residents.

Under Mr. Garrett's visionary leadership, the network has forged exceptional partnerships to advance cancer treatment, behavioral health care, medical education and innovation. In December 2016, Hackensack Meridian Health made history by announcing a 10-year strategic partnership with Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center to develop an exceptional network-wide standard of care and to enhance research and discovery in New Jersey. Together, Hackensack Meridian Health and Memorial Sloan Kettering serves the most patients with cancer in the region and will open a jointly-operated outpatient center in New Jersey in 2019. Many of their combined programs will be among the largest in the country with more than 800 clinical trials.



Hackensack Meridian Health has also partnered with Seton Hall University and opened New Jersey's first private medical school in decades, a four-year program which is revolutionizing physician training. The curriculum at the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine at Seton Hall University emphasizes collaboration and a holistic approach to care incorporating all spheres of a patient's life with the strongest possible clinical training and state-of-the-art technology. The school, which welcomed its second class in 2019, is located on the On3 campus in Nutley and Clifton. Mr. Garrett and his wife, Laura, contributed a \$2.65 million endowment for the School of Medicine Dean, which launched total contributions of \$15 million in support of endowments in 2017.

The campus is also home to the Hackensack Meridian Health Center for Discovery and Innovation, which attracts leading researchers from around the globe who are advancing our knowledge of regenerative medicine, cancer and infectious disease and multiple myeloma. Earlier this year, the network merged with Carrier Clinic, New Jersey's largest behavioral health provider, to expand access to treatment, better coordinate care and innovate therapies. In September, the network opened the first urgent care behavioral health center in New Jersey, and perhaps the nation. A new addiction treatment center will open this winter, offering inpatient and outpatient care on nearly 40 acres in Bergen County.

Additionally, the National Cancer Institute approved the John Theurer Cancer Center at Hackensack University Medical Center as a research partner of the NCI Designated Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center. Mr. Garrett also led efforts to create the network's historic partnership with Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

In September, the network announced a clinical and strategic partnership with St. Joseph's Health to enhance care in North Jersey. The partnership with the Paterson-based health network will result in a new women's health center and a joint venture ambulatory care center in Totowa scheduled to open in 2020. The collaboration will also bring more specialists to area to greater enhance care.

To streamline breakthroughs in care, the network opened the Center for Discovery and Innovation, which will focus on cancer and infectious disease, multiple myeloma and regenerative medicine. The center, which opened in May, was awarded a \$33 million grant from the National Institutes of Health, the largest grant the network has ever received.

In a partnership with the New Jersey Institute of Technology, the network is creating a pipeline to support breakthroughs in care delivery. A \$25 million program has supported major advances including Pillo, a home health robot that automatically dispenses medication and PurpleSun, which uses ultraviolet light technology to reduce the risk of hospital-acquired infections. Recently, the network supported a patient's invention, clothing designed to create easy access for dialysis or chemotherapy while helping patients maintain comfort and privacy.

These affiliations were in addition to the network's already established partnerships with: AllSpire Health Partners, the largest health care consortium of its kind in the country; CityMD (urgent care centers); CVS MinuteClinic; Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center (cardiac); Englewood Hospital and Medical Center (clinical and academic affiliation); MedStar Georgetown University Hospital (bone marrow transplant program); NYU Langone Medical Center's Division of Pediatric Surgery; OMNIA Health Alliance (partnership with six health systems and Horizon BCBSNJ to develop tiered products); Summit Health Management (clinical affiliation); Uber and Lyft (transportation); and United Surgical Partners International (ambulatory care centers).

Mr. Garrett also steered Hackensack University Health Network's community health initiatives through HackensackUMC Fitness & Wellness Powered by the Giants in Maywood, NJ – one of the largest fitness and wellness centers of its kind in New Jersey.

In 2018, Becker's Hospital Review named Hackensack Meridian Health's high-performing portfolio of accountable care organizations (ACOs) to its list of ACOs to Know for the third year. The ACOs were selected for their quality and cost performance. HackensackAlliance ACO has approximately 575 affiliated physicians.. It has obtained a strong quality score of 84.9 percent and generated \$43.6 million in savings on more than 30,000 patients in 2017, placing it 6th in the nation.

The network's notable distinctions include having four hospitals among the top 10 in New Jersey by U.S. News and World Report. Other honors include consistently achieving Magnet® recognition for nursing excellence from the American Nurses Credentialing Center and Top 150 Places to Work in Healthcare/2018 by Becker's Healthcare.

Mr. Garrett's leadership and strategic vision have garnered much professional praise as well as an honorary doctorate from Felician University in New Jersey. Mr. Garrett was recently named one of 10 CEO's Transforming Healthcare In America by the CEO Forum Magazine. He was featured on ROI Influencers: Power List 2019 and 2018 and was ranked #1 in the NJBIZ 2017 "Power 50 Health Care" list. He was also ranked on the 2017 "NJBIZPower 100: The most powerful people in New Jersey business" list for six consecutive years. Mr. Garrett received the 2017 Collaboration of the Year Award from the NJ Tech Council, a non-profit group that advocates for the state's and region's tech and life sciences business. He was listed as one of the 2017 "188 Nonprofit Hospital and Health System CEOs to Know and is also one of the "2014 500+ People to Know in Healthcare" according to Becker's Hospital Review. In 2013, he was selected as a member of The Wall Street Journal CEO Council, an invite-only council representing some of the most well-respected business leaders in America. He was the recipient of the 2013 Outstanding Medical Executive Award, part of the prestigious Edward J. III Excellence in Medicine Awards. Mr. Garrett has been honored by numerous organizations and agencies, and has been invited to participate at international and national events, such as the prestigious World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland; the Fourth International Vatican Conference, Unite to Cure: A Global Health Care Initiative. Becker's Hospital Review's Annual CEO & CFO Roundtable event; Healthgrades HealthShare Symposium; Thought Leadership on Access Symposium (ATLAS) and Becker's Hospital Review's annual meeting. He has been featured on numerous television programs and within numerous national publications.

An industry leader and expert, Mr. Garrett has spoken at numerous conferences and events, including: NYU Stern Alumni Relations and the Stern Healthcare Association Conference; the Institute for Ethical Leadership at Rutgers Business School's Ethical Leadership Conference; Meadowlands Regional Chamber's Thought Leaders Conference; the Association for Corporate Growth's NJ Bergen Chapter event; and the New Jersey Bankers Association's Economic Forum Conference.

Mr. Garrett serves on the boards of the Bank of America Trust Advisory Board, Bergen Community College Foundation, Choose New Jersey, Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine at Seton Hall University, The Eileen Fund, The New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, as well as the QualCare Board of Directors. He has also served on or is a member of: the New Jersey Council of Teaching Hospitals, New Jersey Hospital Association, Greater New York Hospital Association, and the American Hospital Association's Regional Policy Board.

A respected thought leader, Mr. Garrett has written guest columns for a variety of media including Modern Healthcare and Becker's Hospital Review; The Record, a USA Today Publication; and The Star Ledger, New Jersey's largest daily media outlet.

Mr. Garrett received his Master of Health Administration from Washington University in Saint Louis, MO, and his bachelor's degree from Binghamton University in New York.