

Hackensack University Medical Center names president, CEO

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Robert C. Garrett

COURTESY PHOTO

Robert C. Garrett has been named president and chief executive officer of Hackensack University Medical Center, after serving as acting CEO following the departure of John Ferguson in June.

Garrett was named Wednesday as head of the 775-bed hospital, the county's largest employer and one of the busiest medical centers in the country. He had been executive vice president and chief operating officer since 1986.

The decision was made by the hospital's board of governors "after a five-month, nationwide search, which attracted more than 200 qualified applicants," said J. Fletcher Creamer, Jr., the board chairman.

"He has a proven record as a visionary administrator, an outstanding communicator and consensus builder, the kind of person who can make our great institution even better," said Creamer, who announced the decision at a management meeting this morning.

Ferguson departed after 23 years as leader of an institution he transformed from a community hospital into a nationally-recognized medical center following a federal corruption trial that left his reputation and the hospital's tainted. Former state Sen. Joseph Coniglio, who was convicted of six counts for accepting a job on the hospital payroll while steering millions of dollars in state grants its way, is to begin serving his sentence this month.

Garrett joined the hospital in 1981. He lives in Morris Township.

"With the ongoing support of this motivated, talented team, we will continue to provide an exceptional standard of care," Garrett said in the statement.

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