

Update on Discussions with Robert Wood Johnson-Barnabas Health
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Dear RBHS Colleagues:

Since July, we have been following through on our Letter of Intent with Robert Wood Johnson-Barnabas Health to develop a comprehensive master affiliation agreement to create a premier academic health system for New Jersey, statewide in scope with the promise of national prominence. These discussions are focused primarily on academic mission support, the optimal structure of our clinical enterprises, research opportunities for our faculty, and educational opportunities for our students. Many details remain to be worked out, but we are making real progress in these discussions.

This is an exciting time for Rutgers, as we embark on a historic journey to fundamentally transform health care delivery in the State of New Jersey, and in doing so, have the opportunity to positively impact the lives of the citizens of New Jersey and the public we serve. Unfortunately, some inaccurate and misleading information has been presented to many of you about our plans, which has led to unnecessary anxiety. These discussions with RWJ-Barnabas understandably cause uncertainty and concern among our employees about possible impacts to their jobs. Some people have suggested that RWJ-Barnabas and RBHS will become one single entity and/or that substantial units within RBHS will be privatized. This is simply not accurate.

I regret that you may have been subjected to misinformation or misrepresentations. We are committed to keeping our employees informed about our progress with accurate and timely updates. To help ensure that RBHS employees receive key updates in these discussions, we have agreed to meet periodically with the representatives from our collective negotiating units that care for our patients, provide essential services, and support our missions of education, research, and clinical care to hear more specific concerns. The first of these sessions was held on January 24, 2018, and we have begun to schedule others. These sessions will provide the ability to ask questions and to provide factual information, clarify and explain the progress of our discussions, address rumors and misinformation that are circulating, and obtain feedback from collective negotiations unit representatives.

Our greatest strength is our faculty, staff, and students and we value your commitment to our mission. Thank you for your patience as we complete these discussions. We believe that this relationship can build an academic health care system for New Jersey that will bring us to a new level of excellence and achievement that will benefit all our constituencies, especially our patients.

Sincerely,

Brian L. Strom, MD, MPH
Chancellor
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