Steadfast Leadership in Season of Change

Dr. Dennis P. McKenna Becomes President and CEO

On April 1, Dennis P. McKenna, MD, assumed the role of Albany Med president and CEO. A familiar presence at the Medical Center, Dr. McKenna’s 20-year tenure has included service as hospital medical director and president of the Albany Med Physicians Group. His appointment, which was met with great enthusiasm when it was announced last summer, feels especially prescient now, given unfolding events related to the novel coronavirus. Why?

- He is an Emergency Department physician.
  Dr. McKenna has worked in emergency medicine for more than two decades, both here at Albany Med and internationally. For five years he served as medical director of the Emergency Department, and he plans to devote a portion of his time to continuing to serve the department as an attending physician.

- He has served on the front lines. Literally.
  A retired U.S. Navy captain, Dr. McKenna spent two decades in the military and completed numerous tours of duty. On three separate occasions after 9/11 he was mobilized to active duty as a reservist, including two combat tours in Iraq. During his second tour, his wife, Karen, a registered nurse at Albany Med, was home with three children under three. “She was working as hard as I was at that point, trust me,” he said. The McKennas now have four children.

- He knows Albany Med and its patients.
  A Capital Region native and 1992 graduate of Albany Medical College, Dr. McKenna has a keen understanding of the Medical Center and what makes sense for patients. He instituted the hospital’s morning safety brief several years ago, a daily gathering of managers who update one another on important developments, and he has been at the forefront of COVID-19 preparedness plans.

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Dr. McKenna succeeds Jim Barba, whose 25 years of service as Albany Med’s president and CEO brought unprecedented growth and flourishing to the Medical Center. Under his leadership, Albany Med recovered from the brink of bankruptcy in the mid-1990s to become the region’s leading health care provider, a vast organization that delivers a scope of medical treatments available typically only in major metropolitan areas. The Albany Med Health System now serves patients in more than 100 locations throughout the region and is comprised of Albany Med, Columbia Memorial Health and Saratoga Hospital. In July, Glens Falls Hospital will join the Albany Med Health System as the fourth hospital in the network.

“Among the many qualities that made us feel certain Dr. McKenna was the right person to lead Albany Med were his energy, his intellect and his fierce dedication to patients. And nowhere have those things been in stronger evidence than these past two months,” Barba said. “We are in great hands.”

Albany Med remains committed to providing the community with care and support during COVID-19 containment efforts. To stay abreast of the latest information, please visit www.amc.edu.
How to Stay Balanced in Unsettling Times

Even the most cool-headed among us are feeling nervous and unsettled these days.

Who to consult:

Instead, look to Albany Med and its excellent match results. Committed to the Community

Albany Med continues to work closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the New York State Department of Health and others during the coronavirus pandemic. The health and safety of our patients, visitors and workforce remains our highest concern. Experts from across the Medical Center meet daily to evolve planning efforts and ensure that all staff and resources are in place, ready to protect our community.

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