

DR. ANA NATALE-PEREIRA & THE CONNIE DWYER BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION

We are thrilled to announce **Dr. Ana Natale-Pereira**, Division Director, General Internal Medicine and Associate Dean of Primary Care, Diversity, and Community Engagement at Rutgers NJMS, and the **Connie Dwyer Breast Cancer Foundation**, as this year's honorees for University Hospital's signature fundraiser, Toast & Tribute, in recognition of their work addressing breast cancer disparities in our community.

Nationally, Black women have the highest death rate from breast cancer. At University Hospital, our patients are diagnosed with breast cancer at advanced stages, when it is hardest to treat, at nearly double the national average. For the past decade, in partnership with University Hospital's Department of Radiology and Cancer Center, Dr. Natale has led community interventions to address breast cancer disparities across Essex County. By Leveraging a mobile mammography unit and traveling throughout the region, the Rutgers-SAVE (Screening Access of Value for Essex) program, funded by NJ Cancer Education and Early Detection, has provided free mammograms and cancer screening services for more than 18,000 uninsured and underinsured community members in its 25-year trajectory.

These community interventions drew the attention of the Connie Dwyer Breast Cancer Foundation (CDBCF), whose mission is to serve underprivileged and vulnerable women by ensuring top-quality breast-health services. Thanks to Dr. Natale's leadership and CDBCF's commitment to serving women, University Hospital Foundation and CDBCF formed an alliance to raise over \$1 million to purchase a new, state-of-the-art mobile mammography van that will focus on reducing breast cancer mortality. Toast & Tribute will unveil the new mobile van, which will be parked outside the event for attendees to experience.

Thank you, Dr. Natale and the Connie Dwyer Breast Cancer Foundation, for your shared dedication to saving lives through early detection!



Toast & Tribute

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