



# SYSTEM NEWS

September 2019

## Letter From the CEO

Dear Cook County Health Friends and Partners,

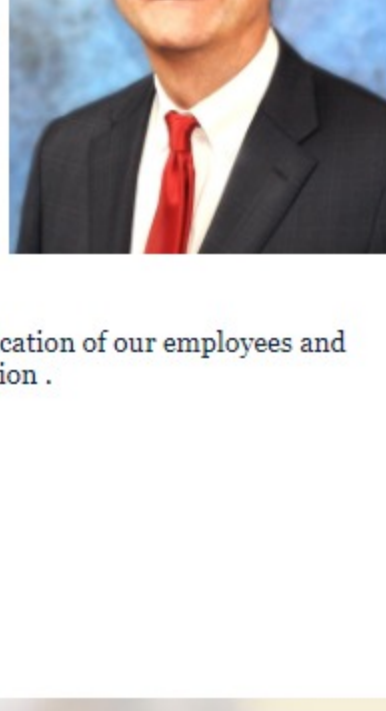
I am proud to announce that John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital was recently recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* as a high-performing organization for gastroenterology and GI surgery, heart failure, and neurology and neurosurgery.

*U.S. News & World Report* annually releases rankings for organizations based on several factors, including outcomes, patient safety, nurse staffing and more. Hospitals are also rated for their performance in treating more commonly occurring conditions and medical procedures.

High-performing organizations rank within the top 10 percent nationally of a given specialty. Hospitals that are high performing are considered significantly better than the national average.

These awards are an acknowledgement of the hard work and dedication of our employees and reaffirm our commitment to the historic mission of this organization.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Jay Shannon, CEO, Cook County Health



## Cook County Health Holds Research and Innovation Summit on Justice-Involved Individuals

On September 18, Cook County Health hosted its third Research and Innovation Summit, *Connecting Care for the Justice-Involved*. Participants discussed opportunities for improving care for those impacted by the criminal justice system.

The summit provided participants with an opportunity to learn about CCH's justice initiatives and innovative solutions to link patients to much-needed resources.

Thank you to everyone who participated.



Toni Preckwinkle, Cook County Board President, introduces attendees and speakers at the summit.



Dr. Connie Mennella, Chair of Correctional Health, Cook County Health, speaks on working at the intersection of health care and justice.



Ray Robinson (left), who shared his own lived experience at the summit, with Dr. Jay Shannon, CEO, Cook County Health.

## Stroger Hospital Receives \$5M Federal Grant to Support Cancer Research

Cook County Health's John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital is one of three Illinois health organizations to receive funding from the National Cancer Institute Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP).

In August, the National Cancer Institute (NCI) renewed funding for Stroger Hospital's Minority/Underserved NCORP for \$5 million over six years. Stroger is the only Minority/Underserved NCORP in Illinois and one of three total Illinois health organizations to receive the funding. The funding will support cancer clinical trials and cancer care delivery studies.

Since 2002, the oncology program at Stroger has received over \$17 million in NCI funding for clinical research.

As part of the National Institutes of Health, NCORP is comprised of seven research bases and 46 community sites, 14 of which are designated as minority/underserved community sites, including Stroger Hospital. The goal of NCORP is to increase access to clinical trials for patients who would not normally have access to them. Minority community sites are comprised of at least 30 percent racial/ethnic minorities or rural residents.

Thanks to the funding, Stroger Hospital has placed more than 2,000 patients in cancer clinical trials. The majority of those patients are minorities, including 50 percent African Americans. According to the American Cancer Society, African Americans have the highest death rate and shortest survival of any racial and ethnic group in the U.S. for most cancers.

"The way to solve the health disparity gap is to ensure that everyone has access to state-of-the-art treatment strategies and drug development," said Dr. Thomas Lad, Chair of Hematology and Oncology at Cook County Health. "We're motivated to put as many people as possible in trials. That is the way progress is made."

## Cook County Health Submits FY2020 Budget

Thank you to those who participated in this year's Cook County Health budget process. Dr. Jay Shannon, CCH CEO, submitted the health system's preliminary Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 budget to the CCH Board on August 30, 2019. The proposed \$2.8 billion budget reduces reliance on local taxpayers for the 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. The FY2020 budget represents the first year of the health system's new [three-year strategic plan](#), IMPACT 2023.

"The budget contains strategies to continue to adapt to the changes in the larger health care environment while lowering our overall reliance on local tax dollars," Dr. Shannon said. "We are proud that we are generating more than 97 percent of our operating revenues through patient fees, grants and other sources while remaining true to our historic mission to care for all county residents regardless of income, insurance or immigration status. But that said, the continued increase in charity care is challenging and unsustainable without additional sources of revenue."

The proposed \$2.8 billion budget includes a projected \$409 million in charity care which has been trending up the last few years. The budget was approved by the Cook County Health Board of Directors on September 13, 2019 and will be submitted to the Cook County Board of Commissioners for inclusion in the County's budget.

## Cook County Health Annual Gala to be Held Wednesday, September 25

**SAVE THE DATE**  
Please join us for Cook County Health Foundation's Annual Gala and Awards Event.

**THE HEART OF THE MATTER**  
Building healthy futures for those with heart disease and diabetes.

Wednesday, September 25, 2019  
Hilton Chicago | 720 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL  
5:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Cocktail reception followed by seated dinner and program. Formal invitations to follow.  
For more information, please contact Debbie Hasty at [ddhasty@cookcountyhealth.org](mailto:ddhasty@cookcountyhealth.org) or 312.925.2405.

Join us for Cook County Health Foundation's Annual Gala and Awards Event on Wednesday, September 25, at the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago. The event is to raise money for those living with heart disease and diabetes. Funds raised will go toward expanding CCH's lifestyle centers, which help patients manage their health. The Foundation will honor the Greater Chicago Food Depository and Dr. Patrice Harris, President of the American Medical Association.

For information or to buy tickets, visit the Foundation website by clicking [here](#). The event includes a cocktail reception, seated dinner, presentation and awards ceremony. Ticket sales will close on Tuesday, September 24.

## Cook County Department of Public Health to Hold Food Summit in October

**2019 FOOD SUMMIT**  
Cook County Department of Public Health

Join us for the 2019 Food Summit: The Power of Plant-Based Eating on October 4-5, 2019 at Loyola University Chicago in Maywood. Learn about the benefits of plant-based eating and how to incorporate more plant-based foods into your diet. Find out about policy initiatives and programs that support making the healthy choice a cultural norm, and hear an update on the Good Food Purchasing Program.

Click here to view the Agenda At-A-Glance. Cost to attend is \$25 and includes a networking reception on day one, a light continental breakfast and lunch on day two and parking.

[Click here to register.](#)

The Summit Urban Farms Tour  
Friday, Oct. 4

Visit four local urban farms in Maywood and see how each farm's story and how they support local and Southern enterprises that make a difference for local communities that need it. Space is limited. CCHDH will share a special link to sign up for a tour after registration for the Food Summit is completed.

Cook County Public Health | COOK COUNTY HEALTH | UIC

Questions? Email [healthpartners@cookcountyhealth.org](mailto:healthpartners@cookcountyhealth.org) or call 312.925.2405.

The Cook County Department of Public Health and Loyola University Chicago's Health Sciences Division will hold a discussion on the power of plant-based eating on October 4-5 at Loyola University Chicago, 2160 S. First Ave., Maywood, Illinois.

Learn about the benefits of plant-based eating and how to incorporate more plant-based foods into your diet, as well about policy initiatives and programs that are helping this lifestyle grow.

For more information, click [here](#). A pre-summit tour of two local urban farms in Maywood will also be conducted on Friday, October 4.

## Cook County Health C.A.R.E. Interns Complete Enrichment Program

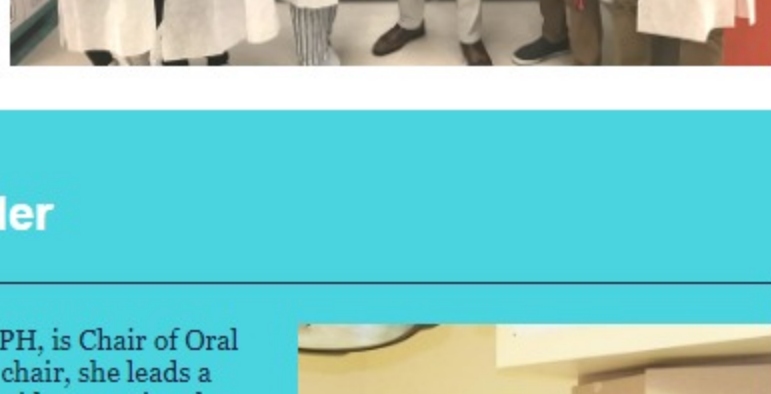
Last month, Cook County Health interns who were part of the organization's Connecting Adolescents to Resources Education/Employment (C.A.R.E) program celebrated the completion of their summer session.

The C.A.R.E program was designed to introduce and provide opportunities in health care career fields to area youth from the south and west sides of Chicago. There were two tracks the interns participated in during the summer. College interns worked in various departments and gained real work, on-the-job experience. The high school interns participated in a summer enrichment course with a combination of classroom work, including working on resume writing and interview skills and hands-on experiences.

On the final day, both our college and high school interns celebrated their accomplishments. The high school interns also presented research projects that aligned with CCH's "Making an Impact" campaign. Interns identified an issue within their community and identified how they could make an impact by addressing the issue.

Thank you to all our interns for an amazing summer.

Cook County Health interns participated in a variety of enrichment classes, including a tour of the lab.

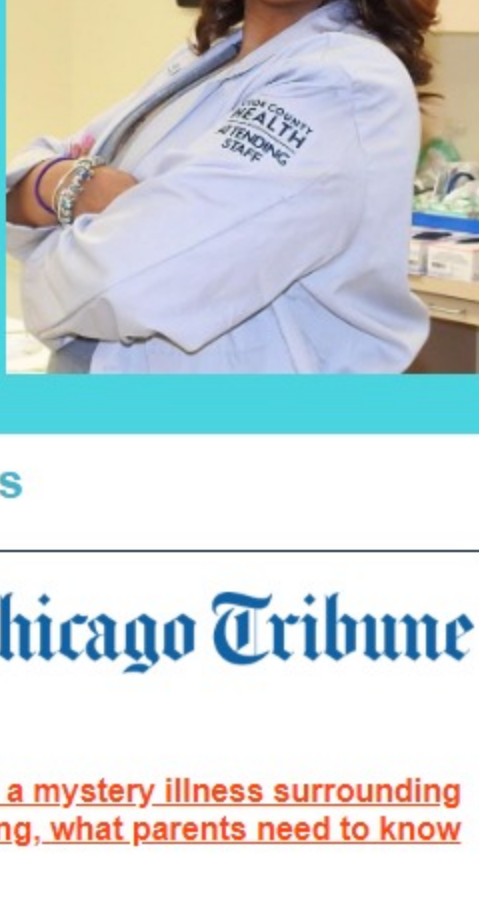


## Physician Profile: Dr. Jorelle Alexander

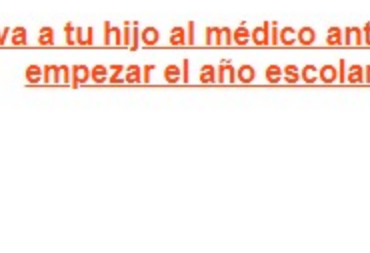
Dr. Jorelle R. Alexander, DMD, MPH, is Chair of Oral Health at Cook County Health. As chair, she leads a collaboration of clinicians who provide exceptional care for patients with oral health needs.

At CCH, Dr. Alexander has been instrumental in leading and developing a variety of clinical programs focused on the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of oral/dental diseases. Under her leadership, CCH has expanded oral health services, providing outstanding dental care to patients across the county within outpatient and correctional health facilities.

Dr. Alexander is a member of the American Dental Association, the Illinois State Dental Society and the Chicago Dental Society. Her interests include underserved populations, hospital dentistry, access to care, oral surgery, restorative care and oral oncology.

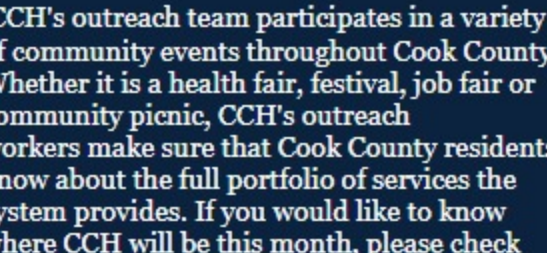
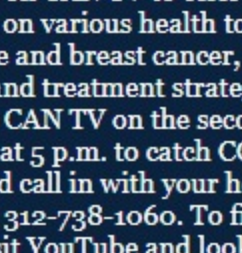


## Cook County Health in the News



[Cook County plans new Provident Hospital — building on history of 'iconic South Side institution'](#)

[With a mystery illness surrounding vaping, what parents need to know](#)



[Leva a tu hijo al médico antes de empezar el año escolar](#)

[Checkups, Vaccinations Get Students Ready for New School Year](#)

[Cook County Health Eyes Taxpayer Savings with Move to Blue Island from Oak Forest](#)

## Watch us on CAN TV

Every month, Cook County Health features a guest expert on CAN TV to offer viewers information on various health topics, such as heart disease and breast cancer, and to discuss prevention and treatment strategies. Be sure to tune in to CAN TV on the second Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m. to catch CCH's monthly segment, and call in with your health questions at 312-738-1060. To find archived episodes, visit YouTube and look for the Community Health Hotline. The next show will air on Tuesday, October 8 at 5 p.m.

## Cook County Health in the Community: Upcoming Events

CCH's outreach team participates in a variety of community events throughout Cook County. Whether it is a health fair, festival, job fair or community picnic, CCH's outreach workers make sure that Cook County residents know about the full portfolio of services the system provides. If you would like to know where CCH will be this month, please check our [calendar of events](#).

Visit our website at [cookcountyhealth.org](http://cookcountyhealth.org)

If you would like to invite a representative from CCH to attend a community event, please send an email to [events@cookcountyhhs.org](mailto:events@cookcountyhhs.org).

To provide feedback on CCH Community News, update your contact information, or unsubscribe, please email Marcelino Garcia, Director of Community Affairs, at [mgarcia6@cookcountyhhs.org](mailto:mgarcia6@cookcountyhhs.org).