

Dr. Jacobs Talking Points

- Good afternoon and thank you for letting me speak today.
- My name is Dr. Lenworth M. Jacobs, and I am Director of Trauma and Emergency Medicine at Hartford Hospital and Trauma Director at Connecticut Children's Medical Center.
- And for the past 15 years I have been, and remain, the Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors for the University of Connecticut.
- In my role as the Trauma director I oversee our State's only critical care helicopter service known as Life Star, as well as overseeing the Department of Emergency Medicine/Trauma.
- As a statewide service, throughout the year, my departments respond to and treat more patients than the entire population of Hartford, roughly 120,000 patients per year.
- We are a statewide public service and respond to anyone regardless of his or her ability to pay.
- We get the call, we respond. The only questions we ask are medical.
- In a disaster we are always on call and serve the state at the pleasure of the Governor.
- As part of my duties as overseeing the trauma divisions, I am also responsible for overseeing the education residents, fellow recipients and medical students working along side our clinical Drs.
- This provides me with a unique perspective on what it means to treat patients from the clinical, educational, academic and research viewpoints.
- When you combine the different areas of expertise: the clinical and academic you vastly change and improve the dynamic and the atmosphere of your hospital.
- When you add the research and the writing elements to the treatment of patients you force your students AND your staff to always be striving for something better.
- In this environment, you must find those practices that are new and better. This is the fertile foundation from which innovation and clinical breakthroughs grow.

- That is what makes having a clinical and academic staff working together such a potent and important combination.
- Simply put: It elevates the care we can give and it also elevates the quality of the staff we can build for our region.
- Try as we might, medicine is not an exact science. Rather it is a constant struggle to stay ahead of the curve and to find the answer to the newest questions nature has thrown our way.
- That is why the best and brightest, the one's who cannot stop asking the questions become clinical experts and leaders in research.
- This is a rare breed and it is exactly the caliber of staff we seek to further attract at Hartford and UCONN.
- Simply put, it takes a different level of person who can bring medical creativity and innovation to the region...as well as taking care of the tremendous amount patients we see every day.
- That, at its core, is what this plan is all about: Helping to recruit & retain the very best of the world to come to Hartford and serve the people of Connecticut.
- By further aligning the educational and research initiatives of UCONN with Hartford's tertiary and quaternary capabilities, notably Level 1 Trauma Center, LifeStar, Interventional Neuroradiology, and Transplant Services...we are empowering our students and attracting a different type of medical experts.
- Ultimately what this plan does is it elevates our capacity for innovation and the quality of health care delivery, education and research we can provide to our patients and to the next generation of doctors and bio-medical scientists.
- If this partnership does not work, I very honestly fear for our community and the services we can provide.
- Retaining and recruiting the best and brightest is the lifeblood of any University. But it is particularly important to a medical institution because there are so few people who can do the work.
- Ladies and gentlemen, we are at a crossroads. We have the potential to lose most of our staff and to close a hospital that is vital to its community and to the Health Center. If this happens, we will not just be making a choice that impacts the near term, it will have far reaching impacts for the next 20 years, because that is how long it will take to rebuild this program.

- We also have the ability and the potential to make Hartford a bio-medical powerhouse on par with New York and Boston.
- This choice is in your hands.
- Thank you for your time and please let me know if I can answer any questions you may have.

Thank you,

Dr. Lenworth M. Jacobs, M.D.

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at Connecticut Children's Medical Center

