



Joanne M. Conroy, MD
Chief Executive Officer and President
Dartmouth Health

Joanne M. Conroy, MD, has led [Dartmouth Health](#) as chief executive officer and president since 2017. As the leader of New Hampshire's largest private employer and only academic health system, including its flagship hospital [Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center](#) ("DHMC"), Dr. Conroy has led significant positive change and growth. Highlights of her tenure include a dramatic turnaround in Dartmouth Health's financial performance, the addition of [Southwestern Vermont Health Care](#) and [Valley Regional Hospital](#) as members of Dartmouth Health, the completion of two major expansion projects, and a strategic planning process that is guiding the organization into the future.

Under Conroy's leadership, in 2021, Dartmouth Health expanded its Dartmouth Hitchcock Clinics Manchester, NH location with an [Ambulatory Surgical Center](#). And, in April 2023, with the completion of a \$150 million expansion of a new patient pavilion in Lebanon, NH, Dartmouth Health increased the footprint of its flagship hospital to 460 inpatient beds. Both projects increased access to key clinical services for patients, brought the use of advanced state-of-the-art technology to the bedside and enhanced delivery of the world-class care that patients and families have come to expect from Dartmouth Health.

With support from Conroy, who is a passionate advocate for rural and equitable healthcare delivery, Dartmouth Health was able to launch several initiatives outside the walls of its brick-and-mortar locations to support community health. In 2022, Dartmouth Health launched the [Center for Advancing Rural Health Equity](#) (CARHE) to give a collaborative voice to its community partners about health issues in their communities to better support positive health outcomes.

Conroy also championed Dartmouth Health in its designation as an “anchor institution”, a formal marker by the Healthcare Anchor Network of an institution that invests in population health initiatives locally and regionally to keep communities thriving.

Conroy’s commitment to addressing community needs has positioned Dartmouth Health as one of the region’s leaders in addressing substance use disorder, serving as one of nine “hubs” in New Hampshire’s hub-and-spoke model for delivering care to victims of the on-going opioid crisis. Dartmouth Health continues to lead efforts to reduce the stigma associated with mental health treatment for people of all ages, and also advocating for insurance parity among its patients and community.

During the pandemic, with Dr. Conroy’s strategic guidance, Dartmouth Health was able to effectively and nimbly function as a system to address the challenges COVID-19 created throughout the region. She challenged her team to use the pandemic’s disruption to innovate and improve patient safety, experience and outcomes. Despite the workforce challenges that COVID-19 created across the healthcare landscape, the actions led by Conroy made it possible for the Dartmouth Health system to focus on quality improvement and cost of care without sacrificing the highest level of care that each patient expects and receives from its dedicated and high performing teams. Conroy cares deeply about workforce and has faced the ongoing recruitment and retention challenges head-on by reaching out to staff across the system to improve morale and engagement, while driving significant improvements in compensation and benefits. In 2021, the workforce housing program was established and relocation support was offered as a service to new hires who had to relocate to join our workforce. Conroy continues to prioritize investments in housing and child care for employees and she supports continued expansion of Dartmouth Health’s Career Institute, providing paid education and training for those seeking jobs in healthcare and an opportunity for employment with Dartmouth Health upon completion of their course work and practicum.

Conroy has forged a strong partnership with both Dartmouth and the Dartmouth Geisel School of Medicine where many of Dartmouth Health’s researchers hold dual academic and clinical appointments. She supports the Dartmouth Health Career Institute and collaborates with other post-secondary vocational and academic colleges throughout the region in nursing and allied health. She is committed to the continued growth and development of a well-qualified clinical staff pipeline which emerges from training ready to address patient needs, and where each trainee’s financial needs are addressed while in training.

Dr. Conroy has long been a formidable force and is a vocal advocate for increasing the role of women in leadership, including as a founding member of [Women of Impact](#), a group of

healthcare executives addressing complex problems in the industry. Her recent national and regional awards and honors include the 2021 Steven Schroeder Award for Outstanding Healthcare CEO given by the LeapFrog Group, being named the 2022 Citizen of the Year by the *New Hampshire Union Leader*, and to *Becker's Hospital Review's* 2022 "[Top 113 Great Leaders in Healthcare](#)" list. She is often singled out as a role model for other women who aspire to become leaders and agents for positive change in healthcare. In 2018 and 2022 Conroy was named one of the "[100 Most Influential People in Healthcare](#)" by *Modern Healthcare* and was included in the magazine's inaugural listing of [Women Leaders Luminaries](#) in 2019. She has been named to *Boston Business Journal's* "Women of Influence" list, *Becker's Hospital Review* "[209 Women Hospital and Health System Presidents and CEOs to Know](#)" lists in 2023, 2024, and 2025, the "135 Nonprofit Hospital and Health System CEOs to Know," and the "36 Women Physician Leaders to Know" lists. She was included in Becker's Top 40 CEO Influencers list for 2023. Under her leadership, DHMC continues to be annually ranked as the #1 ranked hospital in New Hampshire by *U.S. News & World Report and Newsweek*. Dr. Conroy was selected to present the Emery A. Rovenstine Memorial Lecture at the 2020 American Association of Anesthesiologists, an annual lecture delivered by a prominent anesthesiologist.

Conroy is the author of several papers and publications on equality in healthcare leadership, including a 2024 article for Wolters Kluwer Frontiers, entitled: From the Bedside to the Boardroom: Developing Physician Leaders to Take On Tomorrow's Healthcare Challenges, co-written with James L. Hill Jr., MD, FACHE and Ruben J. Azocar, MD, and a 2024 article for the Governance Institute entitled: Beyond Bricks and Mortar: Addressing the Social Drivers of Health with Sally Kraft, M.D., MPH, of Dartmouth Health. On January 1, 2024, Dr. Conroy became chair of the American Hospital Association Board for a one year term and is now serving as the Immediate Past Chair through December 2025. Dr. Conroy has been a featured speaker at several American Hospital Association and ACHE conferences, including the AHA Leadership Summit in July of 2024 and was the keynote speaker at the 2024 New Hampshire Hospital Association Annual Meeting.

Prior to joining Dartmouth Health, Dr. Conroy served as CEO of Lahey Hospital & Medical Center in Burlington, MA, and as chief healthcare Officer for the Association of American Medical Colleges in Washington, DC. She has served as chief medical officer, vice president of academic affairs and executive vice president of the Atlantic health system based in Florham Park, NJ. While serving as executive vice president, Dr. Conroy was named president and chief operating officer for the Morristown Memorial Hospital (now called Morristown Medical Center) in Morristown, NJ. She held several academic and administrative leadership positions at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), including president of the MUSC medical staff, director of Residency Education for the Department of Anesthesiology, chair of the

Department of Anesthesia & Perioperative Medicine, associate vice president for Medical Affairs, executive medical director and senior associate Dean of the MUSC College of Medicine.

Dr. Conroy received her undergraduate degree in chemistry from Dartmouth as a member of only the second class to admit women. As an undergraduate, she was the recipient of a Robert Sloan scholarship from Singer Corporation. She received her medical degree from MUSC, where she completed her residency in anesthesiology, serving as chief resident for one year.

Dr. Conroy is board certified with the American Board of Anesthesiologists.

Updated 06/23/25