

# MARK WILLIAM CONNOLLY, MD

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## PROFESSIONAL BIO

Dr. Mark William Connolly is an accomplished hospital leader, surgeon, researcher, and instructor who drives sustainable growth by building highly talented specialty teams, launching new programs, and adopting technologies that enhance the quality of patient care and outcomes. He specializes in complex cardiac surgeries with hands-on experience managing advanced heart programs and offers extensive heart failure experience. Mark excels in nurturing and developing current and future surgeons by optimizing provider satisfaction and designing strong training and residency programs.

As Chairman of the Department of Surgery at St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center, Mark provides strategic leadership for a main campus hospital and smaller community hospital with 20 total ORs while guiding and mentoring more than 150 surgeons across the network. He effectively collaborates with C-suite leaders to build strong teams and promote innovation/technology upgrades that enhance patient outcomes. His contributions include converting the general residency program from DO-based to ACGME accredited, developing a reputable level II trauma program certified by the American College of Surgeons, and partnering with nursing leadership and other stakeholders to transition legacy ICUs and ORs into a new critical care building.

Earlier, Mark provided leadership for the cardiovascular and thoracic surgery department of a regional tertiary care, teaching, and research center while managing heart and vascular programs at St. Michael's Medical Center. In addition to creating policies, processes, and programs that led to significant improvements in patient outcomes, he led several clinical studies and research trials and served as the director of multiple fellowships and residency programs. His previous surgical work includes Section Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Lenox Hill Hospital, Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery and Director of the Cardiothoracic Residency at Maimonides Medical Center, SUNY, Brooklyn and Director of Cardiopulmonary Transplant at Emory University.

Recognized as a pioneer in medical care, Mark has been instrumental throughout his career in adopting cutting-edge technology into improved patient outcomes. Additionally, he has played a critical role on the research teams that developed endoscopic vein harvesting, endoscopic radial artery harvesting, Off-Pump Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting (OPCAB), and Minimally Invasive CABG (MIDCAB) procedures. Early in his surgical experience, he performed the first lung transplant in the State of Georgia while with Emory University Medical Center.

Over the course of his career, Mark has published numerous articles in leading scientific journals and been invited to present, speak, or serve on panels at prominent national and international conferences. He currently serves as a Founding Member of the Cardiovascular Research and Education Foundation of New Jersey and has previously been a critical member of multiple leadership and professional association boards and committees. Mark is also an accomplished instructor who has served as a faculty member of several major universities as a professor or associate professor of surgery.

Due to his work in and out of the hospital, Mark has been honored with awards such as the Joint Legislative Resolution Honor by the State of New Jersey, the Humanitarian of the Year Award from the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark, Physician of the Year Award from the American Heart Association, Northern New Jersey Chapter and inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society in 1092 as one of the top medical students in the United States. He is Board Certified through the American Board of Surgery, American Board of Thoracic Surgery, and National Board of Medical Examiners and holds Medical Licenses in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York. Mark is proud to have earned his medical degree at Northwestern University and his Bachelor's Degree in Psychology at the University of California, Davis.