

As you may have heard St. Vincent's Hospital has been acquired by UAB Health Systems. Henderson and Walton's Women's Center, P.C. has provided care at the St. Vincent's Birmingham location for more than 40 years and will continue to do so in the future. As the health care landscape is changing in Birmingham, we are excited about new opportunities and serving the women of our community as we always have. We look forward to continuing our relationship with UAB, the leading healthcare system in the state of Alabama.

## **Press Release**

### **UAB Health System Authority to Acquire Ascension St. Vincent's**

**BIRMINGHAM, AL (June 25, 2024)** – After thorough study and due diligence, the University of Alabama Board of Trustees approved an agreement with Ascension for UAB Health System Authority to assume ownership of Ascension St. Vincent's Health System in central Alabama to sustain patients' access to the highest quality care in Birmingham and surrounding communities.

Under the agreement, UAB Health System Authority will assume ownership of all Ascension St. Vincent's sites of care including the hospitals at Birmingham, East, Blount, Chilton and St. Clair, as well as the One Nineteen campus; the Trussville Freestanding Emergency Department; and imaging centers and other clinics that are part of Ascension Medical Group. This transition will include current Ascension St. Vincent's services, facilities, caregivers and associates, including a robust network of providers serving the region.

"Patients will continue to have access to the healthcare services and providers they've come to trust, and ultimately gain access to a larger care network," said UAB Health System CEO Dawn Bulgarella, who also serves as CEO of the UAB/Ascension St. Vincent's Alliance. "UAB and St. Vincent's exist to improve lives, and that purpose will drive our actions in the coming months and beyond."

The UAB/Ascension St. Vincent's Alliance launched in 2020 to increase Alabamians' access to high-quality, innovative medical care and help patients receive the right care at the right time and place. UAB and Ascension leadership view this agreement as the natural next step to continue to expand access to sustainable care in Alabama.

Ascension St. Vincent's CEO and Ascension Senior Vice President Jason Alexander says UAB Health System – with a statewide network of 17 hospitals, both owned and affiliated, integrated care delivery system and proven record of promoting patient-centric, sustainable care across Birmingham and Alabama – is best positioned to extend opportunities for patients to access a larger care network into the future.

“As part of our shared commitment to our patients, caregivers, associates and community, we have continued to discuss options to better deliver on our missions in an increasingly complex environment,” Alexander said. “It became clear that adding Ascension St. Vincent’s to UAB Health System’s network of owned hospitals – and combining and optimizing our collective strengths – is the solution to ensure that our community retains access to sustainable, high-quality healthcare. Among other benefits, patients will gain access to a larger network of local services through UAB.”

“Even as our structure is changing, Ascension’s dedication to health equity and to serving the most vulnerable in Alabama remains steadfast,” added Alexander. “The Ascension Foundation for Health Equity will continue its presence in the market and expand grantmaking beyond the transition period, investing in nonprofit organizations that accelerate positive change for generations of Alabamians.”

At a time when hospitals are closing across the nation, UAB Health System has made it a priority to strengthen Alabama hospitals, support care providers and increase community outreach and service through innovative partnerships that improve the state’s healthcare ecosystem.

“Our mission and vision to provide life-changing care and be the leader in improving the health and lives of all we serve aligns with the outstanding St. Vincent’s caregivers and associates who have served these communities for years,” Bulgarella said. “We look forward to supporting continued operations and providing opportunities for Ascension St. Vincent’s caregivers and associates to essentially remain in their current positions; our goal is to support fulfilling and meaningful careers in service to our patients and communities.”

The transaction is expected to be completed in the fall of 2024, subject to standard regulatory approvals and pending satisfaction of closing conditions and approval by the Catholic Church. Until that time, UAB Health System and Ascension St. Vincent’s will continue normal operations while their teams collaborate to plan the transition.

Both entities are committed to working and communicating diligently with patients, employees, caregivers, associates and community partners.

“We exist to improve lives, and that purpose will drive our actions in the coming months and beyond,” Bulgarella said. “UAB Health System and Ascension are committed to our patients and employees, caregivers and associates and will work collaboratively to ensure a smooth transition in the short-term, and that we enhance the overall patient and employee experience in the long-term.”

Ray Watts, MD, who chairs the UAB Health System Board in addition to serving as UAB president, says UAB Health System is uniquely positioned to deliver on that commitment to sustain patient and employee success.

“UAB Health System is recognized among the nation’s best for innovative, world-class, people-first care, as well as among the best places to work in healthcare,” Watts said. As an Alabama-operated health system we love, understand and meet the needs of our local communities, and we deeply respect Ascension St. Vincent’s caregivers and associates’ similar community- and mission-focused commitment.”

Bulgarella says Ascension St. Vincent’s central Alabama operations also has a proud history on which UAB Health System plans to build with Ascension caregivers and associates.

“Since 1898, Ascension St. Vincent’s caregivers and associates have served our community well,” Bulgarella said. “We are excited to honor and continue their culture and legacy, and make sure they feel secure and appreciated in this transition. I look forward to integrating our talented, mission-focused teams as we work together toward continuity and positive results for those we serve.”

During a special called meeting of the UA System Board of Trustees at which the member substitution agreement passed with unanimous support, UA Interim System Chancellor Sid Trant recommended the resolution for approval.

“As you all know, the University of Alabama System and the UAB Health System exist to improve lives of Alabamians and beyond,” he said. “This acquisition will go a long way to that end and will move the UA System toward fulfilling its vision of becoming the preeminent public system of higher education and health care in the United States.”

### **About UAB Health System**

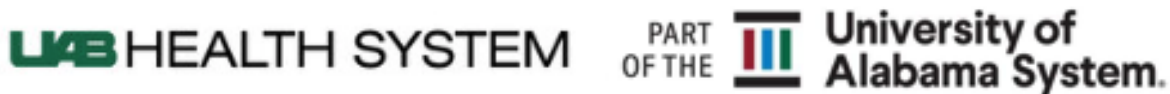
The \$6.4 billion [UAB Health System](#) comprises the patient-care activities of the [University of Alabama at Birmingham Marnix E. Heersink School of Medicine](#) and more than 2,600 licensed beds in a system of 17 owned, affiliate and network entities across the state. This includes UAB Hospital, a winner of the Women’s Choice Award, one of *U.S. News & World Report’s* Best Hospitals and the only Level I trauma center in the state recognized by the American Academy of Surgeons. UABHS encompasses the leading multi-specialty group of healthcare professionals in Alabama, with approximately 1,550 physicians serving patients from every state in the nation and many countries around the world; Callahan Eye Hospital, the only specialty eye hospital in Alabama and one of only a few in the world entirely dedicated to advancements in ophthalmology; and Viva Health which serve more than 78,500 Alabamians through Medicare or employer-sponsored health plans. UAB Health System has been consistently recognized for patient and employee satisfaction. Among other honors, in 2023 UAB received nine 2023 Women’s Choice Awards designations – including one of America’s Best Hospitals for women – as well as received [a 2023 Outstanding Patient Experience Award™ from Healthgrades](#). UAB was named America’s Best Large Employer by Forbes in 2021 and is ranked No. 1 in Alabama and among the top hospitals in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*. It is also recognized as one of the Top 150 Places to Work in Healthcare by

Becker's Hospital Review for quality and variety of health and wellness programs and services available to employees/caregivers/associates. UAB has also earned its sixth consecutive Magnet Designation by American Nurses Credentialing Center. UAB Medicine ranked the No. 3 health care brand in the country in Monigle's Human Brand Experience research report.

UAB, a part of the University of Alabama System, is the state of Alabama's largest single employer with more than 28,000 employees and an internationally renowned research university and academic health center; its professional schools and specialty patient care programs are consistently ranked among the nation's top 50. UAB is the leading academic medical center in Alabama and one of the premier medical centers in the United States. UAB is advancing innovative discoveries for better health as a four-time recipient of the prestigious [Center for Translational Science Award](#).

### **About the UAB Health System Authority**

In 2020, the Board of Trustees established the UAB Health System Authority as a vehicle for performing essential public functions of the University of Alabama System. By statute, the UAB Health System Authority is authorized to carry out a number of functions that are critical to advancing the State's public health mission.



### **About Ascension**

Ascension is one of the nation's leading non-profit and Catholic health systems, with a Mission of delivering compassionate, personalized care to all with special attention to persons living in poverty and those most vulnerable. In FY2023, Ascension provided \$2.2 billion in care of persons living in poverty and other community benefit programs. Ascension includes approximately 134,000 associates and 35,000 affiliated providers and operates 139 hospitals in 18 states.