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HEADLINE: Hopkins system names Peterson president; He has been in post since Block resigned

BYLINE: M. William Salganik, SUN STAFF

BODY:

Ronald R. Peterson was named president of Johns Hopkins Health System yesterday.

Peterson had been acting president of the health system since September, replacing James A. Block. Peterson also replaced Block as president of Johns Hopkins Hospital; that appointment was announced in December.

The health system, created in 1986, consists of Johns Hopkins Hospital, Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center and the Johns Hopkins Medical Services Corporation, which provides medical care at 17 off-campus sites. Peterson is president of Bayview and chairman and chief executive officer of the medical services corporation.

The health system and the medical school are joint owners and developers of several other ventures: the Johns Hopkins Home Health Care Group, the Johns Hopkins Outpatient Center, Johns Hopkins at Green Spring Station and Johns Hopkins HealthCare, which contracts with physicians and managed-care organizations.

Block resigned after a reorganization last year placed him under the university president and a new chief executive officer of Johns Hopkins Medicine, sometimes known as "medical czar." As president of the health system, Peterson reports to the "czar," Edward D. Miller, Jr., who is also dean of the medical school.

Peterson, 48, has been a Hopkins administrator for nearly half his life. He is a Hopkins graduate and has a master's degree in hospital administration from George Washington University. At Bayview, the former Baltimore City Hospitals, where he has been president since 1984, he oversaw a major renovation program and turned a money-losing facility into a profitable one.

He was named executive vice president of the health system in 1995.

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GRAPHIC: PHOTO, It's official: Ronald R. Peterson had been the acting president of the Johns Hopkins Health System since September.