Hometown: Larchmont, New York
Education: Bachelor’s degree from the State University of New York at Binghamton; master’s degree in business administration from the Sloan Program
Career: In 1983, Perlman accepted an entry-level position at the Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA), and over the past 25 years he has held increasingly responsible positions in health policy development and management of the association’s for-profit subsidiaries. He currently serves as president of GNYHA Ventures, Inc., a subsidiary of the association that provides business services to more than 300 health care facilities. He also serves as the executive vice president of administration and is the chief financial officer for the Greater New York Hospital Association.

The way Lee Perlman sees it, he has one major responsibility at work: resource management.

“Health care is about allocation of scarce resources,” he explained. “Your ability to allocate those resources determines how well patients get taken care of. It’s a very noble thing to do, very noble.”

GNYHA Ventures, Inc. is a health care supply-chain company and for-profit arm of the Greater New York Hospital Association. It’s Perlman’s job to make sure that his company’s clients—more than 300 health care facilities across the nation—get the equipment and supplies they need when they need them, and at a price they can afford.

He was the recipient of the Hudgens Award as a young health care executive of the year from the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Perlman became interested in the health care industry after volunteering at a nursing home in Queens for a summer.

“I spent every day there, and it changed my life,” he said. “I got to smell and touch health care. And I understood how every one of those patients had feeling and emotions about their care.”

After finishing his undergraduate degree, he applied to the Sloan Program, along with several other business and law schools.

“It came down to that I felt special pursuing a degree in hospital administration,” he said. “I felt it was something I could sink my emotions into.”

And the faculty and other students in the program share a common goal: helping people.

“The Sloan people were different from others because they weren’t in it for the money,” he said. “It was a very mission-driven group and people who were really trying to make a difference in the world.”

“The most important thing I learned is that you don’t need to work as a doctor or nurse to make a difference in patients’ lives.”