Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Selects Rosemary Nabaweesi as Culture of Health Leader

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has selected Rosemary Nabaweesi, DrPH, MBChB, for its Culture of Health Leaders program. The program aims to develop a generation of leaders to build a national culture of health that provides everyone in America a fair and just opportunity for health and well-being.

The Culture of Health Leaders program is a structured, three-year curriculum and participant experience for leaders who are highly motivated and ready to learn, lead, and achieve mastery of self, relationships, environment, and change. Dr. Nabaweesi will be developing skills from the program to create a program focused on advancing the built and social environment in the Arkansas Delta. She will lead a multidisciplinary, cross-sector collaboration including stakeholders from local communities, businesses, and private and government organizations to co-create a bold strategic initiative focused on creating a culture of health in Arkansas’s Delta communities by addressing structural discrimination (the root cause of poverty, adverse childhood experiences and crosscutting inequities).

Dr. Nabaweesi looks forward to developing and establishing an initiative to create an optimal culture of health alongside multiple stakeholders at the community, local, state, and national levels using a collective impact to address the challenges of health inequity. During the last year of the program, Dr. Nabaweesi and her collaborating partners will seek future funding to achieve the vision of their initiative.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation will provide a stipend and project funds for activities related to the planning and development of a community-based strategic initiative of $98,000 over the three-year period. Dr. Nabaweesi is an Assistant Professor in the Community Pediatrics section of the UAMS Department of Pediatrics and is the Senior Director of Research and Evaluation for the UAMS Division for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Her research has been funded through a Marion B. Lyon New Scientist Development Award and the Children's University Medical Group intramural programs at ACRI. In addition, Dr. Nabaweesi was a KL2 Career Development Scholar of the UAMS Translational Research Institute (U54TR001629 and UL1TR003107).

New ACRI President: Pete Mourani, MD

After an extensive national search, Pete Mourani, MD, has accepted the position of Senior Vice President and Chief Research Officer for Arkansas Children’s and President of Arkansas Children’s Research Institute. In addition, he will hold the Ross and Mary Whipple Family Distinguished Research Scientist Endowed Chair. Dr. Mourani will be joining the Arkansas Children’s family as the 5th President of ACRI and will lead that team as we continue our pursuit of Unprecedented Child Health: Defined and Delivered.

Dr. Mourani joins us from the University of Colorado and Children’s Colorado Hospital where he is currently Professor of Pediatrics in the Section of Critical Care Medicine. Dr. Mourani has been an important leader at Colorado Children’s in development of clinical research programs across the Child Health Research Enterprise. He has served as the Medical Director of the Children’s Hospital Clinical Research Organization and most recently the Medical Director of the Children’s Hospital Colorado Research Institute, where he chaired a committee to redesign the “future state” of child health research at Colorado Children’s.

Dr. Mourani has maintained a consistent track record of NIH funding to support multi-center investigations focusing on pulmonary and pulmonary vascular disease in preterm infants, as well as projects investigating the pathogenesis and care of critically ill children with severe lower
respiratory tract infection, including ventilator associated pneumonia. He also serves as the site Principal Investigator and Steering Committee member for the prestigious eight-site National Institute of Child Health and Human Development-supported Collaborative Pediatric Critical Care Research Network, which performs impactful clinical research in the field of pediatric critical illness and injury.

We know Dr. Mourani’s strong track record of NIH funding, his clinical research background, and his strong leadership skills will ensure we succeed in our 5-year strategic plan of fully integrating research across our entire enterprise. Dr. Mourani and his family will be relocating to Little Rock and he will begin his new role on December 7, 2020. Please join us in welcoming him to the Arkansas Children’s family!

Find Out About Opportunities to Participate in Research
Information on currently enrolling clinical studies at ACRI is available at ACH's Clinical Trials Webpage. Interested families can voluntarily join ACRI’s Research Registry at https://secure.archildrens.org/ResearchContacts/ to be contacted about pediatric clinical research. To receive Text Alerts about currently enrolling clinical research studies, interested persons can text RESEARCH to 411247 (message and data rates may apply; terms and conditions at www.mobivity.com/411247terms).

ACRI Researcher-Specific Announcements
Announcements that are specific to ACRI/ACH Campus Researchers may be found at the Weekly Research Update page: http://compoint/ACRI/default.aspx.