We Are Grateful for Your Support

We are pleased to share the 2013 annual report of Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science. In the stories that follow, you will meet some of the leaders, faculty, alumni and students who are helping to continue our proud legacy of innovation, access and excellence. You will also get a look at our growing campus, made necessary by program expansions and visionary partnerships — and made possible, in part, by support from our donors.

Thank you for your past generosity, which has allowed us to advance our standing as a model for interprofessional education, attract outstanding faculty and students, and expand our commitment to community health care. Your continued support will help sustain these efforts and ensure that Rosalind Franklin University can continue its mission to educate outstanding health care leaders and practitioners of tomorrow.

For generations, current students have benefited from the generosity of alumni who came before them. Why give back to Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science? To show appreciation for the education you, your family or friend has received, and to make a powerful statement about our belief in community.

Giving to RFUMS is a way of ensuring our continued commitment to the medical and scientific world. With your generosity, we will continue to make a powerful contribution to the future.

On the Cover: (left to right) Karen Johnson, PhD; Alicia Case, PhD; and Daniel Christian, PhD

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YEAR IN REVIEW 2012 – 2013

4 NEXT: A Message from the President

6 Embracing the Possibilities: Alliance for Health Sciences Builds on Shared Commitment to Community

8 On the Path to Success: CMS Graduate Pursues Longtime Interest in Neurology

10 Open Options: CED.PDF Program Helps Postdoctoral Fellows and Graduate Students Explore Career Paths

12 Full Circle: Scholl Alumna Returns as Member of the Faculty

14 Pursuing the Dream: Shannon Liu Embraces Student Life and Studies

16 Applying Himself: Dr. Sean Kane Brings Focus on Critical Care and Mobile Technology to College of Pharmacy

18 Her Next Chapter: Dual Degrees Lead CHP Alumna to Career in Health Administration

20 Career Move: Acclaimed Researcher Brings Expertise to RFUMS Faculty

22 A Coordinated Effort: Students’ Research Targets Lake County Community Health

24 Financial Results for Fiscal Year 2012 – 2013

25 Board of Trustees

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: NEXT

Is there a word in the English language that elicits a greater sense of expectation? For “next” is what happens tomorrow, a year from now or even decades down the road. The moves we make today guide what happens next.

For an institution such as Rosalind Franklin University, charged with the responsibility of educating the health care professionals and leaders of tomorrow, our decisions about what’s next may impact people for generations to come. With that in mind, I am pleased to introduce the 2012-2013 Year in Review. In the pages that follow, you will meet students and recent alumni on the brink of beginning productive careers. You will get to know faculty members whose talent, commitment and fresh perspectives prepare students for an evolving health care environment. And you will learn about the campus growth, program expansion and plans for the future that will make Rosalind Franklin University a leader for a long time.

It’s important to emphasize that, in service to our vision, planning never stops.

• Last year, we began our Alliance for Health Sciences, the innovative partnership with DePaul University. Collaborative efforts already underway include the Masters of Nursing program, which is now housed in the new Rothstein Warden Centennial Learning Center. Through the Alliance, possibilities abound. Ideas to be explored include expansion of the nursing program and programs in community health and health care information technology.

• Our expertise in interprofessional education will be further strengthened with the creation of an Institute for Interprofessional Education.

Because we are always focused on what’s next, Rosalind Franklin University has continued to look at new partnerships and opportunities. This commitment has brought Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science to its present position as a national model for excellence in interprofessional education. This is a credit to those who came before as well as to our current students, faculty, staff and leadership, whose energies and optimism about the future inspire us to go forward.

We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Ruth Rothstein, our late board chair, who passed away this year. It was during Mrs. Rothstein’s tenure that Rosalind Franklin University took major steps in its journey to excellence. Her strength, openness to new ideas and clear-eyed determination, along with her firm belief in the importance of interprofessional education and service to diverse populations and communities, were critical to our sustained growth.

Our accomplishments make us proud. And, thanks to the energies and commitment of our students, faculty and leadership, the growth and changes on the horizon offer great promise for continued achievement.

K. Michael Welch, MB, ChB, FRCP
President and CEO
Throughout their distinguished histories, Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science and DePaul University have been recognized for their commitment to innovation. Therefore, it was no surprise when the institutions unveiled their visionary Alliance for Health Sciences.
The Alliance was created amid growing national recognition about the importance of training professionals equipped to respond to changes in our health care environment. It evolved after Dr. K. Michael Welch, RFUMS president and chief executive officer, approached DePaul president Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider to discuss the possibilities. “This was a natural ‘marriage’ for two Chicago-area universities to team up through a shared commitment to the community and their regional proximity,” says Dr. Welch. “Father Holtschneider listened, agreed and we went forward.”

“The United States is facing a dramatic need for highly skilled health care professionals to meet the demands created by dramatic demographic shifts in society,” says Rev. Holtschneider. “DePaul was excited by the opportunities this alliance with Rosalind Franklin University would afford our students and the larger DePaul community to expand health education. It also offered us another opportunity to better serve the Chicago community.”

The Alliance for Health Sciences streamlines entry for qualified students into the health professions, strengthens academic programming, deepens opportunities for faculty collaboration and expands research opportunities for students. Together, Rosalind Franklin University and DePaul offer one of the widest arrays of health science programs in the Midwest.

This collaboration builds on DePaul’s investment in undergraduate science and health and RFUMS’s strong reputation for excellence, particularly in interprofessional health education. One of the Alliance’s earliest efforts was the creation of early admission pathways that will streamline students’ progress through their undergraduate work at DePaul into highly competitive master’s and doctoral programs at Rosalind Franklin. Through these pathways, highly qualified and motivated students who intend to pursue a career in health care will receive a strong liberal arts foundation, benefit from a contemporary professional health education and have opportunities to train at state-of-the-art health and medical facilities while being mentored by professionals in their desired fields. Students in these jointly developed curricular programs may benefit from reducing by one year the overall time required to complete their professional degrees, allowing them to save on their
DePaul was excited by the opportunities this alliance with Rosalind Franklin University would afford our students and the larger DePaul community to expand health education. It also offered us another opportunity to better serve the Chicago community.

—Rev. Holtschneider

The Alliance is also poised to play an important role in addressing the shortage of nurses. According to the Illinois Center for Nursing, the national vacancy rate for nursing professionals will jump 20 percent, to about 800,000 nurses, by the year 2020. The Alliance has taken steps to help by expanding DePaul’s Master’s Entry to Nursing Practice (MENP) degree program to the Rosalind Franklin campus, making it easier for second-career adults to earn an advanced nursing degree. This specialized master’s degree is one of the few programs designed to allow students with non-nursing undergraduate degrees to directly enter into the profession as a registered nurse. This program will include clinical rotations at hospitals and health centers in the northern suburbs, Lake County and at the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center. Additionally, this program, which will be housed in the new Rothstein Warden Centennial Learning Center, will be the only one of its kind in Lake County.

The Alliance also has opened up extensive opportunities for faculty collaboration, both within their areas of expertise and across disciplines. Research efforts will benefit, with faculty members from both schools able to tap into expertise and technology unique to each institution. The appeal of these kinds of collaborations was evident early in 2013, as faculty members from both institutions met to explore areas for potential research collaboration. To date, 11 projects have received funding and include basic, transitional and behavioral sciences, with researchers from all five RFUMS colleges representing the diverse range of research being conducted. Researchers from DePaul hail from the College of Science and Health, College of Communication and the College of Computing and Digital Media. To strengthen the objective, both universities established a joint fund, dedicated to supporting these inter-institutional pilot projects.

“There are many areas where DePaul and Rosalind Franklin University can collaborate to make a difference for students, faculty and the community,” says Dr. Welch. “We are just beginning to see the possibilities.”
When most of his friends were dreaming of a career as a baseball player, astronaut or rock star, Billy Roth had already set his sights on a decidedly different path. Even as a little boy, he knew he wanted to do something involving the brain. Today, this 2013 graduate of Chicago Medical School (CMS) is well on his way, having been accepted into the prestigious neurology residency at Columbia University in New York.

Billy laughs today, recalling this early interest. “I guess in every other way I was a pretty normal kid,” he says. “I loved sports and being outdoors playing with friends. But I was always interested in what went on inside a person’s brain. I wondered about how it worked, and why some people thought and acted differently from others.”

He notes that his grandfather might have inspired this interest. “Neither of my parents work in the health care field, but my grandfather was a clinical psychologist who used to talk to me about his work. He loved what he did, and I think some of his enthusiasm rubbed off on me.”

As an undergraduate at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Billy majored in psychology on a pre-med track. “On completion of my degree, I applied to several medical schools and was thrilled to be accepted at Chicago Medical School,” he says. “I was glad for the chance to stay close to home for a few more years. I am close to my family and love the city of Chicago.

“Chicago Medical School was the perfect place for me to pursue my lifelong dream. It helped me financially, with the CMS Alumni Merit Scholarship that made it possible for me to attend this excellent school. From there, from the start, the faculty gave me everything I had hoped for. And, through the school’s outstanding clinical rotation opportunities, I found a mentor whom I know will inspire me for a long time.”

He explains that once he began his studies at CMS, his early interest in neurology intensified. “This happened especially during a clinical rotation in neurology at Advocate Christ Medical Center. There, I met Dr. Mel Wichter, a renowned neurologist, who not only became a great teacher and mentor, but who also invited me to work on one of his research projects.” Billy explains that during his third and fourth years at CMS he was able to participate in Dr. Wichter's research study of the drug rotigotine, and its potential effect on patients who have suffered a stroke. “This is an interesting study, looking at a drug already used in patients with restless leg syndrome and Parkinson’s disease, to see if it can be used for stroke patients who have what’s called ‘hemispatial neglect.’ That’s a condition in which certain visual spatial deficits remain after the stroke episode. I hope to continue this interest as a resident at Columbia.

“I still think about my grandfather and the way he motivated me to do this work. He is not here to see what I’ve accomplished but I know he would be proud.” •
Is there a perfect place for everyone? This is a question considered by leadership of Rosalind Franklin University’s School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (SGPS). “The answer to that may be a qualified ‘Yes,’” says Joseph X. DiMario, PhD, Dean of SGPS. “To support this goal, we have created a program called Career Enhancement and Development for Postdoctoral Fellows, commonly known as CED.PDF.”

Dr. DiMario explains that CED.PDF is a multifaceted approach to providing information, support and mentoring to SGPS’s graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. “The need for this program has grown from a new reality,” he says. “There was a time when most postdoctoral fellows and graduate students could expect to find a good academic research and teaching position following completion of their postdoc work,” he adds. “But today, with funding opportunities dwindling in relation to the number of fellows seeking positions, the environment has changed. The career landscape is now more diverse. The good news is that there are options, and Rosalind Franklin University is in a good position to help our fellows and students cultivate skills that position them for success.”

One of the key elements of CED.PDF is the Individual Development Plan (IDP), a tool for self-evaluation and goal-setting. “The IDP identifies competencies, sets goals and is an effective mechanism for fellows to chart a plan for continued training and crystallize plans for career direction,” says Dr. Johnson, who is currently a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Bala Chandran, PhD, chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology. “The self-assessment component of the IDP asks fellows to rate their interest and proficiencies in categories such as research skills, computer skills, communication, and administrative and leadership skills.”

She explains that the IDP self-assessment explores specific skill sets such as working in a group, grant preparation and teaching, with the rankings designed to help them understand their proficiencies and interests.

The CED.PDF program also matches fellows with mentors and sponsors presentations and workshops highlighting careers in academic environments, business and industry, and government. “We want to encourage a steady dialogue about the options available in multiple settings,” Dr. DiMario says.

He points out that SGPS has already witnessed an encouraging by-product of CED.PDF’s focus on self-assessment. “We’ve noted that our graduate and postdoctoral students are increasingly applying for their own research grants,” he says. “This may reflect the CED.PDF program’s emphasis on empowerment and on taking control of their own futures. This is a positive sign. Clearly, this program benefits our current fellows and students. But it also benefits our University as a whole. It demonstrates to those inside and out that Rosalind Franklin University is committed to their development. It’s a distinguishing feature for us that will help us continue to recruit the best and brightest.”
On a recent visit to her childhood home, Dyane Tower, DPM ’09, was shown something her parents had found while sorting through old boxes. It was a report she had filled out in eighth grade in preparation for high school. Asked the “what do you want to be when you grow up” question often posed by parents and teachers, she had responded simply… “I want to be a surgeon.”

“My parents were rightfully charmed by this and were eager to share it with me,” says Dr. Tower, who, as an alumna and assistant professor of podiatric medicine and radiology at the Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine, does indeed include “surgeon” as one of her skills. “To see that in print — that I was so sure at such a young age — made us all smile.”

With an early interest in medicine and a lifelong participation in sports, her pursuit of podiatric medicine seemed inevitable. “In college I worked with the team physician, an orthopedic surgeon, who guided me in this direction. Because of my interest in athletics and sports medicine, he mentioned podiatric medicine,” she explains. “At his urging, once I took my MCAT exam, I paid special attention to the materials I was receiving from podiatric medicine programs. Once I visited Scholl, I knew it was the place for me.”

After graduating with dual degrees, a Master of Science in Healthcare Administration and a DPM, Dr. Tower moved to Greeley, Colorado, to complete her podiatric medicine residency at Banner Health. Her responsibilities there included overseeing clinical care at a podiatry specialty clinic at a community health center. “My work there was pivotal in several ways,” she says. “I took increasing notice of the importance of podiatric medicine in the health and wellness of a community. I became more and more interested in community health and in exploring ways to improve it.” Dr. Tower says her Colorado years also led to a desire to make teaching a part of her future. “I was responsible for teaching junior residents and medical students,” she says. “I loved it.”

Nearing the completion of her residency, Dr. Tower was presented with another opportunity. She was named the APMA/TOI Public Health Fellow by the American Podiatric Medical Association and spent a year at the Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice in Hanover, New Hampshire, fulfilling the requirements to obtain a Master of Public Health degree. “This was an incredible program, which included health care professionals from many disciplines and many countries, all coming together to learn from the Dartmouth faculty and from one another,” she says. “It gave me an excellent chance to enhance my skills and build on my experience in community health.”

Dr. Tower explains that nearing completion at Dartmouth she was faced with decisions. “I wanted to find a place where I could practice, pursue my interest in making a difference in a community, participate in research efforts and, importantly, be a teacher to the new generations of health care professionals,” she says. “There was an opportunity at Scholl and I was thrilled to pursue it.” She now teaches a variety of courses, including the capstones, six-week “mini” courses in which students get hands-on experience in techniques and procedures. She will also practice podiatric medicine and teach students at both the Scholl Clinic and at the Vista Health Center in Waukegan.

“When the opportunity to come back to Rosalind Franklin University and Scholl College was presented, I knew it was the right choice. I had come full circle.”

Scholl’s Presence within the Community

- Scholl Outreach Clinic: 14 sites in Cook and Lake counties, providing services from wound treatment to minor surgical procedures for the medically underserved, transient, homeless and veteran populations.
- Almost 150 students received podiatric screenings at this year’s Kids 1st Health Fair, where low-income families can receive a variety of services including immunizations, health examinations and school supplies.
Shannon Liu came to the Chicago Medical School determined to focus only on her studies, eschewing the high level of extracurricular activity that marked her undergraduate experience at the University of California, Davis. “I have always been a joiner, one who wanted to be part of lots of things. But when I was accepted into medical school I thought I should focus solely on my studies.”

Her resolve was short-lived. “I couldn’t resist,” she says. “Once I arrived at the Chicago Medical School and saw for myself how many great opportunities there were, I changed my mind.” Shannon quickly joined the emergency medicine and pediatrics interest groups as well as the CMS Faculty Awards committee.

Soon she had a reputation among her peers as someone who was always willing to serve. That led to a surprise role during her second year. “I attended a meeting at which elections for president of the Executive Student Council (ESC) were being held. But when the call went out for nominations, a friend of mine offered up my name, encouraging me to run. I did, and I was elected.”

She says her tenure as ESC President was very rewarding. “Rosalind Franklin University is a school where the faculty-student relationships aren’t just given lip-service, but are very real and extremely meaningful. In my role, I was able to see up close just how important and valued the student voice is, and that was wonderful.”

Shannon says her busy life at CMS makes it easier to be so far from home. “That’s one of the things I worried about when I applied to school,” she says. “I am close to my parents, my sister and our three dogs, and I also worried about leaving behind the moderate temperatures of my home in California.”

Growing up, Shannon had lots of interests. “After undergraduate school I took a break and worked with children in a sports medicine center,” she shares. “I loved the work, but soon yearned for something more challenging. Medical school had always been in the back of my mind, and so I went forward with that plan.”

Right now, she’s keeping specialty options open. “As a third-year student I am going to be doing a number of clinical rotations, so I will be exposed to many medical and surgical environments,” she says. “I have always been interested in both pediatrics and emergency medicine, but I realize that might change. In another year or so, who knows?”

Shannon continues to maintain her commitment to service, too. As a third-year student, she serves as CMS Student Dean, a liaison between administration and students. “In addition, I am involved in activities aimed at celebrating CMS pride,” she adds. “Our school deserves notice, and I like being part of that.”

As ESC President, Shannon was the featured speaker at the 2013 University Commencement. In her speech, she shared thoughts that will no doubt be appropriately spoken to Shannon herself when she graduates in 2014.

“Day in and day out, you put one foot in front of the other and worked for your achievements. Yes, your journey was long and probably exhausting, with late nights studying and unpredictable hospital and clinic hours. You made sacrifices. But you chose to pursue your dream, for this is what you were meant to do.”
His expertise is always just a smart phone away. Sean Kane, PharmD, assistant professor in the College of Pharmacy, has made that possible by creating apps such as FlashRx, which provides students with quick reference to information on common drugs, including their uses, side effects and contraindications.

Developing and maintaining FlashRx is just one of the contributions Dr. Kane has made since he joined the faculty in 2012. He also serves as a faculty advisor to pharmacy students, is a preceptor for the RFUMS summer research program and teaches the College’s Critical Care Pharmacy course.

Dr. Kane recalls that his interest in pharmacy started early. “In high school, I loved chemistry,” he recalls. “So my choice of a pharmacy career grew from there.” He attended Butler University’s College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, where he completed a six-year Doctor of Pharmacy program. It was during his time at Butler that Dr. Kane cultivated his skill in app development. “I worked in the college’s Information Resources department, where one of my early projects was the creation of a scheduling and time clock application for student workers,” he says. “Before long it was being used throughout Butler.”

After Butler, Dr. Kane completed his pharmacy practice residency, followed by a second residency in critical care pharmacy at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). “I loved working in critical care as a student and early on decided this was a specialty I would pursue. When I completed my residency at UIC I knew I wanted a position where I could work in a critical care environment and fulfill my desire to be a teacher, do meaningful research and continue to use technology in both the learning and clinical practice environments. Rosalind Franklin University’s new College of Pharmacy was the ideal choice.”

Dr. Kane now divides his time between the College and his work as Critical Care Clinical Pharmacist at Advocate Condell Medical Center in Libertyville, Illinois, one of Rosalind Franklin University’s hospital partners. There, Dr. Kane provides clinical pharmacy services to a 17-bed intensive care unit. “My Condell position also enables me to serve as the primary preceptor for 10 Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience second-year students each year. They are able to see, firsthand, how a clinical pharmacist plays a vital role in caring for patients in an ICU setting. They see how the pharmacist, as part of the critical care team, rounds with attending physicians and helps make decisions about medications that can impact the patient’s treatment plan and outcome.”

His classroom responsibilities at the College include courses on pharmacotherapy and pharmacokinetics, and he coordinates and teaches the critical care elective. Dr. Kane is also pursuing research interests, including two retrospective studies of adjunctive therapy in septic shock. Two College of Pharmacy students have assisted in this project under his direction.

Notable too is his continued dedication to using web-based and mobile application technology to expand learning resources for students and practitioners. While at UIC, Dr. Kane combined his interest in technology and his professional specialty, creating ClinCalc.com, which provides evidence-based clinical decision support. “This is a free website that serves as an educational resource for clinical pharmacists, residents and students,” he explains. “I update it and maintain it regularly and have added a mobile smart phone application for dosing guidelines on two common drugs. This app also features a database where visitors can find evidence-based, landmark critical care trials. ClinCalc, in its web-based and mobile app formats, now gets more than 24,000 new visitors each month.”

Dr. Kane appreciates and embraces his position as a role model for a new generation of pharmacists. “This is an exciting time,” he says. “Our role on the health care team is expanding, and we’re using creative approaches to ensure that today’s students are ready. I am proud to play a part in that.”

Snapshots of Dr. Kane’s Apps
Amy Mendoza, MS ’12, with a colleague from the Yale New Haven Health System
Amy Mendoza was still pondering decisions about her undergraduate major when fate stepped in. “I secured a job in a pathology laboratory and fell in love with it,” she says. That move led Mendoza to Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science and to two degrees from the College of Health Professions — Master of Science in both Pathologists’ Assistant and Healthcare Administration and Management.

“Coming to Rosalind Franklin University was a big step,” she says. “I lived in Oregon, where I was raising two young daughters. I knew I wanted to pursue a pathologists’ assistant career, but I also had my girls to think of. I needed a place where our quality of life and my education would be good.” Mendoza says RFUMS made that possible. “I applied to several competitive pathologists’ assistant programs in the U.S. and was invited to interview at most of them,” she explains. “But Rosalind Franklin was the best fit for us. With great financial and practical support, the University made it possible for me to come east from Oregon, make a life for my family and receive an outstanding education in the field I loved.”

Amy says that being at RFUMS, and seeing the range of educational opportunities available, led to another decision. “While I loved the lab, I saw that my eventual career path might be in an administrative or leadership role,” she says. “So I pursued the master’s degree in healthcare administration.”

Following graduation in 2012, Amy made another move that has impacted her career and future. She was invited to participate in a 10-week summer internship sponsored by the Institute for Diversity in Health Management Summer Enrichment Program (SEP), which is affiliated with the American Hospital Association. Through SEP, she was placed at Connecticut’s Yale-New Haven Hospital, where she worked on projects including helping to prepare for a hospital acquisition by designing the integration of the multimillion dollar protective services department. When it came time for the internship to end, Yale New Haven Health System (YNHHS) offered her a one-year fellowship in healthcare administration.

“I was thrilled to be able to extend my experience within Yale New Haven Health System,” she says. “During the fellowship year I continued my work on the department integration and was involved in creating and implementing new business plans around population health management. Several of my projects were focused on laboratory medicine so my training as a pathologists’ assistant, in addition to my degree in healthcare administration, was very useful in addressing the redesign of those areas.”

“We were not at all surprised to learn that Amy was staying on for a fellowship year at Yale New Haven Health System,” says Diane R. Bridges, MSN, RN, CCM, chair of the Department of Health Services Administration. “A gifted, hard-working, outstanding student, she took the insights and skills she learned at RFUMS to one of the country’s most esteemed medical centers and, in doing so, spoke volumes about the excellence of Rosalind Franklin University. Her experience also underscores the importance of financial support. Without scholarship help from Rosalind Franklin University, this amazing young woman might not have been able to pursue the career she was clearly meant for.”

Mendoza completed her fellowship at YNHHS during the summer of 2013 and was offered a position in Washington, DC. “I am excited to begin the next step of this journey,” she says. “My years at Rosalind Franklin University prepared me well, gave me the opportunity to expand my skills and helped put me on a path to a wonderful career and life for me and my daughters.”

Preparation Students for a Changing Environment

PATHOLOGISTS’ ASSISTANT
AROSE OUT OF THE NEED TO ADDRESS SHORTAGE OF PATHOLOGISTS
LARGEST PROGRAM OF ITS KIND IN THE NATION
22 MONTH INTENSIVE PROGRAM

HEALTH ADMINISTRATION CURRICULUM INCLUDES COURSES IN

FINANCE
LAW
MARKETING
EVIDENCE-BASED MANAGEMENT

PROVIDING KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS TO INTEGRATE BEST BUSINESS PRACTICES, MEETING CHALLENGES OF A COMPLEX HEALTHCARE DELIVERY SYSTEM
With the arrival of Joseph Reynolds, PhD, assistant professor of microbiology and immunology, Rosalind Franklin University demonstrated its continued commitment to attract the country’s finest research scientists. Dr. Reynolds, who joined the faculty in 2013, came to RFUMS from the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, where he was a member of a distinguished research team studying immune responses and their role in diseases such as cancer, asthma, multiple sclerosis and arthritis.

Dr. Reynolds’ road to the University began when, following graduation from high school in Cincinnati, he attended Hanover College in Hanover, Indiana. “I was a biology major,” he says. “In my senior year I had the opportunity to take a course that focused on immunology, and I was hooked.” He entered the University of Louisville to pursue his doctoral degree, working in the summer before classes began in one of the university’s immunology labs. “That experience laid a great foundation for me, and it was there that I met a scientist who would become my first mentor,” he recalls. He stayed on at the University of Louisville School of Medicine to complete his PhD in immunology.

From Louisville, Dr. Reynolds moved to The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center to work with Dr. Chen Dong, one of the foremost researchers in the study of immune responses. He is best known for his characterization of a cell known as “T helper cell 17,” its production of the molecule interleukin-17 and its central role in inflammatory and autoimmune diseases. “Dr. Dong’s work represented a big step forward in our understanding of the molecular mechanisms involved in disease processes,” Dr. Reynolds says. “My research interests also involved innate pathways, and Dr. Dong’s laboratory was widely considered to be one of the best.”

Over the next five years, Dr. Reynolds’ research focused on interleukin-17C and the role of proteins called “toll-like receptors” in the pathogenesis of inflammatory diseases such as multiple sclerosis, colitis and arthritis. He was principal author or co-first author on a number of studies published in journals such as Immunity, Journal of Immunology and Journal of Biological Chemistry. Dr. Reynolds also is the recent recipient of a Career Transition Award from the National Institutes of Health.

This award will help him set up a lab at Rosalind Franklin University where he will continue the innate pathways research he pursued in Houston.

Ronald S. Kaplan, PhD, Vice President for Research, RFUMS, emphasizes that Dr. Reynolds’ arrival reflects Rosalind Franklin University’s growing reputation as an outstanding research institution and further enhances the learning environment for students across disciplines. “The Department of Microbiology and Immunology is a great example,” he says. “Dr. Bala Chandran, the chairman of that department, has assembled a remarkable group of scientists and teachers.”

“When it came time for my postdoc experience to end, I knew I wanted to find a position where I could teach and continue the research I started in a supportive, collegial environment,” says Dr. Reynolds. “I found it at Rosalind Franklin University.”

As the national climate of NIH funding changes, the University continues to experience great overall growth in total research dollars on an annual basis. In recent history, the University has seen increases of 73% since 2007-2008, with a 258% increase since 2001-2002.
For now, Kristen Lang and Jalia Tucker are happy working behind the scenes, doing research on population demographics and local resources. But Kristen and Jalia, first-year Chicago Medical School (CMS) students, are hopeful their work will lead to better care for underserved individuals in Lake County.

The students are doing preliminary research on a grant-funded feasibility study exploring whether the Rosalind Franklin University Health System (RFUHS) can implement a coordinated care entity (CCE). This is an innovative approach to population health management aimed at creating a cost-efficient, sustainable system that meets the health care needs of people receiving Medicaid and living with multiple chronic health conditions. In this effort, RFUHS is partnering with Heartland Health Outreach, a program of Heartland Alliance, which is a community health organization dedicated to addressing the lack of quality care for Chicagoland’s disenfranchised populations.

Working on this project was a good fit for both Kristen and Jalia. “I took a year off after college graduation and spent some time working in a community hospital,” Kristen says. “I was struck by how a patient’s resources, their insurance status or financial situation can sometimes impact the care received. This was especially true when it came to access to specialized services such as cardiovascular care. That sparked my interest in community health, especially as it relates to access to care. When work on this study was presented as an option for a student project, I knew it was something I wanted to do.” Kristen’s work on the project involves researching potential local partners that could provide the kind of services needed in the CCE.

Jalia Tucker, who is researching Lake County demographic data to identify the numbers of people whose Medicaid status and health profile would qualify them for inclusion in the CCE, builds on an academic background in public health. A California native, she came to CMS from Drexel University, Philadelphia, where she earned a master’s degree in public health and wrote a thesis focused on the effectiveness of a patient-centered medical home in Philadelphia’s Medicaid population. “I am interested in how inequities in access to care can affect health outcomes and life expectancies,” she says. “I want to play a part in helping address that, which is why I decided to become a physician.”

Kristen and Jalia’s efforts support RFUHS’s long-standing commitment to providing health care services to people in Lake County. These include podiatric medicine, internal medicine and family medicine services provided by RFUHS at its North Chicago location; behavioral health and reproductive medicine services in Vernon Hills, Illinois; and health care and counseling services for students of Rosalind Franklin University. Each year, RFUHS serves more than 23,000 individuals who generate approximately 16,500 visits. Approximately 30 percent of these patients are uninsured or underinsured.

RFUHS also takes its service to the community “on the road” through the Community Care Connection, a mobile health unit. This vehicle, staffed by a team of health care professionals, offers a variety of health screening services, including blood pressure; blood sugar/diabetes; cholesterol; body mass index; osteoporosis; and foot screenings. Students from Rosalind Franklin University often assist with the screenings under the supervision of licensed health care providers, which offers them an invaluable learning experience.

“Our presence throughout the community attests to our commitment to improve health outcomes in our own backyard,” says Jim Zimmerman, executive director of RFUHS. “The CCE feasibility study is another example of our openness to new ideas that may help improve care.” •
ROSALIND FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND SCIENCE:

Financial Report

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2013

Operating Revenues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total All Funds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net tuition and fees $68.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants and contracts 15.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient care 7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment support 2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions 2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other 4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total $101.3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Operating Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total All Funds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instruction $57.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research 13.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient care 7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional support 17.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total $96.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess revenues over expenses $4.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$ in millions

Excludes non-operating revenues and expenses, including realized and unrealized gains and losses on investments

Sponsored Research Support

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