

Appointments



Jerome Larkin, MD, to lead Rhode Island Department of Health

PROVIDENCE—**JEROME M. LARKIN, MD**, was confirmed by the Rhode Island Senate as the next director of the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) on May 21.

“Dr. Larkin is a proven leader in the medical field and his experience will be a vital asset to our team and to the people of Rhode Island,” said

Governor **DAN MCKEE**. “Improving health outcomes for all Rhode Islanders is a top priority for our administration and I’m confident that Dr. Larkin will help us reach that goal.”

With more than 30 years of experience in the health care field, Dr. Larkin currently serves as the Medical Director of Inpatient Infectious Diseases Consultation Services at Rhode Island Hospital.

“Dr. Larkin has the experience to lead the dedicated team at the Rhode Island Department of Health as we work to address the critical public health needs of our state,” said Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services Secretary **RICHARD CHAREST**. “From health care system planning and addressing the opioid crisis, there are several interagency

initiatives in which I look forward to having Dr. Larkin’s expertise at the table.”

“I look forward to working with Secretary Charest and Governor McKee, as well as the many dedicated and talented staff of the Department of Health in moving health care in Rhode Island forward,” said Dr. Larkin.

An associate professor of clinical medicine at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, he is board-certified in internal medicine and infectious diseases by the American Board of Internal Medicine and in general pediatrics by the American Board of Pediatrics in General Pediatrics.

Dr. Larkin has authored many abstracts, chapters, and works in peer-reviewed journals and publications and has been recognized with multiple awards and honors, including the 2022 Steven M. Opal Award for teaching excellence and the 2015 Beckwith Family Award for Outstanding Teaching, both from the Alpert Medical School.

He received his medical degree from the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and completed his undergraduate degree at Boston College. ❖

Recognition

South County Hospital earns 'A' from Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade

WAKEFIELD – South County Hospital's efforts to provide high-quality care and ensure patient safety were recognized with an "A" rating from Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade for the Spring of 2024. This national distinction celebrates South County Hospital's achievements in protecting patients from preventable harm and error in the hospital. This is the tenth "A" rating South County Hospital has received since 2018.

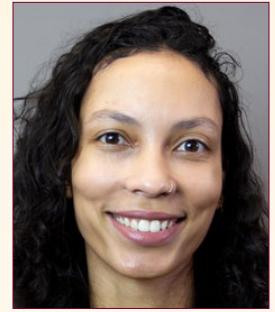
KEVIN CHARPENTIER, MD, VP and Chief Medical Officer at South County Health, said "South County Health is honored to receive this prestigious 'A' grade from Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades. This recognition serves as validation of our unwavering commitment to ensuring patient safety and prioritizing the highest level of patient care above all else as Rhode Island's Most Trusted Health Partner. It is also a direct reflection of our dedicated staff including the leadership team, providers, clinicians, and volunteers, whose relentless dedication and commitment to excellence have made earning this top grade possible."

Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades, formerly known as Hospital Safety Scores, serve as a gold standard measure of patient safety. Utilizing up to 30 national performance measures sourced from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the Leapfrog Hospital Survey, and other supplemental data sources, the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade evaluates hospitals' overall performance in safeguarding patients against preventable harm and medical errors. The methodology behind this assessment has undergone rigorous peer review and is published in the esteemed *Journal of Patient Safety*.

Leapfrog's grading system – A, B, C, D, or F – is peer-reviewed, fully transparent, and free to the public. The grades are released twice each year and out of approximately 3,000 hospitals graded, only 29% received an A, underscoring the significance of this recognition for South County Hospital. ❖

Ana Sofia Barber De Brito, MSN, CNM, honored by ACNM

PROVIDENCE – **ANA SOFIA BARBER DE BRITO, MSN, CNM**, nurse midwife at Women & Infants Hospital received the 2024 Media Award from the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM). The award recognizes earned media placement that positively shows midwifery, thereby promoting the midwifery profession. She received this award in recognition of her role in the recent Rhode Island Public Broadcasting Service (RI PBS) series special "The Risk of Giving Birth." ❖



BROWN UNIVERSITY

Rena R. Wing, PhD, awarded Susan Colver Rosenberger Medal of Honor at Brown commencement

PROVIDENCE – **RENA R. WING, PhD**, was awarded the Susan Colver Rosenberger Medal of Honor during the University's 256th Commencement on May 26th. The medal is the highest honor the Brown faculty can bestow, and it has been awarded just 35 times since its establishment in 1919.

Dr. Wing, a professor of psychiatry and human behavior, was recognized for her decades-long dedication to improving human health, as well as for her mentorship to early-career scientists. She launched and directs the Weight Control and Diabetes Research Center, a three-story building near the medical school. More than 50 researchers and staff members, including 14 Brown faculty members (clinical psychologists, dietitians, exercise physiologists and neuroscientists) and two postdoctoral fellows, conduct clinical trials and behavioral, observational and experimental studies.

Wing is being recognized for her decades-long dedication to improving human health, as well as for her mentorship to early-career scientists, said **STEVEN SLOMAN**, chair of the Faculty Executive Committee and a professor of cognitive, linguistic and psychological sciences at Brown, in a press release.

"Rena Wing's pioneering work on the prevention and treatment of obesity, diabetes, vascular disease and even Alzheimer's disease has had a major impact on the health of people in Rhode Island and across the country," Sloman said. "The faculty are proud to bestow upon her the highest honor that they can offer."

For more than 40 years, Wing has conducted research on the prevention and treatment of obesity, and she has published over 600 peer-reviewed research studies. Her scholarship on lifestyle approaches to the control of obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases has had lasting impact on the science of behavioral medicine.

Wing developed the lifestyle intervention used in the Diabetes Prevention Program, for example. That federally funded study changed the worldwide approach to preventing diabetes, finding that changes to diet and increased physical activity reduced the risk of diabetes by 58%.

She was the principal investigator for the Miriam Hospital site of the Look AHEAD (Action for Health in Diabetes) study, and chair of the entire randomized clinical trial of 5,145 people spanning 16 centers across the U.S. The study, which lasted more than two decades, demonstrated that lifestyle interventions reduced the risk of complications from diabetes such as kidney failure, urinary incontinence, depression, frailty and remission. ❖