

Appointments



Ateev Mehrotra, MD, MPH, to join School of Public Health as Chair of the Department of Health Services, Policy and Practice

PROVIDENCE – **ATEEV MEHROTRA, MD, MPH**, will be joining the School of Public Health as chair of the Department of Health Services, Policy and Practice, effective July 1, 2024. In addition to his new role as chair, he will also serve as professor of health services, policy and practice.

He is currently at Harvard Medical School, where he serves as professor of health care policy. He also is a hospitalist at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston.

In an email announcement, **ASHISH K. JHA MD, MPH**, Dean, School of Public Health wrote: “Dr. Mehrotra’s work has been deeply influential in shaping the way we think about innovative models of care delivery. He has led seminal work evaluating the impact of telemedicine on costs and quality, how the rise of urgent care has reshaped the health care landscape, and other critical issues around consumerism, price transparency and benefit design. He has published hundreds of peer reviewed papers and is a prominent voice in the field of health services and health policy.”

Dr. Ateev received a BS from MIT, an MD from the University of California, San Francisco, and completed his residency in internal medicine and pediatrics at the Massachusetts General Hospital and Children’s Hospital of Boston. His clinical work has been both as a primary care physician and as an adult and pediatric hospitalist. He has also received formal research training, earning an MPH from the University of California, Berkeley, and a master of science in epidemiology from Harvard’s T.H. Chan School of Public Health. ❖



Scott Rivkees, MD, to take the helm at Brown’s Master of Science in Healthcare Leadership

PROVIDENCE [BROWN UNIVERSITY] – Following a transformational tenure, Master of Science in Healthcare Leadership Academic Director Dr. Anthony Napoli passes the torch to **SCOTT RIVKEES, MD**, ensuring a seamless transition for the program’s continued success. The reim-

agined Master’s in Healthcare Leadership launches in the summer of 2024, marking a new era for this 11-year old program.

Dr. Rivkees, a pediatric endocrinologist and physician-scientist, served as Florida’s State Surgeon General and Secretary of Health from June 2019 to September 2021, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to that, he was Chair of Pediatrics at the University of Florida and Physician-in-Chief at Shands Children’s Hospital.

Dr. Rivkees joined Brown University in 2022, and currently serves as a Professor of the Practice of Health Services, Policy and Practice and Director of the Accelerated Master of Public Health program at Brown’s School of Public Health.

“I am honored to join the Healthcare Leadership team as the Academic Director. I look forward to building on the strengths of an incredibly strong and effective program led by Dr. Anthony Napoli and the team,” said Dr. Rivkees.

Over the coming years, he hopes to build upon the strengths of the program, including training in leadership, communication, workforce growth and management, healthcare finance and operations, and policy. New areas he’d like to explore include how policy can improve healthcare, effective communications amongst colleagues, patients and the public, and how healthcare and public health can enrich one another. A large effort will also be given to helping students foster rich connections with classmates and faculty to build a network of healthcare leaders who can inspire and support each other well beyond graduation.

“Healthcare is dynamic and constantly evolving to meet the challenges of the communities we serve. The Master’s in Healthcare Leadership has and will continue to provide the skills healthcare professionals need to be effective leaders now and adapt to future needs,” he said. “I look forward to serving an important role in the education of our current and future healthcare leaders.”

Dr. Rivkees is a graduate of Rutgers University and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. He received residency, fellowship, and postdoctoral training and served as faculty at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School. ❖

Appointments



Babar Khokhar, MD, MBA, named Lifespan's Executive Vice President, Chief Physician Officer

PROVIDENCE – Lifespan has hired **BABAR KHOKHAR, MD, MBA**, for the role of Executive Vice President and Chief Physician Officer, overseeing medical affairs, physician practices, outpatient care locations, and community health services, effective as of February 1, 2024.

Dr. Khokhar will also serve as Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs (Lifespan) at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

Dr. Khokhar comes to Lifespan from Yale School of Medicine and Yale-New Haven Health System in Connecticut, where he most recently served as chief medical officer at Yale Medicine and chief ambulatory medical officer at Yale-New Haven Health System. He previously served as the chief clinical transformation officer and interim chief executive officer at Yale Medicine.

Dr. Khokhar oversaw regional medical directors, risk management, patient relations, credentialing, clinical innovation, population health, and helped improve the clinical operations of ambulatory locations across the enterprise. He established a system-wide ambulatory operations group that developed ambulatory practice standards and ambulatory dashboards for clinicians, managers, and leadership. He helped create an innovative model that gave the emergency departments and acute care teams same-day access to schedule patients, which helped facilitate timelier discharges.

Dr. Khokhar founded and led the Yale Clinical Optimization

Services, which implemented initiatives that helped reduce provider workloads, such as changing workflows to improve efficiencies and using virtual scribes and novel care team models. He helped develop and support the population health platform for Yale Medicine with innovative programs such as the behavioral health collaborative and eConsult initiative. Lastly, Dr. Khokhar was instrumental in laying the groundwork for aligning physician groups across the health system and ensuring support for the wellbeing of the staff and clinicians.

“Lifespan is fortunate to have recruited such a talented and visionary executive during a critical time in healthcare, when operational innovation is becoming more and more essential to long term success in this industry,” said Lifespan President and CEO **JOHN FERNANDEZ**. “With his history of enterprise-level clinical care delivery transformation, Dr. Khokhar is a welcome addition to the Lifespan team, and I look forward to working with him.”

While at Yale, Dr. Khokhar also held academic and clinical positions as associate dean for clinical affairs at the Yale School of Medicine and vice chair for operations in the Department of Neurology.

He holds a BA in neuroscience and economics from Johns Hopkins University, and an MD and MBA from Tufts University School of Medicine. He completed an internship in internal medicine and a residency in neurology at Yale-New Haven Hospital, where he was chief resident. He also completed a fellowship in neuromuscular medicine at the Yale School of Medicine. ❖

Recognition

RIDOH honors health professional loan repayment program recipients and donors at State House ceremony

PROVIDENCE – The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) and the Board of the Health Professional Loan Repayment Program (HPLRP) recently recognized the 2020–2023 HPLRP award recipients for their service and commitment during one of the most challenging times in health-care. The event, held at the Rhode Island State House, also recognized the donors whose generosity makes this loan repayment program possible.

The HPLRP is a critical component of the State's efforts to increase health-care access and reduce health disparities through recruiting and retaining quality, community-oriented health professionals. Through the support of generous donors, each year, the Board of the HPLRP has provided loan repayment awards to health professionals who have committed to providing care in Health Professional Shortage Areas statewide.

From 2020 to 2023, the Health Professional Loan Repayment program made awards to 104 healthcare professionals, including physicians, dentists, nurses, and behavioral healthcare providers. In accepting their loan repayment awards, the recipients have committed to practicing in medically underserved communities in Rhode Island for at least two years.

"All Rhode Islanders in every ZIP code deserve access to high-quality health

services and care," said **UTPALA BANDY, MD, MPH**, Interim Director of Health and Chair of the Health Professional Loan Repayment Board. "The Health Professional Loan Repayment Program is a critical component of our efforts to address health workforce shortages, increase access to primary care, dental, and behavioral health services, and reduce health disparities among our most vulnerable populations."

The COVID-19 pandemic put great stress on the healthcare workforce nationally and in Rhode Island, creating burnout, exhaustion, and trauma that led to workforce shortages. During the public health emergency, RIDOH and the Health Professional Loan Repayment Program Board provided \$3.85 million in loan repayment awards to help strengthen the healthcare workforce and narrow health disparities by increasing the number of providers in medically underserved communities. The program is an essential tool for recruiting and retaining high-quality healthcare providers.

Funding for the program comes from the federal government and from various health and community organizations. The Rhode Island Health Center Association solicited matching funds from many of these organizations.

"As Rhode Island faces a severe health-care workforce shortage, the commitment of the donors and supporters to this program is more important than ever," said **ELENA NICOLELLA**, president and CEO of the Rhode Island Health Center Association. "Today, we celebrate their investment in the State's primary medical, behavioral, and oral health care workforce and recognize the health care professionals who work hard to ensure all Rhode Islanders have access to high-quality care."

Donors to the Health Professional Loan Repayment Program include Blue Cross Blue Shield of RI, Delta Dental of Rhode Island, Landmark Medical Center, Neighborhood Health Plan of RI, Point32Health, Prospect CharterCARE, the Rhode Island Foundation, the Rhode Island Medical Society, the Rhode Island Health Center Association, and the UnitedHealthcare Community Plan. In addition, the program receives federal funding in the form of a grant to RIDOH by the US Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA).

Learn more about the Health Professional Loan Repayment Program at health.ri.gov/programs/healthprofessional-loanrepayment. ❖

Recognition

Commitment to Advocacy award presented to Division of Ophthalmology at AMS

AUSTIN, TEXAS – The American Academy of Ophthalmology is the world’s largest association of eye physicians and surgeons. Its Commitment to Advocacy Award annually recognizes an ophthalmology training department and its leadership for outstanding support of the Academy’s Ambassador Program. The Advocacy Ambassador Program is a collaboration with state, subspecialty and specialized interest societies, along with training programs, to support attendance by residents and fellowship trainees at the Mid-Year Forum.

The Division of Ophthalmology of the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University is the recipient of the Academy’s 2023 Commitment to Advocacy award. The award was presented to the Division of Ophthalmology of the Warren Alpert Medical School by the Academy and the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO) leaders on February 1, 2024 during AUPO’s annual meeting.

The Academy’s Secretariat for State Affairs created the award to recognize a training program and its leadership for demonstrating a commitment to the Academy’s Advocacy Ambassador Program. The Advocacy Ambassador Program gives residents and fellowship trainees hands-on training in advocacy and policy development and supports their attendance at the Academy’s annual Mid-Year Forum and Congressional Advocacy Day.

The Division of Ophthalmology at the Warren Alpert Medical School has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to engaging and educating members in training about the importance of advocating for their patients and their profession, fostering Advocacy Ambassadors’ engagement with the Rhode Island Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons (RISEPS), and collaborating closely with RISEPS. ❖



Academy CEO **Stephen D. McLeod, MD**, presents the 2023 Commitment to Advocacy award to the Division of Ophthalmology, the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University during AUPO’s annual meeting in Austin, Texas, in early February. **Michael E. Migliori, MD, FACS**, Ophthalmology Division Chief, accepted the award on behalf of the Warren Alpert Medical School.