

St. Joseph's Medical Center Receives \$20K Medical Education Diversity and Inclusion Grant

Stockton, CA - July 14, 2022 - This week, leading internal medicine organizations announced St. Joseph's Medical Center as a recipient of a \$20,000 grant designed to improve the quality of education and training to build a more trustworthy health system.

The Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine (AAIM), the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM), the ABIM Foundation, the American College of Physicians (ACP) and the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation have awarded a total of \$400,000, split among 24 projects at medical schools and training programs.

St. Joseph's Foundation of San Joaquin and Dr. Kwabena Adubofour, core faculty of the internal medicine residency program, submitted the proposal on behalf of St. Joseph's Medical Center's Graduate Medical Education program. "One of the things I've said to the residents is that we are not solely interested in them becoming good doctors. We want them all to be healers, and healers care about the community. Healers are advocates. Healers are out there really feeling the pulse of the community and knowing where to put resources to address healthcare issues," said Dr. Adubofour.

With this new funding, St. Joseph's Medical Center will use didactic education and experiential opportunities with community-based organizations and opportunity youth to enhance internal medicine residents' understanding of the relationship between social determinants of health and the importance of health equity. Black, southeast Asian and Hispanic community members' trust will be measured, and medical residents will follow a cultural competency/sensitivity curriculum to increase their awareness of the beliefs, values and biases they bring to patient encounters, and improve their ability to interact effectively with individuals different from themselves.

"The Alliance is thrilled with the growth of this grants program through collaboration. Advancing DEI in undergraduate and graduate medical education is critical to our mission and funding these innovations will continue to move the needle in building an equitable and trusted health care system," said Shobhina G. Chheda, MD, MPH, Chair of the AAIM Board of Directors, Professor in the Department of Medicine and Associate Dean for Medical Education at University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health.

“For far too long, patients and health care professionals from groups historically underrepresented in medicine have not felt as if they belong in our health system, hospitals, clinics, training programs or medical schools,” said Holly J. Humphrey, MD, MACP, president of the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation. “These grants, by focusing on diversity, equity, and inclusion in internal medicine, are one way to stimulate change so that all who seek care, along with those learning to provide care, feel they belong and can trust the care they receive or are learning to provide.”

For media inquiries or interview opportunities, please contact Mariava Phillips at mariava.phillips@commonspirit.org or 209-467-6347.

About St. Joseph’s Foundation of San Joaquin:

St. Joseph’s Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose purpose is to raise and administer philanthropic funds to support the needs of St. Joseph’s Medical Center and St. Joseph’s Behavioral Health Center. Together with our board of directors, physicians and other community leaders, the foundation works to encourage public interest and support of St. Joseph’s Medical Center and our many worthy programs, services, and outreach activities in a manner consistent with our values and goals. Learn more at www.supportstjosephshospital.org.

About St. Joseph’s Medical Center

Dignity Health St. Joseph's Medical Center is a not-for-profit, fully accredited, regional hospital with 355 beds, a physician staff of over 700, and more than 2,700 employees. Specializing in cardiovascular care, comprehensive cancer services, and women and children's services, St. Joseph's is committed to delivering compassionate, high-quality, affordable health care services with special attention to the poor and underserved. As a Sponsoring Institution for Graduate Medical Education, St. Joseph’s supports rapidly growing educational programs for both resident physicians and medical students. In addition to being nationally recognized as a quality leader, St. Joseph's is consistently chosen as the "most preferred hospital" by local consumers. St. Joseph's is the largest hospital, as well as one of the largest private employers in San Joaquin County. Founded in 1899 by Fr. William O'Connor and administered by the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael, St. Joseph's continues to lead the region in medical innovation. St. Joseph's Medical Center is a member of Dignity Health/CommonSpirit Health, a nonprofit Catholic health system with care sites across 21 states dedicated to advancing health for all people. For more information, please visit DignityHealth.org/Stockton.

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