

Marquette University Faculty Member Receives \$100,000 Grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Grant will support Abiola Keller, PhD, MPH

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), the nation's leading philanthropy working to build a Culture of Health in America, has awarded Abiola Keller, PhD, MPH, clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Physician Assistant Studies at Marquette University, a \$100,000 grant through the New Connections program.

Keller is among a select group of junior investigators to receive a 24-month grant from the Foundation. The grant will allow Keller to evaluate the increasing role of non-physician providers in improving the quality and equity of depression treatment in the United States.

With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, one crucial challenge will be addressing the current shortage of physician providers without compromising the quality and equity of health services. Keller's research will be critical in determining the optimal distribution of health services between non-physician providers and physicians in primary care teams in order to maximize depression outcomes.

New Connections is a national program designed to introduce new scholars to RWJF and to expand the diversity of perspectives that inform the Foundation's programming. New Connections seeks early- to mid-career scholars who are historically underrepresented ethnic or racial minorities, first-generation college graduates, or individuals from low-income communities.

"We are so excited to welcome Dr. Abiola Keller into the eighth cohort of New Connections grantees. The program connects first-time grantees to the Foundation, and the new perspectives they bring are essential to solving the critical, complex issues affecting our nation's health," says Catherine Malone, DBA, MBA, Program Associate at RWJF.

"This cohort joins the larger New Connections network of over 1200 scholars – a network that provides opportunities for scholarly support and collaboration for academics from underrepresented groups," says Malone.

"I am honored to be among the junior investigators honored with this prestigious grant," says Keller. "This award will connect me to a network of established experts in research and evaluation related to health and health care, while providing me with an opportunity to evaluate a mechanism for health care

delivery that has far-reaching implications for improving accessibility to depression services while maintaining high quality and equitable care.”

More information about New Connections is available at <http://www.rwjf-newconnections.org>.

About Marquette University

Marquette University was established in 1881 and has been educating students to be leaders in their professional lives, their communities, and in society for more than 125 years. Since the first class of five men were awarded bachelor of arts degrees in the 1880s, Marquette has grown into a modern coed campus of more than 11,600 students who learn and grow through nationally admired undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and professional programs. The campus encompasses approximately 80 acres, with 8,000 undergraduate students and over 3,600 graduate students, including those enrolled in the dental, graduate, and law schools. The Physician Assistant Studies Program at Marquette University is a professional program in the Marquette University College of Health Sciences. Its graduates rank in the top 10% on the national board exam and maintain a 100% job placement.

About the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

For more than 40 years the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has worked to improve the health and health care of all Americans. We are striving to build a national Culture of Health that will enable all Americans to live longer, healthier lives now and for generations to come. For more information, visit www.rwjf.org. Follow the Foundation on Twitter at www.rwjf.org/twitter or on Facebook at www.rwjf.org/facebook.

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