



ROSALIND FRANKLIN  
UNIVERSITY  
*of MEDICINE AND SCIENCE*

# Health.

This is what we're made for.





ROSALIND FRANKLIN  
UNIVERSITY  
*of* MEDICINE AND SCIENCE

CHICAGO MEDICAL SCHOOL  
COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS  
COLLEGE OF NURSING  
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY  
DR. WILLIAM M. SCHOLL COLLEGE OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE  
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES

## Mission

To improve the wellness of all people through innovative, interprofessional education of health and biomedical professionals and the discovery and implementation of knowledge.

## Vision

To lead the nation in developing interprofessional healthcare education and biomedical discovery to advance an equitable, healthy society.

## Core Values

Collaboration, Excellence, Innovation, Integrity,  
Justice, Respect and Scholarship

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## We face a profound challenge.

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The sustainability of our planet — our physical, social and cultural environments — depends on our will to confront crisis-level threats. We have the knowledge and the tools. We only need to summon the will. We must work together, across sectors, to prioritize the health of humanity. Rosalind Franklin University seeks to create access to education, to create new knowledge and to build interprofessional partnerships to protect the future for generations to come.

# This is what we're made for ...

**Rosalind Franklin University has always embraced innovation and change. We understand that it makes us better at what we do best. From our founding as a medical school that expanded access to the profession to our early understanding that interprofessionalism makes for better education and care, we have looked to the future and taken action.**

**T**he convergence of health care and technology is creating a very bright future for health. Across every industry and sector, AI and digital technologies are in rapid development, and they are transforming the way we deliver care. They are, quite simply, making it easier to be healthy.

The AI revolution sweeps forward at a time of global health crisis. The climate emergency extends to every corner of our planet, but it overburdens under-resourced communities and widens equity and gender gaps in health, wealth and education.

Mental illness is also a global problem, and it's interconnected with climate change. Most people never receive the help they need.

We know that more than 12 million people around the world die every year because they live or work in unhealthy environments. And nearly 44 million adults in the U.S. experience mental illness in a given year.

As we look to the future, we see that AI shows great promise in helping us solve both challenges.

**"The health and biomedical professionals we're educating today will captain a process of collaborative intelligence, using AI tools to work in support of community-based action, research and advocacy."**

The health and biomedical professionals we're educating today will captain a process of collaborative intelligence, using AI tools to work in support of community-based action, research and advocacy.

We support our students in their desire to explore solutions to challenges in all aspects of health care, education, scholarship and leadership. They will translate that learning to their patient populations and to the development of resilience in their communities and in themselves.

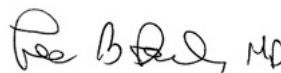
RFU will continue to seek solutions through public/private/community partnerships and collaborations that include diverse voices and open, honest dialogue and problem-solving. We will continue to seek philanthropic partners who share our vision to improve the health of our institution, our students and the communities we care for.

We will be talking about sustainability — the ability to meet our current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs — in the months to come. We want to create a culture of sustainability for the university now and in the future. We don't know what or when the next crisis will be. But we are flexible. We are resilient. We will be ready.

Wishing you the best of health.



**Wendy Rheault**, PT, PhD, FASAHP, FNAP, DipACLM  
President and CEO



**Lee B. Sacks**, MD  
Chair, Board of Trustees



# Environmental Health

**It's common knowledge that our health is closely connected to our environment and that health disparities are linked to differences in how and where we live. Do we live close to highways or industry? Lack access to healthy food, green spaces, health care? Has flooding left mold behind?**

**A**ddressing those harms through public and population health approaches can prevent illness and improve wellness. But the greatest health benefits can only be achieved by focusing on the environment — the planet — we all share. A better, healthier life for us all depends on our collective resolve in fighting what the World Health Organization (WHO) calls “the single biggest health threat facing humanity.”

“The climate crisis is a health crisis,” said Vanessa Kerry, MD, MSc, the WHO’s first-ever director-general special envoy for climate change and health. In an interview with *JAMA*, Dr. Kerry predicts “an increased flux of disease at a rapid rate from climate change that in its own way is going to be a COVID pandemic many times over, year in and year out.”

The climate emergency also poses upstream risk for a host of other impacts that impinge on the social determinants of health: food insecurity, trauma, loss of income and productivity, forced displacement, and increased conflict and violence.

Rosalind Franklin University hears the call for climate action, a call that includes the powerful voices of our own students. We will respond to that call and intensify our efforts to address inequities among our neighboring communities.

“Climate justice is crucial, because those who have contributed least to climate change are being disproportionately affected,” said Aditi Mukherjki, PhD, an author of the latest report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, made up of the world’s leading climate scientists.

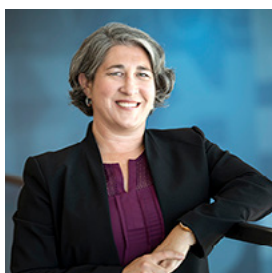
RFU is committed to education, research and action that preserves our planet and improves the health of all people and communities.



# The RFU Vision



**Rosalind Franklin University is committed to working in collaborative partnership toward a more sustainable future. We're taking actions to reduce our environmental impact and strengthen our efforts to educate our students, faculty and staff across subjects and disciplines about climate change and its threat to the health of humanity.**



Top to bottom: The coal-fired power plant in Waukegan closed in 2022, leaving behind toxic coal ash; the 8th Annual WiSH Symposium in September studied the effects of climate change on women's health; the Innovation and Research Park advances bioscience discovery; CHER Founding Director Amanda M. Simanek, PhD, MPH.

**W**e recognize the necessity of preparing a healthcare workforce that possesses the knowledge and skills that can help their patients understand and mitigate health risks linked to climate change. Health professionals can also play a role in building community-based partnerships to create equitable solutions to environmental risks.

Communities across the U.S. are experiencing more flooding, power outages and evacuations, all of which threaten health, safety and livelihoods.

The incidence of extreme heat-related illness and death is on the rise, with spikes among the elderly and people with schizophrenia and other chronic conditions. High temperatures also put pregnant women and their unborn children at risk for prenatal complications.

Our 2023 8th Annual Women in Science and Healthcare (WiSH) Symposium focused on climate change and women's health.

**“We do not need another technological breakthrough. We have options in all sectors to at least halve emissions by 2030. We just need to deploy them.”**

— CECILIA SORENSEN, MD —

“We have the tools and know-how required to limit warming,” said WiSH keynote speaker Cecilia Sorensen, MD, director of the Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education at Columbia University, in quoting Hoesung Lee, chair of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

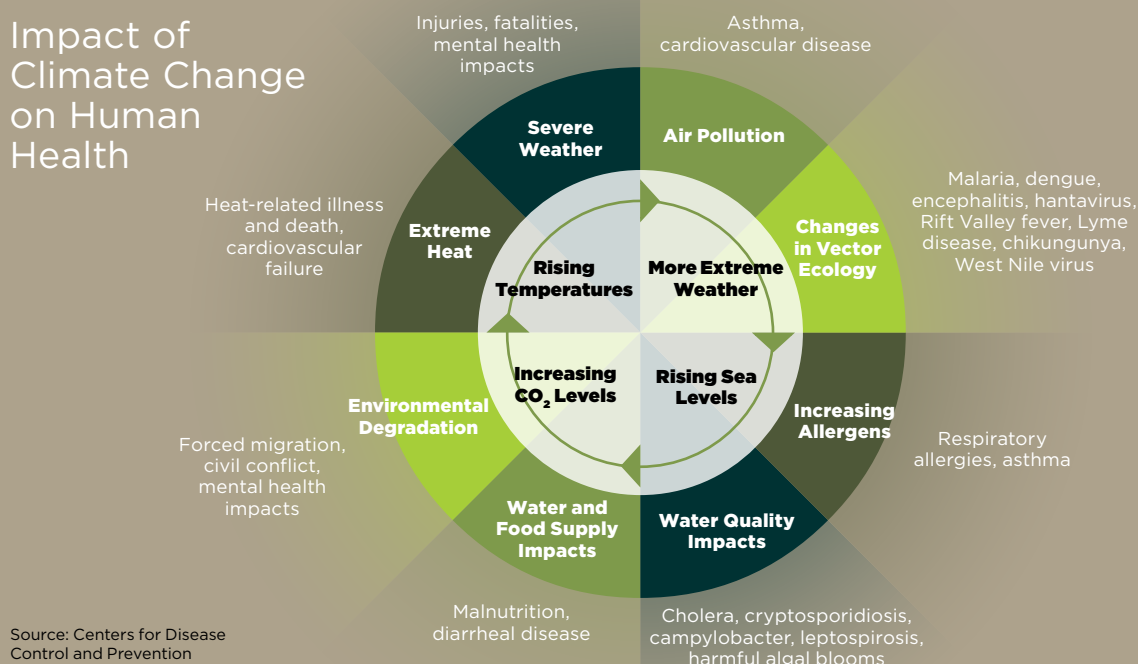
“We do not need another technological breakthrough,” Dr. Sorensen added. “We have options in all sectors to at least halve emissions by 2030. We just need to deploy them.”

The people of RFU are working on many levels to counter the harms to health and wellness driven by climate change.

- **Professor Emeritus Robert Bridges, PhD**, has long worked toward the development of drugs for the treatment of cystic fibrosis (CF) and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, which can worsen under extreme temperatures.
- **AirAnswers**, a company based in our Innovation and Research Park, has developed technology that monitors air quality for airborne allergens, molds and viruses, and pathogens.
- Our **Lifestyle Medicine program** emphasizes a plant-based diet, which is better for our bodies and the earth.
- Our **Michael Reese Research and Education Foundation Center for Health Equity Research (CHER)** is connecting RFU students with community partners to address social determinants of health.

Our environmental health ambitions and our strategies are couched in the concept of sustainability — how we maximize our resources, our culture, our talent and our land use to advance our mission. We recognize that there is an inextricable relationship between our environment and our health. We aim to create new knowledge and access to education that will improve the human condition for generations to come.

## Impact of Climate Change on Human Health



## Environmental Inequities In Lake County

Research shows that social and environmental factors contribute to the risk of premature death twice as much as lack of healthcare access. Polluting emissions, including coal plant pollution and emissions from motor vehicles, not only make the air quality worse but exacerbate chronic health conditions like asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).



### Higher Rates of Asthma

A needs-based assessment conducted by the Mobile CARE Foundation in 2012 showed that

- **32.8%** of respondents in Waukegan,
- **32%** in North Chicago and
- **27.4%** in Zion

had a diagnosis of asthma or presented symptoms of asthma.

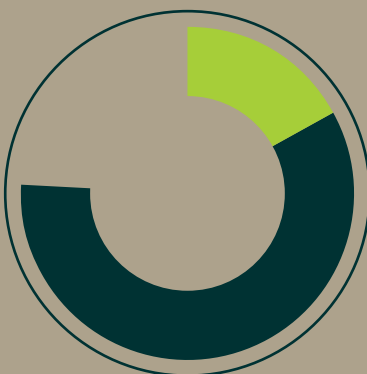
### Toxic Coal Ash Dumps

The byproduct of a recently shuttered coal-fired power plant on Waukegan's lakefront, **coal ash contaminates groundwater** and poses a threat of industrial spill.

### Clustered Superfund Sites

**Lake County is home to eight Superfund sites**, and five of them are located in Waukegan. The city, which sits five miles north of RFU, is

- **17%** Black and
- **59%** Hispanic



### Ethylene Oxide (EtO)

A **hazardous air pollutant widely used across industry, posing harm** to residents in Waukegan, North Chicago, Gurnee, Round Lake and Mundelein.

Source: "Health, Equity, and Nature: A Changing Climate in Lake County, Illinois," a report by the Brushwood Center at Ryerson Woods



**When smoke from Canadian wildfires wafted over the Chicago area last summer, Family Nurse Practitioner Lupe Rodriguez, APN, who was visiting medically underserved areas of Lake County aboard the university's mobile clinic, saw worried parents with coughing children.**

"We noticed an increase in respiratory complaints when the air quality was quite poor, even in children with no formal diagnosis of asthma," said Ms. Rodriguez, executive director of community health engagement for the university's **Community Care Connection (CCC)** program.

CCC patients often lack health insurance and struggle with health literacy. Ms. Rodriguez realized parents weren't accessing air quality alerts or taking precautions to avoid particulate matter, which can harm the developing lungs of young children.



Left to right: Ms. Rodriguez, second from left, with Care Coach personnel; the Care Coach delivering COVID-19 vaccines to a Lake County neighborhood in spring 2021; the CCC offered information on vaccines in 2022 at a sports complex in Waukegan, Illinois.

In an upstream approach to disrupting those kinds of structural barriers to health, the university's **Michael Reese Foundation Center for Health Equity Research (CHER)** partnered with **Live Well Lake County (LWLC) Access to Care Action Teams** to make a plan for collecting data on the health information needs in Lake County.

"The team wants to understand the health information needs of community members," CHER Founding Director Amanda Simanek, PhD, MPH, said. "What's their lived experience in obtaining health-related information?"

The work of both the CCC and CHER is fueled by philanthropic partnerships with **NorthShore University HealthSystem** and the **Michael Reese Research and Education Foundation**, respectively.

RFU continually seeks trusted partnerships to help meet the growing demand of environmental health challenges, including intensifying inequities among our neighboring communities. We're also seeking partners in reducing our institution's environmental footprint and expanding academic resources related to the impact of climate change on human health.

We hope to incorporate environmental best practices and concepts for sustainable development across our curricula, disciplines and built environments. Building a sustainable campus community with resilient infrastructure is also a top priority, and we have made progress on reducing our carbon emissions by implementing green building and operating practices.

Our **Sustainability Committee** and our **Campus Master Planning Group** are emphasizing the flexible and fluid use of space, where possible, and programmable high-efficiency systems and building control automation. As we plan to make long-term impacts, we're also working to implement shorter-term measures: the expansion of green spaces, including the cultivation of more natural prairie grass to mitigate the effects of high temperatures and pollution, and doubling our number of electric vehicle charging stations.

"Resilient infrastructure needs to change as our needs change," said Robert Jackson, associate vice president for facilities management. "It's changing how we operate for generations to come."

# Mental Health

**The U.S. Surgeon General has described mental health as “the defining public health crisis of our time,” citing factors that include a growing crisis of loneliness and isolation.**

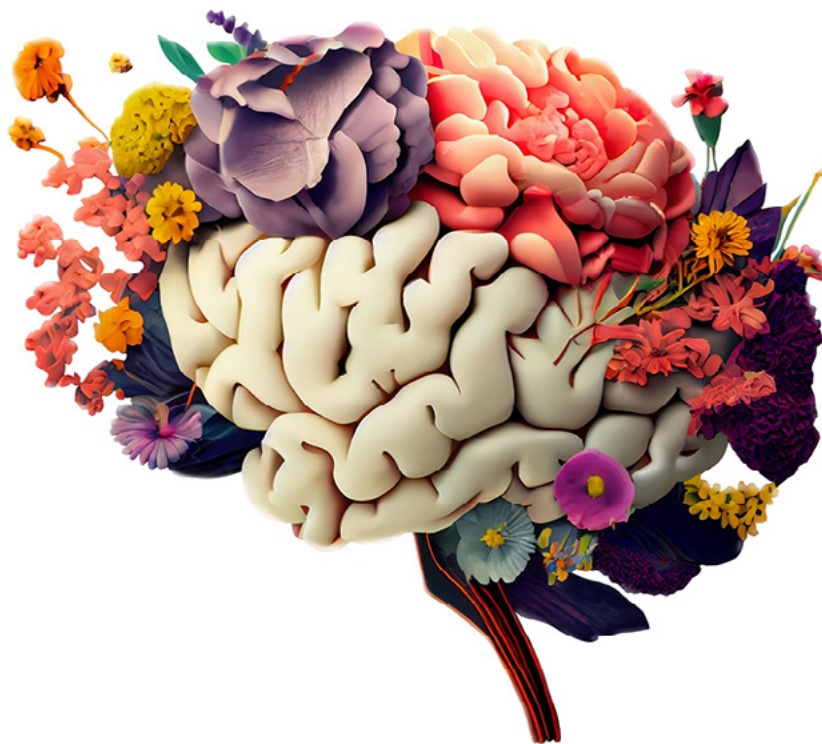
“I think of mental health as the fuel that allows us to show up for our communities, our friends, our family and our lives,” said Vivek Murthy, MD, MBA, in an interview last spring for *The New York Times*. “And when that fuel tank is low, it compromises our ability to be who we can be in our best moments and to show up at work or in school.”

Epidemiological studies reveal that chronic mental illness makes people more vulnerable to a host of diseases and puts them at greater risk from the impacts of our changing climate. More than one in five adults in the U.S. lives with a mental illness. Youth mental illness presents another urgent challenge, as evidenced by a 40% increase in suicide rates for ages 10 to 19 between 2001 and 2019.

Those numbers reflect other trends, including the destigmatization of mental illness, increased demand for care and a workforce shortage, and the COVID-19 pandemic — a national trauma. Social media personalization algorithms also play a role, promoting misinformation and polarization in what has been called “the age of algorithmic anxiety.”

“Today’s youth are looking into the future and seeing the earth in distress,” said Julie Waites, PsyD, director of RFU’s **Student Counseling Service**. “We’re losing our coral reefs, our supply of fresh water. Temperatures are rising. Mass tragedies are frequent. They’re seeing political and national landscapes that are divisive, not very hopeful or positive. All of that is threatening at an existential level.”

RFU is investing in mental health and well-being through holistic approaches that encourage connection and belonging, and through education-to-workforce pathways that expand access to high-quality care.



# The RFU Vision



**RFU supports the mental health of our campus community. We're integrating wellness into everything we do, creating systems that promote connection — a cornerstone of well-being.**



**W**e're also broadening our understanding of mental health — which is so closely linked to our social, economic and physical environment. We're focusing on lifelong wellness and prevention at both the structural and individual levels. Improving mental health outcomes, especially for people and populations that experience systemic inequities, hinges on confronting those injustices: racism, sexism, and intergenerational poverty and trauma.

Dr. Waites, a clinician grounded in attachment-based therapy, highlights the need to “fully acknowledge the unhealed wounds of the past and continued wounding in the present.”



**“Not every person who comes to see us needs clinical care through our service. This approach involves trust and authenticity, a clear scope of service and solid campus and community partnerships. We understand our capacity and our ability to be able to help students get the right care for their specific, unique needs and goals.”**

— JULIE WAITES, PsyD —



The demand for counseling services in higher education mirrors a growing need nationwide. We want to pave a sustainable path for mental health services. Through careful and personalized assessment and decision-making, we can create partnerships and employ varied resources to meet our students' needs.

“Not every person who comes to see us needs clinical care through our service,” Dr. Waites said. “This approach involves trust and authenticity, a clear scope of service and solid campus and community partnerships. We understand our capacity and our ability to be able to help students get the right care for their specific, unique needs and goals.”



Supporting resilience in our faculty and staff is also an investment in a stronger, healthier, more compassionate university community. We value our employees' emotional and psychological well-being, and we want to support their mental health. Recognizing our very human need for belonging, we have established **Employee Resource Groups** to foster positive social interactions and build connections among colleagues, which in turn promotes collaboration and teamwork.

We're extending that approach as we cultivate trusted relationships with community and clinical partners. Together, we're building academic-to-workforce pathways to educate more highly trained mental health professionals to ensure our communities get the care they need.

Top to bottom: Dr. Julie Waites; Psychology Department research faculty members Brian A. Feinstein, PhD, Rachael Ellison, PhD, Nancy Jao, PhD, and Monika Waszczuk, PhD; VR goggles are among the learning-technology tools in the Dr. Scholl Foundation Empathy Lab; RFU hosted a booth at Lake County PrideFest in June 2023.



## National Data

### The Healthy Minds Study

is an annual national survey of mental health and related issues in college student populations, including graduate degree-seeking students.

Rates of Depression

-3%

down from  
44% to 41%

Anxiety

-1%

down from  
37% to 36%

Suicidal Ideation

-1%

down from  
15% to 14%

Seeking Counseling or Therapy

+6%

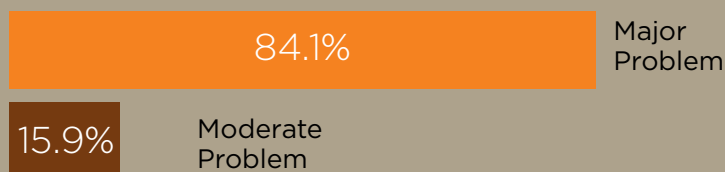
up from 30%  
to 36%

The survey data were collected from over 75,000 students at 135 colleges and universities between September 2022 and June 2023.

Sources: [https://healthymindsnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/HMS-National-Report-2022-2023\\_full.pdf](https://healthymindsnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/HMS-National-Report-2022-2023_full.pdf) and <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2023/09/01/student-mental-health-slightly-improves>

## Community Data

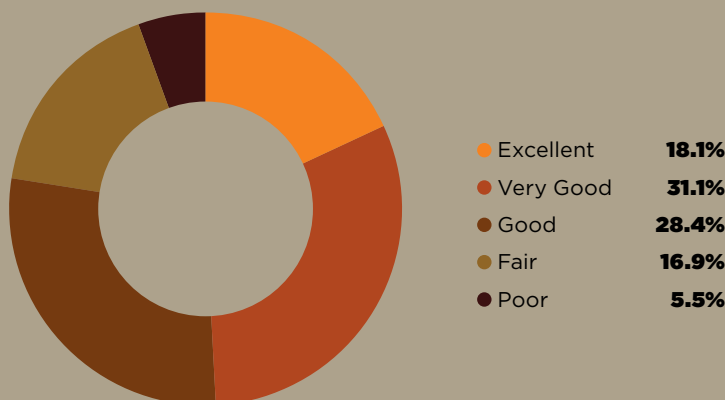
### Perceptions of Mental Health as a Problem in the Community



### Self-reported Mental Health Status

(Lake County, 2022)

Most Lake Forest Hospital Community Service Area survey respondents rated their overall mental health favorably, but **22.4% believe it is "fair" or "poor,"** which is much higher than the **national average of 13.4%.**

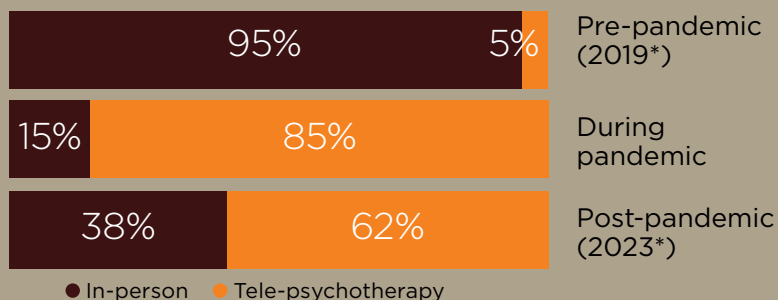


Source: Northwestern Medicine 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment

## RFU Data

### Tele-psychotherapy vs. In-person Student Counseling Center Visits

\* From Jan. 1 – Dec. 1



Source: Student Counseling Services Annual Report 2022-23

**Mental health has stepped out of the shadows and the stigma is fading. That means an increased focus on prevention and care, and new hope for our individual and collective well-being.**

Historically underfunded and undervalued across our nation and the world, mental health is a huge area of philanthropic opportunity at RFU. The possibilities to make an impact span education, student and community services, clinical care, research and facilities.

We're especially interested in forming innovative community and clinical partnerships that help build the workforce our health systems require. Our partnership with **Northwestern Medicine** (NM) will help upskill the health system's RNs who attend our **College of Nursing**. NM will provide scholarships to those nurses for training in our degree programs, including Doctor of Nursing Practice: Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner.

Thoughtful partnerships and investments can help us begin to solve provider shortages and meet the strong demand for physician assistants, nurses and pharmacists. Our **Nursing Education to Workforce Pathway**, created in collaboration with the **College of Lake County** and **Lake Forest College**, along with area high schools, is drawing highly motivated youth from our region who are committed to building health equity in their home communities.



Left to right: Lori Thuente, PhD, RN, founding chair and director for the College of Nursing's Master of Science in Nursing for Entry into Nursing Practice program; College of Nursing Founding Dean Sandra Larson, PhD, CRNA, APRN, FAANA, FNAP; RFU staff and local business leaders at a College of Nursing presentation.

RFU continues to take a multi-pronged approach to supporting optimal health and wellness. Like universities across the country, we have seen a sizable increase in utilization of our mental health services. While we've increased our staffing, we're looking for referral partners to provide a continuum of care.

"In university counseling centers, we're becoming more like first responders," said Dr. Waites. "We're partnering and teaming with other specialized types of care and virtual care."

Student wellness, student services and student support are top priorities.

"We're constantly asking how we can help create an environment where students feel supported," said RFU Dean of Students Shelly Brzycki, MS.

RFU learners are seeking more spaces for reflection and recreation, and they need more housing options. There's a strong interest in coursework on nutrition and lifestyle medicine, an evidence-based approach to wellness emphasizing six pillars: whole-food nutrition, physical activity, stress management, avoidance of risky substances, restorative sleep and social connections.

"We're not just educating students from a didactic standpoint," said Department of Nutrition Chair Melissa Bernstein, PhD, RDN, LD, FAND, DipACLM. "We try to really help them embody these practices as future healthcare professionals."

# Smart Health

**Powerful AI tools are changing every area of science, health and education. They are helping us innovate solutions to the challenges that threaten our environmental and mental health.**

**AI** applications are collecting and analyzing enormous data sets, including constantly evolving elements of climate change, to aid in decision-making and predictive analytics, and to speed the deployment of mitigation efforts, according to the Johns Hopkins Institute for Assured Autonomy. Carbon reduction is also aided by AI, which is assisting in the design and creation of materials that can withstand extreme weather conditions.

Digital mental health technology (DMHT) is increasing access to care as smartphone apps and chatbots provide support based on cognitive behavioral therapy. Machine learning is redefining prevention. It can predict the occurrence and progression of chronic diseases, including dementia and depression, and, according to a 2022 study in the journal *Public Health*, “their determinants in many contexts” (e.g., genetics, cognition, demographics). Meanwhile, the National Institute of Mental Health is conducting trials on mental health intervention technology.

Largely unregulated, potentially prone to algorithmic bias, its effectiveness largely untested, DMHT is used by millions of people who turn to it for its accessibility, affordability and because they need the care.

RFU is invested in the ethical development and use of AI tools and other biomedical technologies that have shown incredible promise in so many domains.

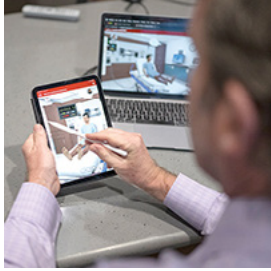
“AI and other digital health technologies are going to revolutionize the way that we take care of patients and the way patients seek and expect care,” said Vice President for Interprofessional Education and Simulation James Carlson, PhD ’15, PA-C ’01, CHSE-A. “We need our students to learn how to navigate those tools with patients to make better clinical decisions.”





# The RFU Vision

**The uproar over ChatGPT learning to read and write has quieted, but faculty, learners, clinicians and researchers are still getting to know the AI chatbot that was opened for testing one year ago.**



**A**t RFU, we're educating a future health and biomedical workforce that can harness the power of large language models like ChatGPT and other AI tools for data analysis, clinical decision support and diagnostic care. We're training our students to use smart technology, including AI, as a collaborative tool to advance the work of interprofessional healthcare teams.

The university has established a Taskforce on AI to provide guidance and training around questions of academic integrity, acceptable uses of AI for students and faculty in an academic context, and how AI might be used to enhance or support faculty, learning and practice. We look to a future of human-AI collaboration to drive innovations in teaching and learning that help all people live healthier lives.



"I think we have to be open and cautious, explore the opportunity and see the potential," said Susanna Calkins, PhD, founding director of RFU's **Nexus for Faculty Success** and a designated education expert on the taskforce.

Dr. Calkins sees potential in generative AI to drive personalized learning.

**"AI tools are causing a shift in how we educate at all levels. As teachers and students, we need to understand how to appropriately utilize AI as a co-pilot balanced with the need for human-to-human touch and conversation."**

— JAMES CARLSON, PhD '15, PA-C '01, CHSE-A —



"Students can help identify their own steps and grow their learning by understanding what they might need to develop," she said. "They might hit barriers that other students are hitting and the tool can help them navigate those barriers. When predictive analytics is done ethically and done well, it can enhance a student's academic progression."



"AI tools are causing a shift in how we educate at all levels," said Dr. Carlson, also an education expert on the Taskforce on AI. "As teachers and students, we need to understand how to appropriately utilize AI as a co-pilot balanced with the need for human-to-human touch and conversation."

Generative AI, still in its infancy, is an imperfect but promising tool. Health professionals are using ChatGPT to dictate their notes, extract relevant information from patient records, stay abreast of new developments in their respective fields and deploy as a tool to assess clinical skill.

Dr. Calkins and Dr. Carlson agree that as ChatGPT and similar tools become more generative — as they take in more knowledge and grow smarter — and as research into that process advances, they will earn the trust of learners, teachers, clinicians and other users.

"AI poses huge challenges, but it's so exciting," Dr. Calkins said. "The questions are going to keep getting bigger. It's incumbent on RFU to prepare students for this new reality."

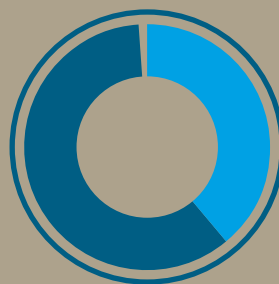
Top to bottom: The Full Code app is used to improve learning around diagnosis and treatment of psychostimulant overdoses; College of Nursing simulation labs utilize medical-imaging technology; Dr. James Carlson; Allison Arwady, MD, MPH, visiting the Empathy Lab in fall 2023.

## Fewer than half in the U.S. expect artificial intelligence in health and medicine to improve patient outcomes

% of U.S. adults who say that thinking about the use of artificial intelligence in health and medicine to do things like diagnose disease and recommend treatments...

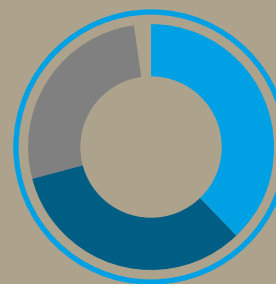
They would feel \_\_\_\_\_ if their healthcare provider relied on it for their medical care

● Comfortable **39%**  
● Uncomfortable **60%**



It would lead to \_\_\_\_\_ health outcomes for patients

● Better **38%**  
● Worse **33%**  
● It would not make much difference **27%**

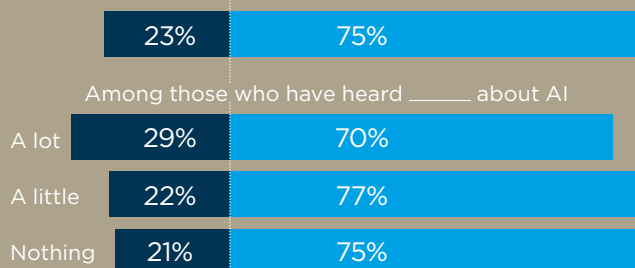


## Americans are more concerned that healthcare providers will adopt AI technologies too fast than too slowly

% of U.S. adults who say that, thinking about the use of artificial intelligence in health and medicine to do things like diagnose disease and recommend treatments, they are more concerned that health care providers will...

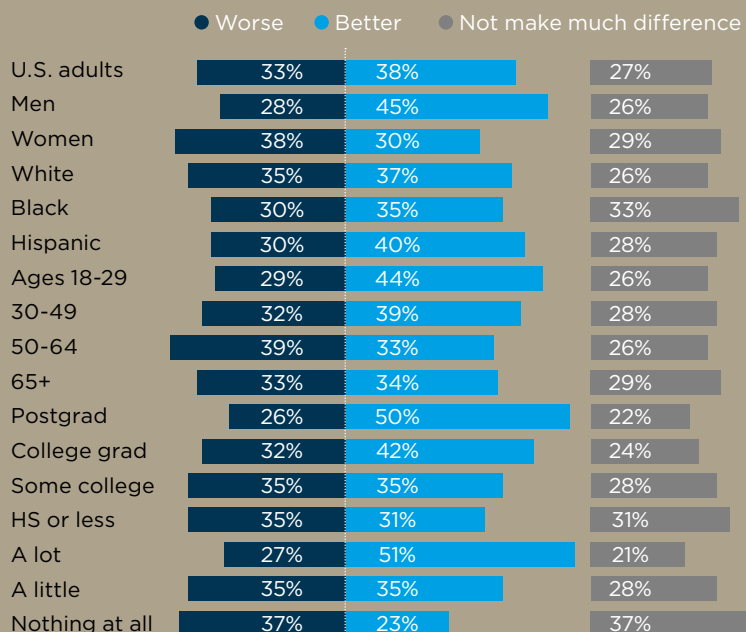
**Move too slowly** using this technology, missing opportunities to improve patients' health

**Move too fast** using this technology, before fully understanding the risks for patients



## 38% of Americans think that the use of AI in health care would improve patient outcomes

% of U.S. adults who say that the use of artificial intelligence in health and medicine to do things like diagnose disease and recommend treatments would lead to \_\_\_\_\_ health outcomes for patients



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.  
White and Black adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic.  
Hispanics are of any race. Family income tiers are based on adjusted 2021 earnings.

Source: Pew Research Center.

**Rosalind Franklin University is harnessing new technologies to better educate and train both our students and the current healthcare workforce. Our Center for Advanced Simulation in Healthcare at Northwestern Medicine Huntley Hospital in neighboring McHenry County helped train more than 400 nurses, nursing residents and technicians in various clinical skills and yielded thousands of student training hours in fiscal year 2022-23.**

We plan to replicate that success on our North Chicago campus, replacing our aging simulation facilities with a new 20,000-square-foot simulation center and virtual health system.

“We want to take what we learned at Huntley a step further in the realm of digital health and integrate more advanced technologies into the foundational educational experiences we provide for our students and community,” Dr. Carlson said.

A high-tech training ground with programmable patient simulators, the center will feature integration and evaluation of new AI health tools and processes: AI scribes aimed at preventing physician burnout; tools that harvest the power of the EMR for practice in diagnostic and treatment decisions with real-time feedback on evidence-based guidelines; and tools that calculate medical coding and billing by reading patient notes.



At left, a standardized patient at the Center for Advanced Simulation in Healthcare at Northwestern Medicine Huntley Hospital participates in a consultation via Double 3, a self-driving, two-wheeled videoconferencing robot.

“We need to teach our students how to apply these tools in day-to-day patient care, because this is the environment in which they will practice,” Dr. Carlson said. “What better place than a simulation lab, where they can actually experience the way care will be routinely delivered by the time they graduate?”

Our students also need data skills. We’re planning to add more applied health informatics — one of the fastest-growing fields in health care — to our curriculum. The science is crucial to understanding how health information technology is used to transform the massive amount of healthcare data into actionable information and knowledge that can improve health and prevent disease.

The new sim center and virtual hospital will also enhance outreach to community partners who support our academic-to-workforce pathways. Dr. Carlson envisions training K-12 educators, who will take web-based simulations into their classrooms. Students will learn about their own health and about their many potential paths into health care.

**We’re looking for trusted partners who share our bold vision for the future of healthcare education.**

“If we want to move the needle on patient safety, the cost of care and advancing the quality of education through active learning, our plan to expand and modernize our simulation training does all of those things,” Dr. Carlson said.

Community Partners



# Financial Health

**In contrast to the financial challenges faced by many institutions across the higher education industry in the past year, Rosalind Franklin University ended FY23 with a positive net income of \$325,000, enabling the university to maintain its current net asset position and relative balance sheet strength.**

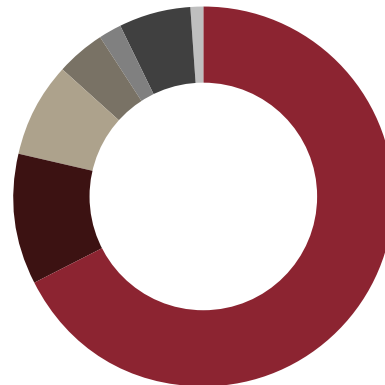
**FY** 23 saw growth in key areas: Institutional Advancement; Marketing; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Strategic Enrollment Management; and the College of Nursing. The university successfully navigated through a period of high inflation, being cognizant of the impact of tuition increases on our student population, and balancing these factors with an increase in philanthropic support that enabled additional scholarships. The financial results of FY23 provide the university the needed flexibility to continue its journey of growth, while simultaneously focusing on optimizing current operations and program performance.

## Operating Revenues

\$ in millions

	TOTAL all funds	
● Net tuition and fees	<b>\$89.66</b>	<b>67%</b>
● Grants and contracts	<b>15.21</b>	<b>11%*</b>
● Patient care	<b>10.82</b>	<b>8%</b>
● Investment income	<b>4.98</b>	<b>4%</b>
● Auxiliary revenue	<b>3.25</b>	<b>2%</b>
● Philanthropic gifts	<b>8.72</b>	<b>6%</b>
● Other	<b>1.71</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$134.35</b>	

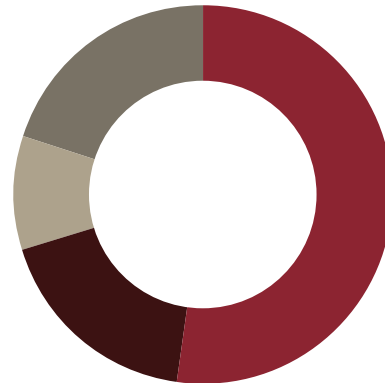
\*9.45 is related to sponsored research



## Operating Expenses

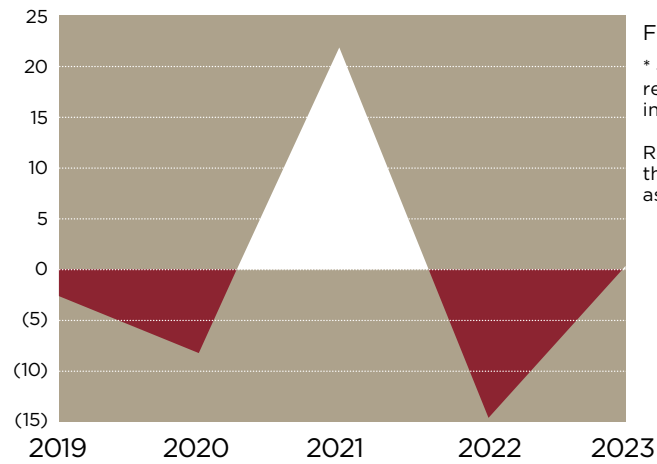
\$ in millions

	TOTAL all funds	
● Instruction and student services	<b>\$73.05</b>	<b>53%</b>
● Research	<b>24.25</b>	<b>18%</b>
● Patient care	<b>13.36</b>	<b>10%</b>
● Management and general	<b>27.57</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$138.23</b>	



## Change in Total Net Assets

\$ in millions



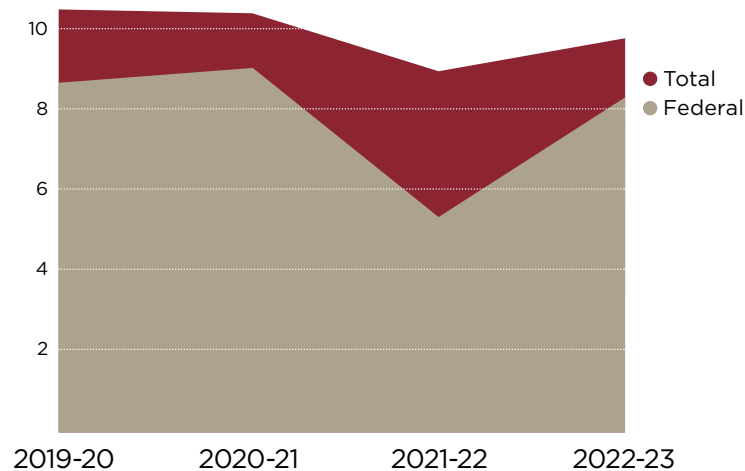
FY23: 0.32\*

\* 4.2 of net-asset movement related to non-operating investment income

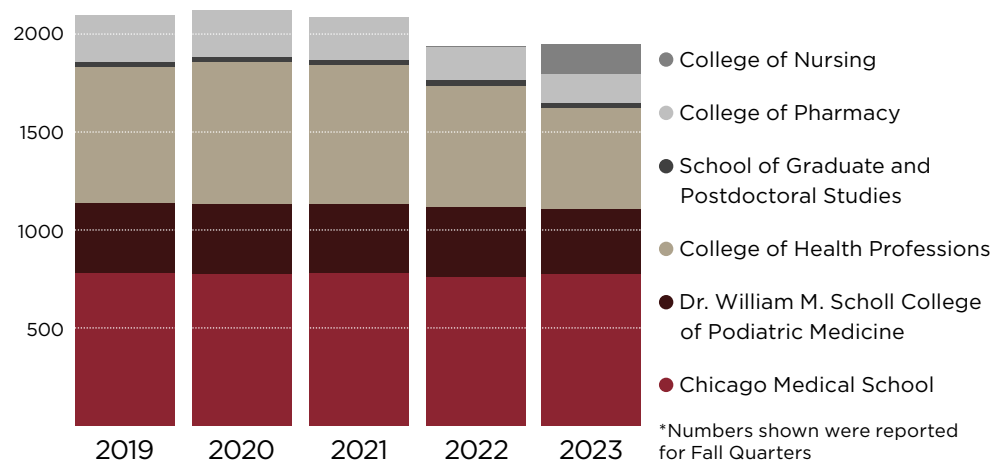
Reflects, on an annual basis, the increase or decrease of assets minus liabilities.

## Research Awards

\$ in millions



## Student Enrollment\*



\*Numbers shown were reported for Fall Quarters



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**Rosalind Franklin University's Board of Trustees is the governing body of our institution, responsible for our mission as well as the financial health and welfare of the university. Our trustees bring a vast knowledge of higher education, law, government, nonprofit management and marketing. The board provides leadership and guidance to RFU while shaping the university's goals, policies and practices.**

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Your vital philanthropic partnership is empowering Rosalind Franklin University to steer health care and research in the right direction — one that elevates public trust, advances community-evidenced research, addresses critical healthcare workforce needs, removes economic barriers for learners and strives to achieve better outcomes for all.



**Thank you for  
your support.**

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Questions or to give your gift over the phone, please call 224-570-7316.





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*of* MEDICINE AND SCIENCE

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