MEDIA ADVISORY

Phyllis Wise, the chancellor of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, has been named to the board of trustees of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the foundation said Wednesday.

The board leads the nation’s largest philanthropy devoted to building a national culture of health that strives to enable all Americans to live longer, healthier lives.

As chancellor, Wise serves as the chief executive officer for the university’s flagship campus, with more than 42,000 students and 1,800 tenure-track faculty. From 2010 to 2011, Wise was interim president of the University of Washington. Before that she served as provost and executive vice president at Washington for five years.

Wise has been nationally recognized for her administrative leadership as well as her accomplishments as a researcher in women’s health and gender-based biology. A physiologist by training, Wise is best known for her work investigating the influence that hormones have on the brains of women and men during their development, adulthood, and aging.

“Phyllis Wise has a deep respect for the vital role that research and evaluation play in improving the health of the people of our nation, and as an organization that understands how evidence-based information can lead to positive change, we are delighted to welcome her,” said Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, M.D., the president and chief executive office of the foundation.

Wise is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies. She also is a fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She earned a bachelor’s degree from Swarthmore College in biology and a doctorate degree in zoology from the University of Michigan.

For more information:
Christine A. Clayton, communications associate, RWJF; 609-627-5759
Robin Kaler, associate chancellor for public affairs, University of Illinois; 217-333-5010