September 29, 2020

Dear Summit Participants:

*Welcome to the first ARCH Respite Research Summit!*

This event marks the culmination of an ARCH initiative to advance a respite research agenda first put forth in 2015 by the ARCH Expert Panel on Respite Research. The Panel’s final report, *Research Agenda for Respite Care: Deliberations of an Expert Panel of Researchers, Advocates and Funders*, challenged us to stimulate high quality research that would translate into much needed support for family caregivers across the lifespan.

Over the next two days, we are convening a prestigious group of expert researchers in the respite and caregiving field who will share their timely research and help us evaluate the progress we have made in building an evidence base for respite. We will also explore the changing respite landscape resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the broad diversity of family caregivers and care receivers, to ensure that future research and the services that result are as responsive as possible to families’ needs.

We are excited that a diverse group of Summit participants from the U.S. and internationally, including academicians, policy makers, advocates, providers, and funders have come together to share their tremendous knowledge and experience. Most importantly, all of you will help us identify next steps in building a path to greater knowledge about the benefits of respite, improving strategies for making respite more acceptable and available to family caregivers, and replicating best practice models in respite innovation, safety, and quality.

Many thanks to our sponsors, the John A. Hartford Foundation and the Wareheim Foundation for their generous support of this event, and to the Administration for Community Living for ongoing guidance and support.

Thank you all for joining us. We look forward to a lively and worthwhile discourse that will help us lay the course for future knowledge and action in the respite and caregiving field.

Sincerely,

Jill Kagan, MPH
Director
ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center