

Dr. Califf Goes to Work for Google

Robert Califf, MD, who stepped down as FDA Commissioner in January, has been named to new leadership roles at Duke University and Verily Life Sciences.

On June 1, he joined the senior management team for Verily Life Sciences, an Alphabet company. His time will be evenly split between his Duke and Verily responsibilities. As part of the senior management team at Verily, Dr. Califf will be working on ways to translate the ever-increasing deluge of health data into better care. At Duke, he'll be the vice chancellor for Health Data Science and director of a newly created center focused on integrated health data science.

"Although we are in the midst of an explosion of capability in the worlds of computing and information, we are still learning how to translate this capacity into better health and healthcare. Bridging this gap has been a recurring theme of my career, and it's at the heart of what I hope to accomplish at both institutions."

Dr. Califf will help oversee Project Baseline, a well-funded effort to study human health by tracking 10,000 people over at least four years, to find out why people transition from being generally healthy to getting sick. The goal for the study is to create a map of human health.

He will also continue to work at the Duke University Clinical Research Institute which he helped found, and have a new appointment as an adjunct professor in the Department of Medicine at Stanford. Duke and Stanford are teaming up with Verily for the baseline study.