



THE 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL

# **Walter Zeit Fellowship Recognition Dinner**

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Friday, October 20, 2023



# A Career in Cardiothoracic Surgery that Began with Wisconsin's First Heart Transplant

Larry W. Stephenson, MD '70, an internationally honored cardiothoracic surgeon, says his decision to become a heart surgeon was influenced by two medical school faculty mentors, W. Dudley Johnson, MD, and Derward Lepley, Jr., MD '49.

As a third-year medical student at the Marquette School of Medicine (MCW's predecessor) in 1968, he was the first to report on Dr. Johnson's groundbreaking success in which he bypassed a patient's right coronary artery using a vein taken from the patient's leg. The achievement, published in the Marquette Medical Review, led to improved patient outcomes worldwide. He also edited the journal's last issue, although it was never printed. Unbeknownst to the medical students, the medical school was on the brink of bankruptcy in 1969 – a catastrophe that was averted through a successful emergency fundraising campaign.



(l-r) Drs. Ramstedt, Stephenson and Romer were part of the team performing Wisconsin's first heart transplant procedure at St. Luke's Hospital on October 21, 1968. The heart transplant recipient lived eight years post-transplant.

**Dr. Lepley, professor of cardiothoracic surgery, recognized Stephenson's potential as a heart surgeon and invited him to be part of the surgical team that performed Wisconsin's first heart transplant operation on October 21, 1968, at Milwaukee's St. Luke's Hospital.**

"Dr. Lepley was the chief surgeon, and Dr. Johnson assisted him," Dr. Stephenson recalls. "Two Marquette surgical residents were second and third assistants [James Romer, MD '64, GME '73, FEL '73, and Ronald Ramstedt, MD, GME '69]. Dr. Lepley asked me to be the fourth assistant. I got to sew up the groin where the heart/lung machine cannula were – which was pretty thrilling."

Dr. Stephenson served an internship, residency and cardiothoracic research fellowship at the University of Alabama in Birmingham.

That was followed by a cardiothoracic surgery residency and faculty appointment at the University of Pennsylvania, where he served at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP) and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Dr. Stephenson also established HUP's Level One Trauma Center, served as its first director and was named the J. William White Professor of Surgical Research.

In 1989, Dr. Stephenson joined the Wayne State University School of Medicine as professor and chief of the division of cardiothoracic surgery. He also was chief of cardiothoracic surgery at Harper University Hospital and specialist-in-chief at Detroit Medical Center and its affiliated hospitals – positions he held for 22 years. He was invested as the Ford-Webber Chair in Surgery at Wayne State in 1995.

Throughout the course of his career, Dr. Stephenson performed an estimated 6,000 surgeries. In addition to teaching and patient care, Dr. Stephenson focused his research on the use of ventricular assist devices and on the replacement of damaged heart muscle with muscles from other parts of the body.

Dr. Stephenson authored or co-authored 13 books, 48 book chapters and more than 300 articles on medicine, science and general history. He is considered one of the world's preeminent scholars on the history of cardiothoracic surgery.

In 2016, he was asked to write a comprehensive history of the Wayne State University School of Medicine for its 150th anniversary in 2019. Dr. Stephenson was named as the medical school's historian, a position he continues to hold today.

In 2000, Dr. Stephenson was one of 50 surgeons worldwide to be honored in Paris for their pioneering work in heart surgery. In 2009, he was elected to membership in the surgical branch of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences as an Honored Professor.

Returning to MCW to celebrate his 50th class reunion, Dr. Stephenson said, "It's unbelievable how much the medical school has grown. It's a top-notch institution."

## Walter Zeit Fellowship Recognition Dinner

**Friday, October 20, 2023**

**Medical College of Wisconsin**

The Hub for Collaborative Medicine  
8701 Watertown Plank Road  
Milwaukee, WI 53226

**5:30pm** - Reception (cash bar)

**6:30pm** - Program

**7:00pm** - Dinner

## In Memoriam

Donald E. Chisholm  
Richard O. Duffey  
Deborah Erdman  
Nancy Barbara Geenen  
Dolores F. Hayssen  
Annegretel Hofbauer  
Walter J. Hogan  
Paul Alan Jacobs  
Robert E. Jancar  
Robert D. Kern  
Ervin F. Kuglitsch

Sharon L. La Macchia  
Orlando L. Manfredi  
James Eric Minikel  
Richard L. Morgan  
William T. Shaffer  
Thomas J. Stilp  
Nicole Teweles  
Judith A. Wagner  
O. Jennie Walker  
James E. Youker



## New Members

Since October 2022

Jeffrey Kevin Bahr  
George A. Binder  
Michael P. Cinquegrani  
Edmund R. Donoghue  
Judy K. Donoghue  
Aron Geurts  
Jennifer L. Geurts  
Kandavar M. Gopal  
Lisa Henk  
Thomas S. Keskey  
Dennis M. Korger  
Richard M. Lampe

Robert H. Lehner  
David L. Norene  
Jerome W. Oakey  
Howard Pearl  
Philip E. Pier  
Austin Ramirez  
Gretchen M. Roth  
Michelle Snyderman  
Ellen Velie  
Frank L. Walter  
Karolyn A. Wanat



## Walter Zeit, PhD (1898-1991)

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"It gratifies me to know that the school is in good hands and its future as a quality academic school is assured."

**Walter Zeit, PhD**

The late Derward Lepley, Jr., MD '49 formed the Walter Zeit Fellowship in 1980 to honor and permanently recognize the many contributions of Dr. Walter Zeit. Few individuals have been as closely associated with The Medical College of Wisconsin or have contributed as much to its growth as Dr. Walter Zeit.

In 1921, when Dr. Zeit first joined the Anatomy Department of what was then the Marquette University School of Medicine as a student assistant, the institution was in its infancy. It had been formed just eight years earlier through a merger of the Wisconsin College of Physicians & Surgeons and the Milwaukee Medical College. He went on to become a triple alumnus of Marquette University, receiving a BS in 1925, an MS in 1927 and a PhD in 1939.

Throughout his distinguished career as a teacher of anatomy, with faculty appointments ranging from student assistant to associate dean, Dr. Zeit instructed well over 4,500 medical students and thousands of other health care profession students. He was known for bringing a keen vitality to his teaching, raising anatomy from an academic discipline to a fresh and dynamic educational experience. He is best remembered by his students for the personal attention and understanding he shared with them.

Dr. Zeit witnessed a half-century of phenomenal growth at MCW and he was also an integral part of that growth. He was a gifted research scientist whose published work involved studies of nerve endings, and the structure and function of the junction between nerve fibers and muscle bodies. His affiliation with the Medical College of Wisconsin ultimately spanned six decades, three buildings and five deans.





## Walter Zeit Leadership Award Recipient



**Nina Punyamurthy** is a fourth-year student at our MCW-Milwaukee campus and plans to apply for a residency program in Dermatology. Nina has demonstrated excellence across all areas throughout her time at the Medical College of Wisconsin and is a wonderful role model.

Nina has excelled in academics throughout her medical school career with honors and high pass grades in all her clinical clerkships. She is extremely skillful in research as well, having found the time to work on multiple

projects concurrently with a manuscript in submission, seven first author peer-reviewed presentations and publications, and four other publications in reputable biomedical journals to her credit. She is passionate about Global Health, travelling to Honduras for medical service trips, and most recently, travelling to Tanzania to help the local population and improve tele-dermatology as a means of improving access to care in an area where resources and specialty care access are severely limited.

Her leadership qualities are exemplified by her roles not only as a provider, but also as Clinic Manager and Director of Referrals at the Saturday Free Clinic for the Uninsured and volunteer in the Philippine Center - Free Medical Clinic and the MCW Check UP program to help underserved populations. Additionally, she is working on assessing an automated scheduling system in Dermatology to reduce patient wait times.

Nina exemplifies the description of the Walter Zeit Leadership Award as an accomplished, community-focused, reliable leader. Her incredible work ethic is essential as a physician and strongly suggests her as an excellent representative of MCW, upholding the standards, values, and traditions of the Walter Zeit Leadership Award.



## Founding Dean Award Recipients

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MCW-Green Bay

**Hannah Mueller-Boysen** is a third-year student on the MCW-Green Bay campus and plans to apply to a residency program in Obstetrics and Gynecology this fall. Hannah has served in multiple leadership roles throughout her time at MCW-Green Bay, leading programs for area middle and high school students and serving as a peer mentor across multiple operations supporting her fellow medical students. Within the community, Hannah has volunteered her time to connect with a variety of organizations focusing on supporting community wellness and education, providing

food for local residents, and helping community members with Parkinson's disease maintain and enhance balance. Hannah has demonstrated sincere dedication to education and leadership to her classmates and community, and she represents the core principles of service and humanistic medicine that define this award.



MCW-Central Wisconsin

**Jonathan Bressler** is a non-traditional student, on-track to graduate in 3 years from MCW-Central Wisconsin. He has shown incredible dedication to his community and is an exemplary leader. When Wausau was selected as a new refugee resettlement site, Jonathan produced a local guide for refugee healthcare that is now used and provided throughout the area as a crucial health resource guide. Along with producing the document, Jonathan served on a local resettlement team. Additionally, he has held multiple leadership roles, produced two

manuscripts while in medical school, and made time for volunteer work. Jonathan displays all that MCW values in the attributes of future physicians, known for his generosity, ability to connect with others, and compassion.





MCW-Milwaukee

**Leah Gerlach** is a fourth-year student at the MCW-Milwaukee campus and plans to apply for residency training in Obstetrics and Gynecology this fall. As a student leader and patient advocate, Leah is a role model for other students, consistently finding time to reach out to others when they need help, and she constantly strives to find ways to improve processes. She has held leadership positions among multiple student organizations, working tirelessly for her peers, and is passionate about community service and advocacy, devoting an incredible amount of time to volunteer work

and serving her community. Leah spent much of medical school personally developing novel research to aid in the diagnosis of specific dementias, resulting in four first author peer-reviewed presentations and receiving a Medical Student Summer Research Grant. Leah's demonstration of selfless service and leadership will serve her well as a wonderful physician.



## Past Walter Zeit Leadership Award Recipients

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William R. Hathaway '88  
Robert J. Tait '89  
Aldo Trovato '90  
Claudia M. Keidl Hoyer '91  
John E. Connolly, Jr. '92  
Nancy M. Grant '93  
Eric M. Siegal '94  
Robert R. Leschke '95  
Lina M. AbuJamra '96  
Timothy A. Crummy '97  
Cassandra D. Howard '98  
Nancy E. Havas '99  
Nikki J. Booms Allen '00  
Jeffrey A. Huebner '01  
Linda L. Sewell '02  
Travis N. Murray '03  
Susan L. Goldsmith '04  
Kara G. Miller Gill '05

Michael R. Clark '06  
Sachin S. Pawar '07  
Sherrill D. Gutierrez '08  
Ana N. Cabán Cardona '09  
Alexis A. Vosooney '10  
Nicholas A. Kuehnel '11  
Elica Inagaki '12  
Emily J. Sweet '13  
Laura E. Tisch '14  
Lara Renee India Rosewicz '15  
Julia N. Keyes '16  
Phoebe Jensen '17  
Douglas Pierce '18  
Emily A. Navarrete '19  
Mario Castellanos '20  
Greta Berger '21  
Megan Barthels '22

## Past Founding Dean Award Recipients

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*MCW–Green Bay Matthew Hunsaker, MD, Founding Dean Award*

**Emma Lankey '22**

**Brittany Rupp '21**

**Lindsay Finn '20**

**Lauren E. Thomas '19**

*MCW–Central Wisconsin Lisa G. Dodson, MD, Founding Dean Award*

**Margaret (Meg) Lieb '22**

**John Feemster '21**

**Elizabeth Wendt '20**

**Kyle D. Olson '19**

*MCW–Milwaukee Medical School Louis F. Jermain, MD, Founding Dean Award*

**Chase LaRue '22**

**Peter Nguyen '21**

**Daniel Kadden '20**

**Kieran E. McAvoy '19**

## Purpose of Fellowship

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A recognition society designed to promote and support the Medical College of Wisconsin.

## Purpose of Annual Event

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Provide the Medical College of Wisconsin with an opportunity to thank the membership for their vision and generosity, which has helped to advance new knowledge and turn hope into health for our communities and beyond. Also promote fellowship among the membership. This annual event is made possible thanks to the income generated by a donor established endowed fund.

## Walter Zeit Leadership Award

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The award is presented to a senior student who has consistently displayed superior qualities of leadership, loyalty, selfless service, initiative and compassion toward his or her peers and to the Medical College of Wisconsin. These criteria identify those characteristics exemplified by members of the Walter Zeit Fellowship, MCW's oldest donor recognition society. The Walter Zeit Leadership Award is possible thanks to contributions from the Walter Zeit Fellows.

## Founding Dean Awards

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As the Medical College of Wisconsin has expanded with two regional campuses at MCW-Green Bay and MCW-Central Wisconsin, the Walter Zeit Fellowship has an opportunity to recognize leadership on all campuses. In May of 2018, the Executive Committee of the Walter Zeit Fellowship approved three new Founding Dean Awards, recognizing dedication and service to the campus and the community.

## Walter Zeit Fellows

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### *Members of the Executive Committee*

Steven C. Bergin, MD, Chair  
Crain H. Bliwas, MD  
Clarence P. Chou, MD  
Donald A. Hackbarth, Jr., MD  
Gary L. Kolesari, MD  
William J. Listwan, MD  
Betty A. Pace, MD  
Carol M. Porth, RN, MSN, PhD  
Victoria A. Vollrath, MD  
Stuart D. Wilson, MD

### *Emeritus Committee Members*

Walter E. Gager, MD  
Donald J. Heyrman, MD  
Roger P. Johnson, MD, MS  
Wm. David Jones, MD  
Mahendr S. Kochar, MD, MS, MBA  
George J. Korkos, MD  
Rita M. Marino, MD  
Carol M. Porth, RN, MSN, PhD



**Medical College of Wisconsin**

Office of Institutional Advancement & Alumni Relations

PO Box 26509

Milwaukee, WI 53226-0509

(414) 955-4700

[donations@mcw.edu](mailto:donations@mcw.edu)

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