



knowledge changing life

**President's  
Community Engagement  
Award Luncheon**

Medical College of Wisconsin  
Bolger Auditorium

**May 5, 2023**

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## Agenda

11:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

**Lunch**

12:00–12:05 p.m.

**Welcome**

Sarah O'Connor, MS

Program Director

Medical College of Wisconsin

12:05–12:15 p.m.

**Opening Remarks**

John R. Raymond, Sr., MD

President and Chief Executive Officer

Medical College of Wisconsin

12:15–1:20 p.m.

**Presentation of Awards**

Staci Young, PhD

Senior Associate Dean for Community Engagement

Medical College of Wisconsin

1:20–1:30 p.m.

**Closing Remarks**

Staci Young, PhD

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## 2023 President's Community Engagement Awardees

### Community Partners/Program

**Vera Roddy, BA**

Veteran Advocate

### First Presbyterian Church Wausau Free Clinic

Accepted by Jeffrey Oswald, MD & Jeffrey Todd, MS, CMPE

Wausau Free Clinic Medical Team

### MCW Student

**laong Vang**

Medical Student, Class of 2024

MCW-Milwaukee

### MCW Faculty Team

**Terri deRoon-Cassini, PhD, MS**

Department of Surgery

MCW-Milwaukee

**David Milia, MD**

Department of Surgery

MCW-Milwaukee

### MCW Staff

**Karen Dotson, MHSA**

All of Us Research Program

MCW-Milwaukee

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## First Presbyterian Church Wausau Free Clinic

“The Wausau Free Clinic (WFC) embodies the idea of community engagement through their work providing free care for the uninsured and underinsured populations of the greater Wausau area.”

— Katherine Ernste, Medical Student,  
Class of 2024, MCW-Central Wisconsin



The Wausau Free Clinic, a mission of First Presbyterian Church, was established in 2018 by the founding organizers: Jeffrey Oswald, MD, Jeffrey Todd, MS, CMPE, Paula Vogt, RN, Jane Shibilski, and a small team of volunteers. The driving impetus was addressing the unmet primary care needs of low-income, uninsured people, many of whom are immigrants and people of color. Initially, it was planned to remodel space in the church, but an invitation to join a proposed community social service "hub" took the team in a different direction. While waiting for the Community Partners Campus to be built, the medical mission team operated in several temporary facilities over the years, including in a warming center and a church basement. Finally, their 2,500-square-foot state-of-the-art medical facility opened in December 2022. All services are provided free of charge by local volunteer doctors, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, support staff, and Medical College of Wisconsin medical students. The clinic expects to provide 2,500 patient visits this year.

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## Vera Roddy, BA

Veteran Advocate

*“Vera’s impact does not end at community programming or medical education. She mentors, supports, and coordinates even after a grant ends. Vera’s caring, compassion, and get-things-done attitude are reflected in her “street cred” and the unconditional respect she has earned from veterans in our community.”*

— Katinka Hooyer, PhD, MS,  
Assistant Professor, MCW-Milwaukee



Vera Roddy served in the US Air Force/Air Force Reserves from 1977-1992. Her first tour of duty was as an Aircraft Sub-Systems Mechanic in the Eifel Mountains of Germany. As an activated Reservist for the 1991 Gulf War, she served as a Mental Health Technician for an Aeromedical Evacuation Unit on the border of Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Her civilian career included nine years as a Psychometrician in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and two years as a Case Manager in the Veterans Assistance Program specializing in Women Veterans, Disabled Veterans, and Families of Veterans experiencing homelessness. Vera holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and a Certificate in Trauma Counseling from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Since retiring in 2002, she has volunteered in the veterans’ community, and in 2010, started the Artful Warriors, a grass-roots peer-led group, for veterans and community partners to connect on creative endeavors. Vera continues to participate in the MCW Warrior Partnership researching moral injury and is an Orban Foundation board member. Her most critical role to date is serving as a Consumer Reviewer for the Department of Defense where her expertise is toxic exposure of military personnel, veterans, and family members.

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## laong Vang

Medical Student, Class of 2024

*“Ms. Vang is an incredibly community-focused, self-motivated, and integrative thinker. Her initiative and intellectual curiosity are matched wonderfully by a passionate focus on population health and community engagement.”*

— *Samantha Wilson, PhD,*  
*Associate Professor, MCW-Milwaukee*



laong Vang is a 2nd generation Hmong-American. Her parents are refugees from Laos and resettled in Montana where laong and her six other siblings were born and raised. As a mediator between her family and physicians, she has acquired experiences that continue to strengthen her passions and motivate her as a future physician. She is passionate about community engagement and service and has pursued a career in medicine to continue being the bridge to medicine for underserved communities. In addition to her work with refugees and the refugee health curriculum, she is creating a program that introduces medicine and STEM-related professions to young Milwaukee Hmong students and co-founded a curriculum that highlights the diversity of Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander populations and their health disparities. She plans to continue community engagement projects in the future to better strengthen relationships with her future patient populations and improve health outcomes.

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## Karen Dotson, MHSA

Program Director, All of Us Research Program

*“Karen’s approach emphasizes bidirectional communication, equity, and balancing power between small community organizations and large institutions. We believe she is an exemplary staff member dedicated to community engagement at the Medical College of Wisconsin.”*

*— Zeno Franco, PhD,  
Associate Professor, MCW-Milwaukee &  
Jeff Whittle, MD, MPH, Professor,  
MCW-Milwaukee; Associate Chief,  
Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center*



Karen Dotson is a Milwaukee native. She is passionate about engaging with local and diverse communities and has an extensive history of community service. Since 2020, Karen has served as Program Director for the All of Us Research Program (AoURP) at MCW. In this role, she guides AoURP's outreach and engagement efforts and oversees day-to-day operations for the program. Her responsibilities include recruiting thousands of ethnically and racially diverse individuals from across the Greater Milwaukee area. AoURP aims to lay the foundation for precision medicine through research. Karen's work helps ensure the evolution of precision medicine encompasses the needs of all people. She collaborates effectively with African American churches, veteran organizations, the Social Development Commission, the United Community Center, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and many other organizations. Her approach emphasizes bidirectional communication, equity, and balancing power between small community organizations and large institutions like MCW.

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## Terri deRoon-Cassini, PhD, MS

Professor, Department of Surgery

*“I have witnessed first-hand, the unwavering commitment of both Dr. deRoon-Cassini and Dr. Milia to ensure the success and expansion of the 414LIFE program as a standard of care for violently injured patients.”*

*— Reggie Moore, Director,  
Violence Prevention, MCW-Milwaukee*



Terri deRoon-Cassini, PhD, MS is a Professor in the Division of Trauma & Acute Care Surgery, Department of Surgery at the Medical College of Wisconsin. She is the Executive Director of the Comprehensive Injury Center, which focuses on violence, suicide, and non-intentional injury prevention locally and statewide. She co-directs the gun violence prevention program, 414LIFE, at Froedtert Hospital and holds appointments in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine, the Institute for Health and Equity, and the Neuroscience Research Center. She is a co-founder of the Milwaukee Trauma Outcomes Project, a research collaborative to investigate outcomes after trauma, particularly for underserved individuals and under-resourced communities.

Dr. deRoon-Cassini is a Licensed Psychologist and started the Trauma & Health Psychology Service for the Level 1 Trauma Center at Froedtert Hospital. She has research funding from the National Institute of Mental Health to understand the impact that socioenvironmental stress, including neighborhood violence and discrimination, has on outcomes following trauma.

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## David Milia, MD

Associate Professor, Department of Surgery

*“Dr. Milia and Dr. deRoos-Cassini demonstrate the care, compassion, and resolute ambition indicative of the core values of Froedtert and the Medical College of Wisconsin and that of the President’s Community Engagement Award.”*

*— Douglas Evans, MD, Chair,  
Professor, MCW-Milwaukee*



David Milia, MD is a Wisconsin native who completed his medical school and fellowship training at MCW. He is a trauma surgeon and the Medical Director of the Level 1 Trauma Center at Froedtert Hospital. David is passionate about engaging stakeholders from Milwaukee and surrounding areas to reduce firearm violence. In 2019, Froedtert and the Medical College of Wisconsin partnered with the Office of Violence Prevention to start the hospital responder arm of Milwaukee's Violence Interrupter Program, 414LIFE. Embracing a public health model, the trauma program has worked closely with the community to offer its most vulnerable populations the care and support they need to break the cycle of violence.

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## MCW Community Engagement

The MCW community engagement mission focuses on building productive partnerships with communities in Wisconsin and beyond. Through these partnerships and the relationships that sustain them, MCW and its community collaborators work together to make a greater impact on addressing Wisconsin's critical health needs.

## Land Acknowledgment

The Office of Community Engagement acknowledges the indigenous people who are past and present stewards of the land on which we pursue our just cause of a healthy community for everyone.

## About the President's Award

The President's Community Engagement Award recognizes the exemplary community-academic partnership, community-engaged research, and community outreach activities of faculty, staff, students, and community partners of MCW.

Since 2015, the award has been sponsored by the President's Office and administered by the Office of Community Engagement. We are grateful for the generosity and support of John R. Raymond, Sr., MD, President and Chief Executive Officer of MCW, and his leadership and recognition of those who carry out the valuable work of the community engagement mission.



The Medical College of Wisconsin has been recognized by the Carnegie Foundation as a Community Engaged Institution since January 2015.

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## 2023 President's Community Engagement Award Committee Members

**Kirsten Beyer, PhD, MPH, MS**  
Associate Professor, MCW-Milwaukee

**Sabina Diehr, MD**  
Professor, MCW-Milwaukee

**Lisa Dodson, MD**  
Sentry Dean and Founding Dean, MCW-Central Wisconsin

**Tiffany Frazer, MPH**  
Director, MCW-Milwaukee

**Toni Gray**  
Program Manager, MCW-Milwaukee

**Spencer Marting**  
Medical Student, MCW-Milwaukee

**John Meurer, MD, MBA**  
Professor, MCW-Milwaukee

**Joy Tapper, MPA**  
Executive Director, Milwaukee Health Care Partnership

**Madeline Winn, PA-C, MPAS**  
Physician Assistant, Children's Wisconsin

**Thank you for your continued service!**

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MCW Community Engagement

## **SELECTED PROGRAMMING**

### **Spotlight Series**

This monthly virtual series features community partners and the important work they are doing for and with the community; highlights their goals, motivations, and accomplishments, and the ways they have partnered with people and programs at MCW. Hear stories of resilience and inspiration from those who work on the ground – often silently – to make a positive impact on the health and lives of people in our community.

**Join us virtually on the 3rd or 4th Wednesday of the month at 4 pm.**

### **Poster Session**

The MCW Office of Community Engagement hosts an annual poster session to showcase projects, research, and lessons learned from the field of community-engaged research by MCW students, staff, faculty, and academic and community collaborators.

**Join us this November!**

### **Immersion Program**

This 3.5-day program focuses on the foundational elements necessary for creating successful, sustainable, and authentic community-academic partnerships. Participants will learn the principles and processes of community engagement and community-engaged research (CErR), learn from community partners' experiences with community-academic partnerships, engage in discussion with researchers who've developed and maintained partnerships, and explore approaches to relationship development.

**2023 applications have closed – join our email list for future announcements!**

**Scan the code to join our email list & learn more about our programming:**



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MCW Community Engagement

## RECOGNITION

### Carnegie Community Engagement Classification

In 2015, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, which works to develop networks of ideas and institutions to advance teaching and learning, awarded the Community Engagement Classification to the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) in recognition of MCW's community engagement practices. The Carnegie Community Engagement Classification designation for MCW is an honor and a monumental achievement, as it recognizes the innumerable exemplary campus-wide programs and initiatives that are focused on excellence in community engagement and on serving the needs of our communities. MCW is now one of four medical schools nationwide that have received this honor.



### Richard Guarasci Award for Institutional Transformation



**Campus Compact**

The Richard Guarasci Award for Institutional Transformation recognizes institutions that have successfully implemented institution-wide efforts to address issues of public concern by aligning teaching, research, practice, and values in service of the common good. As a national leader in community engagement, the Medical College of Wisconsin was recognized for this award in 2020 for integrating engagement into research, education, and clinical care with the goal of advancing health policy and advocacy and addressing the social determinants of health. "Through initiatives like [Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin endowment] and its extended community-engaged research, the Medical College of Wisconsin demonstrates a deep strategic commitment to community, embracing its responsibility as a place-based institution to address diverse health needs throughout Wisconsin."

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MCW Community Engagement

## **DONATION DRIVE: ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES**

The Office of Community Engagement is collecting underwear and backpacks to be supplied to one or more Milwaukee-area community organization partners serving people experiencing housing instability and other challenges.



**Scan the QR Code to Donate via Amazon Wish List**

**May 1 - May 31, you can help by donating:**

- NEW packages of underwear for children and adults
- New and gently used adult-size backpacks that are clean with working zippers and no holes

**Questions? Contact Jai Lor in the MCW Office of Community Engagement  
jlor@mcw.edu | 414-955-4434**

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*Please scan the QR code below to learn more about common community engagement terms, principles of community engagement, and to explore other valuable resources.*



