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SUMMER 2022

# MCW *magazine*

Celebrating Our  
10-Year Journey  
to Regional  
Medical Education



# MCW

magazine

**MEDICAL COLLEGE OF WISCONSIN EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP**

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**LEADERSHIP MESSAGE**

## Our 10-Year Journey to Regional Med Ed

It is hard to believe that more than a decade has passed since we began our journey to regional medical education!

On June 25, 2012, MCW's board of trustees authorized the institution to develop community-based medical education programs (as they were first called) in both the Green Bay and central Wisconsin areas based on a comprehensive, monthslong evaluation. The timeline for development called for matriculating the first class at the initial site in July 2015 and at the second site in July 2016. Now, ten years later, MCW's two regional campuses have graduated 195 physicians, and MCW has emerged as a national leader and role model for an immersive, community-based medical school program.

In this issue's cover story, we share highlights from MCW's successful 10-year journey to regional medical education – from planting the seeds, to envisioning the program, to approval by the board of trustees (including site selection), to the development and implementation phases of the program, to the naming of the founding deans for each regional campus, to the critical role of philanthropy, to creating community-based residency programs, to the reality of two thriving campuses.

We also share the achievements of three members of the inaugural class of MCW-Green Bay who matriculated in July 2015, graduated in May 2018, completed family residency training in Wisconsin in June 2021, and have begun their respective practices in northern and northeastern areas of the state.

The success of our regional campuses is a direct result of the new partnerships we have built with health systems, educational institutions, the medical communities, and leaders of central and northeastern Wisconsin. We are grateful for our shared commitment to address healthcare workforce shortages through novel programs and partnerships.

As always, we express our deepest thanks to the thousands of MCW alumni around the globe who continue to protect the health and safety of our patients, families, loved ones and communities. ■

*“The success of our regional campuses is a direct result of the new partnerships that we have built with health systems, educational institutions, the medical communities, and leaders of central and northeastern Wisconsin.”*



**John R. Raymond, Sr., MD**  
 President and CEO

**Joseph E. Kerschner, MD '90, FEL '98**  
 Provost and Executive Vice President  
 The Julia A. Uihlein, MA, Dean of the School of Medicine

# CONTENTS



## COVER STORY

---

14 / CELEBRATING OUR 10-YEAR JOURNEY TO REGIONAL MEDICAL EDUCATION

---

6 / NEWS FOR ALUMNI

8 / 2022 MCW SCHOOL OF MEDICINE RESIDENCY DISTRIBUTION MAP

9 / GRADUATE STUDENT TRANSITIONS FROM SOLDIER TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE RESEARCHER

10 / POSTGRADUATE TRAINING IS COMPETITIVE EDGE FOR PHARMACY STUDENTS

12 / \$10 MILLION INVESTMENT FROM LINDA AND JOHN MELLOWES FUELS GENOMIC SCIENCES AND PRECISION MEDICINE

22 / ELEVATING SCIENCE AT MCW

24 / A MEETING OF THE MINDS

26 / MCW MEDICAL STUDENT RECEIVES CAMPUS COMPACT NEWMAN CIVIC FELLOWSHIP

27 / VOICE OF THE STUDENT

28 / ALUMNA PROFILE: DEBORAH DISTEFANO, MD '76, GME '80

29 / ALUMNUS PROFILE: J. LUIS BAUTISTA, MD '84

## INSIDE EVERY ISSUE

---

4-5 / STAT REPORT

32-34 / IN MEMORIAM

30-31 / ALUMNI NOTES

35 / CHANGE AGENT

---

MCW IS COMMITTED TO EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION INCLUDING COMPLIANCE WITH TITLE IX. PLEASE SEE [MCW.EDU/TITLEIX](http://MCW.EDU/TITLEIX) FOR MORE INFORMATION.

FEATURED PHOTOGRAPHERS: Greg Calhoun; James Peck; Gary Porter; Michelle Schaefer

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**ON THE COVER:** On June 25, 2012, MCW's board of trustees authorized the institution to develop community-based medical education programs in both the Green Bay and central Wisconsin areas. The cover story includes highlights from MCW's successful 10-year journey to regional medical education that addresses physician maldistribution by training physicians in the communities where they are needed the most.

# STAT REPORT

## ThriveOn Collaboration Begins Construction and Announces Education Initiative

In June 2022, the ThriveOn Collaboration announced the official start of construction on its ThriveOn King building located at the former Gimbels-Schuster's building just north of downtown Milwaukee. The Collaboration is a joint venture among MCW, the Greater Milwaukee Foundation and Royal Capital Group, which share the goal of making Milwaukee a more equitable, healthy and thriving community for all.

The ThriveOn King building – anticipated to be fully renovated by the end of 2023 – will feature spaces focused to support its five priority areas of housing, early childhood education, health and wellness, social cohesion and economic opportunity. The ThriveOn Collaboration has conducted significant neighborhood engagement regarding priorities for the first floor of the ThriveOn King building, which will include an early childhood education center, makerspace, meeting space, a food hall and gathering spaces for special events. The other floors will contain residential space and office space with MCW programs occupying two floors and the Greater Milwaukee Foundation occupying one floor.

In addition to the recent construction announcement, the ThriveOn Collaboration announced in April 2022 that it plans to mobilize \$5 million over five years to invest in the facilities and practices of current early childhood education



*The ThriveOn Collaboration plans to mobilize \$5 million over five years to invest in the facilities and practices of current early childhood education providers in the Harambee, Halyard Park and Brewers Hill neighborhoods.*

providers in the Harambee, Halyard Park and Brewers Hill neighborhoods. Additionally, the Collaboration has selected a flagship provider – Malaika Early Learning Center – to operate a new center in its ThriveOn King building. Together, these mutually reinforcing efforts will expand the number of seats available to families to better prepare children for success in kindergarten and beyond. ■



**ThriveOn**  
COLLABORATION

Greater Milwaukee  
FOUNDATION  
Greater Milwaukee

MEDICAL  
COLLEGE  
OF WISCONSIN

ROYAL CAPITAL  
Group LLC

## Kern Family Foundation Invests \$50 Million to Advance MCW Initiatives



The Kern Family Foundation announced in June 2022 that it was making a \$50 million contribution to MCW. The foundation will continue its support of transformational advancements in educating medical students and in the medical profession. The contribution accelerates efforts by the Kern National Network for Caring and Character in Medicine and the Robert D. and Patricia E. Kern Institute for the Transformation of Medical Education.

Total giving from the Kern family and the Kern Family Foundation for

the institute and network now stands at \$87.9 million, including a \$37.9 million investment in 2017 that originally launched the Kern Institute and the Kern National Network. A \$1 million contribution from former MCW board chair Steve Roell and his wife Shelagh created a named chair now held by Adina L. Kalet, MD, MPH, professor and director of the Kern Institute.

The Kern Institute is dedicated to transforming faculty, students and curriculum, as well as fostering culture and systems change in medical education.

The Kern National Network, comprising seven medical schools from across the country, is catalyzing national leaders to transform clinical learning and practice environments, as well as influencing policy and culture change through its integrated framework for character, caring, practical wisdom and flourishing in medicine. The network is led by Cheryl A. Maurana, PhD, MCW's senior vice president for strategic academic partnerships, professor and founding director of the Kern National Network. ■

## Dr. Jesse Ehrenfeld Voted American Medical Association President-Elect

Jesse M. Ehrenfeld, MD, MPH, director of the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment at MCW, senior associate dean in the MCW School of Medicine and professor of anesthesiology, has been voted president-elect of the American Medical Association (AMA).

Following a year-long term as president-elect, Dr. Ehrenfeld will be installed as AMA president in June 2023. He is the first openly gay person to hold the office of president-elect and also will be the first to serve as AMA president.

"I am honored to have the trust of my respected peers to help lead the AMA and represent the physicians and patients we serve across the nation," Dr. Ehrenfeld says. Dr. Ehrenfeld has been active in the AMA since medical school and was elected to the AMA board of trustees in 2014.

The AMA is the largest and only national association that convenes 190+ state and specialty medical societies and other stakeholders. The AMA represents physicians with a unified voice in courts and legislative bodies across the nation. The association focuses on removing obstacles that interfere with patient care, preventing chronic disease and preparing for and responding to public health crises, and driving the future of medicine to tackle the biggest challenges in healthcare and training the leaders of tomorrow. ■



# NEWS

## FOR ALUMNI

*Dear Alumni Association Members:*

The year 2022 has been an exciting one as we began celebrations in person again! On behalf of the MCW/Marquette Medical Alumni Association, I extend congratulations to the remarkable Class of 2022 from the School of Graduate Studies, School of Medicine and the School of Pharmacy! Together with fellow board member Elizabeth Nietert, MD '06, we were proud to be a part of the very special graduation events celebrating the achievements of our graduates and conferring their academic degrees. We welcome all the new graduates to our accomplished MCW Alumni Community.

I am so grateful to those who supported me during the past year. It was an honor and privilege to lead the Alumni

Association. I am excited about our incoming officers, and I welcome Jessica M. Olson, PhD '15, MPH '17, who will assume the role of president in September. Her leadership of the Alumni Association is significant, as she will be the first Graduate School graduate to do so.

The Alumni Association is continually working to expand its outreach to alumni, offering professional development opportunities, philanthropic opportunities and ways to work directly with the next generation of physicians training at MCW. All of these can be accessed through our monthly alumni E-Newsletter and the ENGAGE platform.

This year we launched the "Alumni Birthday Greeting" project in partnership with MCW Chordae Harmonae (the Medical College of Wisconsin's a cappella group). Since July 2021,



**MCW Class of 1970 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion:** Front row, l-r: Dr. Herbert J. Zimmers, Dr. Vincent J. Guzzetta, Dr. Bill W. Yeung, Dr. Michael J. Conway, Dr. John P. Zimmermann, Dr. Arthur W. Kaemmer, Dr. Lawrence M. Condon, Dr. James T. Casper. Second row, l-r: Dr. John H. Stasiewicz, Dr. Edmund R. Donoghue, Dr. Jane L. Neumann, Dr. Terry L. Guedner, Dr. Samuel O. Mayeda, Dr. James J. Dickman, II, Dr. Rosario J. Noto, Dr. Robert McVie, Dr. Donald R. Mackay, Dr. William F. Prudlow.



**MCW Class of 1971 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion:**  
 Front row, l-r: Dr. Mel I. Blaustein,  
 Dr. Joseph E. Trader, Dr. Margarethe  
 H. Hagemann, Dr. Elizabeth L.  
 Tucker Sanfelippo. Second row, l-r:  
 Dr. Frederick L. Bloom, Dr. Arthur  
 S. Marquis, Dr. Gerald A. Hanson,  
 Dr. William M. Mahony, Dr. Raymond  
 J. McDonald, Dr. Alan R. Kohlhaas,  
 Dr. Thomas E. Palmer.

almost 10,000 alumni started their special day with a birthday message from MCW.

We have also revitalized the alumni email accounts for the graduating class of each MCW school. This is not a continuation of their MCW email, but rather a new @alumni.mcw.edu account. The Alumni Association is dedicated to facilitating the lifetime connection of alumni to each other, to our students and to MCW.

And finally, the highlight of this year was to welcome our alumni back as we celebrated three 50<sup>th</sup> reunion classes at Commencement in May (pictured on these two pages) and 20 classes for the Catch-Up Reunions in June. We are so grateful to Drs. Raymond and Kerschner for the inspiration to move forward with these events. This decision was made in

partnership with all of you, our MCW alumni who missed their in-person reunions. We reached out to you by survey and asked if we should move forward with Catch-Up Reunions, and you said, “YES!”

Remember, our ability to connect is vital. If you are not receiving the alumni E-Newsletter or invitations by email, please share your contact information at [alumni@mcw.edu](mailto:alumni@mcw.edu). If you know of other alumni who are not connected with us, please share their information as well. Your partnership in the work we do is deeply appreciated. ■

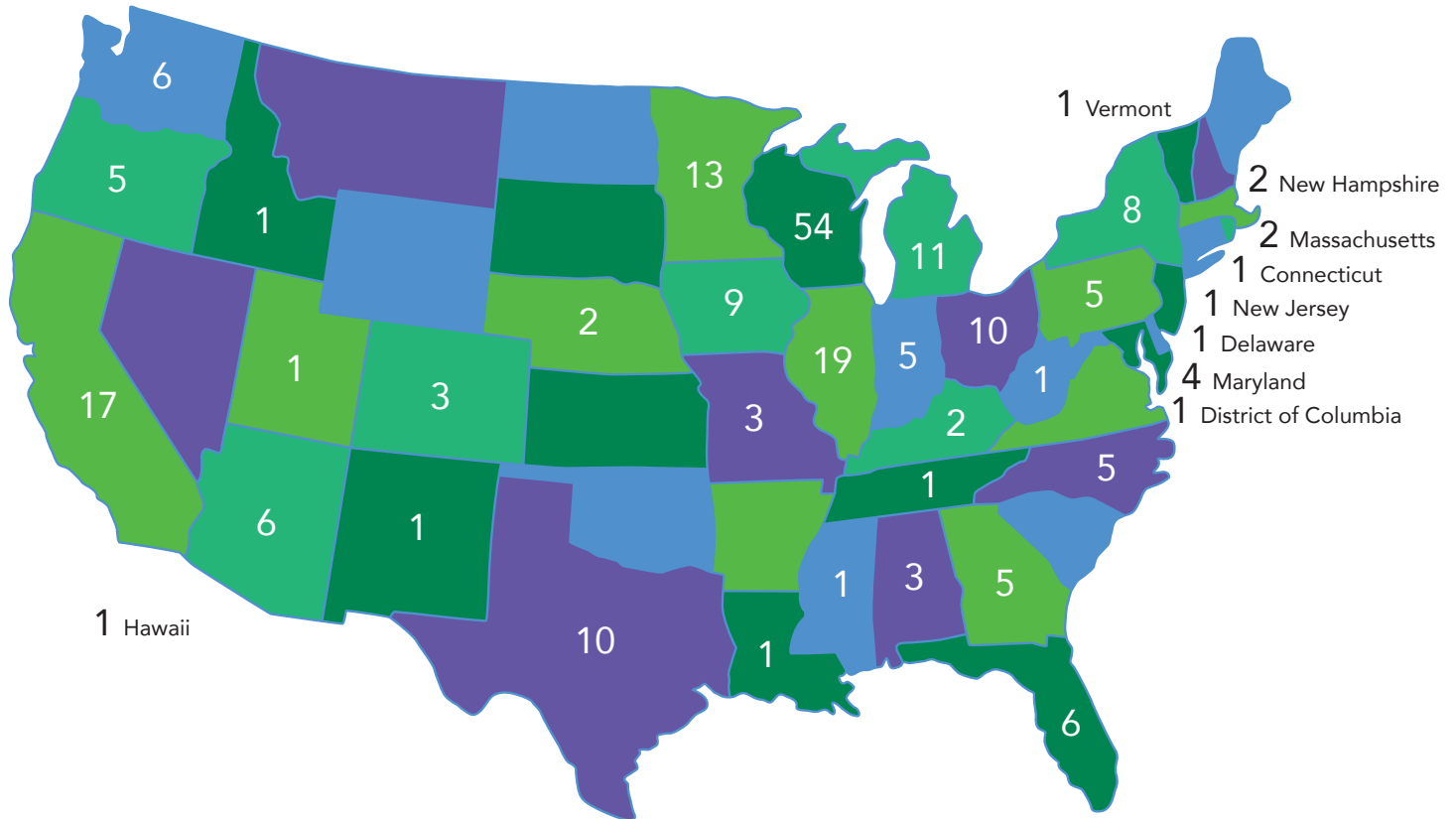
“Since July 2021, almost 10,000 alumni started their special day with a birthday message from MCW.”

**George M. Lange, MD '75**



**MCW Class of 1972 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion:** Front row, l-r: Dr. William T. Sause, Dr. H. Michael Mynatt, Dr. Stephen P. Delahunt, Dr. C. Christian Friess, Dr. Kent T. Shoji, Dr. Robert A. Di Ulio, Dr. Richard M. Kane, Dr. Alan A. Wartenberg. Second row, l-r: Dr. Jay S. Weisfeld, Dr. Philip M.W. Pailey, Dr. George A. Williams, Dr. Thomas B. Chatton, Dr. Daniel C. Schrinksky, Dr. Timothy M. Denman, Dr. Carl B. Ledig, Dr. Philip C. Guzzetta.

# 2022 MCW SCHOOL OF MEDICINE RESIDENCY DISTRIBUTION



All aggregate statistics are inclusive of NRMP, military and specialty matches in the U.S.

## Summary of First-Year Residency Programs for Milwaukee, Green Bay and Central Wisconsin Campuses

Anesthesiology	13	Neurology	4	Psychiatry	13
Child Neurology	1	Obstetrics & Gynecology	14	Radiology-Diagnostic	2
Emergency Medicine	20	Ophthalmology	1	Surgery-General	20
Family Medicine	25	Orthopaedic Surgery	10	Surgery-Preliminary	3
Internal Medicine (IM)	45	Otolaryngology	2	Transitional Year	10
IM/MIDOCs	1	Pathology	2	Urology	3
IM/Pediatrics	6	Pediatrics (Peds)	26		
Interventional Radiology (Integrated)	1	Peds/Anesthesiology	2		
Neurological Surgery	1	Plastic Surgery (Integrated)	3		



# From Soldier to DOD Researcher

*Current PhD Student and Armed Services Veteran Comes Full Circle with Department of Defense Grant Award*

Years before being admitted to MCW's Interdisciplinary Program in Biomedical Sciences, Joseph "Joe" Rouse joined the US Army and served for several years as a member of the highly regarded 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division. Following his time in the military, Rouse would go on to obtain both his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, where he studied molecular biology and conducted microbiology-related research. "My personal interest in science has always been the battle and the balance that all humans experience with microbes because they are needed in some cases, but in other cases we also have to protect ourselves from them," Rouse says.

Now a fourth-year PhD student at MCW under the mentorship of Robert Lochhead, PhD, assistant professor of microbiology & immunology, Rouse continues to pursue his research interests related to infectious diseases, particularly the human immune response to Lyme disease. His dissertation

work is focused on attempting to better understand how certain cell types in the body's joints change their behavior under pro-inflammatory conditions, and how these affected cells interact with the human immune system during the development of arthritis.

Rouse's efforts served as the foundation of a three-year, \$300,000 US Department of Defense Career Development Award that was recently granted to the Lochhead lab. These highly selective grants are awarded annually to researchers across the country to improve the quality of life for active-duty service members, their families, veterans and/or the American public. "This area of research is of particular interest to the Department of Defense due to the fact that soldiers are often exposed to nature's elements that can carry tick-borne diseases such as Lyme disease," Rouse explains.

The award was of special significance to Rouse, not only as a veteran of the Armed Services, but also as a budding early



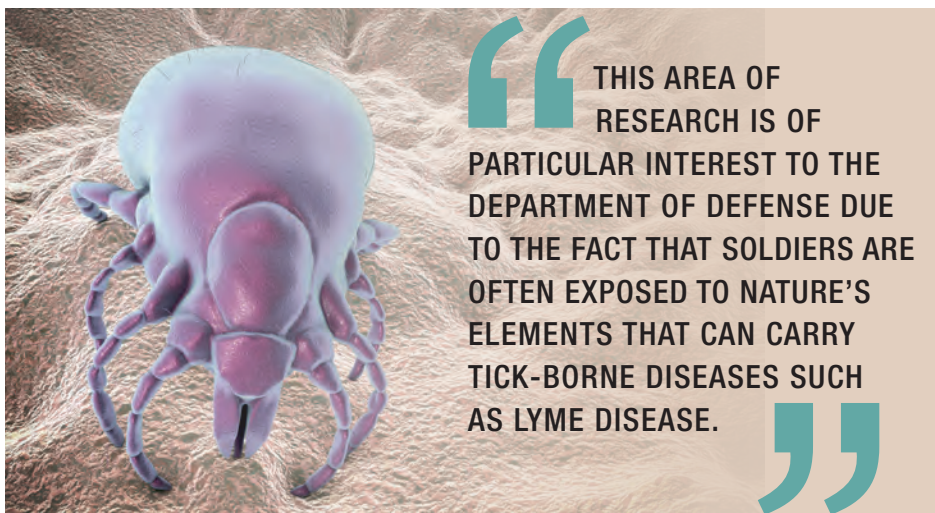
*Fourth-year MCW PhD student Joseph "Joe" Rouse recently received a three-year US Department of Defense Career Development Award.*

career scientist. "It affirmed that what I am attempting to do is valid and that others believe that our work will positively contribute to improving human health," he says.

The funds received from this grant will support Rouse and his research efforts throughout the remaining tenure of his doctoral studies at MCW, and he is hopeful that their discoveries will lead to better understanding of various kinds of infection-induced autoimmunity. "Whatever we learn about this topic – in the case of Lyme disease and arthritis – may also be applied to future studies of neurological disorders like multiple sclerosis," he shares.

Rouse's research already is capturing the attention of his peers, as he recently presented his findings at the Gordon Research Conference on the Biology of Spirochetes – considered to be the top international meeting in his field. ■

– ANTHONY J. PEREZ



“ THIS AREA OF RESEARCH IS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DUE TO THE FACT THAT SOLDIERS ARE OFTEN EXPOSED TO NATURE'S ELEMENTS THAT CAN CARRY TICK-BORNE DISEASES SUCH AS LYME DISEASE. ”

# Postgraduate Training is Competitive Edge for Pharmacy Students

The role of the pharmacist in public health has been transforming and expanding in recent years. As new opportunities have arisen for pharmacists to be involved in the provision of expanded direct patient care, more pharmacy students seeking postgraduate residency training to become more competitive for these roles and to pursue different medical specialties.

“Pharmacy school allows for an incredible opportunity to learn about medication therapies, but residency is the time that allowed me to fully apply my education in a hospital setting,” says Dominika Krynicka, PharmD, graduate of the MCW School of Pharmacy’s inaugural Class of 2020. “From the perspective of my PGY-2 year, the topics I had learned were only a small focus of pharmacy school. Nonetheless, I was able to develop myself beyond a student or even a clinical pharmacist, but as a pharmacy leader. This transformation would take significantly more time without postgraduate training.”

Dr. Krynicka recently completed a Post-Graduate Year 1 & 2 (PGY-1/2) Health-System Pharmacy Administration and Leadership residency at New York-Presbyterian Hospital in New York City. At the end of July, Dr. Krynicka began as a consultant with Visante, a pharmacy-focused consulting firm. “I am looking

forward to my new position at Visante, where I will be working with colleagues from Froedtert Hospital and the University of Wisconsin Medical Center,” Dr. Krynicka shares.

A pharmacy residency is one of the postgraduate training options for students



*Dr. Dominika Krynicka (at left and below)*



once they have earned their Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree. First-year residencies provide additional in-depth pharmacy practice experiences and offer graduates the opportunity to specialize in areas such as emergency medicine, pediatrics, cardiology, pharmacogenomics, oncology, psychiatry and more in subsequent years. In the US, PharmD graduates are deemed to be “practice-ready” per the American Council for Pharmacy Education Accreditation Standards. Thus, postgraduate training is an elective option for pharmacists.



*Dr. Arslan Aslam*

“I would recommend pursuing postgraduate training such as a residency or fellowship,” says Arslan Aslam, PharmD, graduate of the MCW School of Pharmacy Class of 2020. “These types of trainings will help advance clinical judgement, enhance teamwork, problem solving and communication skills by working with an interdisciplinary team.”

Dr. Aslam recently finished a PGY-1/2 Health-System Pharmacy Administration and Leadership Residency at Advocate Aurora Health in Illinois and has transitioned to an inpatient pharmacy supervisor role with Beaumont Health in Royal Oak, Mich.

“MCW really prides itself on creating trailblazers for the next generation of pharmacy, and part of this is creating unlimited resources for students who may want to pursue residency. I took the residency prep class when I was a pharmacy student, and it was by far the best thing I did for myself,” shares Jennifer Polenska, PharmD, a fellow graduate of the Class of 2020 who completed a PGY-1 residency at SSM Health St. Mary’s Hospital in Madison, Wis., and now works as a clinical pharmacist with St. Mary’s. “That class gave students everything they could possibly need to jump into applying to residency, rocking those interview days, and ending it all with a well-written thank-you. I was almost stunned when I found out other schools do not offer a class like that.”

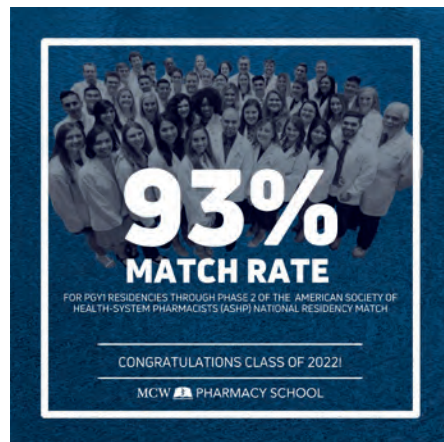
This year, the MCW School of Pharmacy achieved its highest match rate yet during the annual postgraduate pharmacy match program sponsored by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

Ninety-three percent of residency applicants from the MCW School of Pharmacy Class of 2022 matched, far surpassing the 2022 national average of 77 percent. Of the 41 members of the MCW Class of 2022, 56 percent have gone on to postgraduate residencies and fellowships after graduation.

“All of our students are to be commended for entering what was once again a very competitive year,” says George E. MacKinnon III, PhD, MS, RPh, founding dean and professor of the MCW School of Pharmacy. “This is a testament of the MCW School of Pharmacy’s innovative PharmD program and the quality pharmacists we are creating – with many intending to fulfill direct patient care roles. We are excited for them in their future endeavors.”

The MCW School of Pharmacy is preparing students by educating them to fulfill the expanded role of the pharmacist. The accelerated PharmD program provides students early experiences in a variety of clinical settings that continue throughout their three years of schooling. Students receive training in advanced patient care skills such as physical assessment, point-of-care testing (including influenza or strep throat) and chronic care management that takes place in simulated patient care situations and mirrors real life. Through their educational experience, MCW pharmacy students learn how to provide quality healthcare as part of an interprofessional team to improve the health and well-being of patients and communities.

“My experience at the MCW School of Pharmacy was an incredibly exciting and challenging time when I truly felt I was able to push myself toward my full potential as a future leader of innovative pharmacy practice,” says Parker Knueppel, PharmD ’21. “One



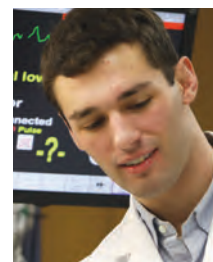
“I took the residency prep class when I was a pharmacy student, and it was by far the best thing I did for myself.”

**Jennifer Polenska,  
PharmD '20**



*Dr. Parker Knueppel (top left and below) checks the heartbeat of a simulation mannequin.*

thing I appreciate most is my role as Pharmacy Student Alliance president, as I helped push forward the development of a new interprofessional student government organizational structure along with MCW’s graduate and medical school programs. I also thoroughly enjoyed the emphasis placed on advocacy for pharmacy practice at a legislative level and involvement in pharmacy organizations.” Dr. Knueppel recently entered the second year of a combined PGY-1/2 Health System Pharmacy Administration & Leadership residency program at the University of California, Davis Health in Sacramento, Calif.



Dr. Aslam agrees that MCW’s PharmD program and extra-curricular opportunities prepared him well. “During my time there, I served as the inaugural vice president of the Pharmacy Student Alliance, helped create the pharmacy student mentorship program and was a member of the LAPPE program at Froedtert Health. I believe that the pharmacy curriculum and my ability to participate in extracurricular activities at MCW prepared me to better manage my time and priorities when transitioning to residency. I also think the interprofessional opportunities with medical students, nursing students and more made me much more comfortable interacting with them as part of the interdisciplinary team,” Dr. Aslam remarks.

Members of the MCW School of Pharmacy’s Class of 2022 were excited to look ahead to their opportunities after graduation. Brianna Wallace, PharmD ’22, shares, “I have a residency lined up with Northwestern Medicine at its main campus in downtown Chicago, and I’ll also be at an outlying community hospital for some rotations. This first-year residency enables me to put my foot in the door and to make sure that I explore all my options. My second-year residency will be more specialty-focused. I’m excited to move back to where I’m from and to have some new experiences.” ■

– MICHELLE SCHAEFER

# \$10 Million Investment From Linda and John Mellowes Fuels Genomic Sciences and Precision Medicine

The Linda T. and John A. Mellowes Center for Genomic Sciences and Precision Medicine at MCW recently was named in honor of the couple's contribution to support new research as well as MCW faculty studying the potential of the human genome to treat a wide variety of diseases.

"We want people to know they don't need to go to the Cleveland Clinic, Mayo or Johns Hopkins for the best treatment in the world," says Linda Mellowes. "We want everyone to know they never have to leave Milwaukee to receive superlative care."

John and Linda Mellowes are deeply rooted in, and devoted to, the Milwaukee community. Linda quickly points out that theirs is an investment in action. "We want to focus on the research going on inside the buildings and the labs at

Froedtert and MCW." Her husband John adds, "The goal is to attract world-class researchers to the center."

When Linda first met John, he was in the Navy and she was working in hematology research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Maryland; they married in 1965. While living in New Jersey, John managed a division of Charter Manufacturing, the family business. Five years later, the couple moved to Milwaukee.

"As John grew the business, my job



(l-r) Katie Mellowes, Charles Mellowes, John A. Mellowes, Linda Mellowes and John W. Mellowes gathered in May 2022 to announce the naming of the Linda T. and John A. Mellowes Center for Genomic Sciences and Precision Medicine.

was family and community involvement. One of my biggest goals was to show that our company was philanthropic,” Linda shares. She had earned her degree in biology and chemistry at the University of Arkansas, and had wanted to become a doctor. “My family didn’t have the resources to enable me to go to medical school, but while working at the NIH, I saw how medical research makes a huge difference,” she notes.

The couple has directed much of their giving toward research. “We are making an investment in the kind of research that makes people’s lives better. John and I have tremendous expectations, and we absolutely want to see results. It’s not a quick-fix bandage, however. This is a long-term investment,” Linda adds. “Education and research are so very important.”

The Mellowes’ critical contributions have encouraged and generated support from other community leaders. John notes the couple’s \$10 million investment is the largest they’ve ever made. “We’re investing for the future. Our gift is a demonstration to others that we believe in, and are supporting, this work.”

“We are deeply grateful to Linda and John for their generosity and for the trust this investment represents in our work as researchers and clinicians,” says Raul Urrutia, MD, director of the Mellowes Center and MCW professor of surgery. “As we seek to transform how patients are diagnosed and treated, we are proud to have them as partners.”

MCW and its clinical partners – Froedtert Health and Children’s Wisconsin – have a strong record of achievements in the genomic sciences, dating back to the Human Genome Project and the 1999 founding of the MCW Human and Molecular Genetics Center. In 2010, MCW became the first institution in the world to deploy genetic sequencing to diagnose and recommend a treatment for a rare pediatric disease.

As human genome sequencing became a reality, so, too, came the promise of tailoring specific treatments to an individual’s genetic traits and accelerating

new research into cancer. Razelle Kurzrock, MD, recently joined MCW as the associate director of clinical research for the MCW Cancer Center and associate director of precision oncology at the Mellowes Center. She also is the inaugural holder of the Linda T. and John A. Mellowes Endowed Chair in Precision Oncology to advance her research in cancer, including rare cancers.

“When leading scientists and clinicians are considering whether to join an institution, they look carefully at the support from the community for the work being done there,” says Dr. Kurzrock. “Philanthropy truly propels innovative

“We’re investing for the future. Our gift is a demonstration to others that we believe in, and are supporting, this work.”

research and leads directly to investments by others, as well as public and private grants.”

“Linda and John shared with me that their generous gift is a ‘thank you’ for both

the important research being undertaken by Froedtert and MCW as well as for the longstanding support of our community,” says John R. Raymond, Sr., MD, president and CEO of MCW. “Gratefulness is at the heart of their investment – and it is with tremendous warmth and gratitude that we work with such meaningful partners as Linda and John Mellowes.”

Dr. Raymond also notes additional crucial collaborations in support of MCW and its clinical partners – without which the landscape of cancer research and patient care at these institutions would look very different. “At the center of our work is our partnership with Froedtert and Children’s. We are a collective force, joined by thousands of healthcare professionals providing cutting-edge, research-based cancer care to patients and families. Our physicians and scientists use what they learn in the clinics to advance research and translate innovative discovery into life-saving treatments. The Mellowes Center is truly the epicenter for precision oncology on the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center campus,” Dr. Raymond says.

Charter Manufacturing is privately held by the Mellowes family. “Our philanthropic investment is a message to others, and to our family, that our company is going to continue to be involved in these causes going forward,” John says. “We have about 2,000 employees in this region, and we’re showing them that we’re committed to making their community a better place. Our business is only as good as the people who work with us, and we want them to know that we are supporting a great community for them and their families.”

Linda echoes John’s sentiment. “We love Milwaukee. Great things are happening here, and we’re trying to be a tiny piece of that.” ■ – JAMES PECK



*The Mellowes Center drives discovery and unlocks the treatment potential of the human genome.*

*(At top) Bioinformatics analyst Neshatul Haque presents data on a 3D molecule.*

*(At bottom) Research associate Anju Thomas prepares samples for protein analysis.*

# CELEBRATING OUR 10-YEAR JOURNEY TO Regional Medical Education

By Sara L. Wilkins

**O**n June 25, 2012, MCW’s board of trustees authorized the institution to develop community-based medical education\* programs in both the Green Bay and central Wisconsin areas based on a comprehensive evaluation including financial modeling and business plan, evidence of community commitment and detailed implementation plans for the two sites. The timeline for developing the community-based medical education initiative called for matriculating the first class of students at the initial site in July 2015 and the first class of students at the second site in July 2016.

The seeds had been planted more than a year earlier, when John R. Raymond, Sr., MD, MCW’s newly appointed president and chief executive officer – along with several other institutional leaders – had conducted statewide tours of Wisconsin’s health systems.

“What we learned is that the health systems hadn’t been asked to participate in a meaningful way in the preparation of the next generation of physicians and scientists, and that many of them, especially in northern Wisconsin, were having difficulty recruiting and retaining physician talent. And they asked us to help them by increasing the pipeline of medical students,” Dr. Raymond recalls.

Now, a decade later, MCW’s two regional campuses have graduated 195 physicians, and MCW has emerged as a national leader and role model for an immersive, community-based medical school program that offers an innovative three-year curricular model that gets physicians into practice sooner and with less debt.

What follows are highlights from MCW’s successful 10-year journey to regional medical education that addresses physician maldistribution by training physicians in the communities where they are needed the most.

## Planting the Seeds

Dr. Raymond’s statewide meetings with health systems leaders and a November 2011 board of trustees’ retreat to help develop MCW’s strategic direction were the impetuses for MCW’s plans to establish a statewide community-based medical education program.

The need for expansion was reinforced by reports issued late that same year by the Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA) and the Association of American Medical Colleges’ (AAMC) Physician Workforce Committee – both of which noted an acute and worsening national shortage of providers, especially in primary care and certain specialties in “both rural and underserved areas.” In particular, the WHA report concluded, “If students complete both their medical education and residency training in Wisconsin, nearly 70 percent will remain in the state to practice medicine.”

Upon realizing that increasing class size in Milwaukee would not improve the physician shortage in northern Wisconsin, Dr. Raymond declared at the time, “Let’s think about a different way of delivering medical education. Let’s deploy the talent that exists throughout the state and engage them in immersing students in their own communities. Let’s try to build roots for those students and have

role models for those students in these communities.”

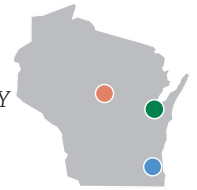
On January 27, 2012, MCW’s board approved a resolution to undertake a feasibility analysis for MCW’s proposed community medical education program. Eight regions throughout the state were under consideration. On March 23, the board authorized MCW to pursue expansion of its medical education program to two communities as a first phase.

## Wisconsin Primary Care Physician Shortage Map, 2011



The green shaded areas denote federally-designated locations where there are significant shortages of primary care physicians. (SOURCE: Wisconsin Office of Rural Health, 2011)

\* Author’s note: The original term, “community-based medical education,” was replaced over time with “regional medical education.” Both terms are used within this story.



## Vision for the Community-Based Medical Education Program

MCW envisioned a multi-community medical education program centered on an interprofessional team approach that annually would prepare approximately 25 medical students per class per campus in various locations throughout the state for community-based practice. The program would be structured as an “immersive model” wherein students would live and learn in Wisconsin communities in which they eventually might complete their residency training and begin their practice.

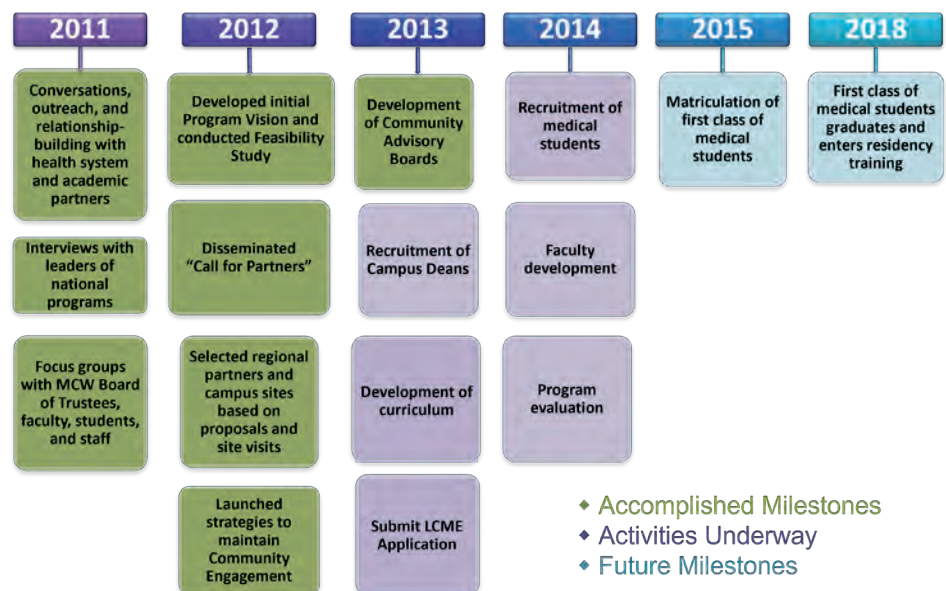
The program would build upon education and training models that align with healthcare’s “Triple Aim” approach to achieve: 1) better value for the resources invested; 2) improved population health outcomes; and 3) a lower cost of care. Such a program would focus on the core areas of prevention and wellness, early clinical experiences for medical students and collaborative, team-based learning with other health professionals. MCW expected to prepare primary care physicians more efficiently, and with less cost, through an innovative MD program that would allow students to complete their medical education in 130–140 weeks compared to MCW’s then-current model of more than 150 weeks.

This new curriculum would allow completion in three years, instead of the traditional four years of medical school. This enabled the students to substantially lower their costs for medical education and allowed them to enter the workforce more rapidly.

The community-based medical education program would be created on a partnership model engaging local healthcare systems, colleges and universities, technical colleges, government and local business communities. An important factor in the success of the initiative would be the commitment of healthcare systems statewide to create new primary care residency training positions within their hospitals.

To gain insight from national best

## Community Medical Education Program Timeline as of May 2013



practices for the development of MCW’s potential community medical education program, leaders of 18 community medical education programs throughout the US were consulted and national models were reviewed in the academic literature. MCW also consulted informally with the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME – the accrediting body for schools of medicine in the US and Canada) to discuss the proposed community medical education program.

### Board of Trustees’ Approval and Site Selection

Shortly after the board’s March 2012 authorization to move forward, health systems, academic institutions, and community and government leaders in each of eight regions in the state were asked to prepare a written proposal demonstrating their commitment to working in partnership with MCW to create an immersive experiences for the medical students who would learn and do all of their clinical rotations in the respective communities. MCW’s hope was that the medical students eventually would practice in these communities. Potential

regional site locations include Green Bay; Fox River Valley (Appleton, Oshkosh, Fond du Lac); central Wisconsin (Wausau, Stevens Point, Marshfield); northwest Wisconsin; Eau Claire; La Crosse; Janesville/Beloit; and Racine/Kenosha.

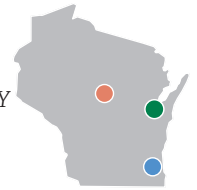
Key indicators for evaluating potential sites for the new campuses included presence of local champions and strong community enthusiasm; clear commitment to the program from all partners; engagement of civic leaders; size and interest of MCW alumni base; fundraising potential; and the likelihood of a realistic and productive affiliation/partnership with MCW.

On May 4, 2012, MCW emailed letters to community leaders in central Wisconsin, Eau Claire, Fox Valley and Green Bay asking them to affirm their willingness and interest in engaging in a formal process to move forward with establishing a medical education program in their respective communities.

Following a comprehensive analysis of potential sites for location of the campuses, including the willingness and readiness of the communities to support these programs, the Green Bay and central







staff and students to ensure that site implementation would be seamless and that transition to a community campus would be thoughtful and well-supported with key resources from the Milwaukee campus.

At MCW-Green Bay, academic components (administrative, classroom and anatomy laboratory spaces) were to be housed at St. Norbert College in DePere in the newly constructed Gehl-Mulva Science Center, and at Bellin College in Green Bay (simulation and clinical skills laboratory spaces). Faculty members from Bellin College, St. Norbert College and UW-Green Bay would teach in the program. Clinical rotations would be located at Aurora BayCare Medical Center, Bellin Health and Prevea Health, and the Milo C. Huempfnr VA Outpatient Clinic, as well as St. Mary's Hospital and St. Vincent Hospital in Green Bay.

At MCW-Central Wisconsin, administrative spaces and classrooms were to be housed in facilities at Aspirus Wausau Hospital, and Northcentral Technical College in Wausau would share anatomy, and simulation and clinical skills laboratory space. Medical students would train in hospitals and clinics owned by Aspirus, Marshfield Clinic, Ministry Health Care and Riverview Hospital Association during their early clinical experiences and rotations.

Undergraduate medical accreditation approvals were required before the new campuses could open. In March 2014, the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) informed MCW that it had determined the needed resources were in place to support the new Green Bay campus. Two months later, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) approved the addition of MCW-Green Bay under MCW's existing accreditation. These decisions by the LCME and HLC allowed for recruitment of students for matriculation in July 2015.

In early 2015, MCW-Central Wisconsin received accreditation approvals from the LCME and the HLC; MCW-Central Wisconsin then began recruiting students for its first class, beginning in July 2016.



*Dr. Matthew Hunsaker (third from right), MCW-Green Bay student scholarship awardees and Green Bay Packers executives celebrate the investment of the Green Bay Packers Foundation's \$250,000 matching gift challenge in July 2015.*

### Founding Deans Join the Regional Campuses

Matthew Hunsaker, MD, was named founding dean of MCW-Green Bay in late 2013 and joined the institution on January 1, 2014. Dr. Hunsaker, a family medicine practitioner, had previously served for more than a decade as an academic leader for the University of Illinois College of Medicine's (UIC) regional campus in Rockford, where he directed UIC's Rural Medical Education Program. A graduate of UIC, Dr. Hunsaker also was deeply engaged in global health and served as a consultant and lectured on family medicine and medical education in Asia, Africa and Europe.

Lisa Grill Dodson, MD, became the founding dean of MCW-Central Wisconsin on August 4, 2014. Before joining MCW, Dr. Dodson was the director



of Oregon Health & Science University's (OHSU) Area Health Education Center, where she developed the Oregon Rural Scholars Program. She also served as a professor of family medicine at OHSU, where she received her residency and fellowship training.

### The Power of Philanthropy

In addition to the funding noted above from the state of Wisconsin and the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment, philanthropic gifts from private entities and individuals were crucial to the success of the regional medical education program.

In July 2015, the Green Bay Packers Foundation announced a \$250,000 matching gift challenge to build scholarship funds for local medical students. This outstanding opportunity began to build the scholarship endowment for the regional campus and continues to serve as a permanent resource to benefit "Titletown's" medical students now and in the future. The response from MCW alumni, physicians, community members and other foundations was overwhelming; since that time, more than \$2.4 million

has been raised for student scholarships at MCW-Green Bay.

Donors supported MCW-Central Wisconsin as well. Notably, in spring 2015, the BA & Esther Greenheck Foundation made a \$1 million gift to invest in educational infrastructure and faculty development at the regional campus. The Judd S. Alexander Foundation pledged \$500,000 over five years and the Dudley Foundation made a five-year, \$50,000 gift to support the new regional campus. Additionally, The Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin's Wausau-Marathon County Fund contributed \$50,000 to MCW-Central Wisconsin for ultrasound equipment that has helped students learn crucial clinical skills.

In December 2019, the Sentry Insurance Foundation donated \$2 million to MCW-Central Wisconsin – the largest gift in the regional campus's history. The gift created the Sentry Deanship (currently held by Dr. Dodson) and also supports outreach efforts to recruit students from rural areas and small Wisconsin communities.

Since July 2012, philanthropic gifts totaling more than \$15 million, including \$3 million in donations from the Charles E. Benidt Foundation, have supported the development and ongoing work of the regional campuses and student scholarships.



Students from MCW-Green Bay's inaugural class celebrate the receipt of their white coats during a Welcoming Reception in July 2015, while Dr. Kerschner and Dr. Raymond look on.

## Regional Medical Education Becomes a Reality

MCW-Green Bay, the first new medical school campus in the state of Wisconsin in more than 100 years, opened its doors to an inaugural class of 26 students the first week of July 2015.

Orientation began July 1, and after the holiday weekend, classes commenced on July 6. The traditional White Coat Ceremony was held July 9 for students, families and faculty.

"The students are bright and motivated, the faculty members are energized, and the community couldn't be more enthusiastic," Dr. Hunsaker said at that time. "Our team is grateful for the support of the Community Advisory Board, our academic and healthcare partners, and our philanthropic donors. Without them, this would not have happened."

The majority of MCW-Green Bay students hailed from Wisconsin, but all cited an interest in primary care and the intimate class size as primary factors in selecting MCW-Green Bay. "When

we envisioned our new regional campuses, our goal was to help alleviate physician shortage and maldistribution in Wisconsin, and that strategy guided everything from our campus site selections to our student interviewing processes. We have worked diligently to establish primary care residencies in those regions to provide our students with an important



Patricia Toro Perez receives her white coat from Corrie Norrbom, MD, at the inaugural MCW-Central Wisconsin White Coat Ceremony in July 2016.

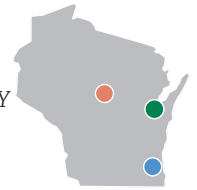
next step in their medical education," notes Joseph E. Kerschner, MD '90, FEL '98, provost and executive vice president of MCW and The Julia A. Uihlein Dean of the School of Medicine.

Graduation ceremonies for 15 students from the first class occurred on June 1, 2018. (Some of the students in the inaugural class took breaks in their medical training and expanded their training options, which delayed their graduation.) At that first Commencement, Dr. Hunasker told the audience, "MCW-Green Bay was built under a partnership of knowledge changing lives. These 15 young men and women will help us change the health of our state, hopefully here in northeast Wisconsin."

The inaugural class of 26 medical students began at MCW-Central Wisconsin on July 5, 2016. Dr. Dodson addressed these new students during their White Coat Ceremony, saying, "We collectively believe that you can and will be the physicians who will make healthcare more accessible, more just and equitable, higher quality and more sustainable for the region."

Thirteen medical students from the first class at MCW-Central Wisconsin graduated on May 30, 2019. As in Green Bay, many of the students took breaks in their medical studies and expanded their training options, thus extending their time on the MCW-Central Wisconsin campus.

Dr. Dodson shared during the campus's inaugural Commencement, "The



community has backed us every step of the way with the physicians and hospital systems and the general community in order to get us to this day.”

On December 13, 2019, MCW-Central Wisconsin moved into new facilities across the street from its original location in Aspirus Wausau Hospital. The larger facilities are providing more study space for the medical students and flexibility for future growth.

In 2019, Dr. Raymond reflected on the success of MCW’s community medical education program as well as its potential for the future. “Over the last six or seven years, we’ve grown into our name as the Medical College of Wisconsin by opening our regional campuses and expanding our health professions programs,” he said.

Since the creation of the regional campuses, 195 new physicians have graduated – 117 from MCW-Green Bay and 78 from MCW-Central Wisconsin. Each campus has experienced an average 98 percent Match rate, and almost 40 percent of the graduates from each campus have remained in Wisconsin for residency training. The greatest percentage of specialties represented for residencies has been family medicine, internal medicine and pediatrics.

MCW-Green Bay’s fifth Commencement Ceremony, held on June 2, 2022, recognized the symbolic “100<sup>th</sup> graduate.” Dr. Hunsaker shared with the audience on that day, “As most of the first decade has unfolded, we stand here amongst the 100<sup>th</sup> graduate, two new residencies and an extremely challenging global health event from which we are finally emerging. We have been able to communicate directly and efficiently. We have worked together to solve complicated problems against the backdrop of community, political, and, yes, even pandemic-related challenges that could have easily crippled progress and quality.”

MCW-Central Wisconsin graduated its fourth class of medical students on May 27, 2022. At the ceremony, Dr. Dodson told them, “My hope for you is

threefold: first, recognize that your actions and intentions matter. Second, do good for your community while also doing well for yourself. Third, help heal our country and communities through your skills as a scientist, healer, advocate and teacher.”

### Creating Community-Based Residency Programs

A key component of the community-based medical education program – and

an important factor in its success – would be the commitment of healthcare systems statewide to create new primary care residency training positions within their hospitals, if possible by the time the first class of students graduated in May 2018. Concurrently, MCW leaders realized the need for additional residencies in psychiatry – as a 2012 analysis by the state Department of Health Services determined that Wisconsin needed more than 200



*MCW-Green Bay inaugural graduating class, May 2018.*



*MCW-Central Wisconsin inaugural graduating class, May 2019.*

additional psychiatrists to address shortages.

To that end, MCW sought partners at the Veterans Administration Health System and elected officials in Wisconsin (among others) to create a novel solution for the state by creating psychiatry residency programs linked to the regional campuses that would attract medical students and residents to learn and ultimately to practice in areas of greatest need in the state. With state and VA funding support, new four-year mental health training programs were launched in July 2017 to train three residents per year in central Wisconsin and four residents per year in northern Wisconsin.

These efforts already are bearing fruit, as seven medical students from the regional campuses and two from MCW-Milwaukee are current psychiatry residents in these new graduate medical education programs. Two 2018 MCW-Green Bay graduates recently completed their four years of psychiatry residency; one is practicing in La Crosse, Wis., and the other in Waukesha, Wis. Additionally, three recent psychiatry residency graduates are remaining in Wisconsin to practice. And Josh Shupe, MD '19, an MCW-Central Wisconsin graduate, has been accepted into the MCW child and adolescent psychiatry fellowship for July 2023.

Establishing these new mental health residencies attached to MCW's regional campuses is likely to be highly impactful in improving the health of the citizens of Wisconsin. At the heart of this effort is the



realization that these two new residency programs will increase the training of psychiatrists in Wisconsin by more than 40 percent, which assuredly will improve access to mental healthcare for many of Wisconsin's citizens.

"The inaugural class of residents, almost all of whom have taken positions to remain in Wisconsin, is really fulfilling the vision of why we have the regional campuses and the difference they can make in the overall health of Wisconsin. Having these new psychiatrists stay in our state will fundamentally change access to mental healthcare in these regions," says Dr. Kerschner.

A new MCW family medicine residency program at Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital, which began on July 1, 2017, is training six residents per year over a three-year period – for a total of 18 new residents now that the program is at full strength. Among the residents are graduates of MCW's regional campuses.

Also in July 2017, MCW partnered with Prevea Health, HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital and the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health to transition the Eau Claire Family Residency Program to a community-based program.

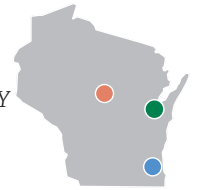
Additionally, MCW recently created a new family residency program in Green Bay in conjunction with Prevea Health and Hospital Sisters Health System. The inaugural class of residents began on July 1, 2021; when fully running, the program will train four residents per year for three years.

Further, in July 2015, MCW became an academic affiliate of the Fox Valley Family Medicine Residency Program in Appleton, Wis. The program is undertaken in collaboration with Mosaic Family Health Clinic in partnership with St. Elizabeth Hospital and ThedaCare Regional Medical Center – Appleton. There are 21 residents in the program, with seven graduating each year.

In 2021, the program graduated two residents from the inaugural class of MCW-Green Bay: Martha Grace Courtright, MD '18, GME '21; and Matthew Wheeler, MD '18, GME '21 (see sidebar on page 21). Current and former residents of the Fox Valley program include graduates from MCW-Green Bay, MCW-Central Wisconsin and MCW-Milwaukee.

MCW's success in growing both its undergraduate and graduate medical education programs and in placing its medical students in Wisconsin-based





GME programs, is providing an answer for the state's physician shortage. This also is reflected in the fact that more than 50 percent all of Wisconsin physicians currently practicing in Wisconsin completed some of their training and education at MCW.

MCW's regional campus model, which strongly emphasizes Wisconsin residents with roots in the state, will continue to have an even greater impact on the institution's efforts to alleviate Wisconsin's physician shortage. These campus expansions, together with state investment in medical residencies, is projected to create more than 450 new physicians in the next 15 years.

### Reflections on Achieving This 10-Year Milestone

Dr. Raymond recognizes the significance of this decade-long journey, noting, "The success of our regional campuses is a direct result of the new partnerships that we have built with health systems, educational institutions, the medical communities, and leaders of central and northeastern Wisconsin. We are grateful for our shared commitment to address healthcare workforce shortages through novel programs and partnerships," he says.

Dr. Kerschner adds, "The regional campuses have been a tremendous source of innovation in medical education, not only for Wisconsin, but across the United States. One of the most important aspects of these campuses has been our ability to build around them to do things like create psychiatry residencies. These residencies in northeast and northcentral Wisconsin are fundamentally changing access for patients to mental health resources across the state and, in particular, in more rural communities." ■

## A Dream Fulfilled for Three MCW-Green Bay Grads

Three graduates from MCW-Green Bay's inaugural class (2018) have recently settled into practice in northern and northeastern Wisconsin, realizing the vision articulated more than a decade ago with the creation of MCW's regional medical school campuses.



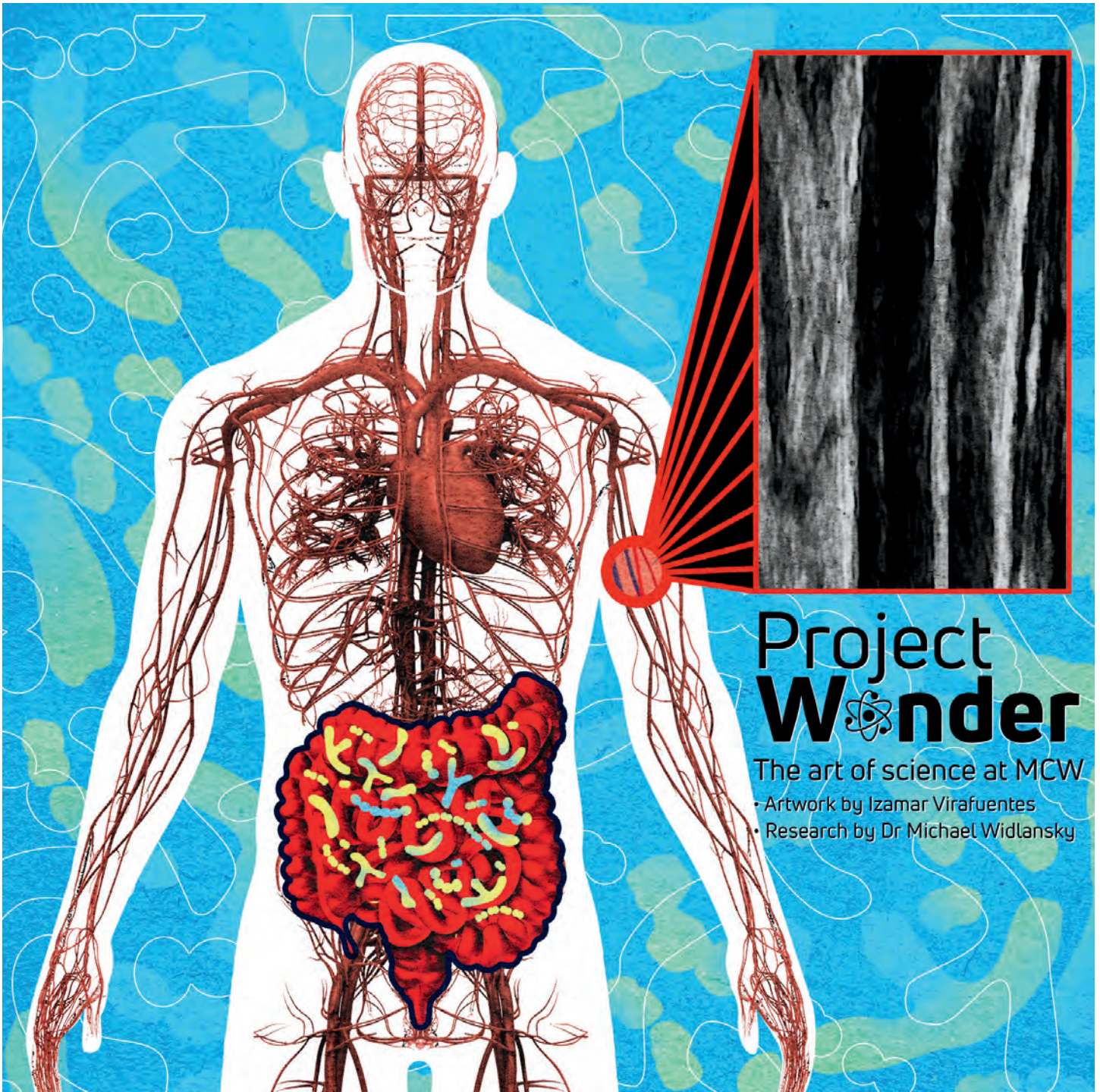
**Martha Grace Courtright, MD '18, GME '21, and Matthew Wheeler, MD '18, GME '21,** became close friends as classmates at MCW-Green Bay, and although each is married to a different spouse, the two entered into the "couples match" in order to train together (at the Fox Valley Family Medicine Residency Program in Appleton, Wis.). Since August 2021, they are family medicine physicians with obstetrics at Essentia Health in Hayward, Wis.

"So far it's been everything we'd been envisioning. We get to do the full spectrum. We get to do nursing home rounds and in-patient rounds and delivering babies and doing clinic care. It's a lot of work, but there's also a lot of benefit to being here," Dr. Courtright shares.

Dr. Wheeler, a formally trained musician, notes that, "Family medicine values the same things that I value in teaching music – building long-term relationships and seeing people change. So the three-year program that was opening up in Green Bay, designed to keep doctors in Wisconsin without having to spend an extra year in medical education was very important." He also says that, "Being welcomed into vulnerable parts of people's lives and being trusted is a privilege and a unique window into humanity that most people don't get to experience. I'll always be grateful for that."

**Matthew Jenson, MD '18, GME '21,** joined the Dousman Clinic, a private family medicine practice in Green Bay, in August 2021, after completing a family medicine residency at Columbia St. Mary's Hospital in Milwaukee. Growing up in the Green Bay area, applying to MCW-Green Bay was an easy decision. "That had a big pull for me, to be able to stay in my community. Another big deciding factor was the accelerated program where I could go into primary care in three years instead of four," he shares.

# Elevating Science at the Medical College of Wisconsin



## Project **W**onder

The art of science at MCW

- Artwork by Izamar Virafuentes
- Research by Dr Michael Widlansky

Within the walls of MCW are individuals dedicated to generating the knowledge that changes lives across our community, state and around the world. Basic and translational scientists at MCW drive discovery and relentlessly pursue innovative and cutting-edge treatments to positively impact health. The work is challenging, rewarding and groundbreaking.

To elevate the important work of these health and science leaders, MCW has launched several initiatives designed to create awareness of its research enterprise and elevate the unique contributions of its scientists to advance health globally.

### Project Wonder: The Art of Science at MCW

Launched in March 2022, Project Wonder partners MCW's basic and translational scientists with in-house and community-based graphic designers, artists, illustrators and writers to elevate and amplify their research interests and discoveries through bold, imaginative, one-of-a-kind artistic representations.

"Project Wonder is such a unique and important initiative," says Izamar Virafuentes, a graphic designer and artist. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to transform scientific discoveries into art that's accessible and relatable to the public."

Promoted across Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, Project Wonder reaches upwards of 1.5 million people across the globe.

### Coffee Conversations with Scientists

Coffee Conversations with Scientists is a monthly Facebook Live event and podcast hosted by MCW and sponsored by the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment (AHW) that shares the science behind today's trending health topics.

Coffee Conversations with Scientists is delivered in a casual Q&A format between a host and a scientist fielding questions from the audience. Since its launch in early 2021, the series has reached nearly one million individuals across the nation.

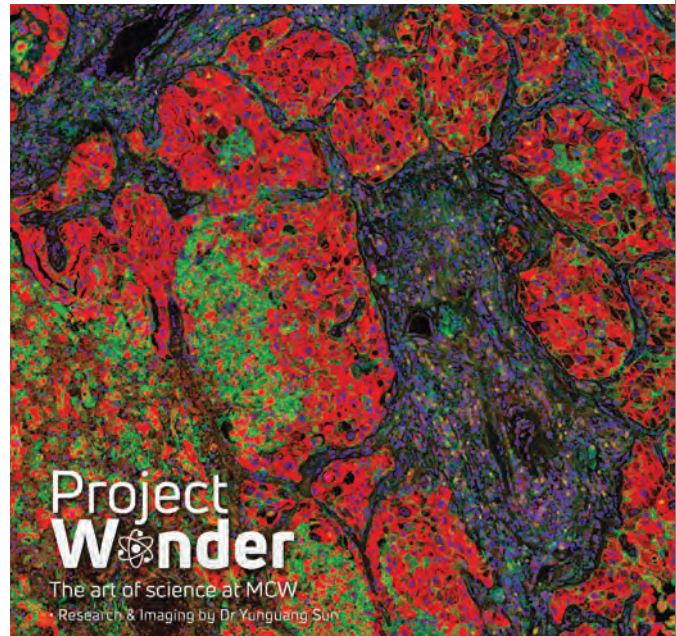
"The translation of scientific discoveries and health information into digestible bites for consumers is one of the most critical functions an academic medical center can perform," says Jesse Ehrenfeld, MD, MPH, director of AHW.

### CTSI Discovery Radio

CTSI Discovery Radio is a national award-winning 30-minute radio show and podcast produced, hosted and distributed by the Clinical and Translational Science Institute of Southeast Wisconsin (CTSI - housed at MCW) that informs, educates and engages listeners around the world about translational research and current medical and health topics, clinical trials and the latest advancements in treatments and interventions.

"CTSI Discovery Radio enhances our mission to advance health through research and to translate discoveries into better health for our communities, Wisconsin and beyond. The show serves our local community and reaches a national and international audience, with listeners from over half the US and 40 countries on six continents tuning in for educational content about translational research related to current health topics," explains Doriel Ward, PhD, executive director of CTSI, chief administrative officer of clinical and translational research at MCW, and assistant dean in the MCW School of Medicine.

Throughout the years, CTSI Discovery Radio has received top awards from locally and nationally recognized organizations



including the Association of American Medical Colleges, the Healthcare Ad Awards, the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association and the Milwaukee Press Club.

### MCW Content Hub and Social Media

In addition to these initiatives, MCW continues to elevate the unique contributions of its scientists, physicians, community-based researchers, epidemiologists, qualitative researchers and other integral faculty and staff to advance health through its digital channels. On MCW's blog (referred to as "Content Hub"), readers can find stories showcasing the integral work that the MCW community is doing to contribute toward the goal of improving health for all.

MCW social media accounts - which include Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube - amplify these stories and allow for dialogue with the community. Through its digital communications, MCW is celebrating the stellar work that is truly pioneering paths to a healthier world. ■

- ALEX KROUSE AND MAUREEN REMMEL



# A Meeting of the Minds

*MCW Neuroscientists Share a Focus on SMA Research*

After conducting her first research projects as an undergraduate in a lab focused on spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), Reilly Allison did not expect to continue her research on the disease when she entered the MCW School of Graduate Studies (formerly known as the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences).

She was surprised to find that Allison Ebert, PhD, associate professor of cell biology, neurobiology and anatomy, and director of the MCW Neuroscience Doctoral Program, also largely focused the research in her own lab on SMA.

Now in her third year of graduate studies at MCW, Allison recalls, “I was initially impressed by Dr. Ebert during a session she led on how to be an ethical researcher, which was part of the neuroscience bootcamp conducted just before graduate school began.” Allison quickly learned about the focus of Dr. Ebert’s lab and was thrilled to conduct her first six-week rotation under Dr. Ebert’s tutelage.

“Reilly Allison came to MCW with great research experience from her undergraduate years at Emory, including on SMA, and I could tell right away that she was going to be wonderful to work with,” Dr. Ebert notes. “She jumped right in and took the initiative on meaningful projects, so I was incredibly enthusiastic to have her join my lab for the remainder of her doctoral program following the completion of her other rotations.”

Allison rejoined the Ebert lab during the hibernation of most research activity at MCW in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic (*detailed in the cover story of the combined Annual Report and Fall 2021 issue of MCW Magazine*).

Dr. Ebert credits Allison for not being discouraged and for spending that time of lab hibernation reviewing relevant research studies and making extensive

plans for future experiments. In turn, Allison shares that a key to her scientific success has been Dr. Ebert’s mentorship.

“Dr. Ebert always has an open door to answer questions or discuss ideas, but she doesn’t micromanage my experiments. She tailors her mentorship style to each mentee, and, in my case, she knows how to inspire me and work with me to set goals and deadlines that are both ambitious and achievable,” Allison adds.

Dr. Ebert recently was recognized by the MCW Graduate School Association as both the *Mentor of the Year* and the *Teacher of the Year*. She was the first faculty member to receive both accolades in the same year.

“I was shocked by getting both awards, and it was an incredible honor to be selected by our graduate students,” Dr. Ebert says. In her mentorship role for Reilly Allison, Dr. Ebert saw an opportunity to highlight Allison’s outstanding work on a manuscript

published in January 2022 in *Glia* (a monthly peer-reviewed scientific journal) by nominating the article for the *Paper of the Season Award*, sponsored by the MCW School of Graduate Studies.

Allison’s paper investigated several factors that may contribute to the loss of spinal cord motor neurons in SMA. This work is important, as researchers in the Ebert lab and other scientists have found that the effects of the genetic mutation that causes SMA do not account for the full scope of the disease, which includes the loss of motor neurons that leads to progressive weakening of muscles and eventually to death.

“Most studies and treatments focus on increasing the levels of survival motor neuron protein, or SMN, that are otherwise too low due to the mutation in the SMN1 gene causing SMA,” Dr. Ebert shares. “Some therapies do this by amplifying the activity of the SMN2 gene,



*Third-year graduate student Reilly Allison reviews microscopy images generated during her research projects in the Ebert lab.*





(l-r) Dr. Allison Ebert works with mentee Reilly Allison in the Ebert lab. Dr. Ebert recently was recognized with two prestigious awards from the Graduate School Association.

which normally produces SMN but at a much lower rate. There is a lot of success with these approaches, but we also know they don't represent the whole picture and have limitations in terms of only being effective at certain points in the progression of the disease."

In the January paper in *Glia*, Reilly Allison and the team investigated the role of GATA6, one of the body's transcription factors that help control how often the DNA blueprints in genes are used to create needed proteins.

Previous work in the Ebert lab had shown higher levels of GATA6 in astrocytes, which are part of the glial family of cells within the central nervous system that provide structural support and many other functions alongside the more well-known neurons.

In the recent study, Allison used induced pluripotent stem cells generated from

patients with SMA and differentiated these cells into astrocytes to study the effects of GATA6 in these cells. She found that these cells were more active than normal astrocytes – which is known to occur in other central nervous system diseases such as stroke or traumatic injury – and produced more factors that promote inflammation.

In addition, Allison found that increasing the levels of GATA6 in healthy astrocytes changed their properties to be more similar to SMA astrocytes, and this accelerated the loss of motor neurons. In contrast, reducing GATA6 levels in SMA astrocytes prevented further rapid harm to motor neurons. Allison and Dr. Ebert view these data as uncovering a new potential treatment option that needs to be explored in future studies.

"Researchers have been looking for more therapeutic targets for SMA, and

Reilly found one, which is very exciting. We see this as a possible adjunct therapy to standard treatments to hopefully improve overall patient outcomes," Dr. Ebert says.

Allison adds, "We're always thinking about the patients. By targeting astrocytes, we hope to expand the treatment options and extend the therapeutic window for people suffering from this disease."

With Dr. Ebert's support, Allison's manuscript won the School of Graduate Studies Spring 2022 *Paper of the Season Award*.

"I was very grateful and a bit shocked to be selected. It was nice recognition of all our hard work," Allison shares.

"I was thrilled for her!" Dr. Ebert adds. "Reilly already has progressed so far so fast, and she absolutely has a bright future as a neuroscientist." ■

– GREG CALHOUN

# MCW Medical Student Receives National Recognition for Local Community Health Work

Jonathan Wong, a third-year MCW medical student, has been selected as a 2022–2023 Campus Compact Newman Civic Fellow for his work in community outreach and community engagement. Wong is one of a cohort of 173 students from across the country to be recognized with the fellowship for commitment to their communities as changemakers and public problem-solvers. The fellowship provides students with training, networking opportunities and resources to nurture their interests.

Wong was nominated by his MCW advisor, David Nelson, PhD, associate professor of family and community medicine, for his volunteer work addressing housing and health equity. Wong volunteers for StreetLife Communities, a homeless outreach program in Milwaukee that Dr. Nelson co-founded, and is conducting research regarding the threat of evictions and health. Wong is co-founder of the newly formed Street Medicine Interest Group at MCW, which aims to increase MCW student involvement in community outreach with people experiencing homelessness.

“I am very surprised and pleased to be the recipient of the Newman Civic Fellowship,” Wong says. “I was humbled to be recognized for the work I am doing with Dr. Nelson. His work has a profound impact on people in the community, and getting to be part of that is an amazing opportunity for me.”

Wong says his interest in community health started when he was a college student volunteering in a free clinic in Tijuana, Mexico, and grew after he graduated.



*Jonathan Wong was selected as a 2022–2023 Campus Compact Newman Civic Fellow for his work in community outreach and community engagement.*

“I moved back to San Francisco and continued doing community outreach, volunteering in free dining rooms and driving for Meals on Wheels before starting medical school. Seeing the great disparity in wealth and rampant homelessness in the city further impassioned my desire to continue community engagement in medical school and beyond,” he says. As a student at MCW, Wong feels he is encouraged in his mission to address health disparities by like-minded students and knowledgeable faculty.

“Dr. Nelson is very much a pioneer in community engagement and does incredible work with people experiencing homelessness. When I came to MCW, I asked him to be my faculty advisor and became involved in his work with

StreetLife Communities,” Wong notes.

Wong and Dr. Nelson are studying the social issue of eviction and striving to better evaluate the impact of eviction on the health of single women with children. Wong says there is very little data available on connecting the issue of eviction to a clinical context, so he is interviewing patients to discover how their housing situation affects their health outcomes.

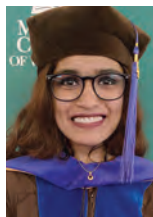
“The social issue of eviction connects to all four of MCW’s missions, which positions Jonathan Wong’s work as critical to understanding what can be done to alleviate this chronic problem,” says John R. Raymond, Sr., MD, president and CEO of MCW, who endorsed Wong’s nomination for the Campus Compact Newman Civic Fellowship.

As a future physician, Wong plans to continue working in community health outreach with patients experiencing homelessness while also working to change public policy for better equity and healthcare access. He hopes people in Milwaukee and beyond can see past the differences between themselves and a person experiencing homelessness.

“The homeless are often called the ‘invisible people’ because the only thing people see is their housing situation. I want people to realize that is not what defines them,” Wong shares. “They are brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, people. Their access to healthcare, or anything else, should not be defined by their housing status.” ■

– MCW MAGAZINE STAFF

# An Unconventional Path in Training



After poring through countless papers, inspecting figures, appraising results, and contemplating discussions, I arrived at my research hypothesis. Imagine my surprise when I learned during my graduate training that the subsequent goals of a scientific investigation rested on actively disproving this hypothesis!

For example, if I suspect that the sky is blue, and I conduct an experiment that confirms this, negative findings in experiments that assess if the sky is green or pink or other colors will strengthen my theory. In more scientific terms, when untangling the mechanistic webs behind causation, contradicting evidence holds great merit – one that we often dismiss in search of confirming our bias.

Our curiosity for understanding the “why” behind the sky not always being blue provides validity to our findings and reduces ignorance, permitting us to understand the theory behind light scattering and how those beautiful sunset skies shine in reds and oranges. As I practiced pandemic isolation protocols, the powerful blazing sun of hope bolstered by science and academia kept me company.

I celebrated my defense by attending the 2022 Weinstein Cardiovascular Development & Regeneration Conference in Marseilles, France, this past May, which marked the hopeful end to a three-year in-person hiatus for this meeting. I loved France; I bought far too many tartes and baguettes, especially as there appeared to be no restrictions to the number of boulangeries allowed at every corner. I already miss the lunchtime social ambiance and breathtaking Renaissance architecture, from the striped cathedrals to massive museum sculptures. Forewarned about “Paris syndrome,” I braced myself, but the Old Port of Marseilles and our singular Paris evening stroll by the Seine gave my husband and me the solace we desired.

In between these adventures and admiring the conference location (a palace overlooking the Mediterranean Sea), I learned about the most recent advancements in cardiac science. We live in an era of big data powered by sequencing technologies that provide resolution all the way from the minuscule single cell to the 3D hierarchy of genomic folds. Most of the 240 abstracts presented at the conference leveraged these sequencing datasets and genomic tools, and I soon became convinced as presenter after presenter underscored the crucial value of insight from these bioinformatic analyses.

These datasets are not without challenges, and I personally remember the learning curve that came with analyzing bulk cell RNA sequencing and label-free proteomics data. I marvel at



(Above) Dr. Suma Thareja (Samudrala) and her husband Nitish Thareja on their wedding day. (At right) Dr. Thareja with her mentor, Aoy Mitchell, PhD, after Dr. Thareja received her PhD.



the scientists, heroes unbeknownst to the public eye, who developed and disseminated open-source software, enabling me to complete my discovery efforts. This genetic understanding is complex, and I wonder if more grassroots community discussions centered on explaining infections and vaccines could have countered mistrust against the science – separate from political discourse – these past few years.

I want to explore this space of community engagement and medical education, and this upcoming academic year, I will be a postdoctoral fellow under the Kern Institute and *All of Us* Wisconsin prior to reentering my M3 year. I seek to understand how non-basic science investigators perform research and apply their findings. Walking this unconventional path in training is equally as exciting as it is daunting, and I am grateful for my village of supporters. ■

– DR. SUMA THAREJA

*Dr. Suma Thareja (Samudrala) is a student in MCW's MD/PhD program. After receiving her PhD in May 2022, she is now undertaking a one-year postdoctoral fellowship before reentering her third year of medical school at MCW.*

# With an Eye Toward the Future

Perhaps it was a twist of fate that Deborah DiStefano, MD '76, GME '80, was born prematurely at a time when preemies were kept in incubators with 100 percent pure oxygen without the medical realization that oxygen saturation would damage eyes that were still developing – and rather than becoming blind, as some babies in the incubators around her, she ultimately became an internationally recognized ophthalmologist!

Her mother was a nurse, and her nursing colleagues at the hospital took turns holding baby Deborah during her first days – thus keeping her out of the incubator for long periods of time and likely preserving her sight.

Growing up in Worcester, Mass., Deborah was surrounded and nurtured by healthcare providers – not only her mother the nurse, but her father, Anthony DiStefano, MD '45, a general surgeon, and two like-minded siblings who became a doctor and a dentist, respectively.

“Ever since I was six years old, I knew I was going to be a doctor,” Dr. DiStefano shares. “While my friends were out playing, I was in the basement with my dad, extracting hearts from turtles and keeping them beating in epinephrine as part of his research.”

She also gained from her father a strong love for the Marquette University School of Medicine and its successor institution, the Medical College of Wisconsin. “I always wanted to attend the same medical school that my dad did, and he brought me to the campus in Milwaukee to attend alumni events on numerous occasions during my childhood,” Dr. DiStefano says.

Her father wanted her to follow his footsteps into surgery, but she became interested in ophthalmology early on. As



(Above, front row, third from left) Dr. DiStefano with her ophthalmologic colleagues, ca. 1980. (At right) Dr. DiStefano with her father, Dr. Anthony DiStefano, at a medical school reunion, ca. 2010.



an undergraduate at Connecticut College, she was able to work on the electron microscope while doing research on adrenal glands.

At MCW, Diane Van Horn, PhD, a faculty member in the department of ophthalmology who was working with the electron microscope doing research on eyes, asked the young medical student if she would like to assist in the research. That led to an invitation by the chair of the department to become a resident in ophthalmology – and her fate was sealed. (The ophthalmology residency matching program did not start until 1979.) Dr. DiStefano shares that “there were only six women in my class, but we all got along great and the teachers were terrific. I was grateful to be at MCW.”

Following her residency at MCW, Dr. DiStefano completed a corneal fellowship at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary at Harvard University in 1982, and was recruited to become the chair of the department of ophthalmology at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. She remained in that position for 10 years before going into private practice and founding the DiStefano Eye Center.

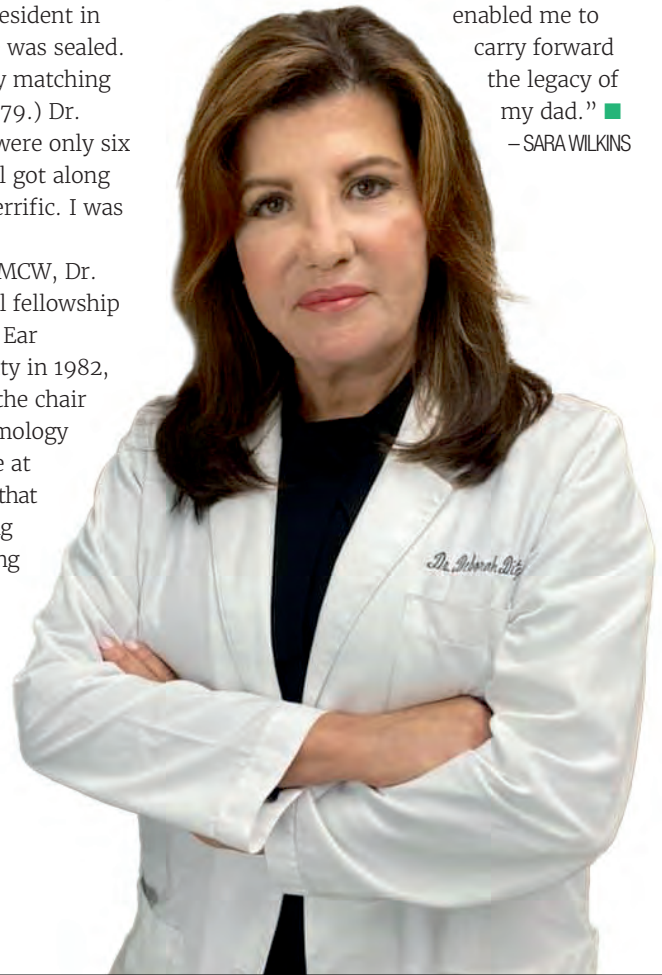
Dr. DiStefano currently resides in Chattanooga with her son, JP Millet, age 28. She continues to operate the DiStefano Eye

Center and is the director and founder of DiStefano’s Skin Solutions Medical Spa, which she is working to grow into a comprehensive women’s health and wellness center that will include medical, aesthetic, nutritional and other services.

“My time at MCW was wonderful,” Dr. DiStefano recalls. “I was treated as an equal, and the faculty guided us to become better physicians. Most of all, I was

grateful that MCW enabled me to carry forward the legacy of my dad.” ■

– SARA WILKINS



# An Alumnus With a Giving Heart

*The Life Story of J. Luis Bautista, MD '84, is Truly One of "Rags to Riches"*

**B**orn in Fresno, Calif., in 1954, the son of undocumented immigrants, J. Luis Bautista, MD '84, and his family suffered through deportation to Mexico, homelessness and unrelenting poverty in Mazatlán. Even after the family returned to California when he was 12, their financial struggles continued. Dr. Bautista's mother worked three jobs, including seasonal work harvesting crops on local farms – earning only about \$4,000 a year to support her nine children.

Dr. Bautista views such hardship as “job training in becoming a humanitarian.” He has never forgotten being poor and hungry, which made him appreciate the need to help the working poor. His mother reinforced that giving spirit. In Mexico, people came to their door asking for food. Even though desperately poor, she always gave them something. She told him that “we had to help people because we never knew when we would need help.”

Perhaps that sentiment directed Dr. Bautista's career choice, as he says that he wanted to be a doctor “ever since I could remember.” He knew that the physically demanding work in California's farm fields wasn't for him, so he focused on his education. He earned a bachelor's degree in biological science from California State University–Fresno and then enrolled at MCW.

Growing up in a predominantly Latino area, Dr. Bautista suffered a bit of a culture shock in 1980s Milwaukee, but he embraced the opportunity to broaden his horizons and meet people “from all ethnic groups and all walks of life.”

He is grateful for the excellent training MCW provided, and during medical school, he pledged to use that training to help farm laborers and the working poor because he “knew how it felt not to have anything, not to have the money to go to a doctor.”

To that end, he established Bautista Rural Medical Clinics in Sanger, California, in 1991. The practice evolved into the Bautista Medical Group and has added clinics in Sunnyside and Fresno. The practice is truly a family affair, with four of Dr. Bautista's five



*Dr. J. Luis Bautista with a patient, ca. 2019.*

children and their spouses on staff. They treat nearly everyone – insured, uninsured, legal or undocumented – and if patients don't have money, they can use alternative forms of payment including onions, handmade keychains, eggs or even live chickens.

The “riches” part of Dr. Bautista's story goes beyond financial wealth. Giving back provides him with something deeply personal, triggering feelings of happiness and peace of mind. This, in turn, reduces stress and gives Dr. Bautista a sense of self-satisfaction.

“The beauty of being a humanitarian,” he says, “is that you don't have to be a genius, you don't have to be rich. All you need is a giving heart and the ability to turn a negative into a positive.” ■

– KEVIN ABING

## Giving the Gift of Christmas

As a child, Dr. Bautista hated Santa Claus because he never received any Christmas presents. Dr. Bautista's giving heart turned that negative into a positive, however. For the past 25 years, the Bautista Medical Group has hosted *Navidad en el Barrio Health Fair* and has gifted more than 5,000 toys annually to inner-city youth and children of farm workers.

# ALUMNI NOTES

## 1960s



**John W. McGrail, MD '66, GME '70**, recently retired from his private practice in Delaware, Ohio, after 45 years. Dr. McGrail also served as assistant clinical professor of orthopedic surgery at Ohio State University's Wexner Medical Center in Columbus.

## 1970s

**John Russell, MD '73**, has recorded more than 40 years in the Richmond, Va., area as a solo practitioner in psychoanalytic psychotherapy, with a special focus on trauma. He taught psychotherapy in Virginia Commonwealth University's psychiatric residency program for 30 years. Dr. Russell has been active in the American Psychotherapy Association and served on its blood utilization, insurance and peer review, clinical faculty, membership and program committees.

**Jan K. Turcotte, MD '74, GME '79**, received the 2022 *Lifetime Achievement Award* from Samaritan Medical Center in Watertown, N.Y. Dr. Turcotte retired after a 32-year career as a general, vascular and breast surgeon. In 1979, she was the first woman to complete a general surgery residency at MCW. In the community, she held leadership roles with the American Cancer Society, American Red Cross, YMCA and the Northern New York Community Foundation.



**Art Rein, MD '77**, retired from his internal medicine practice in Burlington, Wis., in 2020 after 40 years of service. He now is a volunteer at a local free clinic with Team Rubicon, an international nongovernmental

organization specializing in disaster relief. Dr. Rein is author of the novel *Rolling in the Deep*, which will be released later this summer by Open Books. The novel is set on a northern Wisconsin lake, much like the place where he was raised.

## 1980s



**Janis Orlowski, MD '82**, retired in July 2022 as chief health care officer for the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), based in Washington, DC. As chief health care officer, she has led several AAMC groups, including the Council of Teaching Hospitals and Health Systems, which represents the interests of approximately 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, including 64 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers.

A practicing nephrologist throughout her career, she spent her early years at Rush University Medical Center and Rush Medical College in Chicago, where she rose to become associate vice president and executive dean.

In 2004, she was hired as chief medical officer (CMO) of MedStar Washington Hospital Center in Washington, DC, and shortly thereafter added clinical operational responsibilities to her title, eventually becoming both CMO and chief operating officer. She was named the 2007 recipient of the MCW/Marquette Medical Alumni Association's *Medical Alumna of the Year*. Dr. Orlowski has served as a member of MCW's board of trustees since 2014.



**Laura Radke, MD '89, GME '92, FEL '94**, is medical director for workforce health occupational health services for Froedtert Health in eastern Wisconsin. During the pandemic, she was active in Froedtert Health's onsite COVID-19 vaccination clinics for employees.

*Editor's Note:* In the Spring 2022 issue, **Col. Michael Borkowski, MD '90**, was listed as medical director of Workforce Health Occupational Health Services for Froedtert Health. While he previously served in that role, it is currently held by Dr. Radke.

## 1990s



**Louis Remyse, MD, GME '90**, a board-certified urologist, has joined the medical staff of Fairfield Community Hospital in Fairfield, Ill.

**James Daniel Thomas, MD '91**, was elected to the board of directors of the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM). He practices emergency medicine at Good Samaritan Medical Center in Brockton, Mass., and St. Anne's Hospital in Fall River, Mass., and is on the medical staffs of several other community hospitals in southeastern Massachusetts. He has served as an ABEM oral examiner since 2002 and senior oral examiner since 2014.

**Larry Bucshon, MD, GME '93, FEL '95**, has served as US representative for southwest Indiana's 8<sup>th</sup> congressional district since 2011. He also served as chief of cardiothoracic surgery and medical director of the open-heart recovery intensive care unit at St. Mary's Hospital in Evansville, Ind.



**Carole S. Vetter, MD '93, GME '98**, the David S. Haskell, MD Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery Education at MCW, was team physician for the 2021 NBA champion Milwaukee Bucks.



**Suzanne Welsch, MD '94**, joined the obstetrics and gynecology staff at Women's Hospital in Baton Rouge, La., where she works with her husband, Dr. Anthony Evans. Dr. Welsch previously served as partner/owner of Prairie Clinic in Sauk City, Wis.

**Carlos Lowell, DO, GME '95**, provides transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) through his private practice in Sandusky, Ohio. He also serves as the medical director for the TMS Institute of Ohio. Over the past decade he has served on the Clinical Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Society's (CTMSS) Clinical Standards Committee, Membership Committee and Resident Task Force Committee. He was recently elected co-chair of the Education Committee.

**Marc Moon, MD, GME '95**, has been named chief of the division of cardiothoracic surgery at Baylor College of Medicine, chief of the adult cardiac surgery section at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center and chief of adult cardiac surgery at Texas Heart Institute, all in Houston.

He previously was at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, where he served as chief of cardiac surgery, director of the Center for Diseases of the Thoracic Aorta, co-director of the heart and vascular center and surgical lead of the Center for Women's Heart Disease.

He had practiced in St. Louis for more than 20 years. Dr. Moon specializes in aortic and valve surgery and sees

complex cardiac surgery cases, including performing cardiac procedures in pregnant women.

**Pamela Wilson, MD '99**, is vice president of medical affairs for the Sixteenth Street Health Center in Milwaukee. She also is treasurer and past board member of the Medical Society of Milwaukee County, where she serves on the Minority Health Advisory Committee.

## 2000s



**Casey G. Batten, MD '03**, is the lead primary care sports medicine physician for the Los Angeles Rams and director of the Cedars-Sinai Kerlan-Jobe Institute's Primary Care Sports Medicine Fellowship, the sports medicine division of Cedars-Sinai Orthopaedics.

**Nabil Dagher, MD '03**, has been named vice president and director of the Northwell Health Transplant Center at North Shore University Hospital in New Hyde Park, N.Y. He oversees the hospital's liver and kidney transplantation programs. Dr. Dagher previously led New York University Langone Medical Center's abdominal transplant surgery program and was surgical director of its liver transplant program.

## 2010s

**Jessica Priestley, MD, PhD '14**, received the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics 2022 *Next Generation Fellowship Award*. She is presently completing her combined pediatrics/medical genetics training at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, where she is a chief resident. She will remain at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for

her medical biochemical fellowship next year.



**Le'erin Voss, DDS, MPH '14**, combines her expertise in dentistry and public health as a dentist at the Rock River Community Clinic in Fort Atkinson, Wis., where she helps an underserved community. She reports that the clinic experience provides her with the opportunity to speak Spanish. Dr. Voss also teaches once a week at the Marquette University School of Dentistry.



**Dominique Carter, PhD '16**, is the assistant director for agricultural sciences, innovation and workforce for the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, where she provides scientific and policy advice to decision makers.

## 2020s



**Becka Anton, PharmD '20**, is working as a clinical pharmacist in Dallas at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center - Clements University Hospital.

**MCW MAGAZINE** wants news of your accomplishments and activities. We encourage you to send updates through ENGAGE, MCW's online platform for alumni. You also can send updates by email to [alumni@mcw.edu](mailto:alumni@mcw.edu).

# IN MEMORIAM

## 1950s

**John Brodhun, MD '54**, died at his home in Fountain Hills, Ariz., on March 16, 2022, at the age of 93. Dr. Brodhun practiced for 36 years in Rochester, Minn., at Olmstead Medical Clinic.

**Brigadier General Joseph P. Cillo, Sr., MD '55**, of Bayonet Point, Fla., died on February 2, 2022, at in the age of 93. Dr. Cillo was a Vietnam War veteran honored for treating Prisoners of War. He was the commander of a POW hospital during the Vietnam War and was awarded a Distinguished Service Medal by the US President. He practiced as an obstetrician/gynecologist in Hudson, Fla.

**John T. McCully, MD '56**, died on December 20, 2021, at the age of 91. He specialized in obstetrics and gynecology. Following medical school, Dr. McCully enlisted in the US Army with assignments in Colorado, Hawaii, Oklahoma and the Pacific Northwest. In 1967 he resigned his commission and entered private practice by forming the South Seattle (Wash.) Women's Clinic. He retired in 1989. Dr. McCully was the 1956 recipient of MCW's *Millmann Award*, the highest honor for a graduating medical student.

**Robert E. Bartos, MD '57**, of Eagle River, Wis., died on April 9, 2022, at the age of 90. Dr. Bartos was a general surgeon in Waukesha, Wis., for 35 years.

**John A. Kustermann, MD '59**, died on December 21, 2021, at the age of 88. After military service in the US Air Force, Dr. Kustermann took over his father's general medicine practice in Milwaukee. In 1977, he relocated to Harrisburg, Pa., when he was named chief medical officer for MEPCOM (Military Entrance Processing Command). In that role, he was responsible for overseeing the medical screening of all armed forces

recruits. In 1979, he was asked to take over as chief medical officer at the Honolulu MEPCOM. He twice received the US Military Entrance Processing Command *Chief Medical Officer of the Year* award for his outstanding contributions and dedication. He retired in 2017 with 45 years of service.

## 1960s

**Kim Lulloff, MD '60**, died on September 23, 2021, at the age of 87. He practiced orthopaedic and sports medicine at Theda Clark Hospital in Neenah, Wis. Dr. Lulloff was a team doctor for the US Olympic ski jumping team at the 1976 Winter Olympics in Innsbruck, Austria.

**John David Walter, MD '60**, died on February 14, 2022, at the age of 87. A family medicine practitioner, he was the sole physician in Coal City, Ill., from 1961 to 1966. Dr. Walter relocated to Joliet, Ill., where he was in family practice at The Family Medical Group. He was medical director at Saint Joseph Medical Center in Joliet and served on the board of directors of the Provena Health medical system for many years.

**Eugene J. Chap, MD '61**, died on January 11, 2022, at the age of 81. An internal medicine specialist, Dr. Chap was employed at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., from 1965 until 1966. He entered the US Army while at Walter Reed in 1966 and was first assigned to Vietnam with the rank of captain. While in Vietnam he earned several medals, including the Combat Medics Badge and Commendation Medal. Dr. Chap was in private practice in Washington, DC, and later served as a physician with the World Bank. Upon his retirement, he moved to Rehoboth Beach, Del.

**Theodore (Tedd) Keller, MD '61**, of Brookfield, Wis., died on March 14, 2022, at the age of 85. He practiced radiology in Valparaiso, Ind., and in Menomonee Falls and Kenosha, Wis.

**Roy V. Yeazel, MD '61**, of Madison, Wis., died on May 30, 2022, at the age of 93. Dr. Yeazel worked as a solo practitioner general surgeon for decades at Madison (Wis.) General and Methodist Hospitals (now Meriter). He later worked in chemical dependency treatment and continued practice as an aviation medical examiner until 2015.

**Thomas J. Imray, MD '65**, of Omaha, Neb., died on February 7, 2022, at the age of 82. He was a board-certified radiologist with more than 57 years of experience. Dr. Imray was a diagnostic radiologist at the University of Nebraska's University Hospital in Omaha. In 2006, he was the recipient of the Nebraska Radiological Society's Silver Medal.

**Theron W. Ovitt, MD '65**, died on February 22, 2022, at the age of 82. He joined the department of medical imaging of the University of Arizona in 1974 and became a full professor in 1982. Dr. Ovitt was appointed department chair in 1993, a position that he held for 12 years. Dr. Ovitt was the principal investigator for a series of National Institutes of Health grants that funded research and development of the first digital subtraction angiography system. He held numerous leadership roles at the University of Arizona, the Arizona Chapter of the American College of Radiology (ACR), and nationally with the ACR, American Heart Association, Association of University Radiologists and the American Roentgen Ray Society. He served as president of the Eastern Radiological Society from 1998-1999 and was president of the Society of Chairs of Academic Radiology Departments from 2002-2004.



**Robert H. Poirier, MD '65**, died on July 21, 2021, at the age of 82. An ophthalmologist, he joined the faculty of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio in 1974 and culminated his career at the university with an appointment as clinical professor emeritus.

He then started an ophthalmological practice in San Antonio and, later, was the first to perform corneal transplants in Laredo, Texas. Dr. Poirier was the holder of several patents in eye surgery. His proudest achievement was the initiation of medical outreach programs to Guatemala and rural Iran.

**Anson James Buttles, MD '69, GME '72**, died on August 28, 2021, at the age of 82. He was an allergist in Stuart, Fla., for more than 50 years. During his career, he served as chief of staff at Martin Memorial Hospital in Stuart and was a member of the hospital's board.

## 1970s

**Robert T. Schmidt, Jr., MD '70**, of Ephraim, Wis., died on May 28, 2022, at the age of 78. He opened the first neurology practice in Green Bay, Wis., in 1975. Dr. Schmidt served terms as president of the Brown County (Wis.) Medical Society and the Wisconsin Neurological Society.

**Robert J. Jaeger, MD, GME '76**, died on February 20, 2022, at the age of 78. Dr. Jaeger practiced as an obstetrician/gynecologist from the mid-1970s to 2006 in Stevens Point, Wis. He was affiliated with the Rice Clinic and served on the staff of Stevens Point's St. Michael's Hospital. Dr. Jaeger served as president of the Wisconsin Medical Society and the Wisconsin Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

He also was chair of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists' council of district chairs and served on the board of governors of the Wisconsin Patients Compensation Fund. He also was a delegate to the American Medical Association. Dr. Jaeger received several distinguished awards including the Wisconsin Medical Society's 2005 *Meritorious Service Award* and the *Physician's Recognition Award* from the American Medical Association.

In 2006, Dr. Jaeger received the *Outstanding District Service Award* from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. In 2019, he received the *Presidential Citation Award* from the Wisconsin Medical Society.

## 1990s

**Robert A. Forte, DDS, MD, GME '91**, of Farmington, Mich., died on February 19, 2022, at the age of 70. He completed a craniofacial fellowship following his residency training at MCW. Dr. Forte was in private practice as a plastic and reconstructive surgeon in West Bloomington, Mich., for almost 30 years.

## 2000s

**Michael Papin, MD '00, GME '05**, died on January 15, 2022, at the age of 50. Dr. Papin entered private practice as a psychiatrist at the Lighthouse Clinic in Milwaukee. He also worked for the Milwaukee County Psychiatric Crisis Service and most recently at Upper Peninsula Health System in Marquette, Mich., in both outpatient and inpatient psychiatry.

## Knowledge Changing Life Available for Purchase

*Knowledge Changing Life: A History of the Medical College of Wisconsin, 1893-2019*, written by MCW Chief Historian



**Richard N. Katschke, MA**, was published in 2021. The 720-page book explores MCW's 125+ years of accomplishments, challenges and controversies, and serves as a comprehensive history not only of MCW, but also of Marquette University, Milwaukee County and Milwaukee's hospitals and healthcare facilities. It is available for purchase through the MCW online retail store at [mcw.edu/historybook](http://mcw.edu/historybook) for \$35.00 plus tax and shipping. Questions? Contact [MCWmagazine@mcw.edu](mailto:MCWmagazine@mcw.edu).

**David Paul Hughes, MD, MPH '07**, of Clarence, N.Y., died on May 17, 2022, at the age of 53. Most recently, he was the executive vice president for strategy and partnerships for Kaleida Health in Buffalo, N.Y., as well as serving as the CEO of Western New York's Great Lakes Integrated Network. Dr. Hughes was a clinical assistant professor of emergency medicine at the University of Buffalo's Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

# IN MEMORIAM

## Special Remembrances

### **Michael J. Cudahy,**

a generous donor to the Medical College of Wisconsin and advocate for MCW's cardiovascular research programs, died on March 11, 2022, at 97 years of age. In 1992, Mr. Cudahy donated \$2.5 million toward the construction of the MCW Michael J. Cudahy Anesthesiology Research Laboratories located on the fourth floor of the Medical Education Building. At the time, it was the largest gift in MCW's history made by an individual donor.

Cudahy also served on MCW's Cardiovascular Research Center Advisory Board in the 1990s.

"For almost 60 years, Michael Cudahy was a friend, advocate, collaborator, donor and advisor to the Medical College of Wisconsin and its faculty members in anesthesiology, physiology and the cardiovascular research center," says John R. Raymond, Sr., MD, MCW's president and CEO. "He has left an indelible mark on our research programs."

In 1965, Cudahy and his colleague Warren Cozzens co-founded Marquette Electronics (later Marquette Medical Systems), a Milwaukee-based firm that developed the nation's first central electrocardiographic system. The late John P. Kampine, MD, PhD '65, advised Cudahy on the development of the equipment which was tested by MCW faculty (then known as the Marquette University School of Medicine) at Milwaukee County General Hospital. Dr. Kampine later became chair of the department of anesthesiology. Cudahy provided the lead gift toward the creation of the John P. Kampine Chair in Anesthesiology. Cynthia A. Lien, MD, chair of MCW's department of

anesthesiology, is the current holder of the Kampine Professorship.

In 2007, Cudahy relocated the Marquette Electronics Museum on the history of heart monitoring equipment to MCW. Cudahy personally mounted the display located on the connector between the Medical Education Building, the Basic Science Building, and the Translational and Biomedical Research Center. The display was originally located in the lobby of Marquette Medical Systems until the company was purchased by GE Health.

### **Donald Pinkel, MD,**

of San Luis Obispo, Calif., died on March 9, 2022, at the age of 95. He served as chair of MCW's department of pediatrics from 1974 to 1978. During his tenure, the Midwest Children's Cancer Center was established and MCW became a major recipient of pediatric cancer research funding from the MACC Fund (Midwest Athletes Against Childhood Cancer). Starting in the early 1960s, Dr. Pinkel developed an aggressive treatment for acute lymphocytic leukemia that transformed the childhood cancer from a virtual death sentence to one that almost every patient survives. Before joining MCW, Dr. Pinkel was the chief executive, medical director and first employee of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn. He won most of the major awards given in the medical field. In 2017, St. Jude named its new research tower after him.

### **Jonathan I. Ravdin, MD,**

who served as MCW's executive vice president and ninth dean of the School of Medicine from 2008 to 2011, died April 27, 2022. Dr. Ravdin had a goal of bringing MCW into the upper echelon of research-intensive medical schools.

While he was dean, in 2010, MCW was awarded a coveted \$20 million Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) from the National Institutes of Health, which funds projects that accelerate the transfer of biomedical research into clinical care. MCW's Clinical and Translational Institute of Southeast Wisconsin (CTSI), created through the grant, was unique in the nation for its partnership with the region's major hospitals, universities and medical research facilities.

Dr. Ravdin also had a goal of reforming MCW's medical school curriculum. He created the Dean's Education Innovation Advisory Committee, and from its efforts, five scholarly pathways were created that allowed students to individualize their medical training while working with peers and faculty members to pursue an area of interest in greater depth. The five pathways were: Master Clinician Pathway, Urban and Community Health Pathway, Physician Scientist Pathway, Clinician Educator Pathway and Global Health Pathway.

Throughout his career, Dr. Ravdin was widely recognized for his research on infectious diseases and leadership in global health. He contributed seminal research on the molecular mechanisms by which *Entamoeba histolytica*, an enteric protozoan parasite that is highly endemic worldwide, causes invasive amebiasis (colitis and liver abscess), and how humans develop an effective mucosal immune response. His work in this area led to the development and study of an experimental vaccine designed to prevent infection and, potentially, eradicate this disease.

Before joining MCW in 2008, Dr. Ravdin created programs that expanded access to bone marrow transplantation in India and medical research at the University of Natal in South Africa.

# Carol Williams, PhD



Carol L. Williams, PhD, is the Joan K. Van Deuren Professor in Breast Cancer Research, co-director of the MCW Cancer Center's Cancer Biology Program and professor of pharmacology and toxicology.

## What Drives You?

Curiosity about everything and the joy of discovery. As a scientist, I love when our findings support our hypothesis. However, when they don't, it means that something even more interesting is happening beneath the surface.

## What Has Been the Highlight of Your Career?

Working in partnership with others to explore the unknown and the unexpected. MCW has opened countless doors to exciting interactions and research. Since our initial finding that the SmgGDS protein functions in surprising ways, numerous collaborations in that area have unlocked new discoveries in cancer and basic cell biology. I also expect to look back on the Research and Community Scholars Curriculum as a highlight because of its power to unite researchers and community members.

## What Do You Still Hope to Accomplish Over Your Career?

I hope to help grow the Research and Community Scholars Curriculum from its first pilot this year to a well-established part of the Community & Cancer Science Network that meaningfully impacts health equity. Further, I aspire to understand more deeply how the SmgGDS protein contributes to tumorigenesis and metastasis so that these detrimental effects can be curbed.

## What Would You Like Your MCW Legacy to Be?

I would like to leave a legacy of finding joy in things large and small – from improving healthcare outcomes across populations to helping an individual discover the thrill of science – as well as imparting joy through science and interactions with others. I hope it will be said that I contributed kindness, creativity and rigor throughout my time at MCW.

## What One Piece of Advice Would You Like to Share With Your Colleagues?

Remember that it is so astoundingly important to talk to one another. To paraphrase from Dr. Stephen Hawking, humanity's greatest accomplishments have come from talking and our greatest failures from not talking. As he points out, "Our greatest hopes could become reality in the future... All we need to do is make sure we keep talking."

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*Change Agent highlights a Medical College of Wisconsin faculty or staff member who has had significant impact on the institution's mission to be a leading innovator in transforming healthcare and advancing the health of our communities.*

**D**r. Williams is an accomplished scientist whose laboratory conducts basic and translational research focused on reducing tumor growth and metastasis with an emphasis on breast cancer. She also provides scientific direction and administrative expertise as a leader in the MCW Cancer Center.

Dr. Williams has been funded by multiple NIH R01 grants and has served on several national study sections. Her research focuses on the signaling pathways mediated by small GTPases and how interactions with variants of the SmgGDS protein influence the development and progression of cancer. This work has led to the development of agents that suppress SmgGDS functions in cancer.

In 2013, she received the Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation's *Champion of Women's Health Award* for breast cancer research. Dr. Williams was named the Kathleen M. Duffey Fogarty Eminent Scholar in Breast Cancer Research in 2016, and subsequently became the Joan K. Van Deuren Professor in Breast Cancer Research. She was elected to MCW's Society for Research Excellence in 2021.

Dr. Williams actively participates in community outreach. As a member of the Community & Cancer Science Network, she co-directs the Research and Community Scholars Curriculum, which brings together community members and MCW biomedical researchers to address cancer disparities.

Dr. Williams has received the MCW Graduate Student Association's *Outstanding Teacher Award* and the MCW Graduate School's *Outstanding Graduate School Educator* award on multiple occasions. ■

– SARAH WILLIAMS



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