

# EDUCATION YEAR IN REVIEW

## 2021-2022 IMPACT REPORT



RECONNECTING WITH PURPOSE:  
**INNOVATIONS IN  
MEDICAL EDUCATION**

# RECONNECTING WITH PURPOSE: INNOVATIONS IN MEDICAL EDUCATION

The Medical College of Wisconsin continued its steadfast commitment to the education mission throughout the 2021-2022 academic year, embracing our innovative approach to academic medicine where all MCW learners acquire the skills to adapt to the ever-changing landscape of medical discovery and patient care.

Faculty, staff and students from all Schools and programs were intentional about finding ways to reconnect with purpose as our institution successfully navigated alternative and reimagined learning environments during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. The implementation

of a new Student Wellness Lounge on MCW's Milwaukee campus, new student connection groups within the School of Graduate Studies and MCW-Central Wisconsin's recently developed Seeking Peer Outreach program illustrate just a few examples of the ways in which MCW has dedicated efforts to support the well-being and reconnection of our learners in the past year. As MCW continues this important work, learners will be well-poised to begin their careers as tomorrow's healthcare professionals while making a difference in their communities.

## STUDENT INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

### Our Commitment to Providing Support and Connection to Learners Who Identify as Underrepresented

The Office of Student Inclusion and Diversity (OSID) hosted several events over the academic year geared at creating community for our learners. Nearly 225 students, residents or faculty have attended OSID sessions during 2022. The purpose for the events has been to engage in fun experiences that we hope will make those who identify as underrepresented feel more connected to the variety of great resources within the city and to diverse classmates and colleagues across MCW. Milwaukee's 3rd Street Market offered guests interactive activities such as shuffleboard and a selfie museum, and an additional event introduced learners to 88Nine Radio - an alternative channel developed to celebrate, connect and inspire diverse millennials.

By bringing all these groups and learners together, OSID hopes to foster a sense of community while providing support and connection.



MCW learners participating in an OSID-led event at Milwaukee's 3rd Street Market Hall.

## SUPPORTING OUR LEARNERS AND FACULTY

### 2022 Innovations in Healthcare Education Research Conference Continues to Highlight Importance of Innovation in Medical Education

The Department of Academic Affairs hosted the 9th Annual Innovations in Healthcare Education Research (IHER) Conference Sept. 20-22 virtually in Zoom Events. The conference, which brought together participants from 31 states and seven countries, featured faculty, staff and students who are passionate about discovering new approaches to assessing learning, faculty development, curricular design and teaching delivery methods that enhance the student learning experience and prepare students for a career in healthcare.

## STUDENT HEALTH AND WELLNESS

### Fostering Reconnection Through the Health and Wellness of All MCW Learners

The Office of Student Health and Wellness has been busy increasing program services over the last year. In addition to opening the highly anticipated Student Wellness Lounge, MCW also began a new partnership with Marquette University to introduce a Clinical Mental Health Counseling Intern to MCW's Student Health and Wellness team, which has resulted in further support for our learners. Callie Koziol, MCW's current (and first) counselor intern, has received nothing but glowing feedback from MCW learners.



## SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

MCW's School of Graduate Studies continued its impressive growth and expansion with a second- straight year of record-high applications to its various programs. In Fall 2021, the School of Graduate Studies received 521 applications, and in Fall 2022, the number of applications rose to 562, with admissions still ongoing. Many graduate students successfully completed their first year within the six new programs launched in Fall 2021: Doctor of Public Health, Master of Science in Genetic Counseling, Master of Science in Precision Medicine, Master of Arts in Biostatistics and Data Science, Certificate in Neuroethics and Certificate in Precision Medicine.

While the School of Graduate Studies remained focused and dedicated to providing a health sciences education of the highest quality, the faculty, staff and students within the School of Graduate Studies also devoted much time and attention to the wellbeing of graduate students through newly created student connection groups. There are currently five connection groups; all are student-led and provide students with the opportunity to get to know one another in ways that were not possible during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Students can now participate in any or all of these recently launched groups: LGBTQ+ Connection Group, Women in Science Connection Group, Diversity & Inclusion Connection Group, International Student Connection Group and Student Parents Connection Group. [READ MORE>>](#)

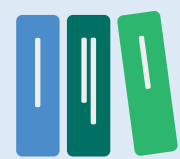


*“Being a student at MCW has been incredible! You are surrounded by faculty and staff that want you to succeed and they work hard to provide the resources to do so. I’m so grateful for the opportunities and experiences MCW offers that have allowed me to grow as a researcher, leader, and collaborator.”*

– Brooke Greiner, MCW Graduate Student

### 562 TOTAL APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2022

- 285 DOCTORATE
- 255 MASTERS
- 13 CERTIFICATE
- 9 NON-DEGREE



# 412

### PUBLICATIONS

by 2021-2022 MCW  
Graduate School graduates





*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.*

– **Jennifer Polenska, PharmD '20**, 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.

*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.*

– **Brianna Walker, PharmD '22**

*The goal of the community residency program is to create high-functioning community-based practitioners who will be instrumental in addressing social and economic determinants of health in our communities and delivering optimal care.*

– **Sara Revolinski, PharmD, Residency Program Director** with the MCW's School of Pharmacy.



## SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

The MCW School of Pharmacy's Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) program has been granted full Accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) through June 30, 2026. ACPE is the national agency for accreditation of professional degree programs in pharmacy and providers of continuing pharmacy education. The MCW School of Pharmacy has demonstrated, to the satisfaction of ACPE, that its PharmD program complies with stringent accreditation standards, now having graduated three classes of students since May 2020. Graduates of the program are eligible to sit for pharmacist licensure examinations throughout the United States upon completion of the PharmD program.

The achievement of full accreditation is a testament to the outstanding effort and dedication of MCW students, faculty and staff. These PharmD graduates continue to transform healthcare within the state of Wisconsin and beyond through the continuum of discovery and the advancement of innovative pharmacy practice and patient care models to achieve better health. Several PharmD graduates have returned to positions with local health system partners (e.g., F&MCW, Children's Wisconsin, VA, Ascension). [READ MORE >>](#)



**Dominika Krynicka, PharmD**, graduate of the MCW School of Pharmacy's inaugural Class of 2020, 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 in 2022.



**The Class of 2022 achieved a 93% Post-Graduate Training Match Rate in Year 1 residencies and fellowships, exceeding the national rate of 77%.**

**5 Students from the Class of 2021 will move on to Post-Graduate Year 2 residencies.**

## SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

### MCW School of Medicine

MCW's School of Medicine (SOM) continued its commitment to medical innovation and advancement this past year, focusing its efforts on overcoming challenges brought forth by the COVID-19 pandemic to provide students with the highest quality in medical education. A renewed sense of connection was embraced and celebrated as MCW faculty, staff and students resumed in-person classes and on-campus activities. School of Medicine events such as the M1 White Coat Ceremony, Residency Match Day and Commencement Ceremonies were held in-person, allowing students and their families to commemorate the beginning and subsequent culmination of rigorous medical school training together. As the School of Medicine prepares to introduce the new MCWfusion™ Curriculum with the class matriculating in July 2023, MCW continues to demonstrate its commitment to being an innovator in the education and development of the next generation of physicians. [READ MORE ABOUT SOM HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT EACH MCW CAMPUS>>](#)

*The tight knit community we have here at MCW-Central Wisconsin has created a truly unique medical school experience that I would not trade for any other. There is no other group of individuals who I would rather have by my side on this journey than my 20 classmates. The size of our campus provides the opportunity to know fellow students and faculty on a personal level and check in on one another on a consistent basis. This not only makes the process more enjoyable but also provides an extra mental health safety net during the challenges that come with medical school.*

– Jenny Backus, RD, MS2



MCW-Green Bay students participated in an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) session as part of the Continuous Professional Development Course.



*I am proud of the resiliency shown by everyone involved in the educational mission. Despite many challenges, we successfully prioritized our learner's education, and their continued success speaks volumes about the Medical College of Wisconsin's dedication to developing tomorrow's physicians, pharmacists and scientists.*

*As Senior Associate Dean for Education at the Medical College of Wisconsin, I am excited about our bright future. This includes the new School of Medicine MCWfusion™ Curriculum, continued collaborations with the School of Pharmacy, the School of Graduate Studies and our future Physician Associate Program.*

– José Franco, MD,  
Professor of Medicine  
(Gastroenterology and  
Hepatology), Senior  
Associate Dean for  
Education in the School of  
Medicine

## MCWfusion™ Curriculum Preview

The MCW School of Medicine (SOM) is moving ever closer to finalizing a new curriculum that will be implemented with the matriculating class of 2023. Through an extensive process that included outreach to the SOM community for naming suggestions and two separate voting opportunities, MCW's Curriculum Innovation team recently unveiled the name of the new SOM curriculum: MCWfusion™ Curriculum. [READ MORE>>](#)

*MCW is the leader in training physicians for the state of Wisconsin and these changes will ensure that MCW graduates have the skills to best serve their communities.*

– Amy Prunuske, PhD, Curriculum Innovation Director, School of Medicine

*As an MCW alumnus, it has been an honor to work with such talented faculty and staff educators and our amazing students to develop a curriculum that features integration, learner-centricity, character education and a focus on student wellbeing!*

– Alexandra Harrington, MD, MLS(ASCP)™, Curriculum Innovation Director, School of Medicine

### SCHOLARLY WORK Medical Student Summer Research Program

The Summer Academic program for Medical Students (SAMS) and the Medical Student Summer Research Program (MSSRP) offer opportunities that are designed to expose medical students to cutting-edge basic science, clinical or translational research, as well as scholarship in education, global health and quality improvement. Students are integrated into the scholarly work of full-time Medical College of Wisconsin faculty investigators and gain valuable experience as a member of a team, working on some aspect of the faculty member's study.

**Students Enrolled in 2022 Summer Program: 158**

**Students Who Created Posters and Presented Their Scholarly Work in a Virtual Poster Session: 158**



MSA students and faculty members take part in small group sessions each week.



## Master of Science in Anesthesia Program

In Fall 2022, the Master of Science in Anesthesia (MSA) program launched its new curriculum for the matriculating class of 2022 that blends pre-recorded and live lectures, simulation and in-person small group activities. MSA program faculty built a substantial library of pre-recorded lectures in recent years, and with the new iteration of the MSA curriculum, faculty members have successfully increased student-faculty interactions, mentorship and communication. As part of the new curriculum, faculty members take turns leading five to eight students in small group sessions each week. These sessions coincide with lecture material and help prepare students for clinical rotation activities. This level of purposeful face-to-face interaction is building a strong sense of community amongst students and faculty.

*When we role-play as the patient/provider, it's uncomfortable and pulls me out of my comfort zone, but prepares us for what we are going to experience on rotation.*

– Christina Cash, First-year MSA Student

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2022 MATCH

### 2022 Match Day Celebrated In Person

Friday, March 18, 2022, marked the first time since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic that MCW students, their guests and a select number of MCW faculty and staff celebrated Match Day in person at Milwaukee's Italian Community Center. MCW faculty, staff and fellow students who were not present in-person shared their congratulations virtually through a video in order to celebrate this momentous occasion with graduating students.

 [CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE CELEBRATORY 2022 MATCH DAY VIDEO>>](#)



### School and campus match-rate percentages:

**96%** **MILWAUKEE CAMPUS Top 3 Match Specialties**  
Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Emergency Medicine

**100%** **GREEN BAY CAMPUS Top 3 Match Specialties**  
Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics

**100%** **CENTRAL WISCONSIN CAMPUS Top 3 Match Specialties**  
Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, General Surgery



### Highlights from the 2022 Match

Through the 2022 Match, **228** MCW medical students obtained first-year residency positions. A total of **54** students remained in Wisconsin for PGY1 residency training – **23%** of MCW-Milwaukee students, **25%** of MCW-Central Wisconsin students and **24%** of MCW-Green Bay students. The greatest percentage of specialties represented were in internal medicine, pediatrics, family medicine, emergency medicine and surgery.

Summary of PGY1 Programs	
Anesthesiology	13
Child Neurology	1
Emergency Medicine	25
Family Medicine	20
Internal Medicine (IM)	40
IM/Pediatrics	1
IM/Pediatrics	1
Interventional Radiology	1
Integrative	1
Neurological Surgery	1
Neurology	1
Obstetrics & Gynecology	14
Ophthalmology	1
Orthopedic Surgery	10
Otolaryngology	2
Pathology	2
Podiatric Podiatry	28
Preventive Medicine	2
Public Health	2
Public Health (Integrated)	2
Psychiatry	13
Radiology-Diagnostic	7
Surgery-General	20
Surgery-Plastic	3
Translational Therapeutics	13
Urology	3

### 2022 MCW RESIDENCY DISTRIBUTION



[VIEW LARGER MAP >>](#)

All aggregate statistics are inclusive of 100% military and specialty matches in the U.S.

## FURTHERING CONNECTIONS THROUGHOUT THE INSTITUTION AND COMMUNITY

### From Dream to Reality: MCW-Green Bay Graduates its 100th Doctor

The 2022 Commencement Ceremony at the Medical College of Wisconsin



Green Bay (MCW-Green Bay) campus was a celebration filled with happiness for achieving a long-desired goal and excited anticipation about the future. But this year's event was especially noteworthy. This class, MCW-Green Bay's fifth, included its 100th graduating physician.

The ceremony also marked the 10th anniversary of MCW unveiling its vision for new regional campuses in central Wisconsin and Green Bay. This historic milestone represented the first new medical school campuses to open in Wisconsin in more than 100 years. Matthew Wheeler, MD '18, GME '21, a member of MCW-Green Bay's inaugural graduating class, returned to his alma mater to deliver the alumni commencement speech. He noted that MCW-Green Bay alumni were about to be spread across 15 states and 12 specialties. "Who would have thought," he asked, "from the seed of an idea that such a widespread reach would be possible?" [READ MORE>>](#)

### MCW Student Seeks to Advance Health Equity Through Real Estate

Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) graduate student Oby Nwabuzor strongly believes that a shift in the built environment – which encompasses the buildings we live in, the distribution systems that provide us with water and electricity, and the roads, bridges and transportation systems we use to get from place to place – will lead to advances in health equity.



Real estate and the built environment refers not just to physical buildings, but also includes supporting infrastructure, including spaces where people interact and receive goods and services.

Nwabuzor wants to push boundaries in the field of real estate to help create built environments that spur economic development through improving the quality of life and increasing life expectancy. [READ MORE>>](#)

### MCW Student Demonstrates the Relationship Between Music and Mental Health

Francis Tongpalad, a fourth-year medical student at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW), is most at peace when he's in the "flow state."

"You experience time in an expansive way in the flow state," he explains. "You're really able to be physically present."

First classified by Hungarian-American psychiatrist Mihály Csíkszentmihályi in 1975, the flow state refers to the process of being fully immersed and energized while enjoying an activity. Tongpalad, who will graduate in May and then begin a psychiatry residency program, attains his flow state by making music and being creative.

Tongpalad, whose artist name is w/u, which can mean "With U" or "Work Up," says having that outlet has helped him immensely throughout life, including his studies. "It's easy as a medical student to worry about a test result, a board exam that's coming up, or whether or not you're going to get a residency," he explains. [READ MORE>>](#)





## New Laws Help Pharmacists Care for Underserved Communities

Wisconsin became the eighth state in the country to recognize pharmacists as non-physician providers under a Medicaid system after Governor Tony Evers signed 2021 Wisconsin Act 98 into law this past December. The legislation, introduced by Senator Julian Bradley and Representative David Murphy, expands access to pharmacist-provided care for Medicaid recipients. Act 98 requires the Wisconsin Medicaid program to cover clinical services provided by a pharmacist, including medication



administration, comprehensive medication management, smoking cessation services, and the ability to order and interpret lab tests. [READ MORE>>](#)

## From Dreamer to Doctor: Medical Student Awarded Scholarship

If Jose Lizarraga Mazaba had been born just 30 minutes north of the health clinic where his mother gave birth in Tijuana, Mexico, his story would have had a different beginning. As it was, his parents took their newborn son to a home that lacked floors and drywall and where they struggled to keep rats and roaches from crawling into their son's crib at night.

"We used a bucket to shower. Our house was in a barren field where there was no road," Lizarraga Mazaba says. His mother and father were both poor factory workers and together made 1,000 Mexican pesos – about \$50 U.S. – per week.

"When we were robbed a couple of times, my mom knew we had to leave," he says. "Living in those unsafe conditions, she knew we were not getting anywhere as a family. She wanted better for me." Lizarraga Mazaba left his extended family behind to move to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in search of a better future. He overstayed his immigrant visa, which meant he couldn't visit his childhood home and would probably never see beloved grandparents or cousins again. Yet Lizarraga Mazaba used his challenges to propel himself forward. He says he was always a quiet student who struggled to learn a new language in a foreign culture but remained studious and ambitious.

"I was the type of kid who if you told me I could not achieve something, I was going to try anyway," he recalls. "I can live with the fact that I tried, and it did not work out; what I cannot do is live without trying." [READ MORE>>](#)



## MCW Student on a Mission to Prevent Violence in Milwaukee

Sadly, violence is a regular part of life for many children and teens, Ashley Hollo, a fourth-year student at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW), learned when she moved to Milwaukee.

"For a lot of the kids in the community, it's normalized to be exposed to gun violence. But as someone who hasn't always lived in Milwaukee, it was eye-opening to me and very heartbreaking," she reflects.

Hollo first became interested in working with children affected by violence as an undergraduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee when she participated in a pre-med program under the mentorship of Marlene D. Melzer-Lange, MD, professor of pediatrics at MCW. Dr. Melzer-Lange is the program director of Project Ujima, a prevention program that serves youth victims with the goal of ending cycles of violence. That experience and the opportunity to help children drew Hollo to MCW with the goal of working in pediatrics. [READ MORE>>](#)

**FURTHERING CONNECTIONS THROUGHOUT  
THE INSTITUTION AND COMMUNITY**

# Degrees and Teaching Awards for 2022 Academic Year

## DEGREES AWARDED



**55**  
Masters



**233**  
MD



**17**  
MSA



**28**  
PhD



**42**  
PharmD

## FACULTY TEACHING AWARDS

### Ernest O. Henschel Clinical Teaching Award:

Adrian P. Umpierrez De Reguero, MD

### Graduate Student Award for Outstanding Mentor:

Allison Ebert, PhD\*

### Graduate Student Award for Outstanding Teacher:

Allison Ebert, PhD\*

### Harry Beckman Basic Science Teaching Award:

Teresa Patitucci, PhD

### MCWAH Housestaff Award for Excellence in Teaching:

Required Rotations – Kate Wilcox, DO ; Elective Rotations – Spencer Klein, MD

### School of Pharmacy Faculty Preceptor of the Year:

Zachary Pape, PharmD

### Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience Preceptor of the Year:

Carrie Verbeten, PharmD

### Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience Preceptor of the Year:

Jeremy Barnes, PharmD, BCPS

*\*First time in history of School of Graduate Studies that the same individual won both awards.*

## MCW by the Numbers

Numbers represent current 2022-2023 academic year

### ETHNICITY OF ALL MCW STUDENTS

NONRESIDENT ALIEN **119**

HISPANIC/LATINX **141**

ASIAN **204**

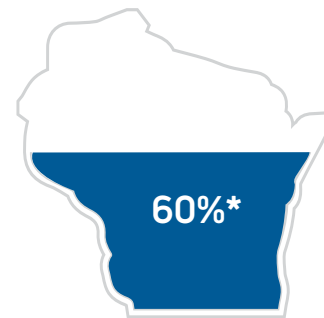
BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN **97**

CAUCASIAN **938**

TWO OR MORE RACES **58**

RACE & ETHNICITY UNKNOWN **57**

AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE **1**



PERCENT OF CURRENTLY ENROLLED STUDENTS WHO ARE **WISCONSIN RESIDENTS:**

**541** MEDICAL STUDENTS - ALL THREE CAMPUSES

**272** GRADUATE STUDENTS

**85** PHARMACY STUDENTS

**44** MSA PROGRAM STUDENTS

**59%**  
FEMALE

**41%**  
MALE

Includes students in the Medical School at all three campuses, in the School of Pharmacy, in the Master of Science in Anesthesia program and the Graduate School

\*Residency is carefully vetted for programs leading to an MD, including MSTP programs. Residency for other programs is based on the best available data in the Student Information System.

# Renewed Student Connections: Fostering Peer Support on the Journey Through Healthcare Education





## Renewed Student Connections: Fostering Peer Support on the Journey Through Healthcare Education

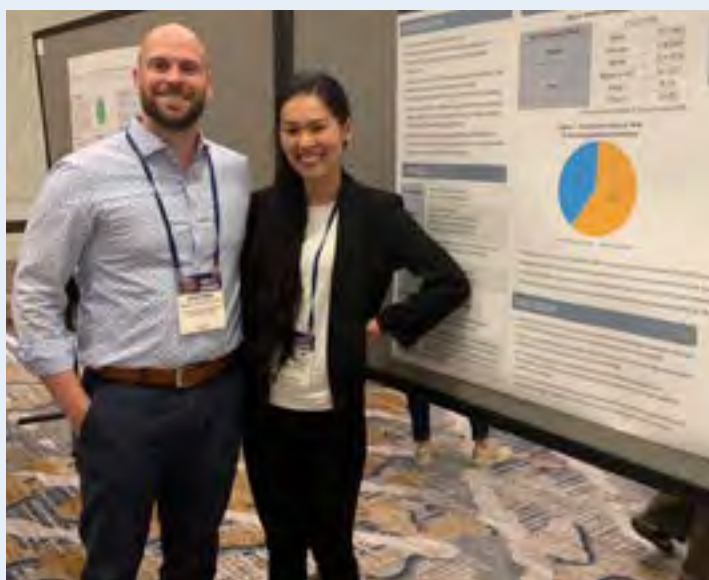
## Renewed Student Connections: Fostering Peer Support on the Journey Through Healthcare Education





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knowledge changing life