

### Director's Corner

Dear Friends of the CVC,

As we transition into the holiday season, we bring the celebrations of the Cardiovascular Center's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to a close. Over the last three months, we have remembered the CVC's 25-year journey and acknowledged its achievements in understanding cardiovascular disease and promoting cardiovascular health. We sincerely thank all of those individuals who have helped make the CVC what it is today and those who are now, and in the future, contributing to the Center so that we can lead the global effort to eradicate cardiovascular disease. Happy Holidays to all!

- Ivor J. Benjamin, MD  
Director of the CVC



## “Strong Hearts, Strong Communities” Health Fairs Celebrate the CVC’s 25th Anniversary and Engage Our Community to Reduce Health Disparities

During the month of October, the Cardiovascular Center at the Medical College of Wisconsin led outreach to local underserved communities. The “Strong Hearts, Strong Communities” health fairs were held at Oneida Tribal Services, Journey House Community Center and Calvary Baptist Church in Milwaukee.

During these events, cardiovascular health education and health screenings were provided, and information about the research being conducted in the Cardiovascular Center was shared. The friendly nature of these events helped to forge relationships with many important members of our community here in Southeast Wisconsin.

The CVC and its partners affected more than 100 individuals, including children, parents, teachers, seniors and other community members.

Moving forward, the CVC is planning to continue these initiatives in our community with the goal of eliminating disparities in cardiovascular health.

These events would not have been possible without the assistance of the Froedtert Hospital Heart & Vascular Service Line, Froedtert Hospital Community Engagement, the Froedtert Cancer Center, the Stroke & Rehab Center, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, along with a generous donation from the MCW Cardiovascular Center Board.



## From the Cardiovascular Center Board Chair



As I reflect on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the CVC, we have so many accomplishments to be proud of! We kicked off the year with the Cullen Run in February, which saw record attendance and raised a record-breaking \$44,300, for a grand total of over \$415,000 raised for cardiovascular research in 21 years. Thank you to fellow CVC board member Gael Cullen and her family for planning this wonderful event every year.

The annual Have a Heart Motorcycle Ride was another success in June, with approximately 120 motorcycle riders, raising money for the CVC. We are very thankful for CVC board members Danny Muchin, Jack McKeithan and Bill Mielke for supporting this event. In August, we celebrated 19 years of the CVC Golf Challenge, followed by a dinner commemorating 25 years of the CVC. Dr. John

Raymond, MCW President and CEO, honored former CVC Directors Allen Cowley, Jr., PhD, Chair and James J. Smith & Catherine Welsch Smith Professor of Physiology and David Harder, PhD, Kohler Co. Professor in Cardiovascular Research and Associate Dean for Research, as well as current CVC director, Ivor J. Benjamin, MD. In October, the CVC staff hosted the “Strong Hearts, Strong Communities 3-Day Local Cardiovascular Wellness Events” in three different local communities, supporting those in need of cardiovascular care. Thank you to everyone who supported the CVC and its mission this year.

As the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year closes, I wish all the staff, faculty and partners of the CVC a very happy holiday season and blessed new year. I look forward to new challenges and goals in 2018.

- Bruce Smith



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## Special Message from the Director: Thank you for 25 Years of Cardiovascular Knowledge Changing Life



Over the last three months, we have remembered the CVC's 25-year journey and acknowledged its achievements in understanding cardiovascular disease and promoting cardiovascular health. Highlights include:

- **25 Voices of the Cardiovascular Center Golf and Anniversary Dinner**, Aug. 21, including a special dedication to former CVC Directors Dr. David Harder and Dr. Allen Cowley, Jr.



- **Trainee Industry Seminar & Luncheon**, Presentation by Michael Harrison, MD, PhD, former CVC Postdoctoral Fellow, Sept. 13, "Careers in the Biohealth Industry: Finding Your Pathway to Success"

- **Trainee Academia Seminar & Luncheon**, Presentation by Shane Phillips, PT, PhD, former CVC Postdoctoral Fellow, September 28<sup>th</sup>, "Translational Research: Personal Tips and Strategies for Life After Your CVC Training"

- **Team Science Research Symposium**, Oct. 11, celebrating the collaborative research conducted within the CVC



- **CVC Trainee Appreciation Reception**, Sept. 22, showing our appreciation and offering merriment, fellowship and networking opportunities for our trainees
- **Strong Hearts, Strong Communities Cardiovascular Wellness Events**, health fairs in three underserved areas of Milwaukee: Oneida Tribal Services (Oct. 3), Journey House (Oct. 4) and Calvary Baptist Church (Oct. 5) with over 100 people served



These events would not have been possible without YOU and our partners. Thank you.

Onward to the next quarter century of making groundbreaking scientific discoveries, improving clinical practice and cardiovascular knowledge changing life *for our patients, our community and our families!*

-Ivor Benjamin, MD

## Recent Member Publications

Baker, MA; Davis, SJ; **Liu, PY**; Pan, XQ; Williams, AM; Iczkowski, KA; Gallagher, ST; Bishop, K; **Regner, KR**; Liu, Y; **Liang, MY**. Tissue-Specific MicroRNA Expression Patterns in Four Types of Kidney Disease. JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEPHROLOGY, 28 (10):2985-2992; OCT 2017

**Campbell, WB**; **Imig, JD**; Schmitz, JM; Falck, JR. Orally Active Epoxyeicosatrienoic Acid Analogs. JOURNAL OF CARDIOVASCULAR PHARMACOLOGY, 70 (4):211-224; OCT 2017

**Evans, LC**; Petrova, G; Kurth, T; Yang, C; Bukowy, JD; **Mattson, DL**; **Cowley, AW**. Increased Perfusion Pressure Drives Renal T-Cell Infiltration in the Dahl Salt-Sensitive Rat. HYPERTENSION, 70 (3):543-551; SEP 2017

Harrington, JL; Ayers, C; Berry, JD; Omland, T; Pandey, A; Seliger, SL; Ballantyne, CM; **Kulinski, J**; de-Filippi, CR; de Lemos, JA. Sedentary Behavior and Subclinical Cardiac Injury Results From the Dallas Heart Study. CIRCULATION, 136 (15):1451-1453; OCT 10 2017

Karagodin, I; Aba-Omer, O; **Sparapani, R**; **Strande, JL**. Aortic stiffening precedes onset of heart failure with preserved ejection fraction in patients with asymptomatic diastolic dysfunction. BMC CARDIOVASCULAR DISORDERS, 17 10.1186/s12872-017-0490-9 FEB 14 2017

Patel, SG; Frommelt, MA; **Frommelt, PC**; Kutty, S; Cramer, JW. Echocardiographic Diagnosis, Surgical Treatment, and Outcomes of Anomalous Left Coronary Artery from the Pulmonary Artery. JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY, 30 (9):896-903; SEP 2017

Viglino, D; Maignan, M; Michalon, A; Turk, J; Buse, SK; Blancher, M; **Aufderheide, TP**; Belle, L; Savary, D; Ageron, FX; Debaty, G. Survival of cardiac arrest patients on ski slopes: A 10-year analysis of the Northern French Alps Emergency Network. RESUSCITATION, 119 43-47; OCT 2017

Williams, JW; Elvington, A; Ivanov, S; Kessler, S; Luehmann, H; Baba, O; Saunders, BT; Kim, KW; Johnson, MW; Craft, CS; Choi, JH; **Sorci-Thomas, MG**; Zinselmeier, BH; Brestoff, JR; Liu, YJ; Randolph, GJ. Thermoneutrality but Not UCP1 Deficiency Suppresses Monocyte Mobilization Into Blood. CIRCULATION RESEARCH, 121 (6); SEP 1 2017

Zucker, IH; Lindsey, ML; Delmar, M; De Windt, LJ; Rosiers, CD; Diz, DI; Hester, RL; Jones, SP; Kanagy, NL; Kitakaze, M; Liao, R; Lopaschuk, GD; Patel, KP; Recchia, FA; Sadoshima, J; Shah, AM; Ungvari, Z; **Benjamin, IJ**; Blaustein, MP; Charkoudian, N; Efimov, IR; **Gutterman, D**; Kass, DA; Liao, YL; O'Leary, DS; Ripplinger, CM; Wolin, MS. Why publish in the American Journal of Physiology-Heart and Circulatory Physiology? AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHYSIOLOGY-HEART AND CIRCULATORY PHYSIOLOGY, 313 (2):H221-H223; AUG 2017

\*CVC faculty members in bold

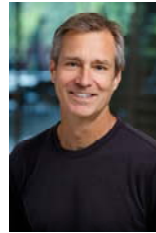
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## Two CVC Members Receive Therapeutic Accelerator Program (TAP) Awards

The Medical College of Wisconsin's (MCW) Therapeutic Accelerator Program (TAP), a recently-established, innovative program within the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, has made awards to MCW investigators **John Auchampach, PhD**, professor of pharmacology and toxicology, **Andreas Beyer, PhD**, assistant professor of medicine (cardiovascular medicine), and **Abhay Singh Chauhan, PhD**, assistant professor in the School of Pharmacy, for their projects:

- "A3 Adenosine Receptor Positive Allosteric Modulators for Chronic Pain", *John Auchampach, PhD*
- "A New Approach in Cardiac Oncology: Harnessing Telomerase", *Andreas Beyer, PhD* \*\*Program sponsored by the Cardiovascular Center's Smith Family Program for Enhanced Precision Therapeutics\*\*
- "Dendrimer-Resveratrol Formulation for Effective Anti-Inflammatory and Antioxidant Activities via Dermal Application", *Abhay Singh Chauhan, PhD*

The mission of the Therapeutic Accelerator Program is to facilitate and accelerate discovery of new therapeutics to target human diseases. Directed by **John Imig, PhD**, professor of pharmacology and toxicology, this program aims to traverse the "Valley of Death," a term used by the



National Institutes of Health to describe the inability of many research discoveries to develop into commercially-available drugs or therapeutics.

Leveraging the existing expertise and resources of MCW faculty and their laboratories, along with partnerships with the Clinical and Translational Science Institute of Southeast Wisconsin, the MCW Cardiovascular Center, the MCW Drug Discovery Center, the School of Pharmacy, and regional academic institutions and businesses, the Therapeutic Accelerator Program bridges the gap from "bench to bedside," moving basic research findings by MCW investigators toward drug development.

The three funded projects target the prevention and treatment of chronic pain, cardiovascular damage resulting from cancer treatment, and aging.

The cardiovascular project is supported in part by funding from the MCW Cardiovascular Center's "Smith Family Program for Enhanced Precision Therapeutics," a program made possible by the generous support of the Smith Family .



## CVC Member Ranjan Dash to Develop Modeling Tool to Help Extend Shelf Life of Platelets Stored in Bags

Sept. 25, 2017 MCW News - Dr. **Ranjan Dash**, associate professor in the joint Department of Biomedical Engineering at Marquette University and the Medical College of Wisconsin, has recently obtained funding to develop an integrated systems biology- and physiology-based modeling tool to simulate platelet storage lesion (PSL) and to explore novel methods for extending the shelf life of platelets stored in bags. A better understanding of the underlying molecular mechanisms associated with such complex metabolic pathways and processes involved in PSL could help in the development of novel storage methods and improved platelet functionalities.



Although many experiments have been conducted over the years to monitor platelet functionality

under different storage conditions, little work has been done on computational modeling of critical metabolic pathways and processes that are derailed during PSL. This is important because a quantitative understanding of the regulation of such complex platelet metabolic pathways and processes is critical for a mechanistic understanding of the physiological and mechanobiological aspects of PSL.

This is a two-year collaborative grant from CFD Research Corporation (CFDRC) through a DoD/US Army Phase II SBIR project, entitled "Systems Biology Based Tools for Modeling Platelet Storage Lesion for Optimal Blood Transfusion." Dr. Andrzej Przekwas from CFDRC serves as the principle investigator of the project, while Dr. Dash serves as the PI of the MCW subcontract.

# Welcome!

**Oleg Palygin, PhD**  
assistant professor  
Department of Physiology



Dr. Palygin studies how extracellular and intracellular signaling pathways lead to modulation of the renal transport, which results in systemic changes in salt and water balance. Ultimately, Dr. Palygin would like to advance the understanding of the processes leading to abnormal salt-water homeostasis in the kidney.

**Jennifer McIntosh, MS, DO**  
assistant professor  
Department of  
Obstetrics & Gynecology



Dr. McIntosh is collaborating with Drs. David Gutterman and Andreas Beyer on preeclampsia/placental research. She studies the inflammatory and pro-oxidative environment within the placenta and maternal organ systems caused by hypoperfusion of the placenta and placental ischemia. She's currently studying a novel relation that may exist between mitochondrial defects and damage associated molecular patterns (DAMPS) causing endothelial dysfunction and subsequently preeclampsia.

**John LaDisa, Jr., PhD**  
associate professor  
Department of Biomedical Engineering  
Marquette University



Dr. LaDisa investigates cardiovascular disease from the perspective of hemodynamics, vascular biomechanics and cellular mechanisms. In particular, he is applying biomedical engineering techniques for the comprehension, management and prevention of congenital and acquired cardiovascular disease including coronary and peripheral artery disease, cardiac dysfunction, diabetes and stroke.

**Louise Evans, PhD**  
assistant professor  
Department of Physiology



Dr. Evans' research focuses on using chronic physiological studies to generate a time-course of salt-sensitive hypertension in rodent models. Her current studies are focused on the role of hydrogen peroxide in the initiation of renal inflammation and the consequences of renal inflammation in salt-sensitive hypertension.

## CVC Postdoc Appreciation Events

September is host to National Postdoc Appreciation Week. The Cardiovascular Center's investigators have over 55 postdoctoral fellows and 58 graduate students training in their laboratories. In keeping with this, the CVC showed its appreciation for all trainees by hosting a series of events sponsored by generous donations from the CVC Board.

Former CVC postdoctoral fellow, Michael Harrison, MD, PhD, presented at the Trainee Industry Seminar, "Careers in the Biohealth Industry: Finding Your Pathway to Success" and former CVC postdoctoral fellow, Shane Phillips, PT, PhD presented at the Trainee Academia Seminar, "Translational Research: Personal Tips and Strategies for Life After Your CVC Training".

The series concluded with a Trainee Appreciation Reception, showing our appreciation by offering



merriment, fellowship and networking opportunities. It was a great way to connect and gain a better sense of community within our center.

## CVC Postdoctoral Fellow Honored at Women in Science Awards

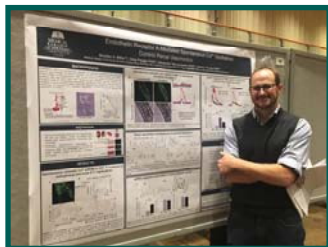


WOMEN *in* SCIENCE



**Karima Ait Aissa, PhD**, a member of Dr. David Gutterman and Dr. Andreas Beyer's labs, was awarded one of two 2017 Edward J. Lennon, MD Awards for "Outstanding Woman Postdoctoral Researcher" on Oct. 17 as part of the Medical College of Wisconsin's *Women in Science Series*. This \$1,000 award is named for Dr. Edward Lennon, a former dean and president of MCW. *Congratulations!*

## MCW Research Day 2017 and Graduate School Research Poster Session



The annual MCW Research Day event was an immense success on Sept. 12, with Dr. Sarah England delivering a compelling keynote talk and a poster

session drawing 100 campus presenters, including many CVC faculty, trainees, and staff.

On Nov. 8, the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Office of Postdoctoral Education hosted the 27th annual Graduate School Poster Session. The poster day gave graduate students and postdoc-

toral fellows the opportunity to celebrate their scientific progress and accomplishments.

Many trainees of the Cardiovascular Center both presented their work or served as poster judges.



## Conversations with Scientists 4-Part Series

### “The Life Force Within: Your Heart and Blood Vessels



The Cardiovascular Center was proud to partner with The Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment to offer its Conversations with Scientists series, *The Life Force Within: Your Heart and Blood Vessels*. This four-part event held on Wednesdays in October and November, welcomed the public to learn about the groundbreaking changes taking place in biomedical research, medical education and health care at MCW today.

Conversations with Scientists takes conversations about science and health out of the classroom and the doctor's office and into the community. A multitude of CVC investigators explored a wide-range of cardiac-related health issues, including hypertension, personalized medicine, vascular disease, and the benefits of physical activity. The interactive panel discussion to close each evening allowed community members a chance to ask questions and get feedback. Attendees were given the knowledge to advocate for themselves and share accurate science and health information with others in the community.

Oct. 25, 2017 | More than a matter of the heart: Hypertension, the brain, heart and kidneys  
Srividya Kidambi, MD, Theodore "Ted" Kotchen, MD, Ashraf El-Meanawy, MD, PhD

Nov. 1, 2017 | To be precise: Personalized medicine and heart disease  
Aron Geurts, PhD, Ivor Benjamin, MD, FAHA, FACC, Ryan Spellecky, PhD

Nov. 8, 2017 | Roadblocks to heart health: Clots, cholesterol and vascular disease  
Mary Sorci-Thomas, PhD, Lisa Baumann Kreuziger, MD, Max Wohlauer, MD

Nov. 15, 2017 | (Heart) failure is not an option: The power of maintenance and movement  
Jacquelyn Kulinski, MD, David Gutterman, MD, Matt Durand, PhD



## Team CVC Represented at the 2017 Greater Milwaukee Heart & Stroke Walk



**American  
Heart  
Association®**

Sept. 17 – On a beautiful sunny Sunday morning, 504 MCW participants, including more than 40 CVC members and their families (Team CVC) joined the Greater Milwaukee community at Veteran's Park to help raise funds to further scientific research in the hopes of improving cardiovascular health around the world. Team CVC raised \$1,780, while MCW as an institution was able to raise more than \$15,000!



Community Engagement

## New 2017 ACC/AHA High Blood Pressure Guidelines Lower Definition of Hypertension



American Heart Association Press Release Nov. 13, 2017 — For the first time in 14 years, new guidelines lower the definition of high blood pressure to account for complications that can occur at lower numbers and to allow for earlier intervention, based on new ACC and American Heart Association (AHA) guidelines for the detection, prevention, management and treatment of high blood pressure.

The announcement was made at the AHA's Scientific Sessions 2017 in November. These new guidelines classify nearly half of U.S. adults (46%) as hypertensive, with the greatest impact expected among younger individuals.

Blood pressure categories in the new guideline are:

- Normal: Less than 120/80 mm Hg
- Elevated: Systolic between 120-129 and diastolic less than 80
- Stage 1: Systolic between 120-139 or diastolic between 80-89
- Stage 2: Systolic at least 140 or diastolic at least 90 mm Hg
- Hypertensive crisis: Systolic over 128 and/or diastolic over 120; with patients needing prompt changes in medication if there are no other indications of problems, or immediate hospitalization if there are signs of organ damage.

The guidelines eliminate the category of pre-hypertension, categorizing patients as having either elevated (120-129 and less than 80) or Stage I hypertension (130-139 or 80-89). In a corresponding analysis of the guidelines' impact, Paul Muntner, PhD, et al., suggests "the 2017 ACC/AHA guideline has the potential to increase hypertension awareness, encourage lifestyle modification and focus antihypertensive medication initiation and intensification on U.S. adults with high CVD risk".

The new ACC/AHA guidelines were developed with nine other health professional organizations and were written by a panel of 21 scientists and health experts who reviewed more than 900 published studies. They are the successor to the Seventh Report of the Joint National Committee on Prevention, Detection, Evaluation and Treatment of High Blood Pressure (JNC7), issued in 2003 and overseen by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI). In 2013, the NHLBI asked the AHA and ACC to continue the management of guideline preparation for hypertension and other cardiovascular risk. The guidelines were published in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* and *Hypertension*.

## Cardiovascular Center Adds Bioinformatics Core, Offers Workshop Series

The Cardiovascular Center is proud to offer its members not only biostatistical support, but now bioinformatics support as well. **Andrew Vallejos, MS**, in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, has joined the CVC team as a valuable resource to our members. Bioinformatics is an interdisciplinary field that combines computer science, biology, mathematics, and engineering to analyze and interpret biological data.

In January and February, CVC will be offering a four part workshop. "Connecting Scientists to Big Data" is a CVC Bioinformatics workshop intended to familiarize investigators with the fundamental techniques in managing and integrating large genomic and proteomic data sets using tools readily available at MCW. This workshop announcement has received a great response, and another series will be offered in the near future.

If interested in attending, please contact [etheriault@mcw.edu](mailto:etheriault@mcw.edu).



### "Connecting Scientists to Big Data" A Cardiovascular Center Bioinformatics Workshop

Presented by Andrew Vallejos, MS

In this course, you will learn fundamental techniques in **managing and integrating large genomic and proteomic data sets** using tools readily available at MCW!



## 22nd Annual Steve Cullen Healthy Heart Club Run/Walk

The Steve Cullen Healthy Heart Club Run/Walk began 22 years ago in memory of Steve Cullen, former Milwaukee Alderman, who died in 1995 at age 40 of a sudden cardiac arrhythmia.

The Cullen Run/Walk is an annual fundraising event that supports life-saving heart research at the MCW Cardiovascular Center.



Last year, \$44,300 was raised to help fund Cullen Scholar, **Andy Greene, PhD**, to further his research project, "Developing Technologies for Rapid Production of Individualized Models of Congenital Cardiovascular Diseases to Facilitate Clinical Treatment."

In 2017, the funds also allowed two students through the Medical Student Summer Research Program (MSSRP) and two students through the Clinical and Translational Science Institute 500 Stars Initiative to participate in the CVC labs to continue to help support its mission of training

the next generation of scientists.

The CVC has also been able to commit to funding a 2018 Research Opportunity for Academic Development in Science (ROADS) student and 2 more MSSRP students as a result of the Run/Walk.



When: **Saturday, Feb. 10, 2018**  
Where: **Wil-O-Way Underwood Park Clubhouse**  
**10602 Underwood Pkwy, Milwaukee, WI**  
What: **8K Run / 2 Mile Walk**

To register: [www.cullenrun.com](http://www.cullenrun.com)



## PNC Milwaukee Marathon Raises CVC Funds in Honor of the Steve Cullen Healthy Heart Run/Walk

The PNC Milwaukee Marathon took place on Sunday, Oct. 15 2017, and offered participants the opportunity to challenge themselves and join an active community of health and wellness seekers while benefiting the Cardiovascular Center at Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin. The course will take runners through many of Milwaukee's distinctive and diverse neighborhoods and offered a course for every level of runners including a one mile race, 5k, 10k, half marathon and full marathon options.

All pledge proceeds benefited the Cardiovascular Center in honor of the Steve Cullen Healthy Heart Run/Walk. The run/walk has donated more than \$415,000 to the Cardiovascular Center at Froedtert and the Medical College of Wisconsin.



Philanthropy

## Daisy Sahoo, PhD elected Fellow of the American Heart Association



Oct. 23 2017 MCW News – **Daisy Sahoo, PhD**, associate professor of medicine, has been elected a Fellow of the American Heart Association conferred by the Council on Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology (ATVB). Fellowship recognizes and awards premium professional members for excellence, innovative and sustained contributions in the areas of scholarship, practice and/or education, and volunteer service within the AHA/ASA.

## Michael Widlansky, MD, MPH, Invited to Vice Chair CICS Study Section



Oct. 2017 MCW News – **Michael Widlansky, MD, MPH**, associate professor of medicine, was invited to serve as Vice Chair for the October 2017 Review Meeting of the Clinical and Integrative Cardiovascular Sciences Study Section (CICS). He will remain on the committee until 2021. The CICS Study Section considers patient-oriented research involving the cardiovascular system and related regulatory organ systems.

## MCW Recognizes Hubert V. Forster, PhD, for 45 Years of Service

Sept. 13, 2017 MCW News - At MCW's Convocation ceremony on Sept. 12, long-term faculty members were honored for their many years of outstanding service our institution – including two who each have been an important part of the MCW family for 45 years.

**Hubert (Bert) V. Forster, PhD**, professor of physiology, is an internationally recognized expert on the neural regulation of breathing. His studies relate primarily to disease conditions of central and obstructive sleep apnea, sudden infant death syndrome, congenital central alveolar hypoventilation and traumatic brainstem injury.



For more than 35 years, Dr. Forster has directed the Graduate Program in Physiology in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. He also is the program director of the NIH T32 Pre-Doctoral Training Grant, supporting six pre-doctoral students each year. For his teaching excellence, Dr. Forster was inducted into the MCW Society of Teaching Scholars in 1998 and received the Graduate School Mentor Award in 2009. In 2011, Dr. Forster received MCW's highest faculty and staff honor, the Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Forster is a devoted champion of graduate education and has been a driving force in the success of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

## Former CVC Director, Dr. Allen Cowley, Jr. Steps Down as Chair of Physiology Department

Sept. 29, 2017 MCW News - **Allen W. Cowley, Jr., PhD**, Chair and James J. Smith & Catherine Welsch Smith Professor of Physiology, Harry & Gertrude Hack Term Professorship in Physiology, will step down from his role as Chair after more than 37 years of leadership service to MCW and the Department. After leaving the Chair role, Dr. Cowley will continue to contribute to MCW as Professor of Physiology.

Dr. Cowley is an international leader in cardiovascular research and has made seminal observations that have advanced our understanding of hypertension. These contributions have ranged from studies defining the physiological role of major neuroendocrine controllers of cardiovascular function, to the role of the kidney in the long-term control of blood pressure, to studies defining the genetic basis of hypertension in both animals and humans. His research in these areas and on other topics has resulted in the publication of

more than 340 original research manuscripts.

As the Chair of Physiology, Dr. Cowley has forged the development and integration of genomics, bioinformatics, computational biology and physiology to address questions of clinical importance. As the principal investigator of 11 separate NIH Program Project Grants funded since his arrival in 1980, the Department has achieved international recognition as a leader in the field of hypertension research. Among his proudest achievements has been the recruitment and development of an outstanding research and teaching faculty, which has resulted in the Department's national ranking in the top 1-3 for NIH funding among all medical school physiology departments.



## Cardiovascular Center Seminars and Events

- Jan 17** Muredach P. Reilly, MBBCH, MSCE  
Columbia University Medical Center
- Jan 24** “Connecting Scientists to Big Data” - Part 1  
Andrew Vallejos, MS, Biomedical Engineering, MCW
- Jan 31** “Connecting Scientists to Big Data” - Part 2  
Andrew Vallejos, MS, Biomedical Engineering, MCW
- Feb 7** “Connecting Scientists to Big Data” - Part 3  
Andrew Vallejos, MS, Biomedical Engineering, MCW
- Feb 14** “Connecting Scientists to Big Data” - Part 4  
Andrew Vallejos, MS, Biomedical Engineering, MCW
- March 14** Rodney Sparapani, PhD  
Assistant Professor, Division of Biostatistics, MCW



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Stay up to date on what's happening in the CVC, at the Medical College of Wisconsin, and in the News!



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### **Vision**

The Cardiovascular Center at the Medical College of Wisconsin aims to become the premier integrated basic and translational academic organization in the United States.

### **Mission**

To improve cardiovascular health in Southeast Wisconsin and beyond through cutting-edge research, cost-efficient and high-quality healthcare delivery, rigorous training of the next generation of cardiovascular scientists, and engaging the community to eliminate disparities in health outcomes.

## **Credits**

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