Cardiovascular Center Appoints Postdoctoral Fellows to T32 Training Program

**Jan. 2018 MCW News** — After a nationwide search and review of more than two dozen applications, the Medical College of Wisconsin’s (MCW) Cardiovascular Center has appointed Jennifer Stancill, PhD and Christine Klemens, PhD as the inaugural postdoctoral trainees on the Cardiovascular Center’s National Institutes of Health T32 postdoctoral training program.

Dr. Jennifer S. Stancill received her Bachelor of Science in biology at the University of North Carolina in 2011, and a PhD in cell and developmental biology at Vanderbilt University in 2017. Her primary mentor is John Corbett, PhD, chair and professor of biochemistry at MCW and member of the Cardiovascular Center’s Atherosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology Signature Program. With a strong background in gene expression and β-cell physiology, Dr. Stancill plans to expand her knowledge of type 1 diabetes by focusing on the biochemistry of β-cells and to assist the laboratory in the application of genomics to the study of β-cell function and viability. Because of the association of diabetes with increased risk for developing heart disease, an increased understanding of how β-cells respond to specific types of stress and how these responses relate to diabetes development may lead to a more effective treatment of diabetes, reducing the number of individuals at increased risk for heart disease.

Dr. Christine A. Klemens studied molecular biology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, receiving her Bachelor of Science in 2005 followed by a Ph.D from the University of Pittsburgh in cell biology and molecular physiology in 2017. Her primary mentor, Alexander Staruschenko, PhD, is a professor of physiology at MCW and member of the Cardiovascular Center’s Signature Program in Hypertension. Her doctoral work focused on the mechanisms by which the cytoskeleton protein, ankyrin G, modulates the activity of the epithelial sodium channel in renal tubule cells. During her postdoctoral training, she plans to determine the role of the voltage-gated chloride channel 6 in cardiovascular and renal blood pressure control. These studies will further the understanding of blood pressure homeostasis, shed light on the physiological role of an understudied transmembrane protein, and most importantly, advance knowledge in the treatment and prevention of hypertension.

Building on excellence in cardiovascular research, the Cardiovascular Center’s T32 postdoctoral training program, “Training in Signature Transdisciplinary Cardiovascular Sciences,” is funded by a $1.6 million grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute that provides support for two new postdoctoral training slots each year for the next five years. The grant provides up to three years of training for appointed postdoctoral fellows in the Cardiovascular Center with an MD, PhD, PharmD, or DO degree. The ultimate goal of this training program is to train the next generation of cardiovascular scientists, including underrepresented minorities, by incorporating broad-based, personalized, supportive, and rigorous training opportunities.

“I am incredibly appreciative of the efforts of the Cardiovascular Center at the Medical College of Wisconsin in securing this T32 training grant from the National Institutes of Health, and in seeing it come to fruition with the appointment of the first two postdoctoral fellows,” said Joseph E. Kerschner, MD, dean of the medical school, provost and executive vice president at the Medical College of Wisconsin. “Research training is the backbone of future biomedical discoveries, and I could not be more pleased with the efforts of the Cardiovascular Center to execute on this future and MCW’s promise of ‘knowledge changing life.’”

Ivor Benjamin, MD, professor of medicine and director of the Cardiovascular Center and David Gutterman, MD, Northwestern Mutual Professor of Cardiology and senior associate director of the Cardiovascular Center are co-directors. Complementary support for trainees is provided by a grant given to the Cardiovascular Center by the A. O. Smith Foundation for the A. O. Smith Fellowship Scholars Program, a program designed to support talented cardiovascular researchers and physicians overcome the barriers that exist in launching and sustaining a successful research career.

Go to [www.mcw.edu/Cardiovascular-Center](http://www.mcw.edu/Cardiovascular-Center) for more details on how to apply.
Dr. Meetha Medhora Awarded $2.6 Million NIH Grant Studying Injury by Radiation to Blood Vessels

December 2017 — Meetha Medhora, PhD, professor of radiation oncology (pulmonary medicine) and physiology, has been awarded a five-year, $2.6 million grant from the NIH’s National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for her project titled, “Mechanisms of Radiation Induced Endovascular Injury and Mitigation via the Notch-Dll4 Pathway.”

This U01 award will use mathematical modeling to measure injury by radiation to blood vessels in multiple organs in rats and the endothelial cells lining them. Her lab will examine a biological pathway known as Notch-Dll4, to understand how some of these changes occur and to determine why blood vessel density dramatically declines in irradiated organs.

Dr. Medhora is also one of the Program Directors of the CVC’s Signature Program Pre-PPG Award: Cardio-Oncology Focus.

Nine CVC Investigators Funded By AHW Endowment

On November 17, 2017, the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin (AHW) Endowment awarded approximately $1.6 million through the Research and Education Program’s Responsive Component to eight initiatives that bring together the strengths of MCW basic, clinical and population science research to foster innovation in biomedical, translational and population health research.

Funded initiatives include interdisciplinary expertise in medicine, biochemistry, pharmacology and toxicology, pathology, anesthesiology, cell biology, neurobiology, and anatomy, physiology, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, family and community medicine, and the institute for health and equity. Research focus areas include genetics and personalized medicine, neurodegenerative diseases, diabetes and obesity, inflammation and immunology, and population science. More information on each project can be found below:

Avoiding Health Disparities When Collecting Patient Data for Clinical Care and Pragmatic Research

PI: Kathryn Flynn, PhD, associate professor of medicine
Co-I’s: Onur Asan, PhD, assistant professor of medicine; Bradley Crotty, MD, assistant professor of medicine; Joni Williams, MD, assistant professor of medicine; Rebekah Walker, PhD, assistant professor of medicine; Joan Neuner, MD, associate professor of medicine; Purushottam Laud, PhD, professor, Institute for Health & Equity

Dissecting Protein Quality Control Pathways in ALS

PI: Kenneth Matthew Scaglione, PhD, assistant professor of biochemistry
Co-I’s: Brian Link, PhD, professor of cell biology, neurobiology and anatomy; Allison Ebert, PhD, assistant professor of cell biology, neurobiology & anatomy

Effect of Fructose-induced Changes in Renal Microvascular Function & Blood Pressure

PI: John Imig, PhD, professor of pharmacology & toxicology
Co-I’s: Srividya Kidambi, MD, associate professor of medicine; Oleg Palygin, PhD, assistant professor of physiology

Illness Perceptions in Congestive Heart Failure

PI: Edith Burns, MD, professor of medicine
Co-I’s: Nunzio Gaglianello, MD, assistant professor of medicine; Jessica Olson, PhD, assistant professor, Institute for Health & Equity; David Nelson, PhD, associate professor of family and community medicine
Recent Member Publications

Chuppa, S; Liang, MY; Liu, PY; Liu, Y; Casati, MC; Cowley, AW; Patullo, L; Kriegel, AJ. MicroRNA-21 regulates peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor alpha, a molecular mechanism of cardiac pathology in Cardiorenal Syndrome Type 4. KIDNEY INTERNATIONAL, 93 (2):375-389; 10.1016/j.kint.2017.05.014 FEB 2018.

Gao, J; Huang, M; Lai, JJ; Mao, KJ; Sun, PS; Cao, ZY; Hu, YP; Zhang, YY; Schulte, ML; Jin, CZ; Wang, J; White, GC; Xu, Z; Ma, YQ. Kindlin Supports Platelet Integrin Alpha IIb Beta 3 Activation by Interacting with Paxillin. JOURNAL OF CELL SCIENCE, 130 (21):3764-3775; 10.1242/jcs.205641 NOV 1 2017.

Ge, ZD; Li, YC; Qiao, SG; Bai, XW; Warittier, DC; Kersten, JR; Boonjaki, ZJ; Liang, MY. Failure of Isoflurane Cardiac Preconditioning in Obese Type 2 Diabetic Mice Involves Aberrant Regulation of MicroRNA-21, Endothelial Nitric-oxide Synthase, and Mitochondrial Complex I. ANESTHESIOLOGY, 128 (1):117-129; JAN 2018.

Ghanian, Z; Konduri, GG; Audi, SH; Camara, AKS; Ranji, M. Quantitative optical measurement of mitochondrial superoxide dynamics in pulmonary artery endothelial cells. JOURNAL OF INNOVATIVE OPTICAL HEALTH SCIENCES, 11 (1):10.1142/S1793545817500183 JAN 2018.

Hardy, M; Zielonka, J; Karoui, H; Sikora, A; Michalski, R; Podsialdy, R; Lopez, M; Vasquez-Vivar, J; Kalyanaraman, B; Ouari, O. Detection and Characterization of Reactive Oxygen and Nitrogen Species in Biological Systems by Monitoring Species-Specific Products. ANTIOXIDANTS & REDOX SIGNALING, 10.1089/ars.2017.7398 NOV 17 2017.


Kudenchuk, PJ; Leroux, BG; Daya, M; Rea, T; Vaillancourt, C; Priestley, JRC; Schmidt, JR; Allen, LA; Geurts, AM; Lombard, JH. Evaluation of Vascular Control Mechanisms Utilizing Video Microscopy of Isolated Resistance Arteries of Rats. JOVE, 10.3791/56133 DEC 2017.

Lukaszewicz, KM; Durand, MJ; Priestley, JRC; Schmidt, JR; Allen, LA; Geurts, AM; Lombard, JH. Evaluation of Vascular Control Mechanisms Utilizing Video Microscopy of Isolated Resistance Arteries of Rats. JOVE, 10.3791/56133 DEC 2017.

Melchior, JT; Walker, RG; Cooke, AL; Morris, J; Castleberry, M; Thompson, TB; Jones, MK; Song, HD; Rye, KA; Oda, MN; Sorci, MG; Thomas, MJ; Heinecke, JW; Mei, XH; Atkinson, D; Segrest, JP; Lund-Katz, S; Phillips, MC; Davidson, WS. A Consensus Model of Human Apolipoprotein A-I in its Monomeric and Lipid-free State. NATURE STRUCTURAL & MOLECULAR BIOLOGY, 24 (12):1093-1098; 10.1038/nsmb.3501 DEC 2017.


Stowe, DF; Yang, MY; Heisner, JS; Camara, AKS. Endogenous and Agonist-induced Opening of Mitochondrial Big Versus Small Ca2+-sensitive K+ Channels on Cardiac Cell and Mitochondrial Protection. JOURNAL OF CARDIOVASCULAR PHARMACOLOGY, 70 (5):314-328; 10.1097/FJC.0000000000000524 NOV 2017.

Yu, M; Chen, YH; Zeng, H; Zheng, YW; Fu, GP; Zhu, W; Broeckel, U; Aggarwal, P; Turner, A; Neale, G; Guy, C; Zhu, N; Chi, HB; Wen, RR; Wang, DM. PLC Gamma-Dependent mTOR Signalling Controls IL-7-Mediated Early B Cell Development. NATURE COMMUNICATIONS, 8 10.1038/s41467-017-01388-5 NOV 13 2017.

*CVC faculty members in bold. Want to see your publications here? Email cvc@mcw.edu.
CVC Cardiovascular Tissue Bank Taking Requests, Small Grants Offered for Tissue Procurement

In partnership with the MCW Pathology Tissue Bank, the Cardiovascular Center’s (CVC) Cardiovascular Tissue Bank (CTB) is now taking tissue specimen requests for fresh, fixed and frozen samples. The purpose of the CTB is to provide unified cross-disciplinary support for acquisition and distribution of cardiovascular tissue including tissue from cardiovascular patients for the MCW Tissue Bank.

The CVC is pleased to offer small grants to support CVC members who wish to procure cardiovascular tissue from the MCW Tissue Bank for cardiovascular research projects. The awards, up to $2,000 per investigator, are made possible by a generous philanthropic donation of members of the Cardiovascular Center Board, high-profile business, professional, and civic leaders in Wisconsin who are committed to advancing cardiovascular research at MCW’s CVC through increasing community awareness and raising private funds.

CVC members should visit the CVC’s website, www.mcw.edu/Cardiovascular-Center/Research/CVC-Tissue-Bank.htm, for more information. Here, CVC members will be able to review policies and procedures, view a listing of available specimens, find the Tissue Specimen Request Application, and information on applying for the $2,000 grants.

Thank you to the members of the CTB Board, David Gutterman, MD (Chair), Zeljko Bosnjak, PhD. Michael Yeboah, MBChC, PhD . and Max Wohlauer, MD. The CTB Board is charged with reviewing Tissue Application Requests and approving the use of existing tissue or procurement of new tissue per the request.

External Scientific Advisory Board Provides Valuable Commentary Following Annual Visit

December 2017 — As a “Green Center,” the Cardiovascular Center (CVC) is evaluated at least annually by an External Scientific Advisory Board (ESAB) composed of international leaders in cardiovascular research, education, clinical care and community engagement.

In October, the CVC hosted its ESAB during their annual visit. Like their inaugural visit in 2016, these thought leaders and expert ‘outsiders’ were asked to provide guidance and advice both to Institutional and Center leadership on our shared mission to improve cardiovascular health outcomes and equity. They reviewed the CVC’s strategic directions and operational priorities and provided ‘best practices’ commentary on technologies, recruitments and risks/benefits to achieving our objectives in an ever-changing scientific and research environment.

Key recommendations from the 2017 ESAB Report include:

**Support Pre-PPGs:**
- Create tailored timelines
- Insure 4 projects per program
- Host scientific retreats for each
- Embed strong translational investigators and early-stage investigators
- Review for opportunities to develop innovative techniques and methods

**Recruit Faculty:**
- Recruit mid-career or exceptional junior faculty translational scientists

**Support Signature Programs:**
- Develop “check points” for clarifying medal ascension

**Support Members:**
- Develop connections with appropriate centers or departments to insure access to high-level informatics, bio statistics, and genetics
Project Funded to Improve Cardiovascular Health in Local Under-Resourced Community

The Office of the Senior Associate Dean for Community Engagement at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW), in collaboration with the MCW Cardiovascular Center has awarded their first Community Engaged Research Seed Grant with a focus on cardiovascular health and disease.

Matthew Durand, PhD, assistant professor in physical medicine and rehabilitation at MCW, in partnership with Una Van Duvall, development director at HeartLove Place of Milwaukee, are leading the project entitled, “The Harambee-Hoja Partnership: A Park-Based Intervention to Increase Physical Activity in Under-Resourced Communities”.

The project will assess the feasibility of a community engaged research approach to develop and test a park-based physical activity intervention in Milwaukee’s 53212 zip code, a community with a disproportionate rate of cardiovascular disease. The long-term objective is to create sustainable park-based physical activity interventions that engage a wide range of community members, ultimately leading to a more active lifestyle and reduced cardiovascular risk among under-resourced communities. If successful, this model may be applied to other parks in urban settings in the city of Milwaukee and elsewhere.

Funding for this 18-month $50,000 award is made possible by the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment grant awarded to the Cardiovascular Center by the Research and Education Program Fund, a component of the AHW endowment at MCW entitled, “The Cardiovascular Roadmap: Bridging our Foundations to ‘Signature Programs’” and by the Office of the Senior Associate Dean for Community Engagement.

The Cardiovascular Center is committed to improving cardiovascular health in southeast Wisconsin and beyond and engaging the community to eliminate disparities in health outcomes. The MCW Community Engaged Research Seed Grant Program seeks to fund promising, early-stage research focused on improving the health of Wisconsin communities, with an emphasis on research that has high possibility of future extramural grant funding.

Community Engaged Scholars 2018 Mentoring Network Cohort Selected

Jan. 18, 2018 MCW News - The Office of the Senior Associate Dean for Community Engagement (CE) and the Medical College of Wisconsin Community Engagement Core has selected the second cohort of the Community Engaged Scholars: Mentoring Network.

Mentors are experienced researchers in community engaged research who are providing their time and experience to cultivate the next generation of leaders in community engagement and health research. Mentees will build their capacity and leadership skills to advance the art and science of community engagement.

Through the Community Engaged Scholars: Mentoring Network, mentees receive mentoring tailored to multiple levels of experience, ensuring each mentee will finish the program with a better understanding of and stronger orientation for community engagement. Mentees are individuals with an affinity for community engagement, who have expressed interest in further building their capacity and leadership skills in community engaged research.

Selected Cardiovascular Center member mentees include: John Meurer, MD, MBA, director of the Institute for Health & Equity, professor, Institute for Health & Equity, MCW, director and professor, division of community health, David Nelson, PhD, associate professor, department of family and community medicine, Jacqueline Kulinski, MD, assistant professor, department of medicine, and Jessica Olson, PhD, assistant professor, Institute for Health & Equity.
CVC Members Provide a Summer of Growth in the Research Lab and Clinic

Jan. 3, 2018 MCW News - Many medical students use the summer between their first and second years of study to pursue basic science, clinical or translational research. Sai-Suma K. Samudrala was fortunate to receive a summer fellowship funded by the National Institutes of Health and had the opportunity to work in the lab of Michael Mitchell, MD, and Aoy Tomita-Mitchell, PhD, studying congenital heart disease.

At the Mitchell lab, she was able to take advantage of the work of Jennifer Strande, MD, PhD, GME '06, FEL '10, whose lab at MCW has optimized a procedure wherein a patient's cells in a urine culture can be turned into the cells' pluripotent stage – known as patient-specific induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs).

These iPSCs have the ability to transform into any other cell type in the body, which has enabled Sai-Suma to grow them into cardiomyocytes – or heart cells.

“It was fascinating for me to see these maturing heart cells beating on a dish, as heart cells are tightly bound to each other – and when one cell is excited, the action spreads to all other connected cells.”

“These experiences in the lab and the clinic are helping me to see future approaches to investigating disease and striving for patient-centered care”.

Sai-Suma K. Samudrala recently completed her first year at MCW's Medical School, and has been accepted into MCW's Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP), which supports medical education and research training culminating in the receipt of both the MD and PhD degrees. A former resident of Brookfield, Wisconsin, Samudrala graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in May 2016 and hopes to pursue a career in pediatric cardiology.

CVC Graduate Student Awarded APS Award

Dawid Chabowski, a graduate student in Dr. David Gutterman's lab, received one of the 2018 Caroline tum Suden/ Frances Hellebrandt Professional Opportunity Awards from the American Physiological Society. Dawid will be presenting his poster at the April 2018 Experimental Biology (EB) meeting in San Diego, CA.

CVC Graduate Student Awarded NIH F31 Grant

Graduate student, Sarah Proudfoot, was awarded an NHLBI F31 Fellowship for her project titled, “Regulation of Cholesterol Transport by Structural Features in SR-BI’s Transmembrane Domains”. Sarah, mentored by Dr. Daisy Sahoo, aims to identify new pathways by which cholesterol removal from the body can be enhanced, thus preventing heart disease and its related complications.

CVC to Offer Trainee Professional Development Series

Funded in part by the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment grant awarded to the Cardiovascular Center, the CVC will be offering a 4-part series:

**“Professional Communication & Working with Others”**

The seminars, led by the MCW Talent Development team, will be held on Tuesdays, from 12:00-1:00 pm in the CVC’s conference room (H4940/4950). Trainees are encouraged to attend as many as they are able. The goal of this series to is to help trainees develop the skills and tools to effectively collaborate and communicate in a professional environment.
February 10, 2018 — On a cold but sunny Saturday in February, over 500 runners, walkers, and volunteers, came out to support the 22nd Annual Steve Cullen Healthy Heart Club Run & Walk at Wil-O-Way Recreation Center in Wauwatosa.

The event supports heart and blood vessel research at the Cardiovascular Center at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW), where more than 130 faculty physicians and research scientists study the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cardio-vascular disease. From discovery science to patient care, these funds have supported cardiovascular research and scholarship including recent studies to improve the diagnosis of children with heart disease, to transform cardiac surgery by printing patient-specific 3D models of hearts and to discover new genetic risk factors and therapies for cardiovascular disease.

The event is held in memory of Steve Cullen, a former Milwaukee alderman, who died in 1995 at age 40 of sudden cardiac arrhythmia. His father, at age 41, and two brothers, ages 53 and 51, also died of heart disease. The Cullen Run/Walk has grown in attendance by more than 500 percent since its inception, encouraging heart-healthy lifestyles for all participants, their families and friends. The event has raised more than $415,000 for cardiovascular research and awareness. Details coming soon announcing the dollar amount raised this year.

Sponsored by the Cullen family and the Badgerland Striders, the event included Cullen Family & Friends Chili, refreshments, food, an awards ceremony and live music.

The CVC thanks and congratulates board member Gael Cullen, her family, and the Badgerland Striders for holding another fantastic event!

From the Cardiovascular Center Board Chair

Happy Belated New Year! The CVC has already kicked off 2018 with exciting news in support of the four pillars of its mission.

Community Engagement
Congratulations to Matthew Durand, PhD, assistant professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation and CVC faculty member, and his community partnership with HeartLove Place of Milwaukee, for their funded proposal, “The Harambee-Hoja Partnership: A Park-Based Intervention to Increase Physical Activity in Under-Resourced Communities.” The CVC, in collaboration with the MCW Office of the Senior Associate Dean for Community Engagement, is supporting this $50,000 award that will assess the feasibility of a community-engaged research approach to develop and test a park-based physical activity intervention in Milwaukee’s 53212 zip code, a community with a disproportionate rate of cardiovascular disease.

Training
After a nationwide search and review of more than two dozen applications, the CVC appointed Jennifer Stancill, PhD and Christine Klemens, PhD as the inaugural postdoctoral trainees on the CVC’s National Institutes of Health T32 postdoctoral training program.

Patient Care
CVC member Johnny Hong, MD, FACS, professor of surgery and Mark B. Adams Chair in Surgery and program director of Solid Organ Transplant and Pediatric Liver Transplant at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin was honored with the Health Care Heroes award, presented annually by BizTimes Milwaukee.

Cutting Edge Research
Dr. David Gutterman, Northwestern Mutual Professor of Cardiology and senior associate director of the CVC was highlighted in the February issue of Circulation Research, a scientific peer-reviewed journal published by the American Heart Association. The article focused on his distinguished research career of studying the microcirculatory system and its dynamic regulation of blood flow and his groundbreaking discoveries using human heart tissue.

Congratulations to the CVC for an outstanding kick off to 2018. I am proud to continue to serve on this board, and excited to see what the rest of the year has in store for the Medical College of Wisconsin Cardiovascular Center.

-Bruce Smith
New Organizational Structure in Department of Surgery

Jan. 31, 2018 MCW News - Dr. Douglas Evans, Chair and Donald C. Ausman Family Foundation Professor of Surgery, asked to share the Department of Surgery’s new organizational structure, reflecting more than 80% growth in work relative value units (wRVU) since 2009 and the addition of almost 50 physicians to the Department in the past nine years.

This reorganization also represents one strategic initiative included in the recent external Department review. The Department of Surgery was the first to undergo such a review; we will be undertaking these external reviews with all clinical departments.

The Department has created Vice Chair and Associate Vice Chair positions in the following areas:

- off-campus clinical operations (Dr. Clark Gamblin; Assoc. VC Dr. Peter Rossi)
- perioperative services (Dr. Gary Seabrook)
- quality (Dr. Jon Gould; Assoc. VC Dr. Carrie Peterson)
- strategic and professional development (Dr. Tracy Wang)
- VA (Dr. Philip Redlich; Chief of Surgery at the VA)

The Department also made a change in the leadership of the Division of Education; Dr. Brian Lewis (Div. Chief) and Dr. Andrew Kastenmeier (Assoc. Div. Chief) will assume these leadership roles, succeeding Dr. Phil Redlich.

CVC Members in the Department of Surgery

John E. Baker, PhD, Professor
Carmen R. Bergom, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor*
Douglas B. Evans, MD, Chair, Professor
Johnny C. Hong, MD, Chief, Professor
Tammy L. Kindel, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor
Q. Robert Miao, PhD, Associate Professor
Aoy Tomita Mitchell, PhD, Professor
Gary R. Seabrook, MD, Chief, Professor, Vice Chair
Motaz Selim, MD, PhD, Instructor
Max V. Wohlauer, MD, Assistant Professor
Michael A. Zimmerman, MD, Professor

*secondary appointment

Subjects Needed: African Americans/Blacks with Type 2 Diabetes

We are actively recruiting African Americans/Blacks with type 2 diabetes who are 21 years of age and older to participate in a research study.

- Weekly diabetes education using an iPhone to better manage diabetes
- Study will last 6 months
- Compensation provided

Please call the study line at 414-955-7391 for more information.

Do You Have High Blood Pressure? Seeking Subjects

We are trying to understand the effect of salt on blood pressure and seeking men between the ages of 30-65 years or women between the ages of 50-65 year of age with high blood pressure.

- Compensation provided

Please call the study line at 414-955-7467 for more information.

*Note: In order to be a qualified participant, MCW employees must meet the requirements under the “Participation as Research Subjects” Corporate policy.
Dr. Crotty’s research focuses on clinical informatics and digital health to augment systems of care. He has a special focus on patient-facing informatics and technology to enhance the connection between patients and nurses, physicians, and allied care providers. His work centers on understanding how communities of patients, family members, community providers, and clinicians can collaborate using electronic tools, for prevention, care coordination, and chronic disease management.

Dr. Bonini’s research interests focus on the understanding of how reactive oxygen species are produced, interact with biomolecules and trigger cellular and organ functional remodeling. The basic nature of his research covers a wide ranges of topics in the sciences of cancer biology, cardiovascular health, and environmental exposures.

The Cardiovascular Center Welcomes the Bonini Lab!

January 2018 — The Cardiovascular Center is now home to a new associate professor of medicine, division of administration, Marcelo G. Bonini, PhD. His recruitment represents a collaborative effort amongst the Cardiovascular Center Cancer Center, Department of Medicine and Department of Biophysics.

Dr. Bonini received his PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from University of Sao Paulo (Brazil). His postdoctoral training under Dr. Ronald Mason at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences focused on understanding how redox driven reactions affect signaling events relevant for the maintenance of the cellular homeostatic balance and disease. In 2009, he established his research program at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

His clinical and research interests include mitochondrial redox control of cellular metabolism and the role of S-nitrosation in cytokine signaling. He has over 60 original research publications and is currently the PI of three NIH grants (2 R01, 1 R56), and a Department of Defense grant.

The CVC also welcomes Benjamin Gantner, PhD, assistant professor, and Chenxia He, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Medicine, important investigators contributing to Dr. Bonini’s scientific efforts.
CVC Member, Sandra Pfister, PhD, Honored by Milwaukee Area Science Advocates

Feb. 1, 2018 MCW News - Sandra Pfister, PhD, associate professor of pharmacology and toxicology, is being honored by the Milwaukee Area Science Advocates (MASA) as part of their STEM in Style Celebration of Women in STEM on Friday, Feb. 23.

As cardiac rehabilitation participation has been proven to reduce cardiovascular mortality, among other benefits, following a cardiovascular event, studies show that many cardiac rehab candidates have comorbidities, which result in mobility issues, making participation difficult. Thus, singing could be a potential means to improve cardiovascular health in all people, with special relevance to patient populations with limited physical mobility.

Subjects enrolled in the study will undergo measurements of cardiovascular hemodynamics and endothelial function before and after singing a set piece, using a virtual singing coach developed by Dr. Tanya Kruse Ruck, assistant professor of voice and opera at UW-Milwaukee.

Dr. Jacqueline Kulinski Awarded Grant for “Singing Heart Study”

December 2017—CVC member Jacqueline Kulinski, MD, assistant professor, department of medicine, has been awarded the Research Affairs Committee (RAC) grant for a “Singing Heart Study”.

As cardiac rehabilitation participation has been proven to reduce cardiovascular mortality, among other benefits, following a cardiovascular event, studies show that many cardiac rehab candidates have comorbidities, which result in mobility issues, making participation difficult. Thus, singing could be a potential means to improve cardiovascular health in all people, with special relevance to patient populations with limited physical mobility.

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Dr. Julie Freed Awarded 1st Place at Post Graduate Assembly in Anesthesiology

December 2017—CVC member Julie Freed, PhD, assistant professor, department of anesthesiology, received first place out of six finalists in the 2017 Post Graduate Assembly in Anesthesiology (PGA) Research Contest. During the 71st year of the international research competition, Dr. Freed presented “Manipulation of the Sphingolipid Pathway Determines the Mediator Released During Flow-Induced Dilation in the Human Microcirculation”, co-authored by Mary Schultz, Andreas Beyer, PhD, Joseph Hockenberry, and David Gutterman, MD.

This prestigious award recognizes the best research performed during a residency.

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As a research professor, Dr. Pfister has a special interest in hypertension and atherosclerosis disease mechanisms. Specifically, she works to understand sex differences in pathological mechanisms leading to higher prevalence of disease in women. One of Dr. Pfister’s current studies involves looking at how estrogen increases a metabolite in the body that results in pulmonary arterial hypertension, or vasoconstriction in the lungs and heart.

Growing up, Dr. Pfister had a strong familial support system, and her parents encouraged her passion in the sciences, but she understands that other young women do not have the same support. Because of this, she sets out to encourage young women and girls to pursue STEM careers and continue their love of math and science. Her contributions examining pathogenesis of disease in females set an example to the Milwaukee community that women are making great contributions to science.

MASA is a local non-profit that formed from the March for Science in April 2017 to increase community engagement in science education, public health, and sustainability in the Milwaukee area.

Information regarding the event can be found on the Milwaukee Area Science Advocates Website.
Cardiovascular Center Seminars and Events

March 13
Emotional Intelligence
Trainee Development Series

March 14
Rodney Sparapani, PhD
Assistant Professor, Division of Biostatistics, MCW

April 17
“Connecting Scientists to Big Data”
Andrew Vallejos, MS, Biomedical Engineering, MCW

April 18
Kathy Griendling, PhD
Emory University

April 24
“Connecting Scientists to Big Data”
Andrew Vallejos, MS, Biomedical Engineering, MCW

May 1
DISC Communication Styles
Trainee Development Series

“Connecting Scientists to Big Data”
Andrew Vallejos, MS, Biomedical Engineering, MCW

May 8
“Connecting Scientists to Big Data”
Andrew Vallejos, MS, Biomedical Engineering, MCW

Feedback: Provide better information regarding CVC Core/Shared Equipment
Action: Updated CVC Core Equipment Website with all available shared equipment, location, reservation forms, and point of contact for each. Emailed link to all CVC (see link below):
https://infoscope.mcw.edu/Cardiovascular-Center-Intranet/Core-Equipment.htm

Feedback: What programs are offered by MCW and affiliates for students to receive research and/or clinical experience?
Action: Summary dispersed to CVC community with listing of MCW-related student experience programs, including requirements, background and contact information. To receive this list, please send request to cvc@mcw.edu.

We welcome your questions, concerns, or feedback.

We’re Listening….to the Pulse of the CVC

During last month’s Town Hall, Team CVC requested feedback from you, the CVC community members, on what the center can be doing to better serve our investigators and their research teams. This new portion of our newsletter will be used to let you know we’re listening!

You can follow the Cardiovascular Center on Facebook!
Medical College of Wisconsin Cardiovascular Center
Stay up to date on what’s happening in the CVC, at MCW, and in the News!
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.

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