

# Imagine MORE



**Tuesday, June 25, 2024**

***Presented by:***

**Hammes**  
Family

***Event Co-Chairs:***

**Ann and Jon  
Hammes**



**NEUROSCIENCE  
RESEARCH CENTER**

**Froedtert & MEDICAL  
COLLEGE of  
WISCONSIN**

**WINS**  
Wisconsin Institute of NeuroScience

# The Hammes Family

proudly supports the Neuroscience  
Research Center (NRC) and the  
Wisconsin Institute of NeuroScience  
(WINS) at the Medical College of  
Wisconsin and Froedtert Hospital

# The Imagine More DINNER

Benefiting the Medical College of Wisconsin  
Neuroscience Research Center

**5:00 pm**

CHECK-IN AND WELCOME RECEPTION

**6:00 pm**

DINNER AND PROGRAM

- Welcome Remarks
- Imagine More Award for Research
- Neuro Hero Award
- Keynote Address: *Enhancing Stroke Recovery Through Research* - Jeffrey Binder, MD
- Paddle Raise

**8:00 pm**

CLOSING REMARKS



BAIRD

## Imagine Changing Lives

We know the talented, caring professionals at the Medical College of Wisconsin's Neuroscience Research Center help make a meaningful difference in the lives of people facing incredible challenges. We are proud to support their important work and appreciate you joining us for the 2024 Imagine More Dinner.

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## THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF WISCONSIN NEUROSCIENCE RESEARCH CENTER

### About Us

#### The Neuroscience Research Center

stands as a distinguished national leader in basic and translational neuroscience research. Through a collaborative programmatic plan and commitment to strengthening neuroscience research, the Neuroscience Research Center greatly enhances and differentiates clinical care at Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin, offering hope to patients and families affected by diseases and injuries of the brain and spinal cord.

The center is comprised of over 150 faculty neuroscientists who, under the guidance of founding Director Cecilia J. Hillard, PhD, a professor of pharmacology and toxicology, collectively strive to achieve new heights in neuroscience research.

*With your generous support, the Neuroscience Research Center is committed to advancing our understanding of a wide range of psychological and neurological diseases and disorders – from Alzheimer's disease and addiction to epilepsy and stroke. We believe that, together, we can shape the future of patient care and foster a brighter tomorrow for everyone.*



## The Timarac Family

CONGRATULATES

**2024 Imagine More Award Recipient**



**Sara Pillay, PhD, ABPP**  
Assistant Professor, Neurology  
for her contributions to the Medical  
College of Wisconsin's Neuroscience  
Research Center

***We are proud to support your past and future work!***

## Sara Pillay, PhD, ABPP

*Assistant Professor, Neurology*

### 2024 Imagine More Award



Sara Pillay, PhD is an Assistant Professor of Neurology and specializes in understanding language reorganization after stroke in patients with aphasia using neuropsychological data, neuroimaging, and electrical stimulation techniques.

The winning proposal submitted by Dr. Pillay, "Establishing an AI-based foundation for remote automated speech and language therapy in aphasia," seeks to develop an Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered technology that can decode spoken speech in aphasia and provide immediate feedback without the need for a live person present.

In addition, she has interest in developing and testing language paradigms for use during intraoperative electrical stimulation mapping and electrocorticography. Her work has been presented at several national and international conferences, and published in peer-reviewed professional journals. She is currently a co-investigator in the Language Imaging Laboratory and a member of the Southeastern Wisconsin Stroke Rehabilitation Center.

**On behalf of the Neuroscience Research Center Board, we extend our warmest congratulations to Cecilia Hillard on being named this year's Neuro Hero.** Your selfless dedication and unwavering commitment to advancing neuroscience research have inspired us all and brought hope to countless patients and their families. Your visionary leadership has elevated the Neuroscience Research Center to new heights, and your passion for unraveling the complexities of the human brain and nervous system drives our mission forward.

Cece, you are *our* Neuro Hero, and we look forward to continuing this journey with you. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition and thank you for your lifelong commitment to improving the lives of so many. Your work stands tall as a beacon of hope and progress.

## Cecilia J. Hillard, PhD

G. Frederick Kasten, Jr.  
Endowed Chair in Parkinson's Disease Research  
Director of the Neuroscience Research Center  
Associate Dean for Research  
Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology

### 2024 Neuro Hero Award



Dr. Cecilia Hillard is a luminary in the field of neuroscience and the founding Director of the Neuroscience Research Center (NRC). Her illustrious career has significantly enhanced our understanding of the human brain. Through her seminal research into the endocannabinoid system, Dr. Hillard has unveiled critical functions in the development and progression of numerous neurological and psychological disorders, leading to groundbreaking therapeutic innovations.

Dr. Hillard has authored over 200 peer-reviewed papers and received numerous accolades, including the Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Cannabinoid Research Society in 2017. Her steadfast commitment to ushering in the next generation of neuroscience researchers is evident in her mentorship of numerous aspiring neuroscientists, including Dr. Sachin Patel, Chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

Beyond her scientific contributions, Dr. Hillard's passion and philanthropic spirit have significantly advanced the NRC's mission over the past 13 years. She has established a highly engaged community advisory board at MCW, spearheaded the growth of the Imagine More Dinner, and elevated the NRC's national profile, exemplifying her commitment to both the field and the community.

In addition to her role as NRC Director, Dr. Hillard is a Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology and the Associate Dean for Research at the Medical College of Wisconsin, where she earned her PhD in Pharmacology. Her unwavering dedication, pioneering research, and inspirational leadership have profoundly shaped the Medical College of Wisconsin, the neuroscience community, and the world beyond.



*We proudly support the*

**Neuroscience  
Research Center  
at the Medical College  
of Wisconsin**

**Madeleine & David Lubar**  
*Lubar & Co.*

## Jeffrey R. Binder, MD

Vice Chair for Research  
Professor of Neurology, Cell Biology, Neurobiology  
and Anatomy, and Biophysics  
Director of Stroke and Neurobehavior Programs,  
Department of Neurology  
Director of Language Imaging Laboratory,  
Department of Neurology

### Faculty Speaker



Dr. Jeffrey Binder, MD, is an internationally acclaimed neurologist and cognitive neuroscientist renowned for his groundbreaking research on brain language processing and the effects of brain damage resulting in aphasia. As a Professor of Neurology at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) and Director of Research at the WE Energies Center for Aphasia Research and Recovery, Dr. Binder has authored over 200 influential studies and secured numerous NIH grants, significantly advancing cognitive neuroscience. He earned his medical degree from the University of Nebraska Medical Center and specializes in the treatment and prevention of stroke, seamlessly blending clinical expertise with pioneering research to transform patient care and recovery.

**Ann and Warren Pierson** are proud to support the Neuroscience Research Center, the Wisconsin Institute of Neuroscience (WINS) and the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Together let's research more, discover more, heal more and **IMAGINE MORE** - thank you for joining us!

## Care that can see the bigger picture.

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## RESEARCH FOR A CAUSE AND A CURE.

**Imagine a day** when we need not fear for a family member losing their mind or memory before our very eyes. Imagine if we, ourselves, did not have to anxiously age for fear of losing our own minds due to early onset Alzheimer's.

**Imagine if our families did not have to fear adolescent depression that can have terrible and sometimes fatal consequences.**

**Imagine a day** when we do not have to deal with the demon called addiction, which has the power to ruin and ravage families and relationships. Imagine finding a cure for stroke, the leading cause of disability in the United States.

The researchers, scientists and doctors in the Neuroscience Research Center at the Medical College of Wisconsin are our instruments to change these imaginations into realities. Their time and talent are not enough.

**We need to  
IMAGINE MORE**

It is important to not only provide resources for their research and work, but also to keep these innovators here in Milwaukee. We can help ensure the Medical College of Wisconsin continues to be recognized nationally and internationally for its work in neuroscience.

**Help us  
IMAGINE MORE**

| Excerpt from Benjamin Wagner's remarks at the 2014 Neuroscience Park Dinner





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National reputation. Hometown service.

**Habush Habush & Rottier S.C. is honored to be an annual sponsor of the Imagine More Dinner. We proudly support the Medical College of Wisconsin's talented researchers and clinicians.**

**Congratulations to the Imagine More Award recipient Dr. Sara Pillay, and the Neuro Hero Award recipient Dr. Cecilia Hillard.**

**The Wigdale Family Foundation** proudly supports the Neuroscience Research Center and the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Our **wish** is to keep memories, **both past and present**, alive.



## SPONSORS

On behalf of the Neuroscience Research Center, the event co-chairs, the committee, and our NRC Board Members, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the donors, sponsors, and volunteers who have made this Imagine More Dinner possible. For over a decade, your unwavering generosity and dedication have inspired us to continue pushing the boundaries of neuroscience research, and together, we look forward to a future filled with groundbreaking discoveries and hope.

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**The Wigdale Family Foundation**



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*Professor, Pharmacology and Toxicology  
G. Frederick Kasten, Jr. Chair in  
Parkinson's Research*

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**Benjamin Wagner**

2024 Imagine More Dinner Co-Chairs  
**Ann and Jon Hammes**

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# *Thank You*

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The Imagine More Dinner is the premiere annual fundraising event driven by the Neuroscience Research Center (NRC) in conjunction with the Wisconsin Institute of NeuroScience (WINS).

Your generosity and participation benefit the NRC whose mission is to reduce the impact of neurological and psychiatric disorders through innovative research, clinical care, and clinical trials.

*[mcw.edu/imaginemore](http://mcw.edu/imaginemore)*