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SPRING 2021

MICW *magazine*

Hope to Health

The Campaign for the Medical College of Wisconsin and Froedtert Hospital

Voices of Hope



MCW

magazine

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LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

Together, We are Transforming Hope into Health for All

A year ago last month, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic. MCW responded swiftly, pledging our commitment to protect the health, safety and well-being of our students, faculty, staff and visitors while ensuring that our patients, students and community continued to receive outstanding care.

We moved rapidly to online/virtual learning; hibernated/reopened our research laboratories; shifted to virtual work for faculty and staff; protected our core business, clinical and academic functions; ramped up telehealth/virtual visits by our clinical providers; and became the trusted source of accurate scientific and medical information throughout the region and state.

The advent of the COVID-19 vaccine doses in late 2020 offered a ray of hope and created a universal desire to put an end to the pandemic. In response, MCW opened a vaccine clinic on site, and our School of Pharmacy, Office of Research, MCW staff and pharmacy and medical students mobilized to administer more than 17,000 vaccines to our own healthcare personnel and other eligible populations (*see page 10*).

During times of crisis, philanthropy can help fortify and rebuild communities. Philanthropy invests in the power of human ingenuity and the ability to bring about meaningful transformation. MCW's culture of philanthropy reflects deep engagement with donors in support of the institution's issues, ideas, impact and values – leading to transformational gifts that are true investments in our future. In 2015, Cathy Jacobson, president and CEO of Froedtert Health, and I launched *Hope to Health: The Campaign for the Medical College of Wisconsin and Froedtert Hospital* to elevate access to research-based healthcare across the region, boost education programs for medical professionals, address the devastating burden of cancer and support partnerships with the community to reduce healthcare disparities.

The campaign concluded December 31, 2020 – achieving a record amount of philanthropic support and engagement from the community and raising more than \$300.4 million for the campaign's strategic priorities. The cover story in this issue (*pages 14-17*) and the accompanying **Impact Report** highlight how philanthropic investments help us to accelerate discovery, advance patient care, transform healthcare education, continue to lead the way in cancer research and care, and ensure that our communities and region have every opportunity for health.

We remain grateful for our countless alumni around the globe who have stood on the front lines of combating COVID-19 – whether through direct patient care, as scientists or other healthcare providers to protect the health and safety of our communities. Together, we are powering the future and transforming hope into health for our region, our state and beyond. ■

“MCW's culture of philanthropy reflects deep engagement with donors in support of the institution's issues, ideas, impact and values...”



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

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PLEASE NOTE: PHOTOGRAPHS BELOW IN WHICH INDIVIDUALS ARE NOT WEARING PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT WERE TAKEN BEFORE THE PANDEMIC.



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

FEATURED PHOTOGRAPHERS: Alex Boyes; Greg Calhoun; Gary Porter; Michelle Schaefer

ON THE COVER: Hope to Health, the Campaign for the Medical College of Wisconsin and Froedtert Hospital, concluded December 31, 2020 – achieving a record amount of philanthropic support and engagement from the community and raising more than \$300.4 million for the campaign’s strategic priorities. Voices of Hope (Daisy Sahoo, PhD; Bill Listwan, MD ’68, GME ’74; Miracle Powell, former pipeline program participant; Rob Gouthro, MD ’07) reflect the shared priorities of the campaign.

STAT REPORT



(l-r) Artjola Prifti, MCW School of Pharmacy Class of 2023, and Daniel Obidare-Kolade, also Class of 2023, complete a hands-on assignment in the Pharmaceutical Drug Delivery course.

School of Pharmacy Granted Full Accreditation

MCW's School of Pharmacy's Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) program has been granted full accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE). The ACPE is the national agency for accreditation of professional degree programs in pharmacy and providers of continuing pharmacy education. Upon receiving full accreditation status, MCW's School of Pharmacy has demonstrated, to the satisfaction of ACPE, that its PharmD program complies with stringent accreditation standards and

has graduated its first class of students in May 2020. Graduates of the program are eligible to sit for pharmacist licensure examinations upon successful completion of the PharmD program.

The MCW School of Pharmacy prepares the next generation of pharmacists to be fully equipped for the new demands and opportunities of this rapidly evolving profession.

The School not only educates the pharmacists of the future, but it also creates new and innovative practice models and interprofessional healthcare

teams that leverage the role of the pharmacist to deliver patient-centered care with improved health outcomes – benefiting patients, providers and payers.

The MCW School of Pharmacy is the only three-year PharmD program in the Midwest that is located at an academic medical center, providing access to world-renowned resources at Froedtert Hospital and Children's Wisconsin and partnerships with the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center for students and faculty alike. ■

MCW, Partners Launch Green Bay's First Family Medicine Physician Residency Program

MCW, in partnership with Prevea Health and HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center, recently launched a family medicine physician residency program in Green Bay, Wis.

The MCW-Prevea Family Medicine Residency Program is fully accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and is the first residency program of its kind to be offered in the Green Bay area. The residency program will commence on July 1, 2021, and will train four family medicine residents per year during a three-year period – resulting in a total of 12 residents by 2023.

Residents of the MCW-Prevea Family Medicine Residency Program will train at Prevea health centers across northeast Wisconsin, and at HSHS St. Vincent



Hospital, HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital and HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center in Green Bay. The program not only will provide physicians the advanced training they need, but also will help address physician and primary care shortages in the region, particularly in rural areas – as research shows that many phy-

sicians choose to practice medicine in the communities in which they attended their residency programs.

Prevea Health, HSHS St. Vincent Hospital and HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center also assist in the education of medical students at MCW-Green Bay. ■

Precision Medicine Master of Science Degree and Certificate Program Launched

MCW's Institute for Health & Equity, in partnership with the Genomic Sciences and Precision Medicine Center, has launched the new Precision Medicine Master of Science degree and certificate programs (PM Ed), with classes beginning in fall 2021.

The PM Ed program will provide innovative training to clinicians to better diagnose, treat and prevent disease by accounting for individual variation in genes, environment and lifestyle to meet the upsurge in precision medicine patient care needs.

The program aims to impact physician and other clinician practices and their access to and use of PM services.

More than 18 course directors, including 11 physicians, will lead the courses in the PM Ed program relating to their respective

specialized areas of research and clinical expertise within precision medicine.

Learners will be able to customize their educational experience by choosing elective courses to best meet their needs and work with faculty who share similar research interests.

Additionally, the PM Ed program offers a flexible schedule for busy clinicians, meeting for eight in-person class sessions every other week over a 16-week course period.

By 2023, all courses will be converted to an all-online format, allowing physicians, pharmacists, genetic counselors and other clinicians across the US the opportunity to enroll in this



interdisciplinary program. Further, students have the option to complete their MS degree or certificate as a full or part-time student with the expectation that many learners will be working professionals. ■

MCW is Helping to Build the Community's COVID-19 Vaccine Intelligence Quotient

The image displays three infographics from the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) regarding COVID-19 vaccines. The first infographic, 'COVID-19 Vaccines - What to Expect', compares three vaccine options: Pfizer-BioNTech (mRNA), Moderna (mRNA), and Johnson & Johnson/Janssen (traditional). It details the number of shots, timing, and age requirements for each. The second infographic, 'COVID-19 Vaccines - What Experts Say About Safety', addresses vaccine safety, efficacy, and the rigorous review process. The third infographic, 'Community Protection', explains the concept of community protection, social responsibility, and the importance of social distancing, wearing a mask, and washing hands.

MCW, along with its clinical partners, continues to answer questions about the current Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccines, including safety, efficacy, effects, general distribution and internal distribution – and has developed a variety of resources for the Milwaukee community to help individuals better understand and feel comfortable with the vaccines and their rollout.

MCW's dedicated vaccine page on its COVID-19 Resource Center is the primary location for community members to find helpful information regarding the vaccines. It is home to three downloadable infographics (shown above) that provide

high-level material regarding what to expect when receiving the vaccine, vaccine safety and what it means to reach community protection. The page also features an expansive list of FAQs that continues to grow weekly.

The infographic on *COVID-19 Vaccines: What Experts Say About Safety* has information on the clinical trial process and safety reviews, how scientists were able to develop these vaccines so quickly, the minimal risks associated with the vaccine and why the public should get the vaccine.

The infographic on *COVID-19 Vaccines: What to Expect* covers the dosing requirements of each US-approved vaccine,

what is in the vaccines, how the three approved brands differ, what you can expect to feel in the day or two after receiving a dose of the vaccine, and the recommended safety precautions to continue even after getting vaccinated.

People continuously ask what it will take for life to “get back to normal.” The infographic on *COVID-19 Vaccines: Community Protection* explains the concept of community protection and what it will take to get there as well as the importance of continuing other safety measures to fight the virus.

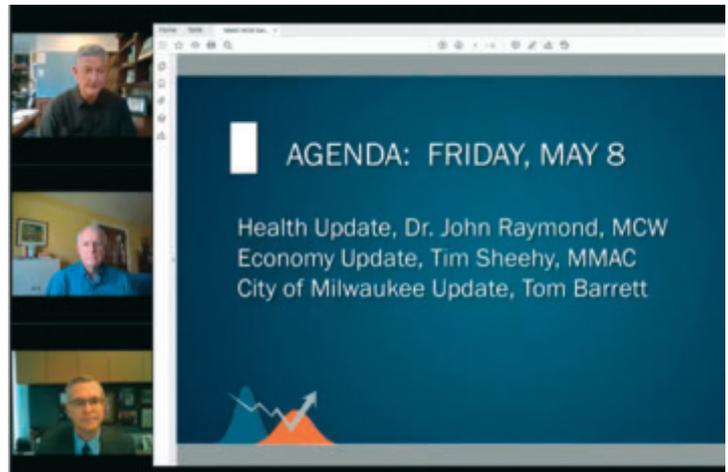
For up-to-date information on COVID-19, see MCW's Coronavirus Resources Center at covid19.mcw.edu. ■

Webinar Series Wins Coveted National Award

The *Daily Briefing: MKE Health and the Economy* – a partnership among MCW, the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce, Aurora WDC and Milwaukee County – has received a *Silver Award for Excellence* in the category of Special Events, Projects, Programs or Campaigns from the Association of American Medical Colleges' (AAMC) Group on Institutional Advancement.

The *Daily Briefing* webinar series ran for 43 days beginning in March 2020 and provided the community and area business leaders with a new channel for trusted science-based information on COVID-19 and candid conversation on the intersection of health and the economy in south-east Wisconsin. The judges believed that

MCW's entry was exceptional and warranted national recognition. In particular, they cited MCW's strategy "to meet people where they are" as a way to rebuild trust in science and medicine through civic and civil dialogue in small groups; the timely delivery of relevant content during a public health crisis; the creation of a community partnership and environment of trust and fact-based information around



(top to bottom) Tim Sheehy, president of the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce; Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett; and Dr. John R. Raymond, Sr. partnered for a series of COVID-19-related webinars for city businesses that won a coveted national award.

a topic that has become highly politicized; and MCW's well thought-out plan and execution that should serve as model for institutions nationwide. ■

Dr. Michael McCrea Appointed to NASEM Committee



Michael McCrea, PhD, MCW professor, Eminent Scholar and co-director of the Center for Neurotrauma Research in the department of neurosurgery, has been appointed to the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) Committee on Accelerating Progress in Traumatic Brain Injury Research and Care.

Dr. McCrea is recognized as an international expert for many years of study about how to most effectively detect, treat and reduce traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and sports-related concussions.

TBI is an alteration in brain function, or other evidence of brain pathology, caused by an external force, and is a major concern in both civilian and military health. The NASEM committee of experts will gather input from public and private experts and stakeholders; explore and assess the public and military health burden of TBI; examine the current landscape of TBI research;

and consider such issues as improving TBI systems of clinical care from acute care through rehabilitation. The report will provide a road map for advancing both research and clinical care over the next decade. ■

MCW Receives Campus Compact Award

MCW is the recipient of the 2020 *Richard Guarasci Award for Institutional Transformation* by Campus Compact, a national coalition of colleges and universities committed to the public purposes of higher education. The award recognizes four-year or graduate education institutions that have successfully implemented institution-wide efforts to address issues of public concern by aligning teaching, research, practice and values in service of the common good.

MCW was recognized as a national leader in community engagement through its integration of engagement into research, education and clinical care with the goal of advancing health policy and advocacy and addressing the social determinants of health. Campus Compact noted that MCW demonstrates a deep strategic commitment to community and is embracing its responsibility as a place-based institution to address diverse health needs throughout Wisconsin. ■

NEWS FOR ALUMNI

The Alumni Association is Dedicated to Facilitating the Lifetime Connection of Alumni and Students

Reflections on the past year highlight the importance of healthcare leaders and illustrate the enormity of our pledge to dedicate ourselves to the service of humanity through the art and science of medicine. Each day we move forward with a greater sense of our role to care for our communities and educate the next generation of physicians, scientists and pharmacists. We continue to focus on MCW alumni around the globe who stand on the front lines combating COVID-19.

As our MCW students moved forward through 2020 – with persistence, determination and resilience – we wanted them to feel embraced. The Alumni Association started the Masks4Students initiative, in which we presented each student with an Alumni Association mask with our tagline, “We’ve got you covered” – not just with this gift, but always. The Alumni Association is dedicated to facilitating the lifetime connection of alumni and students with MCW and each other.

As alumni, the need for our continued commitment to our students cannot be understated. We recently launched the **Mentor Connections for Wisdom and Wellness** program, which provides an opportunity for our students and alumni to engage on academic and professional goals. Please join me at mcwengage.com and reach out to a student today. As you know, many of our students are not from Wisconsin, so connecting to alumni from around the country and internationally is very important.

The monthly Alumni E-Newsletter is a valuable resource for alumni communications. We thank those who responded to our “Alumni Opportunities” with



“As alumni, the need for our continued commitment to our students cannot be understated.”

– Dr. Matthew Goldblatt

participation in the 3rd Annual MCW Student Health Sciences Conference, and were thrilled to have alumni from seven different states represented in the virtual format. We also brought many MCW classmates together as we hosted virtual reunion meetings for numerous classes that would have celebrated in-person reunions in 2020. Our ability to connect is vital, so if you are not receiving the Alumni E-Newsletter or invitations to the virtual meetings, please share your contact information at alumni@mcw.edu.

We want to hear from you! Please complete the MCW Magazine Survey at mcw.edu/readersurvey. Your feedback on this quick survey is essential to ensure that we are keeping up with the communication needs and preferences of our alumni.

Finally, we are so grateful for how our alumni community contributes to the vibrancy of the MCW learning environment. Your partnership in the Hope to Health Campaign will sustain the advances we’ve already made and will help to meet every challenge the future will bring. Thank you for your support and your continued engagement! ■

2020 Walter Zeit Leadership Awardee

The 2020 *Walter Zeit Leadership Award* was presented to Mario Castellanos, a fourth-year medical student at MCW-Milwaukee.

As an M1, Castellanos served as the class representative to Student Assembly and as an M2, served on the Student Curriculum Evaluation Committee. In his senior years, Castellanos served as a near-peer coach in the 4C Program and was co-president of Student Assembly's Organizations Committee. In addition, he has been a Student Interviewer for both the Admissions Committee and the pipeline programs. He is an active member of the Latino Medical Student Association as community outreach chair, and has worked to increase access to healthcare for the Hispanic community in Milwaukee.

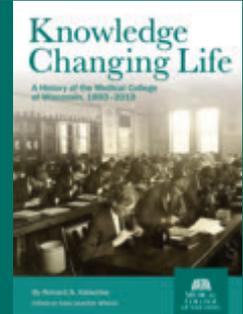
As a student tutor, Castellanos has conducted individual and group sessions, providing condensed and effective reviews of M1-2 classes with a focus on physiology. Additionally, he assisted underclassmen in their preparation for USMLE 1. As an M2, he was runner-up for the *Excellence in Tutoring Award* – and won the award as an M3.

Walter Zeit, PhD '39, left a far-reaching legacy during his career at MCW that spanned almost 60 years and included the teaching of more than 4,500 medical students. Dr. Zeit matriculated at the Marquette University School of Medicine (MCW's predecessor) in 1920 and joined the anatomy department as a student assistant in 1921. After Dr. Zeit retired, the late Derward Lepley, Jr., MD '49, formed the Walter Zeit Fellowship in 1980 to honor Dr. Zeit for his contributions to MCW. ■



Mario Castellanos is the 2020 Walter Zeit Leadership Award recipient.

Knowledge Changing Life Available for Purchase



Knowledge Changing Life: A History of the Medical College of Wisconsin, 1893-2019, written by MCW Chief Historian Richard N. Katschke, MA, was published recently. The 720-page book explores MCW's 125+ years of accomplishments, challenges and controversies, and serves as a comprehensive history not only of MCW, but also of Marquette University, Milwaukee County and Milwaukee's hospitals and healthcare facilities. It is available for purchase through the MCW online retail store at mcw.edu/historybook for \$35.00 plus tax and shipping. Questions? Contact MCWmagazine@mcw.edu.

Show Us Your Alumni Association Mask!



Top: James Wu, MCW-Milwaukee Class of '21

Bottom (l-r): Briana Meyer, PhD student in biophysics

Danica Vendiola, MCW-Milwaukee Class of '24

MCW Vaccine Clinic Highlights the Expanded Role of the Pharmacist

The advent of the COVID-19 vaccine doses in late 2020 offered a ray of hope after a difficult year and created a universal desire to put an end to the pandemic. In response, the Office of Research at MCW stood up a vaccine clinic on site and School of Pharmacy faculty, staff and students were the first to respond to the call to administer more than 17,000 vaccines to healthcare personnel and other eligible populations.

MCW's School of Pharmacy prepares students to fulfill the expanded role of the pharmacist, which includes administering vaccinations. And because students participate in an accelerated three-year pharmacy degree (PharmD) program with early exposure to clinical settings, second- and third-year students can administer vaccinations while first-year students can facilitate clinical work including compounding medications.

"Not only do students study immunizations and how they work, they learn the skills necessary to administer them appropriately," explains Karen J. MacKinnon, BPharm, RPh, assistant professor, School of Pharmacy. "The vaccine clinic allowed them to practice these skills at a very important time in our history."

Carol Eling, nurse practitioner, was the first person to receive a vaccine at the MCW clinic. "I was so excited, and for me, the decision was easy. I didn't want to be scared anymore about getting COVID-19. I wanted to see and hug my children, grandchildren, siblings and friends, as well as attend church. The MCW clinic gave me that opportunity."

Kristin Busse, PharmD, BCPS, assistant professor, School of Pharmacy, and Research Oversight Program director, Office of Research, served as a natural



MCW School of Pharmacy faculty and students assisted in providing more than 17,000 vaccines to healthcare personnel and other eligible populations on the first floor of MCW's Hub for Collaborative Medicine.

bridge between the Office of Research and the School of Pharmacy to stand up the vaccine clinic. "The rollout of the clinic was truly a team effort. Our amazing group of faculty, students and staff supported each other with grace and magnanimity during a critical and monumental time," says Dr. Busse.

Asia Mian, PharmD candidate, Class of '21, took time out from his holiday break to administer vaccines at the clinic. "I was there the very first morning, and it was surreal. So many healthcare workers wanted to mark the occasion with pictures. It was emotional for so many to receive the vaccine, and I felt grateful that I could be the one administering it to them," Mian shares.

Many of those who received their vaccination at the MCW clinic were motivated by the positive energy of the clinic team and joined in on the effort.

"From sanitizing patient sitting areas and drawing up syringes to administering the vaccine – everyone involved felt they had a purpose and were making a valuable contribution," says professor MacKinnon. ■ – MAUREEN REMMEL

New Pharmacy Residencies

The MCW School of Pharmacy has developed a Community-based Pharmacy Residency Program in partnership with three local pharmacies: Evergreen Pharmacy, Good Value Pharmacy and Welltopia Pharmacy. The residency program, beginning in July 2021, will offer intensive patient care and faculty development experiences that will prepare residents as community-based primary care pharmacists and academic leaders who ensure access to high-quality, innovative primary care services, reduce health disparities and promote community wellness.



MCW Welcomes New Faculty and Administrative Leaders



Terri A. deRoos-Cassini, PhD, MS
Associate Professor of Surgery (Trauma and Acute Care Surgery), Director of the Comprehensive Injury Center

Terri A. deRoos-Cassini, PhD, MS, associate professor of surgery (trauma and acute care surgery) at MCW, was named director of the Comprehensive Injury Center (CIC), effective August 1, 2020. She received her master's and doctoral degrees in clinical psychology from Marquette University in Milwaukee and completed her internship at the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center with an emphasis on health psychology and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) after combat trauma.

Dr. deRoos-Cassini completed her postdoctoral clinical and research training at MCW, with an emphasis in trauma and health psychology and a research agenda related to the quality of life of trauma patients.

She also is the director of the Froedtert & MCW trauma psychology program that provides psychological assessment and intervention to survivors of traumatic experiences likely to suffer such diagnoses as PTSD. Dr. deRoos-Cassini co-founded and co-directs the Milwaukee Trauma Outcomes Project, a city-wide research collaborative of basic, translational and clinical scientists related to outcomes and health disparities regarding individuals who have experienced trauma. ■



John R. Mantsch, PhD
Chair and Florence Williams Professor, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology

John R. Mantsch, PhD, joined MCW on January 1, 2021, as professor and chair of the department of pharmacology and toxicology. He also was awarded the Florence Williams Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology by MCW's board of trustees.

From 2012-2020, Dr. Mantsch served as professor and chair of biomedical sciences at Marquette University in Milwaukee. He also was a faculty member in Marquette's Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Graduate Program and an adjunct faculty member in MCW's Institute for Health & Equity.

Dr. Mantsch's research involves the preclinical study of neuropsychiatric disease with a focus on understanding the neurobiological underpinnings of addiction. He has earned funding for his current research projects from the National Institute on Drug Abuse and has been a principal investigator on seven National Institutes of Health grants totaling more than \$10 million.

Dr. Mantsch also is involved in central nervous system medication development and is a co-founder of startup Promentis Pharmaceuticals. The company's drug development efforts are focused on the neurotransmitter glutamate and its critical role in the pathophysiology of schizophrenia and other diseases. ■



Adrienne Mitchell, MBA
Vice President and Chief People Officer

Adrienne Mitchell, MBA, joined MCW as vice president and chief people officer on January 1, 2021. She previously served as vice president, chief human resources officer and chief information officer at Wayne Health in Detroit. In her new role, she oversees and directs the strategy and operations of MCW's human resources office and office of faculty affairs, as well as oversee the development, well-being and advancement of faculty and staff.

During her more than 25-year career in human resources, Mitchell has held positions of increasing responsibility. In her prior role, she reported to the CEO and president and was the senior executive responsible for the human resources, payroll, credentialing, marketing and communications, information technology and decision support functions.

A few of Mitchell's many leadership accomplishments at Wayne Health included overseeing the modernization of HR processes; advancing the employee compensation program; implementing annual employee evaluation and merit review processes; and developing a clinical staffing model with benchmarks. ■

— GREG CALHOUN

Taking a Stand for Equity

MCW Graduate Student Helps Launch “Black in Neuro,” a Celebration of Black Excellence in Neuroscience-related Fields

When calls for racial equity reverberated across the US in 2020, inspiring people across the nation, fourth-year MCW student Thiago Arzua took action. Arzua, a native of Brazil and advocate for social justice across racial/ethnic, gender and LGBTQ platforms, helped launch a new movement, sparked by a well-publicized confrontation in New York’s Central Park in May 2020 involving a woman who was walking her dog and unnecessarily called police on a Black birdwatcher.

That incident, which went viral, sparked a chain of events that led to the creation of “Black in Neuro,” a celebration of Black excellence in neuroscience-related fields. Arzua, who doesn’t identify as Black but considers himself an ally, is one of the organizers and leaders of Black in Neuro.

Arzua says the incident also inspired a series of awareness campaigns on the social media platform Twitter to inspire Black youth both to see themselves in STEM fields and to highlight the experiences of underrepresented Black students. These campaigns use custom hashtags, such as #BlackInChem and #BlackInCardio, to enable and encourage users across the globe to engage in conversations on their respective topics.

Arzua’s colleague in California used this tactic and tweeted a post using the hashtag #BlackInNeuro. Arzua tagged some friends, retweeted the post, which then went viral – launching an effort to shine a light on Black neuroscientists that quickly grew from a snowball to an avalanche.

“By the following Saturday we had held a meeting during which 20 people expressed an interest in helping,” Arzua says.

“Three weeks later, we had \$100,000 in donations.”

Financial and other support came from organizations and schools across the country and the globe, including from MCW.

Arzua acknowledged that most grassroots efforts don’t gain this type of traction so quickly. But, he notes, with George Floyd in everyone’s hearts and on their minds, and

“At the institutional level, it can be a challenge or take time to react...I hope that ‘Black in Neuro’ serves as a model for how to respond.”

– Thiago Arzua, MCW graduate student

so much pent-up energy from the pandemic shutdowns, a wave of momentum was created that continues to this day. The group’s first event, a “Black in Neuro Mini-Conference,” ran from late October to early November 2020 and was a huge success.

The conference featured five days of prominent and diverse speakers (all paid for with donated funds) and an entire day dedicated to discussions about how racism has historically been present in neuroscience research. Other discussions focused on mental health and additional timely issues. “All of those discussions were in the context of neuroscience,” Arzua shares.

In addition, 500 students, postdoctoral fellows and faculty members of color in the neuroscience field were profiled on the group’s website. “Now we have a nice resource where people can go to and find more diverse speakers,” Arzua remarks.

Another highlight of the conference was the ability to learn about the different types

of racism experienced by neuroscientists from different parts of the world, including the US, England and Canada.

Since the Black in Neuro Mini-Conference, the group also has partnered with the Neuromatch Conference, a three-week intensive course/conference that features competitions among scientists. Though things have slowed down recently, Black in Neuro is still in motion – as the group hopes to create an endowment that would fund scholarships and launch the organization as an official nonprofit.

Arzua’s current role with Black in Neuro is to support community engagement and help the group further expand its scope. He is hopeful that the movement serves as a model for how organizations – some of which are limited or delayed in their response to real-life issues of concern in the communities they serve – can become more reactive, ramp up their diversity and inclusion efforts, and increase awareness about the racism faced by Black neuroscientists and others.

“At the institutional level, it can be a challenge or take time to react,” Arzua says. “I hope that Black in Neuro serves as a model for how to respond.”

Arzua recently was accepted into a competitive Society for Neuroscience (SfN) “Early Career Policy Ambassadors” program in which he meets with lawmakers and other leaders to advocate for policy and increased science funding. He is continuing his work on MCW’s Diversity and Inclusion Action Committee while also looking forward to graduation and starting his postdoctoral career, where he hopes to continue his research on brain modeling and examination of certain diseases.

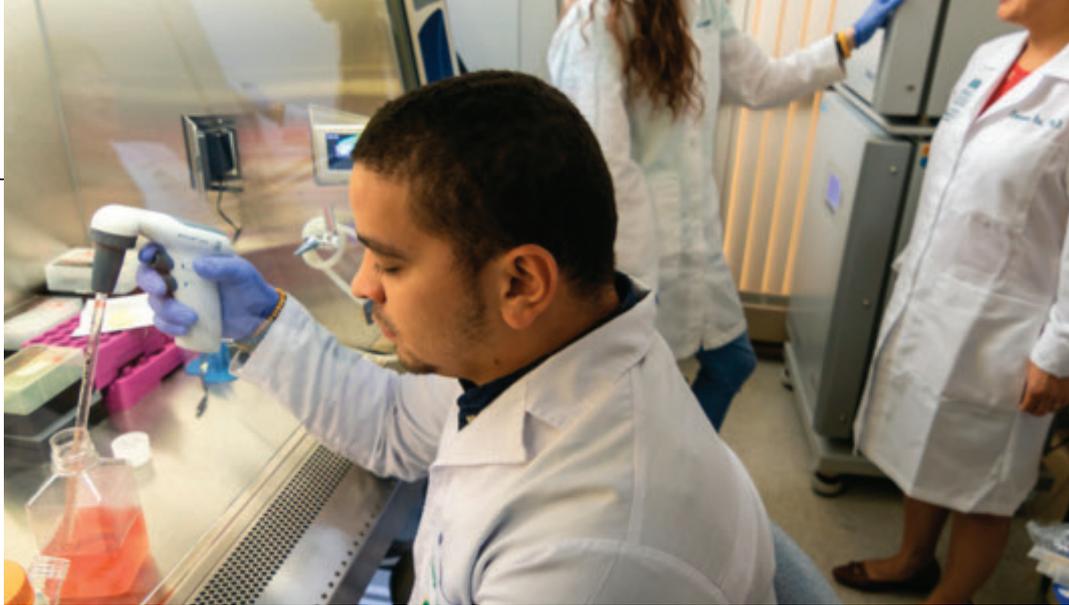
Top to bottom:

Thiago Arzua is an MCW graduate student in cell and developmental biology.

Arzua (top row center) attends a virtual meeting with other Black in Neuro organizers.

Arzua poses in front of US Senator Tammy Baldwin's office while participating in the "Early Career Policy Ambassadors" program.

PHOTOGRAPHS IN WHICH INDIVIDUALS ARE NOT WEARING MASKS WERE TAKEN DURING A VIRTUAL MEETING OR BEFORE THE PANDEMIC.



Wherever he ends up and whatever he does, Arzua knows he will continue to advocate for social justice.

"I will continue to study and have these important conversations about race," Arzua confirms. ■

— MCW MAGAZINE STAFF



New Graduate School Programs

MCW continues to expand its educational offerings as it becomes a comprehensive health sciences university.

Starting in the fall 2021 term, MCW's Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences will enroll students in five new degree and graduate certificate programs:

- Biostatistics & Data Science (MA)
- Genetic Counseling (MS)
- Neuroethics (Certificate)
- Precision Medicine (MS) (see page 5)
- Public Health (DrPH)

The aim of these programs is to expand the knowledge, skills and attributes needed for various health-focused professionals to better understand ways of improving health.

More information about these and other MCW graduate-admitting programs is available at mcw.edu/gradprograms. ■

— ANTHONY J. PEREZ



Hope to Health

Historic Philanthropic Campaign for MCW and Froedtert Hospital Sets Records

By Michael J. Mathias

Hope to Health, the Campaign for the Medical College of Wisconsin and Froedtert Hospital, concluded December 31, 2020 – achieving a record amount of philanthropic support and engagement from the community and raising more than \$300.4 million for the campaign’s strategic priorities.

“This campaign was about securing the future of healthcare for us all,” says Linda Mellows, MCW trustee emerita, community leader and a key advisor for the campaign. “I am immensely proud of what we have accomplished to build safer, healthier and more equitable communities.”

“With the momentum from this campaign, we are extremely well-positioned to have an impact on some of the most pressing needs facing our community,” adds Cory Nettles, former chair of the MCW board of trustees, business leader and a member of the Hope to Health Cabinet.

In 2015, John R. Raymond, Sr., MD, MCW president and CEO, launched the campaign with Cathy Jacobson, president and CEO of Froedtert Health, to elevate access to research-based healthcare across the region, boost education programs for medical professionals, address the devastating burden of cancer and support partnerships with the community to reduce healthcare disparities.

“The leadership and generosity of our donors will benefit this community for generations,” says Dr. Raymond. “These philanthropic investments bolster all of our work, from new medical discoveries that cure diseases and treat injuries to addressing the health disparities that have disadvantaged our community, both economically and socially – especially racial inequities that require our urgent attention.”

“As the only academic health system in eastern Wisconsin,” adds Jacobson, “we already have been taking on the toughest problems in medicine and delivering care for patients and families not available anywhere else in the region. Philanthropy sustains these efforts and demonstrates this community’s strong endorsement that our work is critical to our future.”

The campaign was successful despite its final year taking place against the backdrop of three interrelated crises: the COVID-19 pandemic; a sharp economic downturn comparable to the Great Depression; and the ongoing crisis of racism and its impact on communities of color, especially in healthcare.

For many, these issues underscored the urgent need for strong, community-supported academic health systems that

work to deliver innovative care to those who need it the most.

“An enduring impact of this campaign should be the emphasis it places on our work to build trust in our communities,” says Eric Conley, president of Froedtert Hospital. “It is this trust that we need as we continue to respond to the COVID-19 crisis and as we rise to meet the challenges of the future.”

“Our community and our state deserve the very best care that academic medicine can offer,” notes Joseph E. Kerschner, MD ’90, FEL ’98, the Julia A. Uihlein, MA, Dean of the School of Medicine, provost and executive vice president of MCW.

“The events of the past year demonstrate that this care is enhanced by working with our partners to understand the real needs of the patients and families we serve.”



During the Hope to Health Campaign, the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, MCW and Royal Capital Group launched the ThriveOn Collaboration, a historic community-based investment to realize a vision for Milwaukee that is equitable, healthy and thriving for all. The ThriveOn Collaboration will be housed in an iconic building in the Historic King Drive district at the nexus of three vital north side neighborhoods – Halyard Park, Harambee and Brewers Hill – with faculty and staff of MCW’s community engagement programs and the Greater Milwaukee Foundation as anchor tenants. Guided by community priorities and data, the ThriveOn Collaboration will be a catalyst for additional investment and community impact to support five priority areas: housing, early childhood education, health and wellness, social cohesion and economic opportunity. The ThriveOn Collaboration was supported by a Hope to Health initiative led by African American philanthropists in the Milwaukee community, as well as a gift from Herb Kohl Philanthropies, and led to the endowment of a chair in health equity research held by Leonard E. Egede, MD, MS, director of MCW’s Center for Advancing Population Science, professor of medicine and associate director of diversity in the Genomic Sciences and Precision Medicine Center.



MCW president and CEO Dr. John R. Raymond, Sr. (at right) chats with Kern National Network for Caring & Character in Medicine (KNN) partners (from l-r) Dr. Stephanie Starr, Dr. Bonnie Miller and Dr. Bill Cutrer at the June 8, 2017, Kern Institute and KNN launch event at MCW.

Historic Firsts

The Hope to Health Campaign saw several historic firsts for MCW and Froedtert Hospital, including MCW's largest one-time gift to support innovation in medical education, an unprecedented investment to further pediatric cancer research, contributions elevating the Genomic Sciences and Precision Medicine Center, and an expansion of clinical trials and patient care technologies at Froedtert Hospital.

"By almost any measure, this campaign was an amazing success," says Jay B. Williams, president of the Medical College of Wisconsin board of trustees.

"The engagement from MCW alumni, the range of giving and the new and reinvigorated collaborations with community partners to improve health-care education and increase access to patient care has brought us to new heights," Williams adds.

In 2017, the Kern family and the Kern Family Foundation announced a \$37.9 million contribution to establish the Robert D. and Patricia E. Kern Institute for the Transformation of Medical Education at MCW and the Kern National Network

for Caring & Character in Medicine (KNN), a collaboration of seven medical schools: Dell Medical School; Geisel School of Medicine; Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine; MCW; University of California San Francisco School of Medicine; University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health; and Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

The contribution represented the largest individual noncorporate gift to MCW and made headlines as MCW and partners assumed a leadership role in reimagining healthcare education and practice.

In addition, former MCW trustee chair Stephen Roell and his wife, Shelagh Roell, PhD, provided a substantial gift to establish the Stephen and Shelagh Roell Endowed Chair of the Kern Institute. The inaugural chair holder was Cheryl Maurana, PhD, professor and senior vice president for strategic academic partnerships and founding director of the Kern Institute and KNN.

\$300 MILLION +

RAISED THROUGH 12.31.20
... A 50% INCREASE OVER OUR
ORIGINAL \$200 MILLION GOAL

"The Kerns' vision was to encourage an approach that starts before medical school and continues well beyond so that physicians deliver compassionate care marked by character and caring," Dr. Maurana remarks.

The Hope to Health Campaign also saw the establishment of 14 new chairs and professorships, as well as two new deanships – one each for the MCW School of Medicine and MCW-Central Wisconsin. These positions are critical to faculty recruitment and retention efforts and provide support for a wide variety of academic priorities including student scholarships, seed grants for research and training programs for residents and fellows. The two deanships were the first in MCW's history.

Continued on page 16



Pete McPartland, chair of the board, president and CEO of Sentry Insurance, congratulates Lisa Grill Dodson, MD, Sentry Dean and founding dean of MCW-Central Wisconsin. (photo taken December 2019)



Dr. Joseph E. Kerschner received the inaugural endowed deanship for the School of Medicine established with a Hope to Health campaign gift from Julia A. Uihlein, MA '99. For more than three decades, Ms. Uihlein has served as a leader, educator and prominent advisor to MCW, Children's Wisconsin and Froedtert Hospital. In her roles as an MCW trustee and work in the fields of ethics and medical humanities, she has left an indelible mark across the academic medical center. By establishing a deanship for the MCW School of Medicine, she is leaving a legacy that will help MCW retain the best and brightest faculty, and accelerate efforts that support learners across the spectrum and reduce healthcare inequities.

Other campaign gifts reflected the significant role that MCW has in advancing new medical discovery that led to innovative patient care.

The MACC Fund, MCW's largest donor with gifts dating back to 1976, announced in 2019 an unprecedented investment in new pediatric cancer and blood disorders research in the region by pledging \$25 million. The MACC Fund contribution supports the researchers, physicians and scientific infrastructure needed to advance high-impact discovery science, accelerates new therapies for children with cancer and supports programs that

optimize the quality of life for patients after their treatments.

Gifts to the campaign from the Kurtis R. Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital Trust addressed multiple priorities in the hospital, including clinical trials that discover new treatments, technologies that improve safety and reduce recovery times, and investments in the training and development of staff to improve patient care.

Tina Curtis, vice president of the hospital's cancer service line, stressed the importance of contributions from the trust, which come from the estate of

CAMPAIGN ADVISORS

JON HAMMES (MCW BOARD OF TRUSTEES)

TED KELLNER (MCW BOARD OF TRUSTEES)

DAVID LUBAR (FROEDTERT HEALTH BOARD & MCW BOARD OF TRUSTEES)

LINDA MELLOWES (MCW TRUSTEE EMERITA)

Kurtis R. Froedtert, the business leader whose vision for improved healthcare delivery for southeastern Wisconsin led to the founding of Froedtert Hospital.

"Clinical trials are the culmination of medical discovery and give us the opportunity to provide new treatments for patients before they are available at other healthcare systems," says Curtis. "Investments from the trust are saving the lives of patients today and give us the opportunity to discover the next generation of cancer therapies right here in Milwaukee." ■



\$45 MILLION GIFTS FROM ALUMNI

At the October 2019 announcement of the MACC Fund's \$25 million pledge, Jon McGlocklin, co-founder, reiterated the shared goal of a world free of pediatric cancer spurred by cutting-edge medical discovery and clinical care advancements that will improve survival rates and quality of life for kids diagnosed with cancer or a blood disorder. Becky Pinter, president and CEO of the MACC Fund (at right), also spoke at the event.

Voices of Hope Reflect the Shared Priorities of the Campaign



"I'm hopeful for expanded research and education programs, where healthcare professionals come together to solve the toughest problems in medicine."

Daisy Sahoo, PhD



"Since I graduated, I've seen huge advances, and I hope we see continued improvement in all areas – patient care, research and education."

Bill Listwan, MD '68, GME '74



"I hope to pursue a career in science and medicine. Working in laboratories at MCW opened up a whole new world for me."

Miracle Powell
former MCW pipeline
program participant



"My hope is that all patients in need of behavioral healthcare have access when and where they need it."

Rob Gouthro, MD '07



(photo taken at the Heart of the Matter event in July 2019)

"We started this campaign with a vision to redefine health beyond healthcare and to work closely with our many partners to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to thrive. With your support, we will continue to drive innovations in education, research and patient care that make our communities healthier and more secure."

– Cathy Jacobson, president and CEO, Froedtert Health

– John R. Raymond, Sr., MD, president and CEO, Medical College of Wisconsin

Campaign Priorities

**Accelerating Research and
Advancing Patient Care**

**Transforming Healthcare
Education**

**Leading the Way in Cancer
Research and Care**

**Driving Health and Vitality with
Our Community**

Refocusing My Time & Efforts in Research

When the COVID-19 pandemic began in earnest in March 2020, life changed drastically for everyone – and in academia, bench science research took a back seat. Personally, I had to wind down my daily cell culture experiments and halt all in-person research on campus. I also received several conference and seminar cancellations, resulting, sadly, in unused or scrapped oral and poster presentations. I presume that every graduate student like me was filled with uncertainty and may have wondered how this would affect their thesis work and future careers. I realize now that this abrupt pause, during which all I could do was wait for better science and further direction, actually gave me a chance to reorganize my work and life.



“Today, as I plate my cells under the cell culture hood, I am reminded of the decades of research that enabled the rapid development of the vaccines approved by the FDA for emergency use.”

– Sai-Suma K. Samudrala, MCW MD/PhD student

As we shifted to a virtual work environment, I refocused my time and efforts in research. I improved my grant-writing skills through mentor-guided coaching and critically reviewed my preliminary data, research significance and experimental design. Like others, I learned to use Webex, Microsoft Teams and Zoom. While I embraced the virtual reality that had crept in, I also was starved for social interactions, especially as most everyone (including me) chose to turn off their video screens; thus, people I had seen in person became only “voices” during virtual chats. In May, I watched my medical student class peers – with whom I had matriculated in 2016 – graduate in a virtual Commencement ceremony. And although I rejoiced in their success, I lamented their loss of a grand celebration, which likely would have included a momentous gathering of family and friends.

Due to social distancing, my fiancé and I needed to reallocate the time that we usually had set aside for dining out and going to the movies – so we decided to learn how to cook. We purchased an Instant Pot and learned to make recipes like butternut squash soup, potato curry and miso ramen. I lost several pounds by tracking calories on MyFitnessPal. By joining the Graduate School Book Club, I ventured into new genres and had stimulating discussions with peers on topics such as the predisposition to believe strangers are telling the truth in *Talking to Strangers*, the racial and cultural divide in two countries in *Born a Crime* and knowledge as an essential ingredient to construct self-truth in



Due to social distancing, Sai-Suma Samudrala and her fiancé needed to reallocate the time that they usually had set aside for dining out and going to the movies – so they decided to learn how to cook.

Educated. While these pursuits kept me preoccupied during a time that could have been incredibly isolating, I was grateful to resume on-campus research. Our lab soon fell into the rhythm of a staggered schedule.

Today, as I plate my cells under the cell culture hood, I am reminded of the decades of research that enabled the rapid development of the vaccines approved by the FDA for emergency use. In early February, I received the second dose of the Pfizer vaccine, and I felt something that that I hadn’t in quite some time – relief. Now, as I traverse past eerily quiet hallways on the way to lab, I am reassured knowing that there will be a future when normalcy returns. ■

– SAI-SUMA K. SAMUDRALA

From March 2020 to Match 2021: Finishing Medical School During COVID-19

I remember the moment the email arrived in March 2020: “Students: Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we regrettably are suspending all patient care during clinical rotations starting tonight, Tuesday, March 17, at 5 pm through at least March 31.”

The email went on, sharing logistics and apologies, but I kept coming back to the first line. I don’t know how long I would have sat there if not for the stream of incoming texts from friends similarly stunned by the news: “Did you see?” and “What does this mean?” At the time, it felt like an unsettling mix between a childhood snow day and the start of an apocalyptic movie.



“It seemed as though my ability to continue to learn and contribute was indefinitely on hold. Yet I discovered that with the chaos came unexpected opportunities for growth and innovation.”

— Olivia Davies, MCW-Milwaukee Class of 2021

March 31, 2020, came and went without a return to campus. Away rotations for fourth-year medical students were called off, Step2 Board exams postponed, academic conferences hectically canceled – all while our hospital case numbers were exponentially rising. It seemed as though my ability to continue to learn and contribute was indefinitely on hold.

Yet I discovered that with the chaos came unexpected opportunities for growth and innovation. One of the first moments during which I recall regaining my footing was when I excitedly boxed up 700 home-assembled masks for the #MaskUpMKE campaign. My apartment was a flurry of circular hole-punch remnants, each a reminder that our remote learning status did not have to mean that we were relegated to the sidelines.

During April 2020, I worked closely with my preceptors to fine-tune a triage plan for telemedicine outreach to elderly at-risk populations, and in May, I finally returned to the wards. Carrying a quart-size container in which to store my N95 mask, a stethoscope and plastic goggles, I felt a palpable change. Jokes fell flat and the ability to mouth words of encouragement during quizzing on hospital rounds was lost. But we adapted. Thumbs-up signs and crinkled eye lines became social currency, and we traded knowing looks as we began to shake off the cobwebs and remember the way it had been.

Summer 2020 brought applications to residency and tips on how to set up the optimal home interview space. And soon, our makeshift kitchen table became a sprawl of keyboards, chargers, ethernet cables and lamps. Pre-interview plotting with my fiancé



Olivia Davies received her Match Day results on March 19, 2021.

was the closest we got to airline travel; “You are now free to move about the cabin,” I would text, jokingly. And he would, frantically grabbing snacks and coffee during my five-minute breaks, before throwing me a thumbs-up and ducking back into the other room.

Looking back through this past year, I can’t help but appreciate the gained insight: stark inequities no longer allowed to be ignored, cherished slow moments at home with my fiancé, chances to step up and reach out to the Milwaukee community, quiet nights reading books and early mornings doing the crossword. Here’s to a brighter 2021 and continuing to seek opportunity in the face of challenge. ■ — OLIVIA DAVIES

On March 19, Davies learned she had matched at Massachusetts General Hospital for her Internal Medicine preliminary year and Harvard-Combined Dermatology for her Advanced Residency.



(photo credit: University of Minnesota Medical School)

The first randomized clinical trial in the US using extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) technology to facilitate resuscitation of cardiac arrest patients with severe coronary artery disease showed that starting ECMO as soon as possible is paramount to improving survival odds.

When a Heart Stops

A Team of Paramedics and Healthcare Providers Offers New Hope

The last 50 years have been rife with improvements in cardiovascular treatments and chronic disease management that have enhanced quality of life while also producing dramatic reductions in deaths due to heart disease. These same positive trends, unfortunately, do not apply to an equal extent in the case of cardiac arrest, when the heart suddenly and unexpectedly stops beating. More than half of the approximately 660,000 cardiac arrests that occur in the US each year happen outside a hospital setting, requiring bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), automated external defibrillator (AED) use and a coordinated team of paramedics and healthcare providers to deliver the best combination of resuscitation care followed by swift transportation to a

hospital for specialized treatment. Even with excellent care, nearly 90 percent of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests are fatal.

“There is a misconception among many that cardiac arrests are often the last event of a long, well-lived life. In fact, 60 percent of patients are 59 years old or younger, and another eight percent are age 39 or younger. We have the opportunity to give back many healthy years of normal life to these people,” says Tom Aufderheide, MD, GME ’86, MS ’13, MCW professor of emergency medicine and director of the department’s NIH-funded Resuscitation Research Center and the Clinical Trials Office of the Clinical and Translational Science Institute of Southeast Wisconsin.

Although bystander CPR education efforts and the proliferation of AED devices have improved survival odds

over time, one subgroup of cardiac arrest patients has not benefited. These roughly 97,000 patients annually do not respond to three or more defibrillation shocks or to standard advanced cardiac life support treatment.

“Our research over the last five years discovered this population had severe coronary artery disease, with blockage leading to a nearly complete absence of



Dr. Tom Aufderheide is an internationally recognized researcher in the field of emergency cardiac care and resuscitation.

“I hope to have the opportunity to extend this new treatment to even more patients and families.”

– Dr. Tom Aufderheide

blood flow to the heart, triggering cardiac arrest. This blockage makes our standard of care almost completely ineffective and compelled us to design a new treatment for these patients – one that addresses the cause and would improve upon their roughly zero percent survival rate,” Dr. Aufderheide adds.

To that end, Dr. Aufderheide and his team at MCW worked with Demetris Yannopoulos, MD, at the University of Minnesota Medical School to conduct the first randomized clinical trial in the US using extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) technology to facilitate resuscitation of patients in this cardiac arrest subgroup. The ECMO machine pulls blood out of the patient’s body, pumps it through a part of the machine that acts as an artificial lung, and then returns it back as oxygenated blood to support the body while the heart isn’t beating or is too weak to meet the body’s needs. Using ECMO as life support provides a bridge to allow the cardiologist to clear the blockages associated with severe coronary artery disease that caused the cardiac arrest.

“This trial was the result of more than a decade of work that began with training paramedics to identify these patients quickly and accurately in order to transport them to the hospital for ECMO, clear the blockages and provide further intensive care procedures. We have learned that ECMO is a key component – but it is the program you build around the technology with paramedics and healthcare providers that creates the opportunity to save lives,” Dr. Aufderheide notes.

The team published findings from a study conducted in Minneapolis–St. Paul, known as the Advanced REperfusion STRategies for Refractory Cardiac Arrest (ARREST) trial, in simultaneous articles in *The Lancet* and its sibling publication, *EclinicalMedicine*, in November 2020.

Six of the 14 people in the ARREST study who received ECMO survived and were discharged from the hospital compared with only one of the 15 who received standard treatment.

While following up at three and six months after patients left the hospital, all six people who had received ECMO were alive and well compared with none of the patients who received standard treatment.

“We had initially planned to enroll at least 150 patients in this trial, but the independent Data and Safety Monitoring Board unanimously recommended that the trial be stopped early after analyzing data from the first cohort of patients. This was due to the overwhelming evidence of benefit, and the board determined it was unethical to continue providing the standard of care. So now, all patients in this subgroup in the Minneapolis–St. Paul metropolitan area are being provided ECMO-facilitated resuscitation,” Dr. Aufderheide says.

The team is hopeful that other communities will be interested in building similar programs because of the overwhelming success of these results in a patient population that previously stood little chance of survival. Dr. Aufderheide and his partners are discussing the potential of developing workshops to help others implement these programs. The team also is working on innovative approaches for delivering ECMO more quickly to continue improving sur-

vival rates and quality of life for survivors. “When you dig deeper into the data, it demonstrates that the single greatest determinant of survival is the amount of time from cardiac arrest onset to starting ECMO. Our average time is 60 minutes, and reducing it to 30 minutes would produce a significant survival benefit. It will take even more innovation and training, but we are up for the challenge,” Dr. Aufderheide notes.

Dr. Aufderheide is motivated by the results of this new approach to out-of-hospital cardiac arrest for the patients who previously had the worst prognoses.

“We now have survival dinners during which the patients and their families can meet the paramedics and providers involved in their life-saving care. You first see the patients alone, supported by an ECMO machine, and fighting for their lives. Then, when they’ve recovered and we spend time with them and their loved ones, we can see a future of decades of normal life,” Dr. Aufderheide adds.

“That’s what keeps me going. That’s why I went into medicine. I hope to have the opportunity to extend this new treatment to even more patients and families.” ■

– GREG CALHOUN

Dr. Tom Aufderheide and partners at the University of Minnesota Medical School are now using SUVs (shown below) and ambulances (shown on page 20) equipped with ECMO technology to start ECMO as quickly as possible for eligible cardiac arrest patients. (photo credit: University of Minnesota Medical School)





Dr. Jesse Ehrenfeld meets with community partners, including Al Castro of Milwaukee's United Community Center, and AHW staff at the Sherman Phoenix entrepreneurial hub in December 2019.

(Inset) Dr. Jesse Ehrenfeld with husband, Judd Taback, and son, Ethan.

Committed to Creating Opportunities for Better Health for All

Jesse Ehrenfeld, MD, MPH, senior associate dean at the MCW School of Medicine and professor of anesthesiology, is excited to give his 20-month-old son, Ethan, an opportunity to go sledding for the first time this winter. There's no doubt Dr. Ehrenfeld's excitement stems from being a father and a family man; his face lights up when discussing Ethan, his husband, Judd, or the two puppies they adopted this fall. But his desire to provide opportunities is not limited to just his personal life. It's also what drives his decision-making as director of Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin (AHW), a \$514 million endowment at MCW with a simple but powerful vision: creating a Wisconsin where everyone in every corner of the state has an opportunity to be healthy.

The AHW Endowment was established by MCW from an initial \$316 million gift

generated by the conversion of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wisconsin from a nonprofit organization to a for-profit corporation. The funds, entrusted to MCW on behalf of the people of Wisconsin, place AHW in a unique position nationwide, making it one of the only known health conversion funds to steward public dollars within a private institution.

"We take our stewardship mission very seriously. That includes the public oversight of the fund but also the awards themselves. We want our work to benefit all citizens of Wisconsin," says Dr. Ehrenfeld. This public mission shapes AHW's operations and has made its placement within MCW a critical ingredient in its success.

"We are a statewide philanthropy, but we call the MCW School of Medicine home," says Dr. Ehrenfeld. "This allows

us to combine the fuel that philanthropy has to create change in communities with the spark that academic medicine has to solve critical health problems."

Since 2004, AHW has invested more than \$279 million in 482 projects focused on community health improvement, biomedical research and health workforce development throughout the state. AHW funds have served to catalyze change and support impactful work – most recently providing a vital boost in Wisconsin's response to COVID-19.

A typical AHW funding cycle takes between six and 12 months – a rigorous process that must adhere to public mandates on the funds. So when COVID-19 struck Wisconsin in March 2020, Dr. Ehrenfeld wasn't sure there was sufficient time for AHW to fund the critical and urgently evolving needs. But

his deep commitment to Wisconsin residents – and its most vulnerable populations – drove the AHW team to find a way to make it happen. Quickly.

In less than four weeks, the AHW team and its oversight boards were able to provide \$4.8 million in emergency funding to help 17 projects take immediate actions to support response to the coronavirus, with a particular focus on marginalized populations such as communities of color, tribal communities, migrant populations and those who are transgender. These simple but vital projects developed culturally sensitive educational materials, produced and distributed personal protective equipment to first responders and nursing home workers, and reached the thousands of migrant workers who arrive each year to keep Wisconsin's agricultural industry in operation and food in our grocery stores.

All of AHW's community-based funding efforts follow this similar path: addressing a pressing statewide health need by investing in high-impact, promising work that brings communities, organizations and MCW researchers together to create sustainable solutions. One example of this is AHW's eight-year, nearly \$20 million commitment to advance mental and behavioral health.

One in four adults, and as many as one in five children, experience a mental health disorder in a given year. In 2016, AHW launched this initiative by forming 10 community coalitions across the state that have brought together the expertise and experience of 285 partner organizations with the academic and medical knowledge of MCW faculty to produce a positive and sustainable impact on the health of residents.

The investment already is showing signs of success. With six of the 10

coalitions focused on children's mental health, projects have increased the number of schools providing on-site mental health services in Marathon County, launched and expanded suicide prevention programs in schools in Winnebago County, and increased the workforce trained to address adverse childhood experiences in Eau Claire and Chippewa counties. Alongside that work, a coalition led by the Lac du Flambeau tribe is reaching families to reduce alcohol and drug dependency, while coalitions across the state have launched collaborative mental and behavioral health service navigation websites for residents.

AHW's reach also looks far into the future. Investment into biomedical and population health research is a commitment to the long runway of discovery needed to improve how Wisconsin can identify, treat and prevent disease. And an AHW investment of more than \$16.8 million to develop nine degree programs – including the MCW School of Pharmacy, MCW's regional campuses in Green Bay and Wausau, and new public health and master's degrees – is training Wisconsin's future workforce.

Today, investments like these all pass through a lens of health equity. It's a lens that AHW shares as a part of MCW's larger commitment to being an anti-racist institution.

Dr. Ehrenfeld wants to provide a healthy future to segments of the community who historically have been underserved. "As an organization, we simply must do better to meet the needs of those who have been historically marginalized and cast aside by society," he remarks.

For Dr. Ehrenfeld, it's all about one thing: improving health and advancing health equity in Wisconsin today, and for generations to come. ■

– ANTHONY BRAZA

"...we simply must do better to meet the needs of those who have been historically marginalized and cast aside by society."

– Dr. Jesse Ehrenfeld



Dr. Ehrenfeld has always been inspired to help others. He has advocated for and built programs to promote LGBTQ health and equity. His research centers around how information technology can be used, among other things, to improve access to care. He served in Afghanistan during both Operating Enduring Freedom and Resolute Support Mission to care for service members wounded in combat. He shares his expertise as a member of the American Medical Association board of trustees, recently completing a term as its chair, and as a health technology advisor to the World Health Organization.

For his efforts, Dr. Ehrenfeld was recognized in 2015 with a White House News Photographers Association award for his work in capturing photographs and supporting the lives of LGBTQ people, and, in 2016, with an Emmy nomination for his work on the *New York Times*-produced documentary, *Transgender, at War and in Love*. In 2018, he received the inaugural *Sexual and Gender Minority Research Investigator Award* from the director of the National Institutes of Health, and this past fall, he was named one of 10 emerging industry leaders by *Managed Healthcare Executive* magazine for being "one of the best and brightest in the industry."

A Match Made in Medical Heaven

What happens when the parent of a pediatric patient also becomes a valued and trusted colleague within the very same team that cared for the child? For Fouza Yusuf, MS, MPH, program manager in MCW's department of pediatrics' Center for Clinical Effectiveness Research – whose daughter began treatment for sickle cell disease (SCD) at age 14 at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin – it was a pleasant and rewarding twist of fate.

In January 2005, Yusuf and her daughter, Elodie Ontala, moved to Milwaukee to join Yusuf's husband, Tiburce Ontala, for his job with US Bank. Yusuf, a native of Kenya, had received her Bachelor of Science from the University of Nairobi and then earned a Master of Science in microbiology and a Master of Public Health from The Ohio State University. While there, she specialized in breast cancer research and was a data manager for a project with the National Comprehensive Cancer Network.

After the family's move to Milwaukee, Yusuf began looking to establish healthcare for 14-year-old Elodie. Her first stop? Children's Hospital of Wisconsin (now Children's Wisconsin). "It was a match made in medical heaven," Yusuf shares.

"The sickle cell program took care of all her needs and helped coordinate

communication among her healthcare providers. The staff were phenomenal professionals who knew exactly what to do. They worked with us to develop an individualized education program with Elodie's school, allowing her extra time to complete assignments. And through years of emergency room visits, hospitalizations, therapy sessions to assist in pain management and a transition to adult care at Froedtert Hospital, the comprehensive nature of the care provided by both Children's and the Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin health network has been indispensable to our lives."

Fate intervened in late March 2005 when Yusuf joined MCW as a program coordinator in the department of pediatrics' palliative care program. From 2008–2011, she held that same title in the department's division of general pediatrics.

In 2011, Yusuf transferred within the department of pediatrics to work with Julie Panepinto, MD, MSPH, MCW professor of pediatric hematology – the very physician who had cared for Elodie at Children's. In Yusuf's current role as program manager, she is responsible for managing the administrative, fiscal and research activities of the center.

"Working with a team of individuals who have dedicated their lives to caring for individuals like our daughter and who conduct research into this disease

is a privilege. I get to see firsthand how ideas are transformed into research that can impact lives like ours," Yusuf remarks.

In March 2020, Dr. Panepinto's team rapidly established a COVID-19 global registry for those with SCD to understand how the virus impacts this high-risk group of individuals. Currently there are more than 700 SCD patients worldwide listed in the registry. Data from the registry prompted the CDC in October to list SCD as one of the high-risk conditions of COVID-19 and has enabled patients to get priority status for the vaccine.

Elodie, now 30 years old, earned a master's degree in sustainable peacebuilding from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and works as a patient advocate liaison at Versiti Blood Center in Milwaukee. "This past August we celebrated her wedding in a small backyard event with immediate family and her close friends while observing necessary COVID-19 precautions. The excellent care she received from Children's and Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin made this special day possible. Knowing that the work I do is helping our family and others like us is not only deeply satisfying but rewarding beyond measure," Yusuf adds. ■

– SARA L. WILKINS



Elodie Ontala as a teenager (at left) and on her wedding day in August 2020 (at right), flanked by her proud parents, Fouza Yusuf and Tiburce Ontala. Elodie was diagnosed with sickle cell disease at birth and has received care provided by both Children's Wisconsin and the Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin health network.

Infectious Disease Physician at the Forefront of COVID-19 Care

Daniel P. McQuillen, MD '85, GME '88, president-elect of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), never could have imagined he'd be at the forefront of a global pandemic when he first entered an anatomy lab at MCW in 1981.

"At one point in spring 2020, we were running 150 ICU beds with four infectious disease physicians," says Dr. McQuillen, who is a senior physician at Lahey Hospital & Medical Center in Burlington, Mass. "We all worked the whole time; it was like a tsunami."

But infectious diseases (ID) wasn't on Dr. McQuillen's mind as a specialty when he started medical school. "My father was then the chair of neurology at MCW, but what attracted me, and especially kept me there for residency, was the clinical experience in a broad range of settings," Dr. McQuillen shares. "We practiced at the county hospital, several private hospitals and the VA, which allowed us to see the kind of variety of conditions and people we would run into in our future career."

As an internal medicine resident, Dr. McQuillen realized he could continue to see a diverse patient population if he were to specialize in ID, and he was hooked. "You treat people from all backgrounds and make an impact in curing their infections or preventing them," he remarks.

During his fellowship at Boston City Hospital, Dr. McQuillen encountered his first epidemic: HIV. "When I started out as a resident, no one really knew what HIV was, and then it really exploded when I was a fellow," he recalls. "I remember taking care of a number of HIV patients as a fellow and then a junior attending physician where I had no treatments to offer them."

Fast forward to 2020, and Dr. McQuillen can't help but compare the



(At left) Dr. Daniel McQuillen at the time of his graduation from MCW in 1985, accompanied by his father, Dr. Michael McQuillen, then chair of MCW's department of neurology. (At right) Dr. Daniel McQuillen in 2021.

two epidemics. "COVID-19 has the same sort of feeling of powerlessness as HIV, but it's like drinking from a firehose in how fast it's coming at you," he says.

As part of the IDSA board, Dr. McQuillen and colleagues made an intentional effort at the beginning of 2020 for the society to become a source of truth for both their medical colleagues and the public.

The pandemic also has shone a light on the shortage of ID physicians in the US, something Dr. McQuillen and the IDSA have been working to address for years.

"Over the past 10 years, there has been a decline in applications for infectious disease fellowships – mostly due to economics," he explains. "Students are coming out of medical school with huge amounts of debt, and they see that they would make substantially more money in a procedural specialty than in a cognitive specialty."

But Dr. McQuillen is hopeful that a silver lining of this pandemic will be an

uptick of interest in ID. "Our fellowship match was substantially more successful in filling positions this year than it has been in about a decade, and when I've interviewed people applying for either medical residencies or ID fellowships, they mention being inspired by physicians like Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Rochelle Walensky."

The pandemic also has strengthened Dr. McQuillen's passion for his specialty – reinforcing that he and his ID colleagues don't just take care of patients; they also take care of communities.

Dr. McQuillen reflects on the impact that his early years at MCW had on his ultimate choice of specialty. "I think six or seven people in my graduating class went into infectious diseases," he notes, including a student who worked next to him during anatomy class.

"That says something about the experiences we had," he adds. ■

– KARRI STOCK

ALUMNI NOTES

1960s



Donald R. Laub, Sr., MD '60, wrote an autobiography, *Second Lives, Second Chances: A Surgeon's Stories of Transformation*, which was published in April

2019. The book details his work in plastic and reconstructive surgery that changed the lives of thousands of people. He was recognized in 2013 by the American College of Surgeons as the recipient of the *Surgical Humanitarian Award* for being a pioneer in the field of global humanitarian surgery and the surgical correction of cleft lips and palates. Also, as one of the original surgeons to perform gender affirmation surgery, Dr. Laub became a committed advocate for the rights of transgender people.

Joseph E. Gutierrez, MA, MD '61, GME '66, is a past president of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia (MSDC). He also serves as chair of the MSDC delegation to the American Medical Association House of Delegates. Dr. Gutierrez is a past president of the Organization of State Medical Association Presidents and enjoys growing bonsai trees as a hobby. Dr. Gutierrez has seven children and seven grandchildren.

1980s



Martin J. Bergman, MD '82, was honored with the designation of *Master* by the American College of Rheumatology during the organization's annual meeting in November 2020. Recognition as a *Master* is one of the college's

highest honors. Throughout his career, Dr. Bergman has participated in multiple clinical trials to develop new therapies for rheumatoid arthritis and other inflammatory conditions. In collaboration with others, he played a key role in the development of the now widely used RAPID3 disease activity measurement tool. He also was a member of the International Treat to Target Task Force, which promoted the use of metrics to improve the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.



Andrew J. Haig, MD '83, moved to Vermont after becoming emeritus professor of medicine and business at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

His son, William, is an elite Nordic skier and his daughter, Molly, is a graphic designer. Dr. Haig's wife, Brigit, is enrolled in graduate school. Dr. Haig received the *Haim Ring Award* in 2020 from the International Society for Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in recognition of his global health work. He still practices physical medicine and rehabilitation and does consulting work with health systems, insurance companies and governments. He also stays active by skiing, biking and kayaking.

1990s

Robert A. Schulman, MD '91, serves as president of the Sonoma County Medical Association in Santa Rosa, Calif. He operates a private practice focused on musculoskeletal medicine, electrodiagnosis, regenerative medicine, pain medicine, medical acupuncture and musculo-

skeletal ultrasound. Dr. Schulman is registered as an herbalist with the American Herbalist Guild.



Michael J. Schwabe*, MD '91, GME '99, is a neurophysiologist with a company that conducts remote monitoring of electroencephalograms

across the US in addition to intra-operative monitoring. Dr. Schwabe lives in Milwaukee with his wife, Edie, and at least one of his seven kids at any given time. He enjoys running and exercising with the November Project, a fitness organization that promotes physical activity by organizing free, outdoor group workouts at more than 50 locations around the world. He also is an assistant professor of neurology at MCW.



Jonathan D'Cunha, MD '97, PhD '95,

was named chair of the department of cardiothoracic surgery at Mayo Clinic in Arizona. At MCW, he performed his thesis work in microbiology and immunology in the Medical Scientist Training Program. After surgical/subspecialty training in cardiothoracic surgery, Dr. D'Cunha became an accomplished academic surgeon and professor with research interests in thoracic oncology, lung transplantation and extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO).

* MCW faculty member



Jill S. Einstein, MD '96, is director of physician engagement for The MAVEN Project (Medical Alumni Volunteer Expert Network). MAVEN is a telehealth nonprofit service organization connecting physician volunteers to providers working in safety net clinics across the US. Through MAVEN's telehealth platform, volunteers provide medical consultations, education and one-on-one mentoring to support primary care providers. Prior to joining MAVEN, Dr. Einstein operated an internal medicine private practice and worked in healthcare philanthropy in San Francisco.



Candice S. Klug*, PhD '99, was named the James S. Hyde Professor of Biophysics at MCW. She was appointed director of MCW's National Biomedical Electron Paramagnetic Resonance (EPR) Center in 2016. As a prominent member of the national and international community of EPR scientists, Dr. Klug continues to build and sustain collaborative partnerships among researchers at MCW and institutions including Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Columbia University in New York City and the University of California, Los Angeles.

Dr. Klug's research interests focus on protein structure and dynamics. She

uses the site-directed spin labeling EPR spectroscopy technique to study the functional dynamics of soluble and membrane proteins essential to bacterial viability. Dr. Klug has served on a number of national study sections and review panels, including the NIH's Biochemistry and Biophysics of Membranes Study Section, P41 Biomedical Technology Resource Center Site Visit Panel and Biophysics of Neural Systems Study Section. Dr. Klug was featured on pages 8-9 in the 2020 *MCW Annual Report*.

2010s



Christopher J. Ford, MD '13, serves as an advisory board member for Wisconsin's Emergency Medical Services for Children. Dr. Ford also is one of nine voting members of Wisconsin's People's Maps Commission. The commission was created by an executive order of Governor Tony Evers, and its members were selected by an independent panel of judges. The group is tasked with creating redistricting maps for the state of Wisconsin in 2021. Dr. Ford practices emergency medicine at Ascension Columbia St. Mary's Hospital in Milwaukee.



Karan Johar, MD, FEL '13, authored the book, *Fighting Chronic Pain: Bring LIFE Back to Your YEARS!*, which was published in October 2020. He is a pain management

and rehabilitation specialist currently serving as the medical director for NYC Pain Specialists in New York. He takes a multidisciplinary approach to complex pain management including during the treatment of cancer and neurological and musculoskeletal pain, using therapies such as nerve blocks, intrathecal drug delivery systems, spinal cord stimulation, radiofrequency techniques and neurolytic blocks.

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IN MEMORIAM

1940s

George J. Hugo, MD '44,

of Duarte, Calif., died on December 8, 2020, at the age of 100. He was a colorectal surgeon and a fellow of numerous professional societies, including the American College of Surgeons and the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons. Dr. Hugo previously held teaching positions, served as chair of the Residency Review Program for Colon and Rectal Surgery and served as chair of the examination committee for the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery. He was a Green Bay Packers fan and enjoyed tennis, golf and taking his grandchildren on early morning doughnut runs. He is survived by six children, 11 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

1950s

Alex E. Molchan, MD '53,

of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., died on July 2, 2020, at the age of 91. He practiced in Brooklyn, N.Y., and Montclair, N.J., early in his career before moving his family and career to Fort Lauderdale. He was a lifelong learner keen on applying the latest medical knowledge. His many copies of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* and *New England Journal of Medicine* could be found piled on the floor of his study. Survivors include four children and five grandchildren.

Francis X. Van Lieshout, MD '55,

of Little Chute, Wis., died on September 6, 2020, at the age of 92. His practice in Little Chute included house calls at all hours and numerous telephone calls to his home. He delivered 2,500 babies throughout his career. When he retired from the practice of

medicine, the people of Little Chute honored his life of service with a community park dedicated in his name. Dr. Van Lieshout is survived by his wife, Josephine, seven children, 16 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Howard L. Kuhl, MD, GME '56,

of Redmond, Wash., died on March 25, 2020, at the age of 94. He was a surgeon in Modesto, Calif., and, along with a group of local physicians, founded the Doctors Hospital of Modesto in 1962. He also loved educating and actively instructed residents through University of California Health. As a volunteer, Dr. Kuhl treated patients at Modesto's City Hospital and advocated for improved educational models to enhance learning for children with disabilities. He is survived by his wife, Betty, two children, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

John A. Wagner, MD '58,

of Tucson, Ariz., died on January 23, 2020, at the age of 86. He practiced otolaryngology for many years before retiring in 2004 in order to have time to travel with his family. He volunteered for seven years in the island country of Palau, where he provided ear surgery and care during the summer. Dr. Wagner loved trying new activities including scuba diving, sculpting, astronomy and faceting gemstones. Survivors include his wife, Marletta, one child and two grandchildren.

Thomas M. McCarthy, MD '59,

of Madison, Wis., died on July 27, 2020, at the age of 85. He completed his internal medicine residency and training in pulmonology while serving in the US Air Force. He was assigned to the Wright Patterson Air Force Hospital near Dayton, Ohio, as chief of internal medicine and the pulmonary function laborato-

ry. Dr. McCarthy served in the active reserves with the 44th General Hospital unit and was on active duty in Operation Desert Storm. He retired as colonel of the US Army Medical Corps. In 1968, Dr. McCarthy began a private practice at the Quisling Clinic in Madison and established the pulmonary function lab at what is now Meriter Hospital. In 1978, he joined the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health and retired as professor emeritus in 2007. He enjoyed mentoring residents and medical students. He also was an avid reader who was never without his transistor radio and a mug of coffee. Dr. McCarthy is survived by his wife, Jeri, three children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

1960s

John D. Brusky, MD '63

of Green Bay, Wis., died on February 6, 2021, at the age of 84. He practiced as an internist for 42 years including many home visits before retiring in 2005. Dr. Brusky ended his career as a volunteer physician at NEW Community Clinic in Green Bay. He went on to volunteer as a tutor at Literacy Green Bay in his retirement years. His experience there led him to become an advocate for immigrant families. He enjoyed reading, golfing and traveling, and was a patron of the arts. Survivors include his wife, Joan, two children and one grandchild.

William J. Dowling, Jr., MD '63,

of Phoenix, died on September 22, 2020, at the age of 83. He practiced family medicine for 40 years in Scottsdale, Ariz., where he enjoyed diagnosing and treating generations of families. He loved photography, storytelling, golfing, Native American art and Thai cuisine.

Dr. Dowling is survived by his wife, Marlene, four children and four grandchildren.

Lawrence L. Foster, MD '63, GME '68, of Brookfield, Wis., died on September 30, 2020, at the age of 83. He was an orthopaedist, hand surgeon and the Marquette University wrestling team's physician. He loved tending to athletes of any kind and could often be seen running across a sports field or court to evaluate a football player, soccer player, Olympian or professional basketball player. Dr. Foster also served as an associate professor of occupational therapy at Mount Mary University Occupation Therapy and was a faculty member for Marquette University's physician assistant program. He enjoyed traveling and skiing, but his favorite times were spent on the sports sidelines as coach, team doctor or fan. Survivors include his wife, Suzann, five children and nine grandchildren.

Gilbert J. Nock, MD '63, of Mequon, Wis., died on July 21, 2020, at the age of 89. In his psychiatric practice, he specialized in group psychotherapy and counseling women who had experienced abuse. Dr. Nock enjoyed snowmobiling, motorcycling, jet skiing and traveling in his RV. He also played guitar in two music groups. Dr. Nock is survived by his wife, Kathy, four children and nine grandchildren.

John S. Blackwood, MD '64, GME '71, of Brookfield, Wis., died on February 5, 2021, at the age of 82. He was a general and vascular surgeon for 48 years and previously served as a volunteer faculty member at MCW. He was a past president of the Ascension SE Wisconsin Hospital – Elmbrook Campus medical staff, the Milwaukee Academy of Surgery and the Waukesha County

Medical Society. He also was a former secretary of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American College of Surgeons. Dr. Blackwood enjoyed water sports, skiing, golfing and handball. He is survived by his wife, Molly, three children and three grandchildren.

Patrick A. Roe, MD '64, GME '70, of Fox Point, Wis., died on January 31, 2021, at the age of 82. He practiced as a board-certified internist at what is now Ascension Columbia St. Mary's Hospital in Milwaukee for nearly 35 years. He also worked in a private practice in Whitefish Bay, Wis., until 2005. Dr. Roe spent his last years as an internist caring for veterans at the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center in Milwaukee. He was a basketball and football enthusiast who enjoyed golfing and collecting golf memorabilia and antique Irish books. Dr. Roe is survived by his wife, Joan, and three children.

Terence V. Roth, MD '68, of Brookfield, Wis., died on December 25, 2020, at the age of 78. He practiced as a general surgeon for 34 years at four hospitals in south-east Wisconsin. Dr. Roth was a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a member of the American Medical Association, Wisconsin Surgical Society, Milwaukee Academy of Surgery, Society of Laparoendoscopic Surgery and the Medical Mediation Panel for the State of Wisconsin. His hobbies included photography, carpentry and gardening. He is survived by his wife, Marjorie, three children and six grandchildren.

1980s

William J. Polzin, MD '83 of Cincinnati, died on February 11, 2020, at the age of 62. He specialized in

maternal-fetal medicine and helped create the fetal surgery unit within the Fetal Care Center at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Survivors include his wife, Susan, four children and 10 grandchildren.

Michael A. Strigenz, MD '83, GME '88, of Fond du Lac, Wis., died on September 15, 2020, at the age of 63. As a major in the US Air Force, he served as an otolaryngologist for three years. He then served as an otolaryngologist in Fond du Lac for 24 years. He loved fishing, hunting, the Green Bay Packers and Marquette University basketball. Dr. Strigenz is survived by his wife, Mary, three children and three grandchildren.

Christopher R. Pfaendtner, MD '88, of Oshkosh, Wis., died on May 28, 2019, at the age of 60. He specialized in emergency medicine and practiced in Appleton, Oshkosh and Weston, Wis. He loved music, reading and travel. Survivors include his wife, Kate, and two children.

1990s

Timothy F. Lowry, PhD '99, of Eau Claire, Wis., died on October 28, 2018, at the age of 64. During his time at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, he contributed to the early scientific understanding regarding the effects of phosphorus on the state's lakes. He also made scientific contributions in respiratory physiology at MCW in the lab of Hubert V. Forster, PhD, professor of physiology. Dr. Lowry also advanced the knowledge of genes that was included in GenBank®, the National Institutes of Health's genetic sequence database that includes an annotated collection of all publicly available DNA sequences. He is survived by one child.

Continued on page 30

IN MEMORIAM

2000s

Matt Riese, MD '04, PhD '02,

of Mequon, Wis., died on December 1, 2020, at the age of 44. After completing his graduate medical education training and postdoctoral research fellowship, Dr. Riese was recruited back to MCW in 2012 as an assistant professor of medicine in the division of hematology and oncology. He was promoted to associate professor in 2018. Dr. Riese was widely known throughout MCW and its affiliate institutions as a clinician, scientist, educator and mentor. His research focused on cancer immunotherapies, and he was a lifelong student of history, nature, music and literature. Dr. Riese is survived by his wife, Annette, and two children.

2010s

Karen V. Evangelista, PhD '14,

died in June 2020. During her time as a graduate student in MCW's department of microbiology & immunology, she was known for her kind and generous nature, as well as her willingness to provide a helping hand to anyone in need. To honor her memory, the department has established the *Karen Evangelista Humanitarian Award* to annually recognize a microbiology & immunology student who exhibits these qualities and who serves as an exemplary role model to others. The winner will be announced at MCW's annual Distinguished Faculty Lecture in Infectious Diseases.

Special Remembrances

Marlene F. Listwan*

of Pewaukee, Wis., died on December 7, 2020, at the age of 78. She and her husband, William Listwan*, MD '68, GME '74, have been trusted partners of MCW for a long time. They gave back to future generations of medical students at MCW through a donation to the Class of 1968 Endowed Scholarship Fund that served as a challenge grant to inspire others leading up to the celebration of Dr. Listwan's 50-year graduation anniversary in 2018. After Marlene survived breast cancer, she and Dr. Listwan also developed a challenge grant when they established the Dr. William J. and Mrs. Marlene F. Listwan Fund in Cancer Imaging Research at the MCW Cancer Center. Most recently, they made a major legacy campaign gift that includes the MCW Cancer Center and Alzheimer's disease research. Marlene enjoyed performing music and was a gardener and an artist. She is survived by her husband, three children and their grandchildren.

Abraham J. Twerski, MD '59,

of Jerusalem, Israel, died on January 31, 2021, at the age of 90. He was a Hasidic rabbi and psychiatrist who made significant contributions to the treatment of substance abuse and authored more than 80 books on faith and medical topics. His rare combination of spiritual and scientific expertise garnered respect in Orthodox Judaism

as well as from the broader US public. Dr. Twerski led the Lubavitch Center, a Hasidic congregation in Pittsburgh, for many years. He also founded and served as the longtime medical director of Gateway Rehabilitation Center, a residential treatment organization that now has 22 locations in Pennsylvania and Ohio.

In addition to penning books, he wrote a column for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* and said in a 1991 column that he had helped treat approximately 30,000 people suffering from alcoholism and other substance abuse disorders. One of his most important achievements was reducing barriers and breaking through taboos about psychiatry and abuse within the Orthodox Jewish world.

Dr. Twerski is survived by his wife, Gail, four children and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Correction:

The Fall 2020/Annual Report issue of *MCW Magazine* erroneously listed William Brennan, MD '59, GME '60, as a founding partner of Medical Associates of Menomonee Falls, Wis.

The practice was founded by six physicians in 1961 and Dr. Brennan joined later that decade after initially practicing medicine in California.

*MCW is grateful to these alumni for their Legacy Society memberships.

Cheryl A. Maurana, PhD



Dr. Maurana is the Senior Vice President for Strategic Academic Partnerships, Founding Director of the Kern National Network and Professor of Population Health.

What Drives You?

From early on, I have been driven by a passion for knowledge, but equally important, the application of that knowledge to improve health broadly defined. I have learned that the most effective path toward that goal is through respectful, meaningful partnerships that are made stronger by engagement with thinkers with diverse experience and points of view.

What Has Been the Highlight of Your Career?

It has been an honor to provide collaborative leadership for many MCW initiatives over the years, but the highlight truly has been the many amazing and passionate faculty, staff and students with whom I have been privileged to work and from whom I have learned much.

What Do You Still Hope to Accomplish Over Your Career?

There are three things. The first is to contribute to the intellectual understanding of human flourishing, which in Latin means to bloom, blossom, flower and work to effect that through expansion of the reach and influence of our Kern National Network for Caring and Character in Medicine. The second is to advance gender equity at MCW and contribute to an environment in which all genders can thrive. And the third is to contribute to the reimagining of the university of the future.

What Would You Like Your MCW Legacy to Be?

That I was a servant leader and mentor, approaching the work with a spirit of abundance and gratitude. And that, in the spirit of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, I fought for the things I thought important, but did it in a way that invited other points of view and welcomed others to join.

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

My advice would be embodied in the following words of Betty Friedan, in a talk at my alma mater, Seton Hill College. "No one can tell you what you can or can't do; no one can tell you what you should or shouldn't do. Only you can tell yourself that." Those words would be punctuated by Seton Hill's motto: "Hazard Yet Forward."

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

Since joining MCW in 1995, Cheryl A. Maurana, PhD has been responsible for expanding inter-institutional academic efforts. She is known for her visionary thinking and her contributions to several areas of growth and excellence at MCW.

Dr. Maurana serves as MCW's first woman senior vice president. Her leadership is marked by a commitment to innovation and partnership, evident in her role as founding director of the \$514 million Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment that she led for its first 20 years. She has provided leadership for the development of MCW's Institute for Health & Equity, the PhD program in Public and Community Health, the MCW School of Pharmacy and MCW's regional campuses. She also serves as a senior advisor to the Center for the Advancement of Women in Science and Medicine, where she is an advocate for gender equity.

In 2017, Dr. Maurana led the establishment of the Robert D. and Patricia E. Kern Institute for the Transformation of Medical Education and was the first to hold the Stephen and Shelagh Roell Endowed Chair. She continues to provide leadership for the Kern National Network for Caring and Character in Medicine, a collaboration of seven medical schools to promote human flourishing (*see page 15*).

Dr. Maurana is the recipient of several awards, including the *Distinguished Alumna Award* from Seton Hill and MCW's *Distinguished Service Award*. ■

— EMILY MARQUARDT



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Within this packet are two publications that celebrate
the successful conclusion of Hope to Health:
The Campaign for the Medical College of Wisconsin and Froedtert Hospital —

- ***MCW Magazine Spring 2021***
- ***Hope to Health Impact Report***

A decorative graphic on the left side of the page consisting of several overlapping, stylized arrows pointing to the right. The arrows are in various shades of blue and green, with some having white outlines.

Hope to Health

The Campaign for the Medical College
of Wisconsin and Froedtert Hospital