

# MCW

magazine



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 alumni@mcw.edu / (414) 955-4781

**MCW MAGAZINE STAFF**

Sara L. Wilkins, MA, MPA – *Executive Editor*  
 Teresa Manion – *Production Manager*  
 Angela K. Nelson – *Content Strategist*  
 Kristin Pelisek – *Art Director*  
 Lyniece Rzepka – *Web Production Editor*  
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**Contributing Writers:**

Anthony Braza, John Burlingham, Greg Calhoun, Alex Krouse,  
 Michael J. Mathias, Maureen Remmel, Sara L. Wilkins

**Chief Development Officer/Vice President of Development:**

Alice G. Archabal  
 Vice President of Communications, Experience &  
 Brand Strategy: Mara Lord, MBA

**Senior Associate Vice President of Communications:**

Richard Katschke, MA

**CONTACT US**

Phone (414) 955-4725  
 Fax (414) 955-6699  
 E-mail: MCWmagazine@mcw.edu

Medical College of Wisconsin  
 8701 Watertown Plank Rd.  
 Milwaukee, WI 53226

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

## Moving Forward into 2016

Traditions surrounding the New Year include resolving to achieve personal/professional growth and setting priorities/goals. To that end, I am pleased to share some institutional initiatives and accomplishments we expect to achieve in 2016.

On the education front, our first class of medical students at MCW-Green Bay has begun clinical rotations. We are looking forward to matriculating our first class of Anesthesiologist Assistant students and our first class of medical students at MCW-Central Wisconsin. And we are excited to celebrate the graduation of our first class of Master's degree students from the Medical Physiology program. We welcomed Dr. George MacKinnon III as founding dean of the new School of Pharmacy and recently submitted our accreditation application. And we look forward to a successful reaccreditation site visit in late October for our Medical and Graduate Schools.

We continue to strengthen our partnerships with Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, Froedtert Health, the Zablocki VA Medical Center and BloodCenter of Wisconsin, and to expand our new partnership with Ministry Health Care/Ascension Health.

We are optimizing our research enterprise under the leadership of a new senior associate dean and associate dean for research and applaud the announcement of increased NIH funding (see stories on page 7).

We are continuing to move forward from our second successful five-year audit of the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment as it evolves from grantmaker to changemaker. Since launching in 2004, the Endowment has awarded more than \$192 million to greater than 350 initiatives dedicated to improving the health of the people of Wisconsin.

We are beginning construction on a new 225,000 square foot Professional Office Building, which will provide office space for up to 1,200 faculty and staff members – most of whom currently work in offices at Froedtert Hospital. And we expect to enhance our communications, marketing and branding efforts.

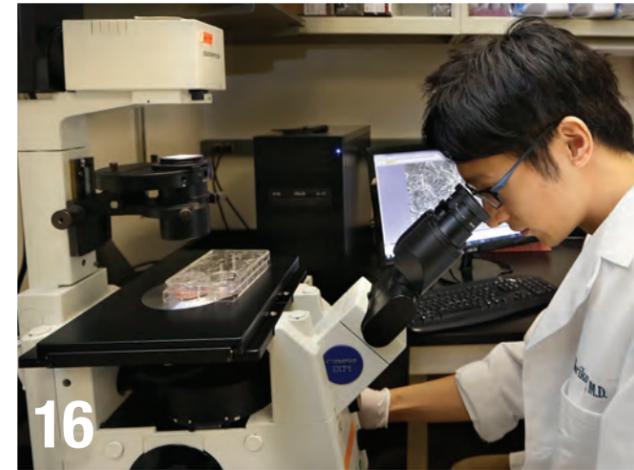
Based on our great people, our outstanding partners and the successful 2015 we created together, I look forward to 2016 with abundant optimism and gratitude. As always, I encourage you to share your input online or by contacting our executive editor at MCWmagazine@mcw.edu.

**John R. Raymond, Sr., MD**  
 President and Chief Executive Officer

“Based on our great people and our outstanding partners... I look forward to 2016 with abundant optimism and gratitude.”



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**ON THE COVER:** MCW physicians Dr. Johnny Hong (l) and Dr. Michael Zimmerman (r) perform a liver transplant on a critically ill patient in January 2016. MCW, as part of an academic medical center, is able to combine groundbreaking research, advanced surgical techniques and innovative education to achieve exceptional outcomes. **PHOTO CREDIT:** Philip Schultdt, RN.



# Meet the New Executive Director



Photo courtesy of Jay Westhauser

Seth Flynn and Angela LaLuzerne help ensure that the Office of Alumni Relations is warm, welcoming and meets a broad range of alumni needs.

**D**on't let his Southern drawl fool you! Seth Flynn, the new executive director of the Medical College of Wisconsin/Marquette Medical Alumni Association, feels right at home in Wisconsin. He is serious about his love of fried chicken, but even more so about connecting and engaging people in meaningful ways. After nearly 10 years at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine/UK HealthCare, Flynn has settled in at MCW and looks forward to working with alumni, students, faculty and staff for many years to come.

**What attracted you to MCW?** I was immediately impressed by alumni who participated in my interview. Each demonstrated great passion and strong affinity for the Alumni Association, as well as for MCW. After multiple conversations, it was clear: alumni are proud of their alma mater, the role it played (and still plays) in their lives, and, in some cases, even more so what it represents today. Similarly, everyone at MCW demonstrated unwavering dedication to ensuring alumni are engaged and part of the campus community. These things were evident from my first moments on campus and hold true today.

### What is your vision for the future of MCW's alumni relations program and the Alumni Association?

During my first few months, it has been essential to understand and listen – essentially, to absorb. I have spent a significant amount of time meeting with individuals, particularly

students. This was another alluring factor – the Alumni Association's commitment to supporting students. I want to ensure that the work of the Alumni Association represents the needs and desires of alumni, regardless of the program(s) in which they were enrolled (School of Medicine, Graduate School, Graduate Medical Education, etc.).

To that end, in collaboration with members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, I have identified three major areas that will guide alumni programming: area-of-interest/specialty-based activities; consistent, increased communication; and varied engagement opportunities. Technology has dramatically changed alumni engagement. Twenty years ago, reunions were the basis of alumni programming; today, with the advent of social media and other digital platforms, alumni are able to engage almost instantaneously. While we must continue with in-person traditions and activities such as reunions, we also must explore new means of connecting and engaging alumni. It excites me to continue to build upon the Alumni Association's solid foundation, and at the same time, to think about new opportunities to connect our alumni.

### What does the future hold for the Alumni Association?

MCW is in the midst of unprecedented growth and evolution: the opening of two regional Medical School campuses, the establishment of a School of Pharmacy, continued strength in extramural research funding, and numerous other



initiatives to advance its four missions. Clearly, the Alumni Association Board desires to take a leadership position in supporting MCW's people and programs.

I think we are in a unique position to inventively grow the alumni relations program. Alumni are definitely engaged, but there are ways to advance and progress in what we are doing and how we are doing it. It's too early for me to share more about some things we are working on behind the scenes, but I will say that we have some exciting things in store. I am definitely committed to building upon how we can support alumni and how they, in turn, can support our learners (medical students, graduate students, residents and fellows).

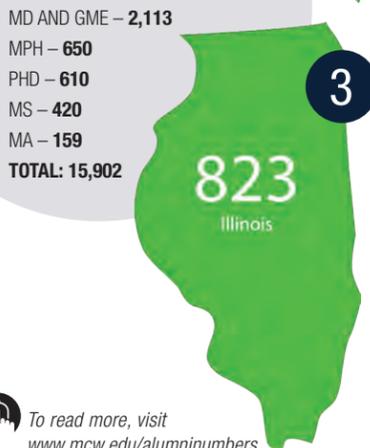
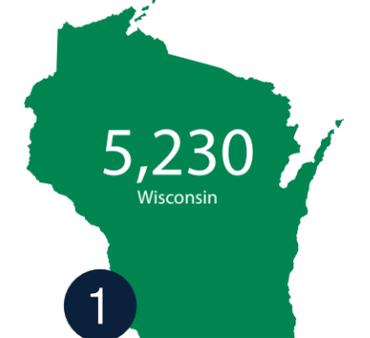
I am very lucky, and extremely grateful, to have been given this opportunity and entrusted with an alumni relations organization such as the one here at MCW. The Executive Committee, the Alumni Association Board and MCW administration have been incredibly supportive. I simply cannot thank Dr. Brian Bear enough for his commitment and service as the Alumni Association's president during this time of transition; his dedication to the role has been exemplary.

### When you reach your one-year anniversary in this role, what do you hope to have accomplished?

To have met as many alumni as possible, to continue to listen to their needs and focus on how the Alumni Association can help address them, to increase engagement – locally, regionally and nationally – and explore new ways to communicate with – not to – alumni. Alumni are doing extraordinary things outside of the MCW campus, and remarkable things are happening on campus as well. I hope to develop a comprehensive communications strategy that will allow for a higher-level information exchange. And there's more...much, much more beyond what I've mentioned. Let's just say I plan to stay very busy – not just in my first year but well into the future. ■

## By The Numbers

WHERE DO OUR ALUMNI LIVE?  
THE TOP THREE STATES



TOTAL NUMBER OF ALUMNI BY DEGREE:

- MD ONLY – 6,606
- GME (Residency and Fellowship) ONLY – 5,344
- MD AND GME – 2,113
- MPH – 650
- PHD – 610
- MS – 420
- MA – 159
- TOTAL: 15,902

To read more, visit [www.mcw.edu/alumninumbers](http://www.mcw.edu/alumninumbers)

**BRIAN J. BEAR, MD '84, GME '89**  
It's hard to believe I graduated from MCW more than 30 years ago. Sometimes it feels like only yesterday! I'm sure many of you can relate to this sentiment, regardless of your particular experience as a medical/graduate student, resident or fellow.



During my term as president of the MCW/Marquette Medical Alumni Association, I have been spending increasingly more time on campus and engaging with members of the MCW community – both as president and in a teaching capacity. As a result, I've realized that while our Alumni Association was created in large part “for the purpose of fostering a continuing interest in our institution” amongst our alumni, **our greatest investment should be in our current MCW students.**

Whether we are welcoming residents and fellows to campus, acknowledging the achievements of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, providing medical students with opportunities to learn or providing support for their projects and passions – **our greatest contribution as an Alumni Association is to foster positive experiences to benefit MCW students of all disciplines and professions.**

Undoubtedly, our positive impact will build pride and loyalty for our alma mater within our alumni-to-be. Our involvement places us in a unique position to impart our vast knowledge base of varied experiences with them. I would like to challenge you all to become more involved with our students at any level. To engage those who will be caring for us in the not-so-distant future is a noble thing. I hope you share my enthusiasm for continuing to bond with these outstanding individuals. ■

Are you looking for some way to connect with current MCW students but aren't sure who to contact? Look no further! Contact alumni association executive director Seth Flynn at [sflynn@mcw.edu](mailto:sflynn@mcw.edu) or (414) 955-4780.

# STAT REPORT

## Jeffrey A. Medin, PhD, Named MACC Fund Professor

Jeffrey A. Medin, PhD, has been named the MACC Fund Professor in the department of pediatrics at MCW. Dr. Medin has a distinguished record of accomplishment in the field of pediatric cancers, and MCW's research and clinical partners at the MACC Fund and Children's Hospital of Wisconsin (Children's) served as active participants in this crucial recruitment.

Dr. Medin formerly was professor in the department of medical biophysics and the Institute of Medical Science, Faculty of Medicine, at the University of Toronto. He also was a senior scientist with University Health Network, and director of the UHN Vector Core Facility at the Krembil Discovery Tower at the Toronto Western Hospital.

Dr. Medin's appointment as the MACC Fund Professor represents the importance of fighting cancer as a strategic priority of MCW, and highlights how MCW works closely with its partners at the MACC Fund and Children's to improve outcomes for children and families. The MACC Fund is the single largest private donor to MCW and the largest organizational donor to Children's – having provided a total of more than \$47 million in support of basic



MCW partners with the MACC Fund and Children's Hospital of Wisconsin to improve outcomes for children and families during some of the toughest moments of their lives.

science and clinical trials, as well as bringing research more quickly to the bedside and patient care.

"The MACC Fund Professor is another great chapter in the MCW and MACC Fund story. Dr. Medin will bring so much to MCW to help ensure that the MACC Fund does all it can to help give every child a fighting chance," says Jon McGlocklin, president and co-founder of the MACC Fund.

The MACC Fund Chair was established to recruit a distinguished researcher to MCW who would encourage the growth of MCW's basic science investigations and further develop MCW's translational research efforts with Children's. Dr. Medin's background as a

research innovator and scientific leader makes him uniquely well qualified to serve at the first MACC Fund Professor.

At MCW, Dr. Medin also holds the titles of vice chair of research innovation for the department of pediatrics, and research director within the section of pediatric hematology/oncology. Further, Dr. Medin serves as director, cell processing laboratories, Medical College of Wisconsin Adult and Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplant Program. Dr. Medin also holds appointments in the MCW Cancer Center and the Blood Research Center.

Additionally, Dr. Medin is the Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) facility director. ■

## New Senior Administrative Research Leaders Named at MCW

Two top leaders of MCW's research enterprise were recently appointed to important new administrative roles.

Ann B. Nattinger, MD, MPH, Lady Riders Breast Cancer Research Professor, professor of medicine and director of the Center for Patient Care and Outcomes Research, was named senior associate dean for research. Cecilia J. Hillard, PhD '83, professor of pharmacology and toxicology and director of the Neuroscience Research Center, was named MCW's associate dean for research.



Dr. Ann B. Nattinger



Dr. Cecilia J. Hillard

In these new roles, Drs. Nattinger and Hillard will provide vision and leadership for MCW's research strategy and the Office of Research infrastructure that supports the institution's biomedical science enterprise. They will focus on evolving new research and providing the highest quality of service to MCW's faculty and staff members who conduct basic, clinical and translational research.

As a leading investigator of the trajectory of care of

women with breast cancer, Dr. Nattinger focuses on breast cancer treatment, survivorship and outcomes. Since joining MCW's faculty in 1988, Dr. Nattinger has published several landmark studies of factors involved in the choice of treatment options by breast cancer patients, and her research findings have led to changes in national health policy. She has authored or co-authored more than 170 scientific papers, abstracts and book chapters.

Dr. Hillard joined MCW's faculty in 1985. Her research focus is the pharmacology and biochemistry of a group of active compounds found in cannabis and cannabis-like chemicals made by the body. She has published more than 175 peer-reviewed original papers and review articles. Dr. Hillard consistently has been chosen as an *Outstanding Medical Student Teacher* and, in 2011, she received MCW's *Distinguished Service Award*, which is the institution's highest faculty and staff honor. ■

## NIH Increases Federal Funding for Research and Support for MCW

The federal spending bill passed by Congress in mid-December includes an annual funding increase of \$2 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), from \$30 billion to \$32 bil-

lion. This is the first increase in more than 12 years. During this time, the NIH lost more than 25% of its purchasing power due to inflation, combined with either flat funding or repeated

cuts to the overall NIH budget.

While the additional appropriated funds won't bring the NIH back to peak-adjusted 2003 levels, the decision will provide additional opportunities for MCW researchers, especially in priority areas such as Alzheimer's disease, antibiotic resistance and precision medicine.

In the federal government's fiscal year 2015, MCW faculty received \$85.6 million in research funding from NIH, positioning MCW as 45th among the nation's 139 medical schools (and up one position from FY2014). MCW's total NIH support increased by 8% from the previous fiscal year – outperforming more than 75% of the top 50 schools of medicine. ■





# Sharing the Virtues of a 3-Year Curriculum

**M**atthew Hunsaker, MD, is taking MCW-Green Bay across borders. In a recent World Health Organization-sponsored conference hosted by The Network: Towards Unity For Health in Gauteng, South Africa, Dr. Hunsaker showcased how the regional campus is delivering medical education in a way that is turning heads around the world.

As MCW-Green Bay campus dean, Dr. Hunsaker has helped pioneer a calendar-efficient three-year curriculum, which provides a quicker path to graduation than traditional four-year medical school programs.

“I wanted to bring forth the idea that physicians could be trained in a shorter time period without sacrificing the quality and skills learned while in school,” says Dr. Hunsaker, reflecting on his presentation in South Africa.

The curriculum’s shortened time period is achieved by reducing both the number of electives and the length

of traditional medical school breaks, allowing students to graduate sooner and begin practicing medicine one year earlier.

During the World Health Organization conference, Dr. Hunsaker held a workshop for attendees representing healthcare organizations around the world. Throughout his presentation, he shared the intricacies involved with a three-year curriculum and facilitated group discussions on its execution. MCW-Green Bay, which opened its doors to students in July 2015, was referenced as a model of how to implement the idea.

MCW-Green Bay students are being trained to practice as primary care physicians, general surgeons or psychiatrists. By focusing on these primary practitioner pathways, students can bypass elective courses aimed at providing exposure to clinical specialties. This emphasis on primary care comes as a response to the expert projections of a shortage in primary phy-

sicians in Wisconsin.

“I think a key component involved with running a successful program such as this lies in the ability to recruit the right students who fit in with the mission and goals of the institution,” states Dr. Hunsaker. “MCW-Green Bay is focused on finding students who would likely stay in the area and fill the needed healthcare positions.”

Dr. Hunsaker’s presentation resonated with the World Health Organization because, similar to Wisconsin, a shortage of physicians is an issue around the world – particularly in developing countries.

“MCW-Green Bay’s curriculum is not exclusive to just our state,” notes Dr. Hunsaker. “The ability to efficiently train medical practitioners to address a gap in care is something that is of interest around the world.”

This is not the first time Dr. Hunsaker has been abroad acting as an education consultant. In fact, he has



MCW-Green Bay medical students participate in some courses via distance learning. Here, the screen at the front left projects a real-time biochemistry lecture being delivered in Milwaukee to medical students at both campuses.



While providing curriculum consultation at a university in Thailand, Dr. Matthew Hunsaker also instructed medical students on the art of basic suturing.



(l-r) MCW-Green Bay students Allison Meyer and Christy Prill seek further information regarding a topic discussed during a distance learning course.

“We believe it is time for key stakeholders to engage in a well-informed discussion about the merits and challenges of a three-year medical school curriculum... in light of the expected physician shortage and efforts to ease the burden of growing educational debt.”

— Dr. John R. Raymond, Sr.

advocated for global medical education development in Thailand, Brazil, Ecuador and many other places, all with the intention of addressing healthcare shortages and fulfilling the needs of the communities.

MCW’s expertise in the calendar-efficient education model does not stem solely from Dr. Hunsaker and his international efforts. John R. Raymond Sr., MD, president and CEO of MCW, also is a recognized expert in the three-year curriculum model. In a paper he authored and published in October 2015 in *Academic Medicine*, MCW researchers found evidence suggesting three-year curriculum programs to be viable in the delivery of quality in medical education. The paper cites mounting student debt and a projected physician shortage as the impetuses for the growing market demand for the calendar-efficient model.

According to Dr. Raymond, “We believe it is time for key stakeholders to engage in a well-informed discussion about the merits and challenges of a three-year medical school curriculum. This ongoing dialogue is necessary in light of the expected physician shortage and efforts to ease the bur-

den of growing educational debt.”

Possessing such experts regarding a new curriculum model, MCW is now practicing what it teaches. MCW-Green Bay matriculated its inaugural class of 26 students in July 2015; MCW-Central Wisconsin, employing a similar education model, will be opening its doors to its first class in July 2016.

“MCW-Green Bay is off to a great start with the program running smoothly,” remarks Dr. Hunsaker. “I believe this is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the staff and the recruitment of exemplary students who have fit in well with the program.”

Speaking of students, the well-being of MCW’s physicians-in-training is a major consideration in the implementation of the three-year curriculum. They also are beneficiaries of the new educational model. Many view the program as an opportunity to achieve their professional goals more quickly while accumulating significantly less debt.

MCW-Green Bay student Ryan Berns (Class of 2018) sees the model as a win-win for both the community and the students. “I love the fact that I will be able to achieve my goal of becoming a physician sooner than expected,” says

Berns. “It also helps that I will have significantly fewer loans to repay once I begin practicing as a physician.”

Berns’ ties to the state are what led him to Green Bay, and he hopes to practice in the area. “I was born and raised in Wisconsin, and I think it is great to have the opportunity to attend medical school in an area where I intend to practice,” Berns adds.

These initial results at MCW-Green Bay have not gone unnoticed. Dr. Hunsaker has been approached by medical school administrators, both domestically and internationally, seeking advice on how to implement similar programs at their respective institutions.

All eyes seem to be on the recently opened campus. While located in a small city in northeast Wisconsin – recognized mostly for its professional football team – MCW-Green Bay has captured the attention of medical communities across the globe.

“We’ve drawn the spotlight of medical institutions and governments well beyond Wisconsin’s borders,” declares Dr. Hunsaker. “The world is watching MCW-Green Bay, with major implications for the future of how medical education is delivered.”

— ALEX KROUSE



## Planting Seeds for Community-Engaged Med Ed

With MCW-Central Wisconsin set to matriculate its first class of medical students in July 2016, campus dean Lisa Grill Dodson, MD, is in the thick of preparation. In the small town of Wausau, this means digging deep into the local community to plant and cultivate the seeds of the future.

Dr. Dodson refers to her efforts as “community-engaged medical education” – which means immersing the student body in the community as well as tapping into it for the people and resources to help design and implement a curriculum that takes into account how, where and what students learn.

This begins with the Community Advisory Board, which comprises health system partners and members of the business and education communities who meet quarterly to identify others within the community whose voices need to be heard, campus project funders, individuals with ideas on how to best engross students in learning, and more.

In addition, MCW’s regional campuses have the most community-engaged medical admissions process in the country by virtue of the Regional Applicant Advisory Committee, which is made up of a variety of community members includ-

ing practicing physicians, retired physicians and other medical and business professionals who evaluate applicants to determine the “best fit” for the Medical School and the community.

MCW-Central Wisconsin will offer a single Scholarly Pathway, *Physician in the Community*, which requires students to reach out to the community for mentorship by agencies and groups that are working to address specific, community-based health concerns such as obesity, heart disease and other chronic health issues. Students are immersed from day one, so they learn how the community is working to manage and solve these issues.

Dr. Dodson wants these students to understand that physicians don’t fix these health problems in a closed exam room, but rather add their respective medical expertise to the voices, concerns and collective community expertise which help address the problems on a broader scale.

“Our hope is that students will take what they learn to other communities throughout the state, where they will help address health issues as a whole and, ideally, build an infrastructure for prevention,” says Dr. Dodson. “It’s important that students figure out the medical piece as part of a community rather than conducting a research project apart from the people and agencies already working on the issue.”

The team at MCW-Central Wisconsin is working with the region’s undergraduate system to identify individuals in small towns or within underserved populations who may be considering a career in medicine but don’t know how to prepare. Regional campus staff, as part of a smaller community, are able to easily reach out to those students to help them navigate the path to medical school.

To further build relationships within the community and raise awareness of the campus, Dr. Dodson and her staff are partnering with local and regional organizations including the Area Health Education Center, regional college advisory groups, two-year college health interest groups, the Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians, the Wisconsin Hospital Association and the Marathon County Medical Society – all of which have an interest in medical education and healthcare, and have made a commitment to addressing community health issues and the projected physician shortage in the state.

“One of the reasons I like living in a smaller town is that the smaller the place, the more impact you can have,” notes Dr. Dodson. “We’re planting a lot of seeds right now and, the reality is, we’re not just starting a medical school. We’re working to address the healthcare needs of an entire community.” ■

– MAUREEN REMMEL

To read more, visit [mcw.edu/dodsoncommunity](http://mcw.edu/dodsoncommunity)



Photo courtesy of Brian Taylor

For Dr. Lisa Grill Dodson, MCW-Central Wisconsin campus dean, “community-engaged medical education” means immersing students in the community and tapping into its people and resources to help design and implement a relevant curriculum.



## Friends of MCW Help Grad Student Fulfill Dream



Photo courtesy of Jay Westhauser

Dominique Carter-Flowers, a PhD student who studies human cytomegalovirus, is the recipient of the inaugural Friends of MCW Scholarship for Underrepresented Scholars in Biomedical Research.

Dominique Carter-Flowers, a PhD student in the department of microbiology and molecular genetics and the first recipient of the Friends of the Medical College of Wisconsin Scholarship for Underrepresented Scholars in Biomedical Research, was attracted to science at an early age. Her father, Lee Edward Carter, homed in on her interests and became a special source of encouragement.

“My father and I would sit together and watch all these shows about science on television,” Carter-Flowers says. “He was a major advocate for my love of science and was always pushing me to succeed in what I was passionate about.”

Carter-Flowers’ youthful interests turned into professional aspirations. After completing her undergraduate degree in chemistry and biochemistry at St. Norbert College, Carter-Flowers joined a microbiology and molecular genetics laboratory led by MCW associate professor Scott Terhune, PhD.

“Dr. Terhune provided me with training opportunities that I applied to my dissertation research, which also sparked collaborations with four other labs at MCW,” Carter-Flowers remarks. She studies human cytomegalovirus (a member of the herpesvirus family), a leading cause of congenital birth defects for women who become infected during pregnancy, and reported on her progress in a peer-reviewed manuscript published in *Proteomics* in June 2015.

The Friends of the Medical College of Wisconsin Scholarship for Underrepresented Scholars in Biomedical

Research is helping her at a crucial time as she writes and prepares to defend her dissertation. For more than 45 years, the Friends of MCW has provided volunteer and financial support to MCW’s education mission, with an emphasis on enhancing student achievement. “We want to do everything we can to help students succeed,” says Renee Hill, MPH, program manager in MCW’s Institute for Health & Society

and president of the Friends of MCW. “Our wide-ranging support includes scholarships, funds for travel to academic conferences and sponsorship of events and awards highlighting research at MCW.”

“The Friends of MCW is very generous to graduate students. I am extremely grateful for this scholarship. It means so much that others are willing to invest in my

future like my dad did,” Carter-Flowers adds.

Carter-Flowers’ father, the first to recognize her potential in the biomedical field, became ill while she was an undergraduate. He passed away during her junior year, but his influence remains in the drive that she has to complete her education and find her future in the scientific community. “I am doing this for me, and I also am doing this for my dad,” she says. “Completing this degree is everything to me right now – and will be the start of fulfilling the dream that was shaped as I shared my love of science with him on our living room couch.” ■

– GREG CALHOUN

“I am extremely grateful for this scholarship. It means so much that others are willing to invest in my future.”

Contributions to the Friends of MCW can be made at [mcw.edu/friendsofmcw](http://mcw.edu/friendsofmcw)

To read more, visit [mcw.edu/carter](http://mcw.edu/carter)

# Class of '80 Endowment Helps Fund Dissection Video Library

Our bodies, marvels of biological engineering, use countless moving parts working together to sustain us and get the job done. To assist in studying these anatomical wonders, a new video library tool has been created from a different convergence of moving parts, comprising an ambitious idea, resource orchestrators, adequate funding, equipment and space, and the right people to conquer the task.

Not quite the miracle of the human body...but rather a fast-moving, collaborative effort that resulted in the *Medical College of Wisconsin Clinical Human Anatomy Video Dissector*. The creators, second-year MCW medical students Douglas Pierce and Philip Biggs, presented this new teaching tool at the American Association of Anatomists Regional Meeting in Milwaukee in October 2015 – winning the top prize for Graduate Student Poster.

The online library of 138 dissection videos was generated by the need for more efficiency in anatomy labs overall and the desire to share the library with MCW's regional campuses, according to Todd Hoagland, PhD, associate professor of cell biology, neurobiology and anatomy, and course director for *Clinical and Advanced Human Anatomy*. William J. Hueston, MD, MCW's senior associate dean for academic affairs, saw the benefits of such a tool.

"Luckily, I went to Dr. Hueston and made the pitch that the video library, with regard to the regional campuses, would take us to a place where we could defend the anatomy part of the curriculum to any of our accrediting bodies," Dr. Hoagland shares.

Dr. Hueston determined that funding from the Class of 1980 Endowment would be a good fit for the project, since its intent

is to support new approaches to teaching medical students.

Picking the project team to produce the videos was an easy task. Dr. Hoagland watches for individuals doing exceptional dissections during labs, and he'd noticed fine work from both students. Additionally, Pierce had experience filming lectures while a graduate teaching assistant.

Dissection and filming began in mid-January 2015, halfway through the students' first year of medical school. The project then turned into a funded full-time job over the summer. In addition to the

gift from the Class of '80, a smaller portion of funds to support the two students came from the Elsa B. and Roger D. Cohen, MDs Endowment in Medical Education, overseen by Karen J. Marcdante, MD '80, professor of pediatrics at MCW.

Filming took place mostly in a basement lab outfitted for dissections, where third- and fourth-year students can do anatomy rotations. "We spent well over 100 hours dissecting for the project, and we both really enjoyed it," Biggs remarks. One dissected while the other filmed, and both wore microphones for narration. Only minor voice-over work was needed, but there was plenty of video editing to be done. "None of this would have ever happened without Alexander Boyes, MCW's video editor," says Pierce. "Without him, we could never have learned all we needed about the video camera, video editing and video rendering."

The video library follows the dissec-

tion manual almost 100%, notes Pierce, "except where we took some creative/scientific license and worked the dissection a little differently...but only if we felt it would benefit the students and always with Dr. Hoagland's approval."

The videos exclude most of the tedious work since "dissection work is 10% significant change," Pierce remarks. "We showed things that would be hard to visualize if you had only the lab manual. We only briefly and occasionally showed the fine-tuning, especially if you needed to preserve an important nerve or artery

buried in fat tissue."

Through the videos, "students also learn the common pitfalls that could render their dissections less educational. Sometimes if you cut too far or too deep or too fast, you risk destroying important anatomical structures," Pierce adds.

The benefits: use of

the videos during lab work, less time going to the lab to study for an exam, and better dissections overall. "For example, there were 800 hits on a Monday – right before lab and while they're in lab, which is what we were hoping for," notes Biggs. "We also are noticing that people review the videos right before a test. It's an extra study aid."

"We owe a lot to the Class of 1980," says Dr. Hoagland. "We were able to harness an alumni gift using the power of students to create something for students that will benefit them in perpetuity." ■

– JOHN BURLINGHAM

To read more, visit [mcw.edu/dissection](http://mcw.edu/dissection)

**"We owe a lot to the Class of 1980. We were able to harness an alumni gift using the power of students to create something for students that will benefit them in perpetuity."**

– Dr. Todd Hoagland

Photo courtesy of Jay Weishauser

(l-r) Second-year medical students Philip Biggs and Douglas Pierce view their video of a brain dissection on a smart phone, which also can be seen on the monitor above them in MCW's Form and Function Lab.



“I have learned that the most meaningful gifts are those that you pursue with a passion and can attest to the tangible benefits.”

— Curt Culver

## NON-PROFIT BOARDS ON WHICH CURT CULVER HAS SERVED

- Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Metropolitan Milwaukee
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee, Inc.
- Children’s Hospital and Health System Inc. and Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin Foundation, Inc.
- Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital and Froedtert Health System, Inc.
- Greater Milwaukee Committee for Community Development
- Greater Milwaukee Open Charities
- Make a Difference Wisconsin
- Medical College of Wisconsin
- Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce
- Milwaukee Art Museum
- Milwaukee Children’s Village Inc.
- Milwaukee Development Corporation
- Milwaukee School of Engineering
- Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts
- United Performing Arts Fund
- United Way of Greater Milwaukee, Inc.
- University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Business

## CORPORATE BOARDS ON WHICH CURT CULVER HAS SERVED

- Culvers Restaurant Group
- West Bend Mutual Insurance Company
- Wisconsin Electric Power Company
- Wisconsin Energy Corporation
- Wisconsin Gas LLC



## PHILANTHROPY

# Curt and Sue Culver: Experiences Guide Philanthropy

As the cliché goes, “experience is the best teacher.” Curt Culver, former CEO and president of Mortgage Guarantee Insurance Corporation (MGIC), has taken that saying to heart, leveraging his wealth of experience beyond the boardroom and into his philanthropic endeavors.

“I have learned that the most meaningful gifts are those that you pursue with a passion and can attest to the tangible benefits.”

Culver and his wife, Sue, always have been extremely generous benefactors to MCW and its partner organizations. Past donations have included \$100,000 to MCW’s Cancer Center, a \$30,000 fund toward nursing at Froedtert Hospital, and substantial recurring gifts during his tenure as a trustee on the MCW board from 2004 to 2015.

As the Culvers have expanded their philanthropy, they have developed a system to their giving: channeling funds toward causes which have affected their lives.

“What started out to be general donations have transitioned into specially targeted gifts to organizations with a mission that is close to our family’s heart,” says Culver. “I feel this method of giving is the best way to truly understand the benefits that your gifts provide.”

One area of particular importance is eye health. Culver has encountered challenges with his vision, and his father, George, struggled with vision

problems as well. This familiarity with eye issues compelled the Culvers to donate \$100,000 to the Eye Institute of Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin for retinal screening.

“Understanding the hardships that come with vision problems, both personally and through my father, has given a more pronounced meaning to my gift,” Culver remarks.

Another area of philanthropic emphasis resulted from Culver’s experience as a patient at MCW’s Digestive Disease Center. Following a successful procedure performed by Kirk Ludwig, MD (*see story on pages 22-23*), Culver recognized the true importance of research to benefit this clinical specialty – which prompted a significant contribution to support the Center’s services.

The family’s largesse to digestive disease health earned Curt and Sue Culver the *Warren P. Knowles Humanitarian Award*, presented at MCW’s annual Healthcare Dinner in November 2015, hosted by the Digestive Disease Center. The award honors individuals or organizations with a commitment to health-related issues, and whose work reflects the dedication to public service and education marking the career of former Wisconsin Governor Warren P. Knowles.

Culver also leverages his 34 years as a business leader in Milwaukee as a basis for his family’s giving. After having managed employees in the community for so long, he has a clear understanding of the role non-profit organizations can have on his employees’ lives.

“As a corporate leader, I have always felt compelled to think about how I could make my employees’ lives

## PHILANTHROPY HONORS AWARDED TO CURT AND SUE CULVER

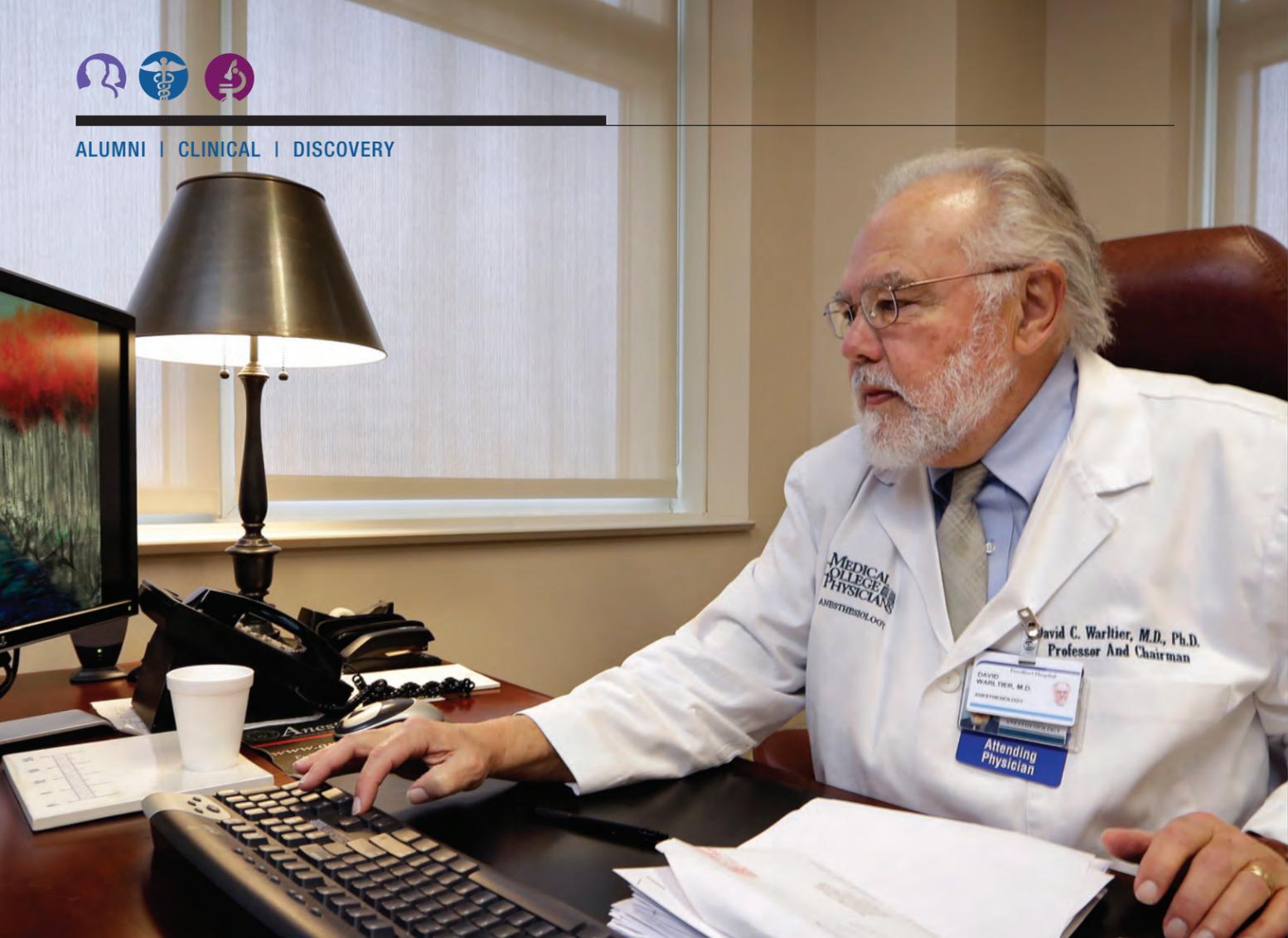
- 2005 COA Youth & Family Centers Parents of the Year Award
- 2010 St. Francis Children’s Center Community Service Award
- 2011 Evan P. Helfaer Donor Award at the Association of Fundraising Professionals National Philanthropy Day Luncheon
- 2014 Honorary Chairpersons of Aurora Psychiatric Hospital’s There is Light Gala
- 2015 Life Navigators’ 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Challenger Event Honoree
- 2015 Medical College of Wisconsin Warren P. Knowles Humanitarian Award

a little better,” notes Culver. “I believe it was always the role of the CEO to make it a better city for employees and their families to live, work and play.”

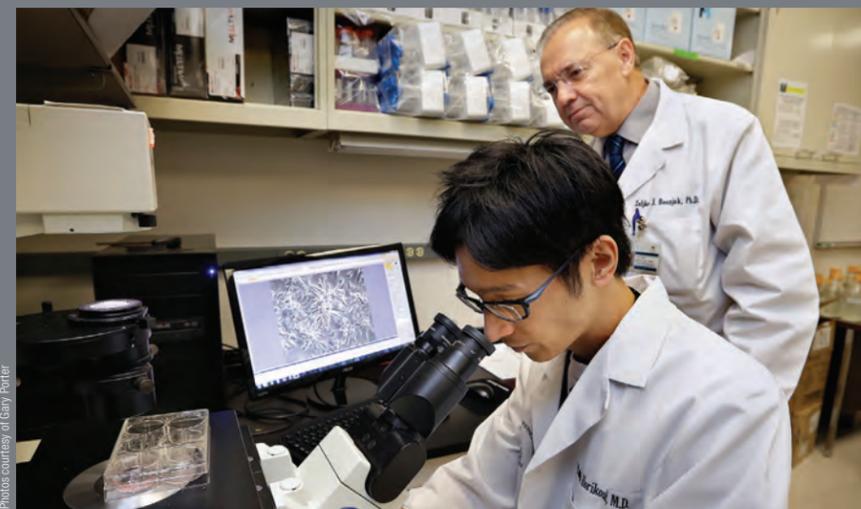
Organizations such as META House (a charity to help women with addiction issues), United Way and United Performing Arts Fund also have been recipients of Culver’s philosophy to enhance the city in which his employees live.

The Culvers recognize the significance of their generosity in the community. “My family and I understand that we are truly blessed to be in the position to help others,” says Curt. “We will continue to utilize our life experiences to advance organizations which can positively impact the community.” ■

— ALEX KROUSE



# Dept. of Anesthesiology: Cutting-Edge Research, Global Prominence



Photos courtesy of Gary Barber

Photo at left: Dr. David Wartier, chair and John P. Kampine Professor of Anesthesiology, has been intimately involved in the department's administration for nearly 27 years. Photo above: Neurons used in stem cell research are viewed through a microscope by postdoctoral fellow Yuichi Horikoshi, MD (l), and are visible to Dr. Zeljko Bosnjak (r) on an adjacent monitor.

chair, left a legacy upon which others in the department are building, including exploring whether diabetic and hyperglycemic animals are more sensitive to myocardial ischemia and reperfusion injury, and if the effects are reversible – which will help researchers determine how diabetes impacts cardiovascular longevity. The pain laboratory of Quinn Hogan, MD, professor, investigates the cellular mechanisms that cause altered function of peripheral sensory neurons, with the goal to develop treatments that target these neurons to help alleviate pain.

Astrid Stucke, MD, GME '07, FEL '08, associate professor, is both a staff anesthesiologist at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin and a researcher. Her lab at the Zablocki VA Medical Center studies how drugs, including opioids, reduce the rate of respiration in very young versus older animals. "This research is very elegant as well as extremely difficult, as it measures electrical activity from specific neurons in the brain," notes Dr. Wartier. "Using a pipette, researchers must deliver drugs to a specific neuron, which demonstrates a level of sophistication that few labs in the world have."

"Within anesthesiology, unlike most clinical specialties, there are no 'beacon physicians' to whom patients flock from all over the country. Rather, the reputation of our department is through research and the production of scholarly activity," he adds.

And while we may continue to envision that physician caring for the patient in the operating room, it certainly is comforting to know that behind that individual stands many decades of scientific advancement to make anesthetics safer and more effective – with MCW's department of anesthesiology helping to lead the way.

– SARA WILKINS

To read more, visit [mcw.edu/anesthesiology16](http://mcw.edu/anesthesiology16)

Kampine, MD '60, PhD '65, retired, Dr. Wartier became chair – a position from which he will retire in 2016. "Currently, the department has 12 basic scientists and nearly 20 physicians serving as active investigators. This combination is very helpful, as the basic scientists are able to conduct studies and the physicians are able to apply those results clinically," says Dr. Wartier.

Dr. Wartier's research interest is in cardiovascular physiology and pharmacology, with special emphasis on myocardial ischemia – which occurs when blood flow to the heart is reduced, preventing it from receiving sufficient oxygen. His research group was one of the first to show that certain anesthetic drugs can protect the heart against damage from ischemia and reperfusion injury.

Dr. Wartier and colleagues found that exposure to isoflurane protects the heart against a subsequent ischemic episode, which has had an important

impact on patients with coronary artery disease undergoing anesthesia. "This drug is now commonly used in anesthesia for patients with coronary artery disease, as recommended by the American Heart Association," he shares.

MCW's department of anesthesiology has multiple research directions. "Among the department's most innovative work

is creating human cells – most notably human cardiac cells – and neurons," says Zeljko Bosnjak, PhD '79, professor and vice chair for research. Three current stem cell projects include the study of heart muscle cells to understand the role of genetics versus the environment in function and disease; stem cell-mediated heart muscle tissue regeneration following infarction; and neurons differentiated from pluripotent cells to determine the detrimental effects of anesthetics and other drugs on developing neurons.

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Judy Kersten, MD, who recently retired as professor and senior vice

**A** traditional view of the field of anesthesiology conjures up a physician caring for a patient on the operating table, oxygen mask poised for positioning. And while anesthesiology certainly encompasses patient care, basic and clinical research is a critical component of this specialty.

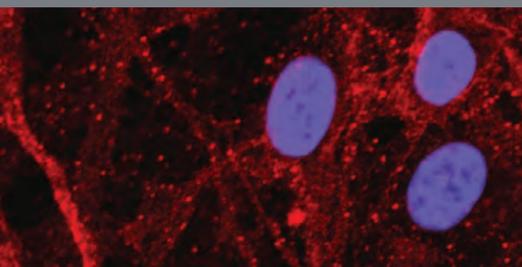
At MCW, the mission of the department of anesthesiology is three-fold: achieving excellence in providing patient care, conducting research, and educating medical students, residents and fellows.

Established in 1957 as a division of the department of surgery, anesthesiology became an independent department in 1965. Today, MCW's department of anesthesiology is internationally renowned for its clinical and basic science research, and perennially ranks in the top ten in funding from federal sources including the NIH among all departments of anesthesiology in the US.

David C. Wartier, PhD '76, FEL '78, MD '82, GME '88, is the John P. Kampine Professor and has served as chair since 2005 – although he has been intimately involved in the department's administration for nearly 27 years. Shortly after his residency, Dr. Wartier became vice chair for research in the department of anesthesiology, then senior vice chair for the department. After his predecessor, John

## THE DAVID C. WARLTIER, MD, PHD, ANESTHESIOLOGY ENDOWED EDUCATION FUND

has been created in advance of Dr. Wartier's pending retirement to honor his outstanding career by providing a comprehensive learning/training experience for MCW residents and fellows. Please contact Angela Nelson, senior director of development and alumni relations, at (414) 955-4708 or [annelson@mcw.edu](mailto:annelson@mcw.edu) to make a contribution.





# Comprehensive Approach to Transplantation

By Anthony Braza

MCW, AS PART OF AN ACADEMIC MEDICAL CENTER, IS ABLE TO COMBINE GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH, ADVANCED SURGICAL TECHNIQUES AND INNOVATIVE EDUCATION TO ACHIEVE EXCEPTIONAL OUTCOMES

Most organ transplants begin with an element of sadness because the family of the donor had to lose a loved one to make the process possible. But transplants often end with immense joy when the family of the recipient realizes a spouse, parent, sibling or child was the beneficiary of this ultimate gift of life.

Physicians, scientists, students and staff at MCW and its clinical and research partners traverse the broad spectrum of transplant-related issues and emotions on almost a daily basis across the institution's missions of patient care, research and education.

For example, the Solid Organ Transplant Center, a collaboration among MCW, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin (Children's), Froedtert Hospital and BloodCenter of Wisconsin, recently has become a nationally recognized program focused on growing the number of those joyful family moments. This is being accomplished through innovative surgical techniques, novel treatment protocols and research that increase the number of organs considered "transplantable," as well as improved outcomes for patients who need a liver, kidney, pancreas, lung or heart transplant. In fact, MCW's transplant teams are highly skilled in every type of single- as well as multi-organ transplantation.

"The recent reorganization and collaborative effort among our four institutions has led to excellent clinical outcomes after transplant, and better access for those people in need of a transplant," says Johnny C. Hong, MD, Mark B. Adams Chair of Surgery, associate professor of surgery (transplant surgery), chief of transplant surgery, and director of the solid organ transplantation service line. "We also are building a body of research that has the potential to make transplant a possibility for more patients with irreversible organ failure, with the primary goal

of reducing the number of patient deaths while on the transplant waiting list."

Over the past decades, MCW's Transplantation Program has given more than 5,400 children and adults a new chance at life, with survival rates for transplant procedures meeting or exceeding the national averages reported through resources such as the United Network for Organ Sharing. This is doubly impressive, Dr. Hong notes, because, as an academic medical center, "while our program takes care of the community's sickest people, our outcomes remain excellent."

The program optimizes the use of donor organs by offering all possible graft options, increasing the access for a timely life-saving transplant. The majority of transplantable organs still come from deceased donors and in the traditional manner of transplanting, with the full liver organ removed. But additionally, the program offers the in-situ split liver transplant – in which a liver from a deceased donor is divided into two functional grafts, allowing two patients to receive the gift of life from one deceased donor. MCW's transplant teams also are nationally known for live donor kidney and liver transplants. Live

Top photo: MCW's Transplantation Program brings together the expertise of a broad range of patient care providers including Dr. Johnny Hong, Dr. Motaz Selim, Dr. David Cronin and Kelly Kristbaum, NP.

Bottom photo: Live liver transplant recipient Tayten Krueger (center) is flanked by his donor (and aunt) Chelsie Peterson (left) and his mother, Katie Krueger (right).



Photos courtesy of Froedtert Hospital



“ FIVE MINUTES AFTER I MET DR. HONG, I TRUSTED HIM AND HIS TEAM WITH MY SON. THEY TRIED TO MAKE IT AS PERFECT AND STRESS-FREE AS POSSIBLE, AND WE COULDN'T HAVE ASKED FOR ANYTHING MORE.

– Katie Krueger (mother of transplant patient, Tayten Krueger) ”

## MCW Milestones:

### 1968

FIRST HEART TRANSPLANT  
IN WISCONSIN

### 1983

FIRST ADULT LIVER TRANSPLANT

### 1987

FIRST ADULT PANCREAS  
AFTER KIDNEY TRANSPLANT  
IN EASTERN WISCONSIN

### 1991

FIRST ADULT LUNG TRANSPLANT  
IN EASTERN WISCONSIN

### 1999

FIRST LAPAROSCOPIC KIDNEY  
LIVE DONOR NEPHRECTOMY

### 1999

FIRST PEDIATRIC LIVING DONOR  
LIVER TRANSPLANT

### 2003

FIRST INCOMPATIBLE BLOOD  
TYPE KIDNEY TRANSPLANT

### 2012

FIRST PEDIATRIC COMBINED  
HEART AND LIVER TRANSPLANT

### 2013

FIRST IN-SITU SPLIT LIVER  
TRANSPLANTS

donor transplant provides the advantage of not relying on the availability of the deceased donor organ pool – allowing for the ability to receive the transplant before further progression of the patient’s medical condition. This enables the transplant teams to transplant livers and kidneys from both live and deceased donors into either adults or children.

### Successful adult-to-child live liver transplant

One such adult-to-child live liver transplant was undertaken in October 2014, when Chelsie Peterson, 26, donated part of her liver to her then six-year-old nephew, Tayten Krueger. Dr. Hong led the teams which cared for Chelsie at Froedtert Hospital and Tayten at Children’s. Both are doing well more than 16 months following the surgery.

In fact, both are doing better than they could have hoped for. Tayten, who was born with biliary disease, needed to have a feeding tube implanted in his stomach at 11 months, was sick often before the transplant, and wasn’t growing much or gaining weight. As a result, he was unable to participate in sports and was too short for many of the rides at amusement parks. Post-surgery, things have changed.

Last summer, Tayten participated in a T-ball league for the first time, and in January, he and his family went to Disney World. He had grown enough since the surgery to be allowed on the majority of the rides he could not go on beforehand.

“Tayten has grown more in the year since surgery than he did in the two or three previous years,” said his mother, Katie Krueger. “The feeding tube is gone, his appetite is increasing and he is thriving. For the first time in his life, he registers on the growth charts for children his age.”

The program, which can claim many transplant firsts for Wisconsin, is one a few in the country to offer “incompatible blood type kidney transplantation” through an affiliation with BloodCenter of Wisconsin.

The Transplantation Program offers strong multidisciplinary care for the adult and pediatric patient, both before

and after transplant. This is critical because patients with end-stage disease that requires transplant often have underlying conditions (e.g., malnutrition, diabetes, lipid disorders or hypertension) and are more prone to complications. Through the breadth of specialties and resources available, MCW providers can adeptly offer care that encompasses all patient needs.

### MCW’s research optimizing transplant outcomes

Unfortunately, approximately two-thirds of those in need of an organ transplant will not get one – but MCW faculty members are conducting research to optimize the use of donor organs to increase the number of transplantable organs and improve the outcomes for those who receive them.

Dr. Hong is investigating ways to resuscitate donor organs that were previously not transplantable because of damage caused by ischemia (when blood flow to an organ is restricted) and reperfusion injury (vascular injury that occurs when blood flow is returned to an organ). He also is conducting research into a new drug to minimize the risk of organ rejection.

Michael Mitchell, MD, professor of pediatric cardiothoracic surgery, and a team of MCW/Children’s investigators are developing a rapid, non-invasive blood test to monitor rejection in children and adults with heart transplants. The test precisely quantifies the amount of donor-specific cell-free DNA in the recipient’s blood – which increases during organ rejection – and offers the promise of earlier detection and treatment to reverse the rejection process. Dr. Mitchell and his wife, Aoy Tomita-Mitchell, PhD, recently launched TAI (Transplant And Immunology) Diagnostics, Inc. to commercialize a transplant monitoring test which meets FDA regulatory requirements. Elizabeth Jacobs, MD, is developing diagnostics to detect ischemia early enough to prevent or minimize complications following lung transplant.

To ensure potential live liver donors make a decision they are comfortable with, the program mandates that the potential

## A CRITICAL MISSION OF AN ACADEMIC MEDICAL CENTER IS EDUCATION, AND MCW HAS DEVELOPED PROGRAMS TO EDUCATE MEDICAL STUDENTS, RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS ABOUT TRANSPLANT SURGERY.



Dr. José Franco (MD '90, GME '95) is among several MCW faculty members who teach medical students about organ failure and transplantation.

live donor undergo a stringent medical and psychosocial evaluation and informed consent process. Additionally, MCW appoints faculty members to serve as independent live living donor advocates. The advocate assesses the potential donor to make sure she/he is a good candidate from a social and personal standpoint, and clearly articulates the health, life and insurance risks. Post-surgery, the advocate also meets with the donor to ensure she/he doesn’t feel ignored.

### MCW’s educational endeavors focus on transplantation

A critical mission of an academic medical center is education, and MCW has developed programs to educate medical students, residents and fellows about transplant surgery. MCW recently received accreditation of its abdominal organ transplant surgery fellowship for the first time, and Dr. Hong shares that his goal is to expand the fellowship to include intestinal transplants.

MCW’s medical school curriculum provides many opportunities for students to be educated about organ failure and transplantation during the first two years of medical school training. This includes learning about normal organ functions, the consequences of organ failure leading to the need for solid organ transplant, and potential complications of transplantation. Students are taught about long-term management of transplant patients, including the management of organ rejection and opportunistic infections, and also about the ethical principles and social aspects of transplantation in pediatric and adult

patients. The curriculum also provides an opportunity for students to learn more about transplant during the M3 surgical clerkship and an M4 elective rotation. MCW hosts an annual solid organ transplantation symposium and recently signed academic affiliation agreements with two leading international institutions to expand the opportunities for residents and fellows to share techniques: the University of Zurich provides leading-edge treatment for patients suffering from diseases of the liver and bile duct, and Seoul National University Hospital is renowned for doing live donor liver transplants – something undertaken less frequently in the US.

Beyond exemplary clinical care, research and training, MCW and its partners work tirelessly to reach out to and educate the public about the importance of organ donation and transplantation. In fact, the Transplantation Program received Gold Level recognition from the US Department of Health and Human Services in 2013 for its community outreach efforts, and Children’s was recently awarded a Bronze Medal from the HRSA’ Workplace Partnership for Life Organization for its efforts to encourage organ, eye and tissue donations.

Collectively, these efforts in the area of solid organ transplant are leading to more joyful family moments, like the one experienced by Chelsie and Tayten.

“Five minutes after I met Dr. Hong, I

### 40 Years of Improving Survival

MCW also is a leader in blood and marrow transplantation and research, due in part to its Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research (CIBMTR) – a research collaboration between MCW and the National Marrow Donor Program®/Be the Match®. The CIBMTR has been collecting hematopoietic cell transplantation (HCT) outcomes data worldwide for more than 40 years from approximately 400 transplant centers (and 425,000 transplant patients), in an effort to improve survival, treatment and quality of life for those facing life-threatening illnesses. (HCT cells come from bone marrow, peripheral blood or umbilical cord blood and are typically transplanted to treat patients with cancer. In contrast to solid organ transplants, all HCT donors are healthy individuals and the donation procedure does not involve major surgery.) MCW researchers have built an extensive body of research around blood and marrow transplantation, including research related to graft vs. host disease, the major complication associated with bone marrow transplants. **Mary Horowitz, MD '80, GME '89, MS '91**, the Robert A. Uihlein, Jr. Chair in Hematologic Research, professor of medicine and chief of hematology and oncology at MCW, is chief scientific director of the CIBMTR.



trusted him and his team with my son,” Katie Krueger says. “They tried to make it as perfect and stress-free as possible, and we couldn’t have asked for anything more.” Chelsie adds, “They were very responsive before, during and after the surgery, were amazing advocates, and made me feel like a priority. I never had any doubts about Dr. Hong and his team, and would recommend him to anyone.” ■

\* Health Resources and Services Administration



# Endowed Chair Honors MCW Surgeon, Advances Cancer Care

In 2004, Vernon O. Underwood, Jr., got the call from his doctor that no one wants to receive. The rectal cancer, first treated two years earlier, had returned. The team overseeing his care wanted him to come in to discuss options.

The prospect of additional surgery and treatment left Underwood, chairman of his family's business, Young's Market Company (headquartered near Los Angeles), deeply unsettled. Several family members had faced bouts with cancer. He arrived for the appointment with trepidation, but determined to take on this next challenge.

"Someone suggested to me that it would be a very good thing if I could see a Dr. Ludwig," Underwood shares. "I said, 'let's do it.'"

That's how Underwood met Kirk Ludwig, MD, GME '94. More than 10 years later, Underwood still journeys to see Ludwig for an annual appointment to check for signs of the cancer that has never come back. Dr. Ludwig, now chief of colorectal surgery at the Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin Clinical Cancer Center and professor in MCW's department of surgery, inspired the confidence in Underwood that convinced him the surgery Ludwig proposed was the right course.

"He's a generous person and generous with his time with patients," Underwood says. "I never feel like a number when I'm with him."

Dr. Ludwig, who completed a surgical residency at MCW following graduation from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, found in Underwood a kindred spirit – a driven entrepreneur whose desire to succeed mirrored the reason he chose one of the most difficult

fields in medicine: colon and rectal surgery.

"As a resident, I became interested in colorectal cancer and I saw a couple of cases that really struck me," Dr. Ludwig notes. "I was always of the opinion that we owe our patients the very best care, and that's kept me really working to find better treatment methods."

The surgery Dr. Ludwig performed was complex, but he credits Underwood for his endurance following treatment. "He's really worked hard to take charge of his illness," Dr. Ludwig adds.

Dr. Ludwig didn't hesitate when Underwood asked how a philanthropic gift could benefit patients with cancer in the future. He told Underwood that a fund supporting medical discovery could advance new thinking in how physicians and scientists approach cancer and could improve treatments.

Dr. Ludwig now holds the Vernon O. Underwood, Jr. Chair in Colorectal Cancer. During his visit to Dr. Ludwig in fall 2015, Underwood met with three MCW medical school students who, as a result of his generosity, had acquired research experience in colorectal cancer with Dr. Ludwig. "That's really the mission of an academic medical center," Dr. Ludwig said. "We're searching for the latest science to understand the complexity of cancers and how to approach this with patients and their families."

For Underwood, the opportunity to honor the surgeon he's "grown very fond of" made perfect sense.

"It's small in the overall scheme of things," Underwood shares. "But if this gets us closer to a cure, it's going to answer a lot of prayers." ■

– MICHAEL J. MATHIAS



Photo courtesy of Gary Porter

MCW medical school students Elliot Toy (left), Jacob Kream (second from right) and Jacob Thayer (right) acquired research experience in colorectal cancer because of the generosity of Vernon O. Underwood, Jr. (center). Underwood honored his surgeon, Dr. Kirk Ludwig (second from left), with an endowed chair at MCW in colorectal cancer.



# Partnership Between MCW & Discovery World

## brings traveling human genome exhibit to Milwaukee

Throughout its nearly 125-year history, MCW has been a pioneer in groundbreaking research. So, too, is Discovery World Science & Technology Center – located on Milwaukee’s lakefront – a leader in out-of-school learning experiences that emphasize innovation and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education. Together, these two entities are partnering to showcase one of the most important scientific breakthroughs of the last 100 years – the mapping of the human genome. From late January-April 2016, MCW and Discovery World are bringing *Genome: Unlocking Life’s Code* – an interactive, family-friendly traveling exhibit – to the museum’s massive new exhibit space overlooking the panorama of Lake Michigan.

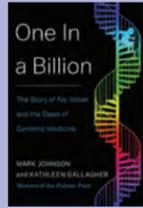
From an introduction to genomics to the ways in which genome sequencing is revolutionizing medicine today, the 4,000-square-foot exhibit introduces visitors of all ages to the genome: the role genomics plays in modern life, genomes and the diversity of living things (how their genomes differ as well as their surprising similarities), and our shared human ancestry throughout time. With hands-on mini-labs and interactive, educational activities, medical and research professionals from MCW – along with Discovery World volunteers – will engage visitors as young as six in a smart, immersive and high-tech environment.

*Genome: Unlocking Life’s Code* is the product of a partnership between the National Museum of Natural History and the National Human Genome Research Institute. It debuted at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in 2013, drawing more than three million people in its first year.

“*Genome: Unlocking Life’s Code* is just the beginning of our exploration into a long-term health and sciences educational partnership with Discovery World,” says John R. Raymond, Sr., MD, president and CEO of MCW. “By bringing this particular exhibit to Milwaukee, we hope to provide a hands-on learning

### One in a Billion

In 2011, *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reporters Mark Johnson and Kathleen Gallagher, along with a team of reporters, photographers and editors, won the Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Reporting for a three-part series that chronicled the quest by MCW doctors to save a Wisconsin boy from a mysterious illness through the use of DNA sequencing. In May 2016, the reporters’ much-anticipated medical narrative of this successful journey, *One in a Billion: The Story of Nic Volker and the Dawn of Genomic Medicine*, will be published. Copies can be pre-ordered through any major retailer.

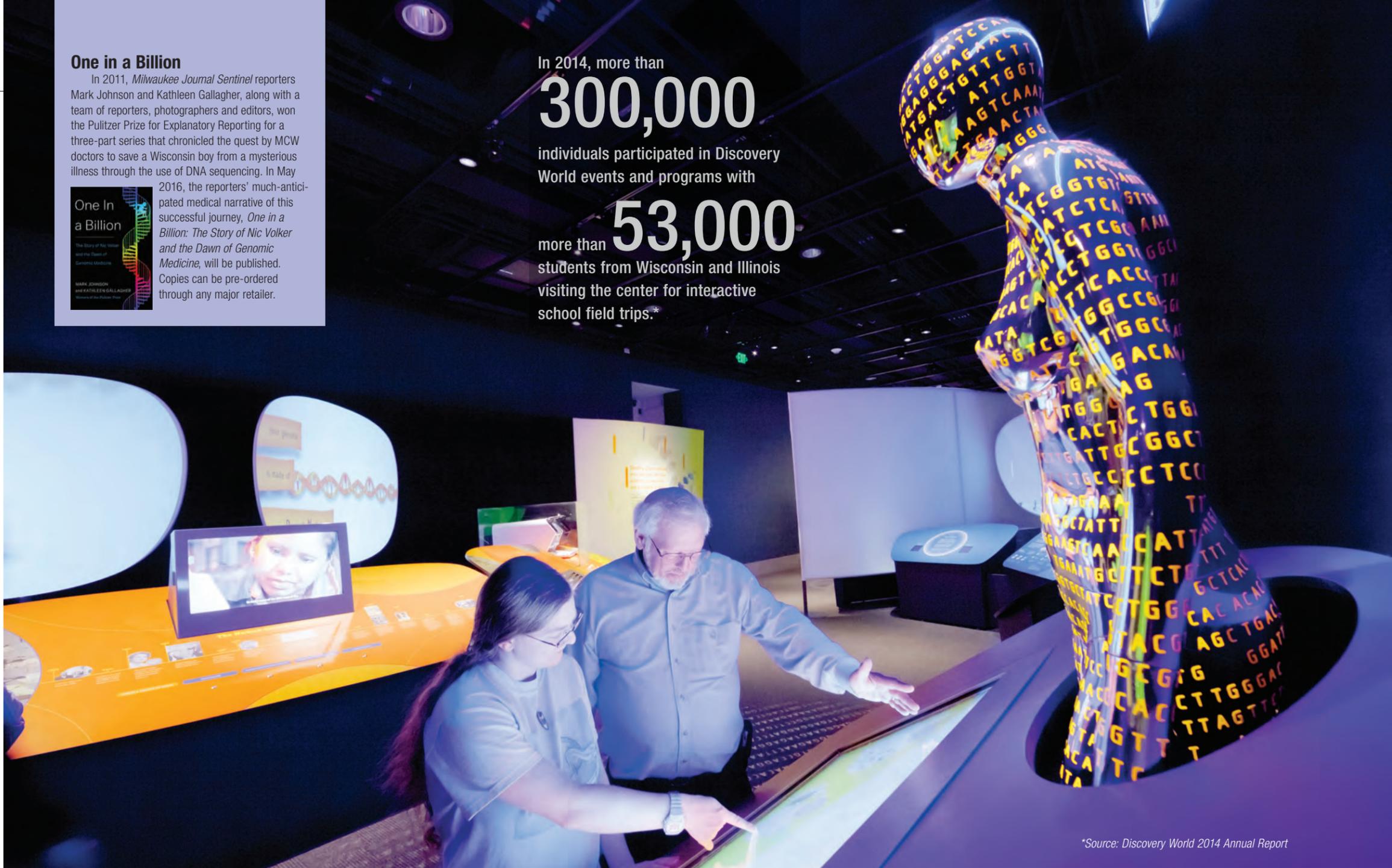


In 2014, more than **300,000**

individuals participated in Discovery World events and programs with

more than **53,000**

students from Wisconsin and Illinois visiting the center for interactive school field trips.\*



\*Source: Discovery World 2014 Annual Report

environment that engages our youth and creates a burgeoning interest in the STEM fields.”

Discovery World is the first science center in the Midwest to offer this interactive foray into the phenomenon that is the human genome. Both MCW and Discovery World have made incredible strides in understanding health, science and the human body, and this exhibit provides children and families with the opportunity to bring this complex topic to life in an understandable and fun way.

Within the last decade, whole genome sequencing has

become a readily available technique for determining the complete sequence of an individual’s DNA. From patient consent through the return of clinical results to patients worldwide, MCW’s Human and Molecular Genetics Center (HMGC), in partnership with Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin, was the first research center in the world to successfully diagnose and treat the patient following the patient’s complete whole genome sequencing (which reveals an individual’s unique genetic blueprint). The ability to link variations in DNA with health and disease outcomes holds incredible promise for the public, and the

benefits have the potential to change the way diseases such as cancer, heart disease, diabetes, Alzheimer’s disease, schizophrenia and countless other illnesses are treated. MCW’s HMGC is leading the development of personalized medicine and healthcare by enabling researchers and clinicians to use the genomic sequence to understand disease, improve diagnosis and advance the treatment of patients.

MCW, along with its affiliate hospital partners, has clinically evaluated hundreds of genomes and exomes since the program’s inception. ■ – MAUREEN REMMEL

To read more, visit [mcw.edu/genome](http://mcw.edu/genome)



# Geneva Johnson's Selfless Service Continues with Planned Gifts

She has dedicated funds to create the Geneva Bolton Johnson Community Engagement Cancer Research Fund at the MCW Cancer Center

In talking with Geneva Bolton Johnson, volunteer, philanthropist and former trustee at MCW, Froedtert Hospital and the Froedtert Hospital Foundation, it is easy to conclude that the personal quality of leadership is more innate than learned. For Johnson to have succeeded in so many professional and volunteer leadership roles, it follows that she must have known early on that she would one day wear the mantle of leadership with strength and grace.

Johnson, however, disagrees with that conclusion.

"There is no time when you know or decide that you are a leader," says Johnson. "The circumstances you encounter and the people you work with shape you into a leader – and even then you continue to learn, grow and evolve in your definition of leadership."

Johnson achieved much during her career in the social sector before retiring as president and CEO of Family Service America, Inc. and Families International, Inc. She previously held senior leadership positions at United Way of America. Before and after retirement, she served on the boards of directors of many major corporate, educational, civic and healthcare organizations, including Froedtert Hospital and MCW.

Her leadership extends beyond Froedtert's and MCW's boards to her



Geneva Johnson's leadership extends beyond her service on Froedtert's and MCW's boards to her role as co-chair of the MCW Cancer Center Community Advisory Board and her private philanthropic giving to MCW.

role as co-chair of the MCW Cancer Center Community Advisory Board (CCCAB), and also to her private philanthropic giving to MCW – which includes annual, major and planned gifts. She has directed her generosity via her deep knowledge of MCW and Froedtert Hospital to bolster areas of personal connection. Because she recognized the value brought by one of her physicians who was completing a fellowship when they first met, Johnson has made plans to establish a fellowship in breast cancer to recruit and train additional talent. To build upon her service to the CCCAB and help address community cancer disparities, she has dedicated funds to create the Geneva Bolton Johnson Community Engagement

Cancer Research Fund at the MCW Cancer Center.

Johnson has personal knowledge regarding MCW's clinical care mission as a patient at Froedtert Hospital – having undergone four major surgeries to emerge as a breast cancer survivor. "I can't think of any other place that has provided the level of care that I received; it was beyond excellence," Johnson remarks.

Johnson adds that the education of future physicians, researchers and other health professionals also factored into her philanthropic decisions. "Knowing that patients coming after me will get even better care due to advancements in training and treatment makes me proud. That is worth preserving." ■ – GREG CALHOUN

Photo courtesy of Jeff Zmiana



# Fighting Cancer, One Drawing at a Time

ANDREW HOWARD, MD '01

For anyone, a diagnosis of cancer is frightening – but perhaps more so to individuals who have little or no prior knowledge of the specifics of the disease, its treatments and the range of prognoses. For University of Chicago/University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) radiation oncologist Andrew Howard, MD '01, educating his patients is a critical goal. "Some of the patients we see at UIC come from poor educational backgrounds. They don't know much about treating their cancers, stages of the disease, or potential outcomes – so I thought that writing a book about cancer might be the best way to help get them started and alleviate their confusion."

Dr. Howard wrote four chapters of his *Guide to Cancer* before a conversation with his wife changed his approach – ultimately resulting in his web comic, *Cancer Ninja* ([www.cancer.ninja](http://www.cancer.ninja)), which launched in May 2015. She noticed that her husband was becoming more interested in cartoon art while reading picture books and drawing with his two young daughters, and suggested that he combine his love of drawing with educating patients about cancer.

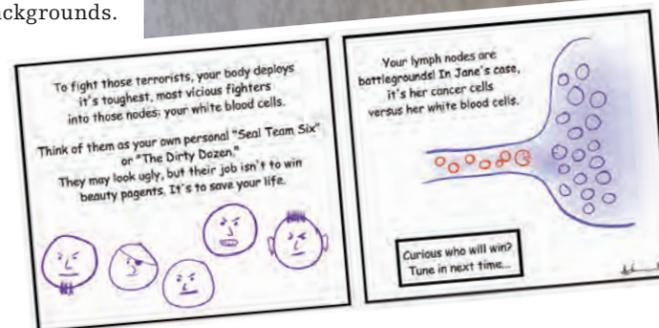
"I then became familiar with Randall Munroe, a web cartoonist who is focused on science and education – and he gave me the idea to set up my own web comic. In *Cancer Ninja*, I draw and write about breast cancer, but much of what I share applies to others cancers as well."

The web comic follows "Jane Doe" as she progresses through her early-stage diagnosis, treatments and aftermath. Each episode consists of drawings accompanied by explanatory text. The website notes, "I do drawings about cancer, what (I imagine) it's like to be a cancer patient, and what (in reality) it's like to be a physician who treats cancer."

Dr. Howard has very fond memories of his years at the Medical College of Wisconsin. "I loved the friendliness of the place. The students were down-to-earth, and everyone got along well. It was among the happiest times of my life. After



Photo courtesy of Roberta Dupuis-Dovfin



Dr. Andrew Howard created the web comic, *Cancer Ninja*, to help educate cancer patients and alleviate their confusion about the disease.

my first year of medical school, my friend, Todd Burner, MD '01, GME '08, FEL '08, who had done a

summer research project in radiation oncology, told me how great a field it was – and he was so right." In particular, Dr. Howard points to J. Frank Wilson, MD, Bernard and Miriam Peck Family Professor and former chair of the department of radiation oncology, as well as to Beth Erickson Wittman, MD '84, professor of radiation oncology, as excellent mentors.

Dr. Howard completed an internship at the University of Washington from 2001-2002 and residency in radiation oncology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 2002-2006.

While *Cancer Ninja* is web-based, Dr. Howard occasionally shares printouts with his patients – but he believes the story will be more interesting after "Jane" has finished her treatments. "I've also been thinking about combining my drawings with the work I've done on my books to form the basis of handouts for patients."

Other physicians are taking a similar approach to interacting with patients. In fact, the website [www.graphicmedicine.org](http://www.graphicmedicine.org), "explores the interaction between the medium of comics and the discourse of healthcare" via a community of academics, healthcare givers, authors, artists and fans of comics and medicine. ■

– SARA WILKINS

For more information, visit [mcw.edu/ninja](http://mcw.edu/ninja)

## Remembering Richard A. “Buz” Cooper, MD

Richard A. “Buz” Cooper, MD, executive vice president and dean of the school of medicine at MCW from 1985-1994, died in New York City on January 15, 2016. A native of Milwaukee, Dr. Cooper was one of the world’s leading authorities on physician supply. He most recently served as director of the Center for the Future of the Healthcare Workforce at New York Institute of Technology and a senior fellow in the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics at the University of Pennsylvania.

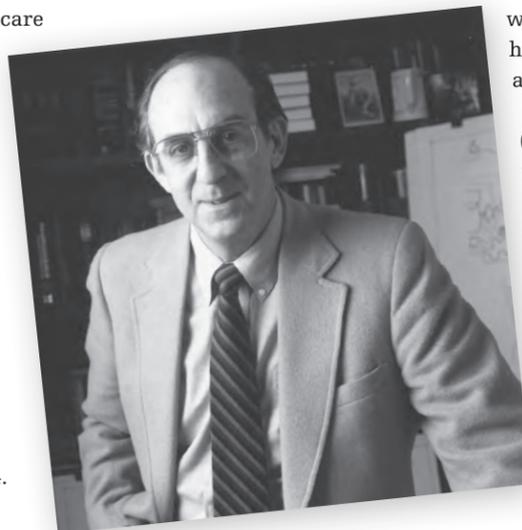


In the 1990s, Dr. Cooper’s health policy research helped change how the size of the US healthcare workforce is evaluated and how future physician needs are projected. When most of the nation’s leading physician supply experts were calling for a reduction in the physician workforce due to a perceived surplus, Dr. Cooper correctly predicted a shortage of doctors within the next 20 years.

“Dr. Cooper was among the first to identify America’s pending physician shortage,” said John R. Raymond, Sr., MD, MCW’s president and CEO. “His call for the expansion of the nation’s medical education infrastructure led to the creation of almost 20 new medical schools and the development of regional medical school campuses, including MCW’s new campuses in Green Bay and Central Wisconsin.”

In recent years, Dr. Cooper also was recognized as a leading authority on the economic and social dynamics that underlie healthcare spending and utilization. He studied healthcare as seen through the lens of poverty. His book about the effect of income inequality on poor healthcare outcomes and high healthcare spending is in production at Johns Hopkins Press and will be available in July 2016.

At MCW, Dr. Cooper led the recruitment of outstanding senior faculty members, the establishment and development of internationally recognized biomedical research programs, and the growth of MCW’s reputation as well as physical space. He founded and directed MCW’s Health Policy Institute (now the Institute for Health and Society) from 1994-2004.



“Buz Cooper was dean when I was a medical student at MCW, and I remember him as an incredible leader. He will be sorely missed by the entire MCW family.”

—Dr. Joseph E. Kerschner

“I was the first chair hired by Buz Cooper at MCW,” remarks J. Frank Wilson, MD, Bernard and Miriam Peck Family Professor and chair of the department of radiation oncology from 1986-2015. “He was extremely charismatic, and among the earliest at MCW to recognize the importance of the clinical enterprise to sustain our academic mission.”

Joseph E. Kerschner, MD ‘90, FEL’98, dean of MCW’s School of Medicine, recalls, “Buz Cooper was dean when I was a medical student at MCW, and I remember him as an incredible leader. He will be sorely missed by the entire MCW family.”

T. Michael Bolger, JD, MCW’s president emeritus, adds, “Buz Cooper’s entire focus was on growing MCW to become a nationally respected leader in medical education, biomedical research and advanced patient care.”

A hematologist/oncologist by training, Dr. Cooper conducted pioneering research on leukemia, anemia and red cell cholesterol. Before coming to MCW, Dr. Cooper served on the faculties of the Harvard Medical School and the University of Pennsylvania. He founded and directed the University of Pennsylvania’s Abramson Cancer Center from 1977-1985. Dr. Cooper received an honorary degree from MCW in 2006 and the same honor from the New York Institute of Technology in 2011.

Dr. Cooper received his bachelor of science degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1958, and earned his medical degree *cum laude* from Washington University in St. Louis in 1961. He was an intern and resident on the Harvard Medical Services of Boston City Hospital, where he also completed a fellowship in hematology. He also was a clinical associate at the National Cancer Institute.

Richard Cooper’s first wife, Jacqueline (Koppel) Cooper, died in 1985. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Barrie Cassileth, daughter, Stephanie (David) Cooper Cornelius, son, Jonathan (Eileen Harris) Cooper, and grandchildren, Jordan, Matthew and Halle Cooper. ■

Contributions may be made to The Cooper Family Research Fund at the Medical College of Wisconsin, care of the Office of Development, 8701 Watertown Plank Road, Milwaukee, WI 53226-0509 or online at <http://www.mcw.edu/giving> (please indicate the name of designated area in the comment section).

# HAPPENINGS



Julia Nicole Keyes (second from left), who received the 2015 Walter Zeit Fellowship Leadership Award at the annual Walter Zeit Fellowship Recognition Dinner on October 24, is joined by Zeit Executive Committee members (l-r) Donald Hackbarth, Jr., MD ‘77, GME ‘82; William Listwan, MD ‘68, GME ‘74; Stuart Wilson, MD, GME ‘65; and Victoria Vollrath, MD ‘77, GME ‘80.

## Zeit Dinner Award Recipient

Julia Nicole Keyes, a fourth-year medical student from Milwaukee, was named the recipient of the 2015 *Walter Zeit Fellowship Leadership Award*. This prestigious award is presented to the senior medical student who has consistently displayed superior qualities of lead-

ership, loyalty, selfless service, initiative and compassion toward his or her peers and to MCW.

It is the highest student honor bestowed by the Walter Zeit Fellowship, MCW’s premier donor recognition society.

## Showhouse for a Cure Raises Funds for Breast and Prostate Cancer Research

In June, Milwaukee design firms will transform the Wisconsin Breast Cancer Showhouse, Inc.’s 2016 Showhouse for a Cure, located near Oconomowoc Lake. Since 1998, the WBCS has provided more than \$5.5 million to advance breast cancer and prostate cancer research at MCW. The showhouse is open from June 4-19.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### APRIL

» INSTALLATION OF DR. GEORGE MACKINNON III, AS FOUNDING DEAN OF MCW’S SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

DATE: APRIL 5, 2016

» CAPITOL GRILLE WINE DINNER (CANCER RESEARCH)

DATE: APRIL 24, 2016

### MAY

» ANN’S HOPE FOUNDATION RUN/WALK (MELANOMA)

DATE: MAY 15, 2016

### JUNE

» WBCS SHOWHOUSE OPENS AND WBCS RUN/WALK

DATE: JUNE 4, 2016

» HAVE A HEART RIDE (CVC)

DATE: JUNE 11, 2016

» IMAGINE MORE DINNER (NEUROSCIENCES)

DATE: JUNE 15, 2016

### STAY CONNECTED WITH MCW

We’d love to hear from you! We’ll post your event comments and photos. Or, let us know what’s coming up. Send your materials to [MCWmagazine@mcw.edu](mailto:MCWmagazine@mcw.edu).

Find us on:



# ALUMNI NOTES

## 1970s



**Marlene D. Melzer-Lange\*, MD '75, GME '78,** received the *Michael Shannon Humanitarian Award* from the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Emergency Medicine.

**Donald J. Harvey, MD '76,** was named chief medical officer at Advanced Pain Management in Greenfield, Wis. He will manage medical directors throughout the company's 60 clinics.

## 1980s

**Douglas A. Gentile, MD '81,** was appointed chief medical information officer at the University of Vermont Medical Center. In this role, he will lead the medical center's information services teams and serve as the electronic health record representative for physicians and providers.

**Michael Volz, MD '85,** was installed as president of the Colorado Medical Society, which is the largest physician organization in the state and represents more than 7,500 physicians, physicians-in-training and medical students. He previously served as president of the Colorado Allergy and Asthma Society and the Clear Creek Valley Medical Society.

**Tom Aufderheide\*, MD, GME '86, MS '13,** received the *2015 T. Michael Bolger Award for Clinical and Translational*

*Science* from the Clinical & Translational Science Institute of Southeastern Wisconsin.

**Martin (Marty) Hoffman, MD, GME '86,** was named the editor-in-chief of *Wilderness & Environmental Medicine* in July 2015. In addition, he serves as director of the annual Medicine & Science in Ultra-Endurance Sports Conference. Dr.



Hoffman's longevity in ultramarathon running recently ranked him among approximately 130 individuals around the world who have run ultramarathons of at least a 50-mile distance over a span of at least 30 years.

## 1990s

**M. Zuhdi Jasser, MD '92,** was interviewed on *The Joy Cardin Show*, a Wisconsin Public Radio program, on December 16, 2015, in his role as founder and president of the American Islamic Forum for Democracy and author of *A Battle for the Soul of Islam: An American Muslim Patriot's Fight to Save His Faith*.

**Jonathan M. Szenics, MD, MPH '92,** joined WorkCare, Inc. as associate medical director. He has worked in occupational medicine for more than 25 years.

**Russell Wilke, PhD '93, MD '95,** was named chair of internal medicine at the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine. He is a general internist and also serves as enterprise director of pharmacogenetics at Sanford Imagenetics.

**Louis Jenis, MD, FEL '97,** performed surgery on Boston Bruins defenseman Dennis Seidenberg to repair a lumbar spine disc herniation. Dr. Jenis practices at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston and specializes in minimally invasive surgeries.

**Christopher Ott, MD '97,** was named chief medical officer of HCA Physician Services Group, which includes more than 600 locally-managed clinics and employs 4,000 physicians in more than 20 markets across the US.

**Ashok Rai\*\*, MD '97,** was appointed to the American Medical Group Association's (AMGA) 2016 Board of Directors, where he will serve as treasurer. The AMGA represents more than 170,000 physicians practicing in member medical practices, independent practice associations, accountable care organizations and integrated healthcare delivery systems.

**Douglas J. Reding\*\*, MD, MPH '97,** was named lead oncologist at the James Beck Cancer Center in Rhinelander, Wis. He has practiced as an oncologist in Wisconsin since 1986.

**Timothy E. Hughes, MD, GME '98,** was named regional medical director for correctional facilities in Corizon Health's southeast region. He previously served as departmental surgeon for the Mobile County (Ala.) Sheriff's Office.

**Khalid F. Almoosa, MD, GME '99,** was appointed regional chief medical officer for Memorial Hermann Katy (Texas) Hospital and Memorial Hermann Cypress (Texas) Hospital.

## 2000s

**Cresta Jones, MD '01,** joined Agnesian HealthCare as a board-certified maternal fetal medicine specialist and will practice at St. Agnes Hospital's Women & Infants Unit in Fond du Lac, Wis.

**Jennifer A. Franchuk, MD '06,** joined Camarena Health as a general practitioner serving the California communities of Madera, Chowchilla and Oakhurst. She also will write a health column to answer questions from readers of the *Sierra Star*.

**Kenichi Miyata, MD '06,** joined the Sonora (Calif.) Regional Medical Center as a general surgeon. His clinical interests are in laparoscopic hernia repair, as well as in complex abdominal wall reconstruction for patients who experience multiple or recurrent hernias.

**Scott V. Larson, MD '09,** joined Benefis Otolaryngology in Great Falls, Mont. As one of the few head and neck fellowship-trained otolaryngologists in Montana, he will provide traditional and advanced ear, nose and throat care while also developing a microvascular surgery program to repair complex head and neck defects.

## 2010s

**Khazi A. Muqet, MD, FEL '10,** was appointed medical director for Rogers Memorial Hospital-West Allis (Wis.). Dr. Muqet specializes in treating major mental illnesses and addiction.

**Jasleen K. Randhawa, MD, GME '10, FEL '14,** joined the staff of ThedaCare and will practice at ThedaCare Cancer Care in Appleton, Wis.

**Stephanie Cossette, PhD '12,** is president and CEO of Angio360 Diagnostics LLC, a Milwaukee-based startup which won \$10,000 and the Judge's Choice Award at the inaugural Southeast Wisconsin Healthcare Pitch event. The company, which focuses on antibody-based products that improve the detection and treatment of canine and human cancers, also was named by the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* as one of six Milwaukee startups to watch in 2016.

**Alastair T. Hoyt, MD, GME '12,** joined Cabell Huntington (W.V.) Hospital as a fellowship-trained physician specializing in neurosurgery and epilepsy surgery. He also is assistant professor of neurosurgery at the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine.

**Jamie L. Schmidt, MD '12,** joined Primary Care Associates of Appleton (Wis.) as a board-certified family medicine physician.

**Heather Annis, MD '14,** wrote a novel that is available for sale on Amazon.com. The book, *Ringers: Nowhere to Run*, is a thriller that draws on the more than 20 years that Dr. Annis spent in the thoroughbred racing industry before becoming a physician in the US Navy.

**Kisha D. Thomas, MD, GME '14, FEL '15,** joined Reid Orthopedic Center in Richmond, Ind., as an anesthesiologist.

**Abinet Ashine, MD, FEL '15,** joined the Samaritan Heart & Vascular Institute as a cardiologist. He specializes in diagnostic cardiac catheterization and transesophageal echocardiography – a test utilizing sound waves to create high-resolution images of the heart and blood vessels.

**Andrew Elson, MD, GME '15,** joined the Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center in Hammond, La., as an oncologist.

**Smriti Manandhar, MD, FEL '15,** joined the Western Maryland Health System as an endocrinologist. She will practice in Cumberland, Md.

**Ayan Rage, MD, FEL '15,** joined the Essentia Health-Duluth (Minn.) Clinic as a gastroenterologist.

## Special Recognition



**John A. Weigelt\*, MD '74, DVM,** received the 2015 *Distinguished Service Award* from the American College of Surgeons, which is the

largest global professional organization for surgeons. The award is the highest honor that the organization bestows annually on one of its more than 80,000 members.

Dr. Weigelt currently serves as the Milton & Lidy Lunda/Charles Aprahamian Professor of Trauma Surgery, associate dean of clinical affairs, chief of trauma and critical care surgery, and joint medical director of clinical quality for MCW and Froedtert Hospital.

\* MCW faculty member  
\*\* academic/clinical partner

# IN MEMORIAM

## 1940s

**Marjorie T. Brown, MD '48,** of Miami, Fla. died on December 2, 2015, at the age of 92. She retired as medical director of the Miami-Dade Health Department, where her tenure included running a clinic in West Perrine that provided clinical care to victims of Hurricane Andrew. Survivors include seven children, 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**Milton J. Fox, MD '49,** of Sun City, Ariz., died on October 2, 2015, at the age of 91. He served in the US Navy during World War II before joining the US Air Force, where he served for more than 20 years, including as chief medical officer of Luke Air Force Base in Maricopa County, Ariz. Dr. Fox is survived by his wife, Mary Jane, eight children, 19 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**Stanley A. Korducki, MD '49,** of Milwaukee, died on November 1, 2015, at the age of 89. As a practicing obstetrician and gynecologist for nearly 40 years, he delivered more than 6,000 babies. Dr. Korducki was chief of staff at St. Francis Hospital from 1973-1975 and president of the Milwaukee Gynecology Society in 1981. Survivors include his wife, Mary, seven children and 15 grandchildren.

## 1950s

**Jack G. Anderson, MD '51,** of Appleton, Wis., died on July 8, 2014, at the age of 90. In addition to practicing internal medicine in Appleton for more than 30 years, he received the Wisconsin Heart Association's *Community Service Award* in 1977. Dr. Anderson is survived by his three children and eight grandchildren.

**Joseph C. Serletti, MD '51,** of Toms River, N.J., died on January 11, 2015, at the age of 87. He was one of the first orthopaedic surgeons to go into private practice on Long Island, N.Y., and retired as a surgeon for New York's Nassau County Police Department. Dr. Serletti is survived by four children and nine grandchildren.

**Robert H. Rifleman, MD '52,** of Stevens Point, Wis., died on November 6, 2014, at the age of 94. In 1977, he left private practice after many years to become director of emergency services at St. Michaels Hospital in Stevens Point. Survivors include four children, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**James L. McKenna, MD '53,** of Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn., died on May 17, 2014, at the age of 85. He cared for patients for 30 years at Minneapolis Internal Medicine Associates and Minnesota Oncology, and always showed concern for their physical and spiritual well-being. Survivors include his wife, MaryAnn, four children and five grandchildren.

**Leonard J. Kucharski, Sr., MD '56,** of Parma, Ohio, died on February 28, 2014, at the age of 84. He spent much of his career in obstetrics and gynecology in private practice. Dr. Kucharski was very involved with the Cleveland Polka Association. He is survived by his son and two grandchildren.

## 1960s

**Alfred D. Dally, MD '60,** of Madison, Wis., died on April 25, 2015, at the age of 85. He practiced internal medicine in Madison and later served as chief medical officer and medical director of the Medicaid Program at the State of Wisconsin Bureau of Health Care Financing, Department of Health Services. Survivors include five children and four grandchildren.

**Charles M. Bergschneider, MD '61,** of Rancho Mirage, Calif., died on November 13, 2015, at the age of 80. He served as chief of staff and chief of medicine at Pioneer Hospital in Artesia, Calif. Dr. Bergschneider is survived by his spouse, John, and two children.

**George J. Krismer, MD, GME '61,** of Burlington, Wis., died on January 2, 2015, at the age of 83. He is survived by his wife, Helen, four children and eight grandchildren.

**Thomas J. McNaughton, DO, MD '62,** of Phoenix, Ariz., died on March 12, 2015, at the age of 87. He served as chief of neurosurgery at Maricopa County Medical Center in Phoenix from 1971-1987. Dr. McNaughton also

practiced psychiatry later in his career and was selected by *PHOENIX* magazine as one of the premiere psychiatrists in the city. He is survived by his wife, Janice, son and granddaughter.

**Waldo R. Varberg, MD, GME '65,** of Neenah, Wis., died on May 25, 2015, at the age of 83. He established a private orthopaedic surgery practice in Neenah and chaired a number of departments at Theda Clark Hospital during his career. Dr. Varberg is survived by his wife, Mary, four children and nine grandchildren.

**Ronald Horkheimer, MD '67,** of Brookfield, Wis., died on December 14, 2015, at the age of 76. He practiced emergency medicine in Milwaukee after serving as a flight surgeon in the US Navy. Survivors include his wife, Maureen, and four children.

## 1970s

**George R. Hughes, MD '70,** of Whitefish Bay, Wis., died on September 22, 2015, at the age of 77. He is survived by his wife, Debby, and six children.

**Thomas E. Murphy, MD '72,** of Glenview, Ill., died on November 21, 2014, at the age of 80. He practiced as a cardiac surgeon for 37 years. Dr. Murphy is survived by his wife, Jane, four children and eight grandchildren.

## 1990s

**Karl R. Hamson, MD '92,** of Riverside, Calif., died on October 31, 2014, at the age of 51. He served as assistant chief of orthopaedics at Kaiser Permanente Riverside. Dr. Hamson is survived by his wife, Carmen, and four children.

**Travis K. Roth, MD '98,** of Atlanta, died on November 5, 2015, at the age of 45. He practiced emergency medicine in Atlanta.

## 2000s

**Robert P. Saylor, MD, MA '07,** of Springfield, Mo., died on December 28, 2015, at the age of 64. He served in the US Army for eight years, and then practiced nephrology for much of his career. After receiving his graduate degree in Bioethics from MCW in 2007, Dr. Saylor served as director of ethics at Mercy Hospital in Springfield. He is survived by his wife, Marcelene, four children and seven grandchildren.

## 2010s

**Brian T. McMullin, MD, GME '10,** of Houston, died on February 10, 2015, at the age of 43. He practiced otolaryngology at Texas ENT Specialists. Dr. McMullin is survived by his wife, Kendra, and three children.

**Sonya Melodyev, MD '12,** of Berkeley, Calif., died on March 11, 2014, at the age of 29.

## Other Special Remembrances

**Henry F. Edelhauser, PhD,** of Atlanta, died on December 2, 2015, at the age of 78. Dr. Edelhauser was a prominent vision researcher and MCW faculty member in the departments of physiology and ophthalmology from 1966-1989. He led a program project grant related to physiology of the cornea. Dr. Edelhauser is survived by his wife, Barbara, and two children.

**Alfred Franger, MD,** of Brookfield, Wis., died on November 22, 2015, at the age of 82. Dr. Franger served as a full-time faculty member at MCW in obstetrics and gynecology from 1979-1995 and a volunteer faculty member since retiring in 1995. He is survived by his wife, Lynn Gauger, five children and eight grandchildren.

**Howard Klitgaard, PhD,** of Brown Deer, Wis., died on December 18, 2015, at the age of 91. He was a faculty member in MCW's department of physiology for 26 years. Dr. Klitgaard joined the MCW faculty in 1952 and, after several promotions, was appointed vice chair of physiology in 1967. In 1978, he left MCW to become director of research for the Marquette University School of Dentistry. He retired in 1990 and ended an adjunct faculty position at MCW in 1995. Survivors include five children.

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

## Earnestine Willis, MD, MPH



Photo courtesy of Gary Porter

Dr. Willis is the Kellner Professor in Pediatrics and director of the MCW Center for the Advancement of Underserved Children.

### What Drives You?

I am inspired by the potential to improve the lives of children and families in under-resourced communities.

### What Has Been the Highlight of Your Career?

The ability to see marginalized populations take responsibility for the health of their families and communities and joining the healthcare systems in partnership to accomplish positive health outcomes.

### What Do You Still Hope to Accomplish Over Your Career?

Continue to be a “footprint” in the career development of future healthcare professionals and communities for building a thriving healthy community for future generations.

### What Would You Like Your MCW Legacy to Be?

My legacy will highlight my contributions to MCW, realizing its institutional forwardness in adopting a community engagement mission to advance the health status of communities, and teaching the next generation of healthcare professionals to be trailblazers within that mission.

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

We have been given the honor and privilege to influence the lives of future generations in this nation, and taking this responsibility seriously can result in systems and population improvement.

*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.*

**D**r. Earnestine Willis is a leader in child health with interests in analyzing the impact of health systems on children, adolescents and families; applied public policy; community-oriented programs; medical education; health assessments; and child advocacy. For nearly three decades, she has worked tirelessly to address health disparities in Milwaukee through the development of successful community initiatives that include research, education and community services.

The Center for the Advancement of Underserved Children, which Dr. Willis founded and for which she serves as director, is a cooperative endeavor between MCW and Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. The Center's faculty and staff conduct community-oriented research and develop culturally tailored initiatives to understand the current status of children's health in Wisconsin, the US and Canada. Dr. Willis is the first Kellner Professor in Pediatrics, which is funded by Mary and Ted Kellner and the Kelben Foundation. ■

— ANTHONY BRAZA



## A MOMENT IN HISTORY

### 70-Year Partnership with the Zablocki VA Medical Center Begins (1946)

**O**n January 22, 1946, the predecessor institutions of MCW and the Clement J. Zablocki Veterans Affairs Medical Center formalized a partnership that remains vibrant and effective 70 years later. The agreement, one of the first of its kind in the US between a Veterans Administration (VA) hospital and medical school, was developed by Eben J. Carey, MD, dean of the Marquette University School of Medicine (1933-1947), Lt. Col. Glenn Mullens of the VA hospital staff, and Paul Magnuson, MD, chief of research and education at the VA Central Office. It was established two days after Public Law 79-293 was enacted, which allowed the VA to expand its physician workforce to meet the needs of the many veterans returning from World War II.

VA hospitals “were being filled up to the windows... and were critically short of doctors,” notes Dr. Magnuson in his autobiography, *Ring the Night Bell*. “There were not nearly enough residencies in the civilian hospitals to meet their needs.”

Public Law 79-293 worked in tandem with Policy Memorandum #2, which authorized clinical and research affiliations between the VA healthcare system and medical schools to improve the quality of healthcare at VA medical centers. The memorandum laid out the responsibilities of the various parties and placed medical schools in charge of resident training programs; within the year, half of Marquette Medical School's senior class trained at the VA hospital.

The effects of these policy decisions and their swift implementation led to significant local and national



changes, both rapid and long-term. In 1951, the *Milwaukee Journal* reported that the healthcare provided by the VA had garnered the reputation as the highest quality care offered “anywhere in the world.”

The VA has become the top provider of healthcare training in the US, with more than 63,000 medical students and residents conducting rotations at VA medical centers. Research is another shared area of focus between the VA and academic medical centers, as the VA provides nearly \$590 million in annual funding to support research on topics such as post-traumatic stress disorder and improved prosthetics. In 2015, about \$9 million of research – primarily funded by the VA and the NIH – was conducted by MCW faculty at the Zablocki VA.

“As a VA physician for the past three decades, I am

proud that our partnership with the Zablocki VA has grown stronger over the last 70 years – and that we will continue to be devoted to improving the health of veterans throughout all our missions,” remarks John R. Raymond, Sr., MD, president and CEO of MCW. ■

— GREG CALHOUN

### PHOTOS:

(top) A patient visits with Admiral Chester Nimitz (third from left) and other dignitaries at the Milwaukee VA hospital in 1946.

(bottom) Patients line the balconies of the Milwaukee VA hospital in 1953 to hear a speech by a fellow veteran. Photos courtesy of the Zablocki VA Medical center.

To read more, visit [mcw.edu/va](http://mcw.edu/va)



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8701 Watertown Plank Road  
P.O. Box 26509  
Milwaukee, WI 53226-0509  
414-955-4725  
MCWmagazine@mcw.edu

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