Greetings on behalf of the MCW PM&R department! It has been over one year since we distributed our last newsletter and since then, we have witnessed a significant number of changes in the department. Many of the changes will be highlighted within this newsletter. I have been amazed at the resilience of our faculty and staff amidst the changes.

One big change was the relocation of the department home in December 2017 to a brand-new building, the HUB for Collaborative Medicine. The HUB brings clinicians together and closer to our research, educational and community engagement endeavors within a beautiful modern workplace to further foster innovation, collaboration and collegiality. The PM&R department is located on the fourth floor of the HUB, joined by our neuroscience colleagues, the Departments of Neurology and Neurosurgery.

We welcomed a new department administrator, Gunjan Srivastava, in November 2017, four new faculty members within the last year, Dr. Erin McGonigle, Dr. Heather Curtiss, Dr. Robertson-Dick, and Dr. Kusuma Rao, and a new staff member, Beverly Pernitzke in December 2017.

Most importantly, we embarked upon a three-year PM&R department strategic planning process, engaging our faculty and staff in the entire process. In carrying out this collaborative work, we articulated our Mission, our Vision and our Values- I REHAB:

**Mission:**
To provide the highest quality, patient-centered care to the region’s children, adults, and veterans to maximize health, function and well-being.
To educate the next generation of physiatrists.
To conduct clinical translational research to advance the care of patients, families and communities.
To work collaboratively, professionally, efficiently and transparently throughout the department to perform all duties to the best of our abilities.

**Vision:**
The Medical College of Wisconsin Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation will be the leading provider of care for patients with functional and rehabilitative needs. We will:
Deliver excellence in subspecialty clinical care.
Foster an environment to facilitate leading-edge research.
Provide an innovative educational environment for training of the next generation of physiatrists.
Work in a team-based environment built upon diversity, collaboration, professionalism, respect, accountability and transparency.

**Values - I REHAB:**
**Integrity:** Act with high moral principle. Adhere to the highest professional standards. Maintain the trust and confidence of all with whom I engage.
**Respect:** Treat all those I serve and with whom I work with dignity and respect. Show respect to earn it.
**Excellence:** Strive for the highest quality and continuous improvement. Be thoughtful and decisive in leadership, accountable for my actions, willing to admit mistakes, and rigorous in correcting them.
**Health-advocacy:** Engage in and promote activities that promote health, accessibility and patient-centered care.
**Accountability:** Accept responsibility or account for one’s actions.
**Boldness:** Courageous in the face of challenges. Not afraid to think and act big. Face adversity with a resilient attitude.

(Continued on page 2)
Our six defined strategic goals will now further influence our decision making and planning for the next three-five years:

1. Expand our Clinical Reach in the Region.
2. Launch a Cultural Transformation to Strengthen Engagement Across the Department.
3. Increase our Research Capabilities, Participation and Production.
4. Recruit and Educate the Next Generation of Outstanding PM&R Providers.
5. Enhance our Community Engagement Efforts with High Impact Activities.

As a result of our strategic planning initiative, we formally developed a community division inclusive of inpatient rehabilitation. Faculty now provide physiatric inpatient consultations, admissions and inpatient rehabilitative care at Community Memorial Hospital, in addition to expanding other outpatient clinical services in the community.

We remain deeply committed to training our future physiatrists and continuously aim to enhance our educational experiences through faculty development and curricular improvements. A resident research-intensive track has been developed under the direction of our new research director, Dr. Matt Durand. We optimistically look toward implementing many of the tactics to achieve our goals while simultaneously enhancing our staff and faculty engagement!
What a year it has been! I say this as I reflect upon the multitude of tasks the department completed successfully, as well as impart the sentiments of my colleagues who have been part of the department longer than I. My journey as administrator in PMR started in November 2017 and soon I realized the dynamic, yet resilient statue of the department, which is now my home. Every day as I reflect upon the faculty work, team resilience and ongoing collaborative work, I am nothing short of proud of each one of us!

One of the most significant projects the department has taken upon is the three-year strategic planning. In the previous section of this newsletter, our Chair described the six goals the department identified for itself. The goals, as you see, are a result of the meticulous strategic planning work initiated by holding a full-day strategic planning meeting in the first week of November 2017. We value every member of our team, and as such, the event included all faculty and staff. It was my first “a lot at stake” meeting, and I would be amiss if I don’t mention how incredibly proud I was to see the attendance and enthusiasm of the faculty and staff during this meeting. The department conducted a SWOT analysis of the current state, developed the Mission, Vision and Values of the department, as well as solidified the strategic goals. With all forces of the department participating, we settled on no less than “Commitment” to our goals and vision.

While each of the goals has a solid importance, I will share with you more details on “Expansion of Clinical Reach in the Region”. Whether one reviews the demand and supply model of economics, the aim to serve the population health paradigm, or provide a continuum of care; all point toward expanding clinical reach in the region. As part of Froedtert & Medical College of Wisconsin, we also wanted to provide a continuum of care to our rehabilitation patients. Our vision thus became not only accessible rehabilitation medicine, but also one that is embedded in relationship with a large academic medical center and bring the value of multi-disciplinary care.

The department recruited Board-Certified Physiatrist, Dr. Kusuma Rao, and fellowship-trained Dr. Brian Robertson-Dick, to embark upon this journey with us. Both providers provide rehabilitation services at Community Memorial Hospital and in near future, at the outpatient clinics of North Hills Health Center. While the hospital location will provide inpatient care, the outpatient clinic will provide care in an ambulatory setting. I view the expansion as one that will reflect strong academic and clinical relationships, not only between the new and existing faculty, but also with the multi-disciplinary resources available at Froedtert & Medical College of Wisconsin. Our commitment to provide excellent patient service has inevitably become the backdrop of this expansion. The department of PM&R truly expects that these new sites will facilitate patients through continuum of care and be paramount to providing high quality rehabilitation services.

As I look back to that strategic planning meeting in November, and compare to where we are today, I feel confident that we have maximized on the opportunities that were presented to us. Our work is not over yet, with inclusion of two new faculty for Rehabilitation care in the community, we continue to work upon the next set of priorities and commitments. We look forward to strengthening the Rehabilitation continuum of care with our academic and community partners, identify and develop referral strategies, and continue to educate patients and families.

As part of Froedtert & Medical College of Wisconsin, we are proud of our work and our teams, and take pride in our passion to do better every day. It is my belief that our team of faculty, providers, and staff in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation are committed to excellence and will not be deterred by the various challenges of today’s healthcare landscape.

I-REHAB: Integrity: Respect: Excellence: Health advocacy: Accountability: Boldness
Department Celebrates Fellow and Resident Graduation – Where are they now?

In June 2018, the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation celebrated the completion of training for three fellows and six residents; a significant accomplishment as these physicians move on to the next phase of their careers.

**Fellows**

**Vivian Roy, MD** – Attending Physician, Shirley Ryan AbilityLab, Chicago, Illinois

**Brian Robertson-Dick, MD** – Attending Physician, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Medical College of Wisconsin

**Nicole Wagaman, DO** – Medical Director of the Spinal Cord Injury Unit at Rusk Rehabilitation Center and Assistant Professor of Clinical PM&R at University of Missouri Health Care, Columbia, MO

**Residents**

**Thanzeela Mohideen, MD** – Physician, Community Health System, Munster, IN

**Zara Schulman, MD** – Physician, Northwest Neurology, Lake Barrington, IL

**Kimberly Keniry, MD** – Fellow, Spasticity and Neurorehabilitation Fellowship, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI

**Carrie Poethke, DO** – Physician, Allina Health/Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute, Minneapolis, MN

**Sarah Stauder, MD** – Fellow, Palliative Care Fellowship, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI

**Cassandra List, MD** – Fellow, Spasticity and Neurorehabilitation Fellowship, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI.

Drs. Mohideen, Schulman, Keniry, Poethke, Stauder, List

Drs. Sepahpanah and Roy
We extend a very warm welcome to six residents who joined our department on July 1, 2018. Special thank you to: Chief Residents, Drs. Ryan and Lamb for orienting our new residents to PM&R at MCW and all faculty, residents and staff who made our PGY2s feel a part of our PM&R family.

Residency has gone “Paperless” since moving to the hub
To substantially reduce paper and toner usage, all resident files are now electronic. We are very excited with the continued success of this initiative!

Resident Retreat
We are happy to announce the third annual PM&R Residency Retreat on Friday, September 28th. This is an opportunity for all our residents to be relieved of their clinical duties to focus on team-building activities with their colleagues.

The objectives of this retreat (as defined by our Chief Residents) are as follows:

- To build more effective working relationships and bolster friendships between senior and junior residents by increasing awareness of each other’s backgrounds, motivations, and personalities.
- To facilitate and strengthen mentor groups between senior and junior residents who share common career interests and aspirations.
- Build a collective vision of the ideal work dynamic between the residents for the 2018-19 academic year and create the foundation for having a productive and successful year.
- Emphasize the importance of teamwork and how to best utilize each other’s strengths to achieve a team goal.
- Develop communication skills and enhance leadership skills to build stronger physician leaders who can act as better patient advocates, better mentors for their co-residents, and better role models for the hospital team.
- Learn how to effectively communicate with team members by discussing the diversity of working styles.

Recruitment 2018-2019:
This year we will be recruiting one PGY2 (R) position to start July 1, 2019 and six PGY2 positions to start July 1, 2020. Interviews will be held on November 9, 2018; November 16, 2018; December 7, 2018; December 14, 2018; and January 4, 2019.

2018-2019
Neurorehabilitation and Spasticity Fellowship Program Fellows

Cassandra List, MD
Kimberly Keniry, MD
The Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin (CHW) Pediatric Rehabilitation group brings to the table complimentary interests and expertise in treating many different disabling disorders of childhood including cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, muscular dystrophy and other neuromuscular diseases, brachial plexus injury, and spina bifida. To maximize our reach and effectiveness, we participate in several collaborative clinics with Orthopedics, Neurology, ENT, Plastic Surgery, Urology, Neurosurgery and Oncology.

The pediatric Rehab team has clinics on the main campus of CHW and has expanded to several “care closer to home” sites including Greenfield and New Berlin, with plans to expand to Fox Valley and Kenosha in 2019.

We are currently engaged in compiling a business plan for development of an acute inpatient rehabilitation service at CHW. Presently, our department provides consultative services in the hospital, but we are not an admitting service. CHW does not have an acute inpatient rehabilitation unit to provide post-acute care to our patients. This leaves an area of unmet need in children who require more rehabilitation but do not have the acuity of medical needs to require continued hospitalization on an acute medical service. This includes children recovering from brain injuries, poly-traumas, spinal cord injuries, burns and epilepsy surgery. Our goal for the future is to create an acute inpatient rehab unit at CHW that will allow children in Southeastern Wisconsin to rehabilitate close to home and their families.

Our nurse practitioners, Hannah Belknap and Julia Fishler, have led the process to transition our young adult patients with intrathecal baclofen pumps from the pediatric PM&R practice at CHW to the adult PM&R practice at Froedtert Hospital. This process has been optimized with the use of technology (EPIC letters) and personal touch, via hand off between the nurse practitioners at CHW and Froedtert Hospital.

Dr. Stacy Stibb spoke at the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation annual meeting in October 2017 on the important topic of physician burnout.

In May 2018, Dr. Kim Zvara successfully completed the MCW leadership academy and her group presented the important topic of “Contributions of Advanced Practice Providers’ Effort” to MCW leadership.

We are actively participating in a Phase IV prospective, observational multicenter clinical trial for evaluating the effectiveness and safety of Dysport, (Abobotulinum toxin A). Dr. Karin Goodfriend has a research grant for studying the relationship of brain connectivity and functional outcomes in patients after stroke.

We have strong community ties with the Milwaukee Ballet, who we have collaborated with for several sessions of adaptive ballet. This allows our patients who might not attend mainstream ballet class, due to physical or cognitive impairments, the opportunity to participate. We continue to collaborate with Marquette University’s Biomedical engineering department, to create adaptive equipment for children with arthrogryposis.

Our team volunteers twice yearly at Penfield Children’s Center to provide collaborative care for patients in conjunction with their physical, occupational and speech therapy teams.

We also support our patients outside of the clinic including volunteer work to support the Go Baby Go program and cheering on our patients at various run-walks.
Assistive Technology Application Improving Socialization on VA Spinal Cord Injury Unit - SCI
by Katie Schultz, DPT, ATP

The Milwaukee VA Hospital SCI Center implemented an Assistive Technology Program in April 2017, under the direction of Kenneth Lee, MD. The Assistive Technology program was created by Dr. Katie Schultz, DPT, ATP and the mission was simple: “To enhance, preserve, and restore the quality of life of the Veteran served by integrating the use of assistive technology into a Veteran-centered care plan.”

Assistive Technology services are available to Veterans across the continuum of care and include improving computer and mobile device access, complex seating and positioning, environmental control units, and adaptive recreational technology. One of the most talked about aspects of Milwaukee’s Assistive Technology program is the use of VGo Robots for patient socialization. VGo enables the patient/Veteran to replicate themselves and have the freedom to move around as if they were physically there. With VGo, the patient/Veteran can see, hear, talk and interact with others from their room.

The Milwaukee SCI Center has two VGo robots, affectionately named Pete and Re-Pete, that are housed on the SCI inpatient unit. The robots are used to improve Veteran socialization, via video chat, especially for inpatients who are on bedrest or airborne isolation for prolonged periods of time. A Veteran can maneuver the robot around the SCI unit interacting with Veterans and staff in hallways and at events in the multi-purpose room. Each robot has a 6-inch video screen, webcam, lights, and a battery that allows for 6 hours of continual use.

The robots operate on the iOS platform, SCI wi-fi network, and can be maneuvered by any iPad or iPhone with the VGo app. In addition to assisting our inpatients, parental controls can be configured that allow homebound Veterans access to a robot to attend wellness events, such as our F.R.E.S.H cooking class. (F.R.E.S.H. Fixing Recipes Enhances Self-esteem and Health).

The feedback from SCI Veterans has been extremely positive regarding the use of the VGo robots on the inpatient unit.

Veteran maneuvering ‘Pete’ around the SCI Unit
Trip to Ukraine – by Dr. Oksana Sayko

I have a hard time believing that we recently finished our fourth rehab trip to Ukraine in June 2018. Over time, our trips have become a part of me and my teammates’ lives. As we complete our daily work here in the states, we often think about what we are doing from a slightly different angle – how can the rehab skills we have, be applied in Ukraine? Once you get involved helping others in need, the passion to help takes over and it becomes a part of your life.

Many things have changed in Ukraine since the war in 2014 and the shock of occupation by Russia. The country was caught in a time of economic crisis. At the time, the army did not have the necessary shoes, uniforms, simple ammunition or much more. The economy of Ukraine was barely surviving, and it had to change its priorities and move in the direction of supporting the military and defense. Because of the strong support of NATO countries, and especially the USA, Ukraine overcame the challenge and was able to build adequate defense in the East.

As always, war comes with deaths and injuries. The Ukrainian healthcare system was not doing any better in 2014 than any other part of their economy. Rehabilitation was non-existent at the time of active military action in Eastern Ukraine when wounded soldiers and volunteers overflowed military and civilian hospitals. This is the scenario we encountered during our first trip in 2015. Our focus, at that time, was to see patients and provide medical teams with recommendations for rehabilitation. We also educated families on daily rehab care since families were left with the burden of care for their loved ones in the setting of nonexistent rehab and very minimal social support from the state organizations. This was a time of awakening for the country, and a time of realization that without building strong rehabilitation for its people, Ukraine will always be behind other civilized countries.

As a team, we saw the future of rehabilitation in Ukraine in building educational programs for PM&R physicians, physical, occupational and speech therapists. Each trip, in all the following years, was dedicated to educating health care professionals and assisting with setting up clinical rehabilitation programs for their patients. It was rewarding to see the growing interest in rehabilitation over time. During our most recent educational course, participants came from 19 of 23 regions of Ukraine. Some of them have been coming every year to gain more knowledge and practical skills to serve their patients better. We witnessed new rehabilitation clinics opening over time, practicing the skills we taught in our lectures and workshops.

Our team is bonded by passion to help others. Each year, as we prepare for the next trip, we’ve always found the most dedicated and passionate rehabilitation professionals. Dr. David Del Toro has been to Ukraine every year since our first trip in 2015. Dr. Del Toro would teach tirelessly during the lectures and hands-on workshops and ask to see patients needing consultation every time he had a free minute during the day. Tina Stoeckman, PT participated in three trips, generously shared her knowledge with hundreds of Ukrainian therapists over the years and helped multiple patients with neurological problems. Dr. Chris White, along with Spine Care physical therapists Pam Fleckenstein and Mary Beth Ponzo, joined the team this year and became a tremendous addition as they introduced the evidence-based approach to treatment of spine problems to Ukrainian medical professionals. We are very thankful to Brenda McGinley, OT who reached out to me after she learned the team is planning the trip and was able to share her extensive knowledge in neurorehab with Ukrainians. The team would not exist without Alex Onyskiv, our guide and coordinator who put all his effort to make the trip flawless.

We have more work to do in the future. I am honored to be a part of this team and lead it to the new horizons.
Dr. Hong Wu is currently the president of American Association of Chinese Rehabilitation Physicians (AACRP) and has been actively providing education and training to young physiatrists in China. During the first annual meeting of Chinese Association of Rehabilitation Medicine (CARM) held in Beijing in December 2017, Dr. Wu represented AACRP in the signing of an agreement with CARM for future collaborations. During this inaugural meeting, she was also invited to give a lecture.

The first Rehabilitation Physicians Intense Training workshop was subsequently held in Beijing from May 25, 2018 through May 27, 2018. It was co-organized by AACRP, CARM and Beijing Tsinghua Chang Gung Hospital. Dr. Wu co-directed the training course. The purpose of the course was to provide basic training on musculoskeletal and spinal examination, evaluation and diagnosis of common cervical and lumbar diseases, medical and interventional management of common spinal conditions, and fluoroscopy pattern interpretation, as well as interdisciplinary clinical case discussions. Additionally, the latest developments in the field of musculoskeletal rehabilitation, spine and pain management with a focus on back pain management were presented. Three physicians from the United States participated in the training course.

In the training course, Dr. Wu presented an overview of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in the U.S. and a lecture on common spinal injections with fluoroscopy spread patterns. The other two physicians are from the SUNY Upstate Medical University and Duke University. These lectures have been very well received and promoted communication among physiatrists from the United States and China for the delivery of high-quality rehabilitation care to patients. Participants of the workshop post-exams showed a significant improvement of 120% increase in scores compared to the pre-exam. Most trainees are looking forward to more workshops in the future. AACRP will continue to serve as an important and active platform in bridging Chinese and American physiatrists in educational and medical exchanges.

Additionally, Dr. Wu is an active member of Association of Academic Physiatrist (AAP) Global Academic Physiatry Task Force. The group is working on developing academic collaborations with international partners to promote rehabilitation services in those underdeveloped countries.
The Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation has a robust Research program that supports the rigorous scholarly activity of our faculty, residents, students and staff, and promotes the advancement of research that truly meets the needs of our patients.

Our former Research Director Danny Riley, Ph.D., retired from MCW in June 2018. After providing guidance, leadership and excellent research mentorship in our department for over 6 years, he stepped down from his PM&R research director role in December 2017. Dr. Riley was honored with a plaque on Research Day, April 25, 2018. It was a privilege to work with Dr. Riley and we are grateful for his dedication to our department.

Matt Durand, Ph.D., was appointed Research Director in January 2018. Dr. Durand completed his graduate education in the MCW Department of Physiology and his postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He joined PM&R as faculty in October 2015, and quickly established a body of work resulting in more than 10 publications and a successfully funded career development award from the Clinical and Translational Science Institute of Southeastern Wisconsin. Under his leadership, our department created the Research Intensive Track for our resident research program. This track is designed to provide residents interested in developing research skills in academic medicine an opportunity for advanced training in research. Residents in this track have protected time for research, access to strategic pilot funding to support their projects, and a mentorship committee. Residents join the Research Intensive Track as PGY1’s, which allows them to select a mentor and research project earlier than residents in the General Research Track. This is the first year we are implementing this program and have three residents that have matriculated into the program – Drs. Erin Beddows (PGY3), Nick Donahue (PGY2), Michael Harper (PGY2). Dr. Beddows, under the mentorship of Drs. Erin McGonigle, Nicholas Ketchum and Matt Durand, was recently awarded the Richard S. Materson New Investigator Research Award from the Foundation for PM&R for her project entitled “Botulinum Toxin A for the Treatment of Chemotherapy Induced Peripheral Neuropathy”. We are thrilled about this new opportunity for our residents and look forward to providing exciting updates on this program as it progresses.

Our General Research track continues to provide rigorous research training that provides a foundation of excellence in applying research methods to clinical care and a deep understanding of current research for evidence-based clinical practices. Our PGY2 residents attend a national scientific conference as an immersive professional experience that supports understanding of cutting-edge research and professionalism. Residents present a summary of one keynote presentation of interest to PM&R faculty, residents and staff during Research Grand Rounds. We are able to support this experience through the generous support of the John Melvin Endowment. The engagement of our alumni, through gifts to the department, allows us to continue our excellent training programs.

The Stroke Rehabilitation Center, a collaborative effort between Marquette University and the Medical College of Wisconsin, drives cutting-edge research in the area of imaging, novel rehabilitation technologies and interventions to improve stroke rehabilitation. The SRC is funded by the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin in a 5-year award to Diane Braza, MD. The SRC also funds innovative research in clinical translational and community engaged research. The SRC established a Community Academic Advisory Board (CAAB) consisting of stroke survivors, caregivers, academic researchers, clinicians, and therapists to guide the development of research projects that are relevant to the lived needs of stroke survivors and reflect the outcomes and interests that are most important to our patients. The CAAB has been used as a model for community engagement in other departments and initiatives.

Our faculty continue to publish cutting-edge research that contributes to better patient care and deeper understanding of our field. PM&R faculty and residents published original research articles in peer-reviewed journals during the academic year 2017-2018, along with presentation of several abstracts at national conferences. In addition, faculty also submitted grants to many funding institutions and centers.

We continue to support junior clinical faculty with protected research time, research support staff, opportunities for pilot funding through our Research Administration, and support for presenting original research at national conferences. Our research support staff consists of Moriah Iverson, MS Program Manager II, Rachel Minkin, MS Clinical Research Coordinator (CRC) and Jennifer Nguyen, BS Clinical Research Assistant.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Our Community Engagement Program currently has two pilot projects funded by Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin. Through this program we have partnered with Heartlove Place to explore ways to increase access to physical activity in public spaces in distressed neighborhoods within the City of Milwaukee.

Our partnership with True Skool focuses on a hip-hop-based creative arts program to increase physical activity and resilience for patients with a spinal cord injury due to gun violence.

A partnership with Heartlove Place, a nonprofit organization serving Milwaukee’s North side neighborhoods, focuses on creating safe public spaces for community-based physical activity.

PM&R is represented in the MCW Community Engagement program through Moriah Iverson, MS, who is the Community Engagement Liaison for our department. Ms. Iverson was awarded the 2018 President’s Community Engagement Award. This achievement truly reflects the dedication of the department leadership to driving community engaged research and methodology to ensure our projects reflect the needs of our patients and community.

Our Research and Community Engagement Program continues to excel. Engaged faculty pioneer important clinical research, trainees who contribute to the field and represent MCW PM&R, and research leadership that ensures the lived needs of our patients are met.

Expanding our training program and community engagement promises exciting growth of our strong foundation. Gifts from our Alumni are critical to supporting the research initiatives of our department as we grow.
New Faculty Members

Erin McGonigle, MD Returns to PM&R
Erin McGonigle, MD is excited to be returning to MCW to join the PM&R Department as faculty. Having finished training at Rush Medical College, she completed her residency in PM&R and Fellowship in Neurorehabilitation and Spasticity Management at MCW, graduating in 2015. For the past three years Dr. McGonigle has worked at Northwest Neurology in the Chicago suburbs as their Physiatrist, performing the majority of their spasticity management and developing an intrathecal baclofen pump program. Her areas of interest are spasticity (associated with strokes, brain injury, multiple sclerosis, SCI, and adult CP), dystonia, botulinum toxin injections, baclofen pumps, EMG, and amputee rehab. She lives in Fox Point with her cat, Paddy. She enjoys running, decorating her new house, and cheering for the Brewers, unless they’re playing the Cubs!

Heather Curtiss, MD Joins PM&R
Dr. Heather Curtiss is a native of Wisconsin. She received a B.S. in Kinesiology from University of Wisconsin-Madison, and an athletic training certification from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Dr. Curtiss then completed her medical education in Madison at University of Wisconsin, School of Medicine and Public Health graduating in 2007. After finishing her Masters in Biomechanics from UW-Milwaukee, she completed a PM&R residency at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Her training was completed with a sports medicine fellowship at the University of Utah. She practiced for several years at Marshfield Clinic in Wisconsin, but chose to transition back into academic medicine and had been practicing at University of Utah since 2016. She could not pass up the opportunity to combine an academic practice of sports and spine closer to her family in Milwaukee. Dr. Curtiss joined the Medical College of Wisconsin in March 2018 and is looking forward to continuing her career in academic medicine. Teaching is one of her strong interests with specific passion for musculoskeletal ultrasound and procedural training. Research will always be an interest, focusing on injury mechanisms and physician burnout.
She is married with 2 children, ages 13 and 10. Her husband, Paul, will be working in the title industry. As a family, they enjoy hiking and the outdoors. Much of her spare time is trying to keep up with the children who are involved in tennis, dance, basketball, track and band. They certainly will be able to attend many more family events with the immediate family in Madison, and the extended family all throughout the Milwaukee area!

Brian Robertson-Dick, MD Transitions to Faculty Member
Brian Robertson-Dick, MD is excited to be continuing at MCW in the Department of PM&R as faculty. Dr. Robertson-Dick received his MD from Loyola University of Chicago Stritch School of Medicine. He completed his intern year at the Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center in Chicago before coming to Milwaukee to complete his residency in PM&R at MCW. This last academic year he completed a fellowship in Neurorehabilitation and Spasticity Management, also at MCW.

Dr. Robertson-Dick’s academic interests are spasticity management (including botulinum toxin injections and baclofen pump management), stroke rehabilitation, neuromodulation, EMG, and research. Currently, he has ongoing projects related to ambulation and balance in the stroke population and upper extremity spasticity quantification. Outside of work, Brian enjoys competitive running, music/concerts, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.

Kusuma C. Rao MD Alumni Returns to MCW
Kusuma C. Rao MD is a MCW alumni and has joined our team from Wheaton Franciscan Medical Group. She has expertise in inpatient, consultative, outpatient, amputee services, EMG, and subacute rehabilitation. Dr. Rao will serve as the Medical Director at our community partner, Community Memorial Hospital. Dr. Rao received her MD from Guntur Medical College, Andhra University in India. She completed both her PMR residency training and Electromyography Fellowship training at the Medical College of Wisconsin and Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center. Dr. Rao enjoys gardening, spending time with family and friends and community services.
Gunjan Srivastava joins PM&R

Gunjan Srivastava joined as the Department Administrator on October 30, 2017. Gunjan transitioned from the Department of Surgery where she served as the division administrator for the Vascular Surgery Program for close to two years. Gunjan joined MCW in the summer of 2014 as part of the MCP Clinic Operations and Service Quality team. She was promoted to Administrator for Vascular Surgery in January 2016 where she demonstrated versatile skills to manage engagement, streamline operations and finance, as well as coordinate a multi-site ambulatory clinic and inpatient unit. All of these include the various segments of the Vascular Surgery Practice within Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Gunjan believes in performance metrics and numbers, but credits the team and people for such success. One of her greatest commitments at this time is to understand and improve engagement from both faculty and staff, which are the strongest drivers of a successful program. She also believes in strategizing to develop new programs, optimizing clinical and administrative workflows to improve customer and provider satisfaction.

Prior to moving to Milwaukee, Gunjan completed her MBA degree from New York University, which was a career transitioning move for her. She received a degree in dental surgery from India and then completed two years of private practice experience. Gunjan lives in Waukesha with her husband, who is a scientist at the Center Trials Office of Froedtert & Medical College of Wisconsin. “Leadership is not a title, it’s a behavior.”

Beverly Pernitzke joins PM&R

Beverly Pernitzke joined our PM&R Department and Education team in December 2017 as an Education Program Coordinator II. She has extensive experience in graduate medical education, having served as fellowship coordinator for the five MCW Psychiatry fellowship programs. She began her career at The Medical College of Wisconsin in 1998 as an Administrative Assistant in Utilization Management. After one year in Utilization Management, Beverly moved to Managed Care and Credentialing, as a Sr. Administrative Assistant, working with provider contracts and physician credentialing.

In the fall of 2001, she took a position in the Department of Psychiatry in the Behavioral Mental Health clinic responsible for all administrative duties and tasks supporting both psychiatrists and psychologists and patient scheduling. She transferred into the Administrative/Educational area of the department in the fall of 2004 as a Program Coordinator for the two, then-current, fellowship programs, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Forensic Psychiatry. Three additional fellowship programs; Geriatric Psychiatry, Addiction Psychiatry and Psychosomatic Medicine were developed and ACGME-accredited during a three-year span for a total of five fellowship programs. Managing overlapping major projects became her forte. Beverly is also a member of several local and national committees and certified by the National Board for Certification for Training Administrators of Graduate Medical Education (TAGME) from 2009-2017. Beverly is a native of Wisconsin and lives in the Town of Lisbon with her Havanese dog, Norman.
PM&R Faculty Named 2018 Best Doctors in America®

Nine Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation physicians are listed among The Best Doctors in America® for 2017-2018:

Diane Braza, MD  David Del Toro, MD  Mark Klingbeil, MD  John McGuire, MD  William Waring, MD  David deDianous, MD  Anne Hoch, DO  Judith Kosasih, MD  Thomas Kotsonis, MD  Kimberley L. Zvara, MD

Best Doctors physicians include the world’s top medical specialists. They are selected by other doctors through a comprehensive review process. Best Doctors surveys physicians nationwide to find out which doctors they trust most. At present, the Best Doctors in America™ database includes over 50,000 physicians representing more than 450 medical specialties and subspecialties. Doctors cannot pay to be included on the Best Doctors list or nominate themselves for consideration.

Merle R. Orr, MD - 2018 The Milwaukee Times Black Excellence Award

Merle R. Orr, MD, assistant professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation at the Medical College of Wisconsin, was selected by The Milwaukee Times to receive the 2018 Black Excellence Award in the Health category. Awards were presented during the Black Excellence Award ceremony on Feb. 23 at the Italian Community Center. The Black Excellence Awards recognize groundbreaking African Americans from across the area who are serving communities, inspiring peers and transforming lives.

William Waring, MD — FASIA Distinguished Accomplishment

Dr. Waring was recognized by the Fellowship in the American Spinal Injury Association (FASIA) Board of Directors for distinguished accomplishment within the fields of spinal cord injury research, clinical practice, education and advocacy, and for a longstanding membership of service to the society. This designation of FASIA recognizes prominent contributions to, and support of, ASIA’s policies, practices, operations and goals, which together advance the organizational mission. The designation also carries an unofficial obligation of maintaining an example of accomplishment for others in ASIA and providing continued leadership in the field. ASIA Fellowship Award recipients were announced for the first time during the 2018 Annual Scientific Meeting in Rochester, Minnesota.

Dr. Carley Sauter and Dr. Christopher White are enrolled in the inaugural 2018-2019 KINETIC3 Teaching Academy with The MCW Kern Institute. This one-year faculty development program offers nine core content courses, as well as nine electives, and will culminate with a scholarly capstone project. All courses are aligned with Character, Competence, Caring and Well-being.

Dr. Karin Goodfriend led a discussion in August for KALEIDOSCOPE, a film series with a Diversity Lens. The film “Including Samuel” is about a cerebral palsy patient’s family experiences, hopes and struggles seeking inclusion around physical disabilities.

Carrie Miller, MD, PGY4, won the APS Best Trainee/Resident/Fellows Poster award at ASCIP this year for her poster presentation, “Biomechanical Analysis of Wheelchair Athletes with Paraplegia during Cross-Training Exercises.” The award was presented to her in the Grand Rounds session on Monday, September 3, 2018 in the Grand Ballroom at ASCIP.

Mary Voegeli, APNP compiled a chapter for the newly released book/manual by the Academy of Certified Brain Injury Specialists (ACBIS) entitled “Medical Complications after Traumatic Brain Injury.”

Moriah Iverson was awarded the 2018 President’s Community Engagement Award.

The President’s Community Engagement Award recognizes the exemplary community-academic partnership, community-engaged research and community outreach activities of faculty, staff, students and/or community partners of the Medical College of Wisconsin.
Faculty Publications in Academic Year 2017 - 2018


To open an article: Right click on the article and click on Open Hyperlink from the dropdown list.
Annual meetings:
ASCIP - Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals - September 2-5, 2018 - New Orleans, LA
ACRM - American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine - September 30 - October 3, 2018 - Dallas, Texas
AANEM - American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine - October 10-13, 2018 - Washington, D.C.
AAPM&R - American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation - October 25-28, 2018 - Orlando, Florida
AAP - Association of Academic Physiatrists - February 19-23, 2019 - Puerto Rico
AMSSM - American Medical Society for Sports Medicine - April 12-17, 2019 - Houston, Texas

Department Grand Rounds:
January 2019
“Boxing Medicine”
Yuka Kobayashi, DO, MS, Sports Medicine Fellow
Department of Orthopedic Surgery
Medical College of Wisconsin.

February 2019
Complex regional Pain Syndrome”
Stacy Stibb, DO, Assistant Professor,
Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
Children's Hospital of Wisconsin

March 2019 - Gerda E. Klingbeil, MD Brain Injury Symposium
“Caring for the Caregiver: Never forget the importance of their role!”
Allison Stephans, MSW, APSW
Abdominal Transplant Social Worker
Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin

April 2019 - TBD

May 2019
“Starting and Maintaining Romantic Relationships after Spinal Cord Injury”
Michael Smith, PhD, Psychologist and Michelle Wesline, RN, Case Manager
Spinal Cord Injury Center
Froedtert Hospital

June 2019
'Stem Cell'
Karie Zach, MD, Assistant Professor
Department of Orthopedic Surgery
Medical College of Wisconsin

Other Events:
2019 Research Day—April 2019 (Date to be announced)
2019 Resident Graduation - June 20, 2019 at Boerner Botanical Gardens
Endowment Fund Development Update

Endowed funds are the cornerstone of academic institutions and we are grateful to all who have contributed to build this sustainable source of scholastic funding in PM&R. To date, this endowment totals $277,165.88 and donors continue to make payments. This fund has been a part of the MCW Endowment portfolio for over a decade and has grown through investments. The Fair Market Value of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Education and Research Endowment Fund as of June 30, 2018 is $331,200.28.

We wish to extend our sincere appreciation to all faculty and alumni who contribute to our mission to advance our science and education for future generations of physiatrists.

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Anonymous (Z)
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(*) Current faculty
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We are interested to learn more about you, our alumni, and what information you would like to know about our department.

Please take a few minutes to answer the two questions below. Your answers will help us better meet your needs and keep you informed of department activities.

Do you find our newsletter helpful and/or informative:  □ Yes  □ No

How do you prefer to receive the newsletter?  □ Printed/mail  □ Electronic/email

Tell us what you enjoy most about the newsletter and what additional information you would like to see included in future newsletters.

Please use the area below for your comments or send an email message with your comments to: Gunjan Srivastava at gsrivastava@mcw.edu or Beverly Pernitzke at bpernitz@mcw.edu.

Comments:  ____________________________________________________________________  
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Name:_________________________________  Email:_________________________________

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______________________________________________________________________________

Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
Medical College of Wisconsin - Hub for Collaborative Medicine  
8701 Watertown Plank Road  
Milwaukee, WI  53226

Contact:  
Beverly Pernitzke  
Phone: 414-955-1926  
E-mail: bpernitz@mcw.edu

For more information about our program  
see our updated website at:

https://mcw.edu/departments/physical-medicine-and-rehabilitation
Yes, I’d like to support the Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

I. AMOUNT (may be paid over 5 years)
   Please accept my commitment of: $25,000 $10,000 $5,000 $1,000 Other $ ______

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Attn: Gunjan Srivastava, PM&R Administrator
Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation - HUB
8701 W. Watertown Plank Road, Milwaukee, WI 53226