



We are all researchers ...
as friends and loyal supporters of the Medical College of Wisconsin.



The We Care Fund

At its core, the We Care Fund for Medical Innovation and Research in the Department of Surgery is about the hope for a future with better treatments. Established in 2010, the We Care Fund has raised more than \$1 million from more than 750 grateful patients, families, friends, faculty, and alumni. Every penny raised supports research and clinical projects that can't wait for traditional funding sources.

As part of one of the nation's top academic medical centers, the MCW Department of Surgery uses support from the We Care Fund to supply research dollars in the fields of cancer, cardiovascular disease, gastrointestinal diseases, organ transplantation, diseases of the newborn/child, and trauma.

Preventing Side Effects from Chemotherapy for Breast Cancer

Symptomatic toxicity secondary to chemotherapy or targeted therapies are often managed throughout treatment and resolve or decrease upon cessation of the treatment. At other times, severe or late-onset consequences persist after completion of therapy, and effective management strategies are lacking. This study will research mechanisms of chemotherapy-induced cardiotoxicity in breast cancer.

Research
Spotlight

Amanda L. Kong, MD, MS
Associate Professor
Division of Surgical Oncology



Exploring Promising New Therapies in Liver Cancer Treatment

Research
Spotlight

Liver cancer is one of the most common and lethal forms of cancer worldwide, which typically develops in cirrhotic livers associated primarily with hepatitis or ethanol damage. This novel and innovative study uses a natural compound and synthesized drug analog against liver cancer. The hope is the results of this study lead to the development of a clinical trial at MCW.

T. Clark Gamblin, MD, MS, MBA
Stuart D. Wilson, MD, Professor and Chief
Division of Surgical Oncology



The We Care Fund

at the
Medical College of Wisconsin



Be a partner in innovation ...

as our scientists explore pathways to treatments for some of the most complicated diseases.

Improving Neurological Outcomes in Children During Heart Surgery

A myriad of factors may correlate with the casualty of brain injury in newborns, including congenital brain abnormalities, accidents within the uterus, pre- and post-operative instability in blood circulation, and injury during surgery or medical examination. This study will assess adequate oxygen delivery, identify optimal neuro/somatic protective perfusion parameters, and evaluate neurodevelopmental outcomes in patients receiving full-body perfusion during aortic arch reconstruction operations.

Research
Spotlight

Viktor Hraska, MD, PhD

Professor and Chief of Pediatric Congenital Cardiac Surgery at MCW
Medical Director of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin



DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY RESEARCH FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Quality Improvement in Neonatal Intensive Care Units Around Wisconsin



Marjorie J. Arca, MD
Professor, Division of Pediatric Surgery

In Wisconsin, significant variability of care exists among centers with respect to prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of infants with surgical conditions. We would like to create a regional collaborative of Level II and IV neonatal intensive care units to establish standards and consensus of care in patients with necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC). A database will be created to monitor standards compliance and track patient outcomes.

Precision Therapy to Cure Metastatic Breast Cancer

Despite improvements in anticancer therapies, 20 percent of breast cancer patients succumb to metastatic disease that is resistant to therapies. This study will personalize treatment of existing metastatic breast cancer to identify mechanisms of therapy resistance using patient-derived xenograft models; a unique model of the patient's tumor tissue biologically replicated across multiple animals, enabling drug testing and mechanistic studies.

Michael Flister, PhD
Assistant Professor
Microbiology & Immunology



Michael B. Dwinell
Professor, Microbiology and Immunology,
Department of Surgery

Novel Therapeutic Approaches in Pancreatic Cancer

Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDA), the most common form of pancreatic cancer, is highly aggressive due to unchecked tumor proliferation, metastasis, and therapeutic resistance. PDA has an abysmal 5-year survival rate of 7 percent. For the minority of patients with localized disease, surgical intervention provides only short-term benefit. This project will study therapeutic approaches to mitigate the progression of malignant tumor growth.

New Therapies for Endocrine-Resistance Breast Cancer

Breast cancer is the most common carcinoma in women and the second most common cause of cancer death in females. This innovative study will, for the first time, define NgBR as a critical player in determining the susceptibility of ER+ breast cancer to the drug tamoxifen and will provide a knowledge guide for future therapeutic design. If successful, this study will lead to the development of new pharmacological strategies for treating ER+ breast cancers.

Qing (Robert) Miao, PhD
Associate Professor
Division of Pediatric Surgery

