EDUCATION YEAR IN REVIEW
2022-2023 IMPACT REPORT

STRATEGIC GROWTH IN HEALTH SCIENCES EDUCATION:
INSPIRING LEARNERS IN NEW WAYS
The Medical College of Wisconsin’s education mission is dedicated to cultivating a learning environment that supports the academic success and personal wellbeing of every student. Our continued quest for knowledge, together with our innovative approach to academic medicine, has successfully resulted in strategic growth across all schools and programs during the 2022-2023 academic year. As MCW grows as an institution, its faculty, staff and students continue to demonstrate inspiring new approaches to learning and fostering meaningful connections with each other and the communities we serve.

MCW’s School of Graduate Studies recorded its third-straight year of record-setting application numbers, with Fall applications still ongoing. Student-led connection groups, created during the pandemic, continue to inspire the school’s growing number of international students as they navigate their studies. In Spring 2023, MCW’s School of Pharmacy graduated its first class with academic concentrations in research, population health, specialized pharmacy practice and entrepreneurship and leadership. These concentrations allow students to customize their education, an offering that has grown more popular with current and future students. In July 2023, the School of Medicine successfully launched the new MCWfusion™ Curriculum after years of planning and hard work put forth by countless faculty, staff and students. In Spring 2024, MCW will celebrate our M4 students, who have inspired us all by bravely and successfully navigating medical school during a global pandemic; they will soon graduate and carry all of the training and lessons learned at MCW into the next stage of their medical careers. MCW’s new Physician Associate program continues its planning and development, with the first class matriculating in Spring 2025.

MCW remains a distinguished leader and innovator in the education and development of the next generation of physicians, scientists, pharmacists and health professionals. We look forward to continued growth to ensure all MCW learners are equipped with the skills to adapt to the everchanging landscape of medical discovery and patient care.

The Offices of Student Health and Wellness and Student Inclusion and Diversity hosted local community fitness instructors Tasha Seals and Nicole Towns for a 12-week fitness series called “Hypefusion.” The classes, which took place on Monday evenings from March until the end of June, were a hit amongst MCW learners, with attendees representing all schools and programs. Due to its success, Hypefusion classes will continue to be offered during the 2023-2024 academic year, with over 70 students already enrolled in the fall series.

Additionally, MCW’s Student Health and Wellness Counselor Intern Program, which partners with Marquette University’s Master of Science Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program, is now in its second year, and continues to provide students with compassionate, practical and timely support and resources throughout their MCW educational journey. Students shared their gratitude for last year’s MCW counselor intern, Callie Koziol, stating, “Callie is fantastic! She does a great job of taking the stigma away from therapy, and she always gives me a safe space to share my feelings;” and, “Callie has been absolutely amazing. I’ve had two sessions with her so far. She was the perfect fit I needed, and I so appreciate her time! Thank you!”
Summit Highlights Power of Data to Advance Equity in the Learning Environment

Drs. Syam and Siker share their reflections on the Equity Summit recently held at Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW)

By Devarati Syam, PhD, and Malika Siker, MD

Inaugurated in 2022, the annual MCW Summit on Advancing Equity in the Learning Environment is an engaging, impactful event developed in partnership between the Kern Institute and the MCW Office of Student Inclusion and Diversity.

In our second year, the summit focused on “Utilizing Data to Advance Equity in the Learning Environment.” This half-day event brought together individuals from diverse backgrounds, including students, faculty, staff and residents engaged in equity work as a request for action to ensure a learning environment where all students flourish and thrive.

The summit created opportunities for attendees to share and examine important topics they are facing, and fostered deeper discussions, collaboration and a strong resolve to create a more inclusive and equitable learning environment. **READ MORE ABOUT SOME OF THE NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SUMMIT>>**

The 2024 Advancing Equity in the Learning Environment Summit, **Joining Forces with Our Community and Healthcare Partners**, will take place on Thursday, March 7, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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2023 Innovations in Healthcare Education Research Conference Celebrates 10 Years

The Department of Academic Affairs hosted its 10th annual Innovations in Healthcare Education Research (IHER) Conference Sept. 19-21. The 2023 Conference, which took place in a hybrid format with in-person and virtual participation options, brought together participants from 20 states and seven countries, and featured faculty, staff and students who are passionate about discovering new approaches to assessing learning, faculty development, curricular design and teaching delivery methods that enhance the student learning experience and prepare students for a career in healthcare.

The IHER Conference has grown over time, with 300 participants in 2023. New and innovative presentation platforms, including Fireside Chats and World Cafés, were introduced, and this was the second year with an international presence, as the conference welcomed colleagues from Antigua, Bermuda, Canada, England, India, Poland and Turkey.

“We are thrilled that the 2023 MCW Innovations in Healthcare Education Research annual conference successfully completed its first hybrid meeting this year, with 300 participants from 20 states and seven countries.”

– Robert Treat, PhD, MCW IHER Co-Chair
– Rachel Kavanaugh, PharmD, BCACP, MCW IHER Co-Chair
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

MCW’s School of Graduate Studies is in the midst of its third-straight year of continued growth, once again receiving record-high applications to its various programs. During the 2022-2023 academic year, the School of Graduate Studies received 637 applications, a 13.75% increase from the 2021-2022 academic year; the current number of Fall 2023 applications has risen to 711, with admissions still ongoing. Fall 2023 doctoral application numbers also are the highest in the school’s history, with 476 currently received. In addition to its record-setting numbers, the School of Graduate Studies’ Masters in Precision Medicine, Masters in Biostatistics and Data Science, as well as the Masters of Science in Genetic Counseling program graduated their inaugural classes during MCW’s May 2022 Commencement Ceremony. Over 55% of Genetic Counseling graduates remained in Wisconsin following graduation, including one who took a job in Green Bay to serve that rural community.

The School of Graduate Studies student-led Student Connection Groups, now in their second year, continued to provide important means of connection, especially for the School’s growing number of international students. Since their creation during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Student Connection Groups continue to thrive and have proven to be invaluable support networks for the increasingly diverse student population. The Connection Groups, which were created to support students in all facets of life, include groups dedicated to LGBTQ+ Students & Allies, Student Parents, Diversity & Inclusion, International Students, and Women in Science.

711 TOTAL APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2023
• 476 DOCTORATE • 7 CERTIFICATE • 204 MASTERS • 24 NON-DEGREE

“My journey at MCW has been a rollercoaster, just like life itself. Transitioning directly into the graduate program from a foreign country presented unexpected challenges. Grad school is tough by nature, and it becomes even more demanding when you’re navigating it from a different cultural perspective, far away from your family and loved ones.

“This underscores the importance of fostering an academic environment where everyone feels valued, understood and supported. Encouraging diversity isn’t just about leveling the playing field; it’s about fostering acceptance and providing individuals with the chance to build a stronger sense of identity and well-being.

“One of MCW’s standout strengths lies in its commitment to promoting diversity and inclusion. I’ve come a long way since I first joined the graduate program, thanks in part to the invaluable support of the Academic Affairs team. I now feel more at ease and integrated into this community.”

– Olaide Abiona, PhD Candidate
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Students in the Class of 2023 were the first in the MCW School of Pharmacy to graduate with an academic concentration in research, population health, specialized pharmacy practice or entrepreneurship and leadership. These four academic concentrations were added to the PharmD curriculum during the 2020-2021 academic year with the following goals in mind: enhance student knowledge, satisfy intellectual interests and increase experience in a specialized pharmacy field.

"With the addition of academic concentrations into the curriculum, students can now elect to customize their education with us," says founding dean George E. MacKinnon III, PhD, MS, RPh. "These focused concentrations enhance a Doctor of Pharmacy program graduate's competitiveness in the job market and in postgraduate residency training."

"We have noticed that awareness of academic concentrations is gaining traction and garnering more interest among our latest cohorts," says Ehab Abourashed, PhD, MS, BPharm, assistant dean for academic and curricular affairs. "This will provide more incentive to extend our offerings to include more than the four currently available areas."

“The Medical College of Wisconsin’s pharmacy program [provides] a unique way to earn a PharmD, especially through the 3+3 Dual Degree Program. The program is flexible, allowing pharmacy students to rank our preference for elective courses, as well as rotations.

“Going through the different academic sessions with one cohort helped me develop not only interpersonal skills, but also the soft skills of empathy, leadership and creativity. The program’s leaders are always eager to help whenever it is needed.

“Becoming a first-time mom in the program was definitely a challenge, but I have to admit, I could not have accomplished so many things without the support of my cohort, as well as the MCW faculty and staff.”

- Kari Smaga, PharmD

Class of 2023, 3+3 Dual Degree Program Participant

The Class of 2023 achieved a 92% Post-Graduate Training Match Rate in Post-Graduate Year 1 residencies and fellowships. 70% of MCW’s graduating SOP students who are pursuing a PGY1 residency program will continue their training in Wisconsin.
Strategic growth has been on full display in MCW’s School of Medicine (SOM) over the past year, with the successful launch of the MCWfusion™ Curriculum in July 2023. After four years of planning and input from hundreds of faculty, staff and students, the curriculum is off to a strong start. We also are proud of our recent School of Medicine graduates who successfully navigated medical school during the COVID-19 pandemic and are now in the early phases of their residencies. Our current and former students are making their communities stronger. Students on the Green Bay campus have teamed with organizations to address Parkinson’s disease, while in Central Wisconsin, previous students are returning to the region after their residency training to care for the community that supported them as students. While the theme of this year’s report is about inspiring learners, they also inspire us every day.

– José Franco, MD, Professor of Medicine (Gastroenterology and Hepatology), Senior Associate Dean for Education in the School of Medicine

MCW-Green Bay Helping Community Members Fight Back Against Parkinson’s

By: Heather Heyrman, MCW-Green Bay Class of 2024

Three days a week, you will find a group of boxers, corner man and medical students walking into the gym, gloves on and ready to fight. But these aren’t just any boxers in any fight – they are people with Parkinson’s disease who show up to fight back against their disease. They come in-hand with their spouses, kids or grandkids (also known as their corner men) to support them and cheer them on. And in December 2021, one medical student entered the ring as a volunteer and sparked a partnership between MCW-Green Bay and Rock Steady Boxing that continues to grow to this day.

At many Rock Steady Boxing classes, you will find medical student volunteers specifically working one-on-one with boxers who needed additional assistance with mobility or who are high-risk for falls. The students work with the boxers to adapt stations to ensure the safety of the boxer, minimize fall risk and decrease the risk for injuries. But most importantly, they were there to be cheerleaders, supporters and worked to spread as many smiles as possible.

“As a third year student on the Green Bay campus, I would say that the flexibility, adaptability, close-knit nature of faculty and classmates alike, and early clinical experience even amidst the ongoing pandemic have shaped me for the better. I am grateful for all who made our continued learning a priority with the challenges brought on by COVID-19.”

– Kayla McConnaha, MCW-GB Class of 2024
MCW-Central Wisconsin is thriving in its mission to meet the healthcare needs of Central Wisconsin and the surrounding regions. MCW-CW faculty, staff and learners are committed to serving our communities and creating a lasting impact by fostering community-oriented healthcare professionals committed to the unique needs of Wisconsin communities. When our graduates return to the region to practice after residency training, we are demonstrating a meaningful impact on healthcare access, quality and sustainability in our region and throughout Wisconsin.

“My experience at MCW has been one of fueling my existing passions and participating in new experiences. While our courses are structured, we can customize our experience, which is one of my favorite parts of MCW-CW. I have been able to serve my community in familiar ways like Special Olympics and in new ways through other clubs and organizations. I have great mentorship from faculty and staff at MCW-CW and feel very supported in our community. Overall, I am grateful that our campus emphasizes mental wellness and individual callings/passions. So far, it has been a wonderful place to develop as both a student and individual.”

– Grace Wittenberg, MCW-CW Class of 2025

Medical Student Summer Research Program

The Summer Academic program for Medical Students (SAMS) and the Medical Student Summer Research Program (MSSRP) offer opportunities that are designed to expose medical students to cutting-edge basic science, clinical or translational research, as well as scholarships in education, global health and quality improvement. Students are integrated into the scholarly work of full-time Medical College of Wisconsin faculty investigators and gain valuable experience as a member of a team, working on some aspect of the faculty member’s study.

Students Enrolled in 2023 Summer Program: 166

Students Who Created Posters and Presented Their Scholarly Work in an In-Person Poster Session: 140
2023 MATCH DAY CELEBRATION

Friday, March 17, 2023, marked the culmination of a year’s work for MCW students applying to residency programs in the specialty of their choice, traveling for interviews and submitting a ranking of their preferred programs to find out where they will go for the next phase of their career. Guests and a select number of MCW faculty and staff celebrated Match Day in person at Milwaukee’s Italian Community Center. MCW faculty, staff and students who did not attend in-person celebrated this momentous occasion by sharing their congratulations virtually through a video.

School and campus match-rate percentages:

**97%**  
**MILWAUKEE CAMPUS** Top 3 Match Specialties  
Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Pediatrics

**100%**  
**GREEN BAY CAMPUS** Top 3 Match Specialties  
Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, (Emergency Medicine and General Surgery tied for third)

**100%**  
**CENTRAL WISCONSIN CAMPUS**  
Top 3 Match Specialties  
Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, (Anesthesiology and Obstetrics and Gynecology tied for third)

Highlights from the 2023 Match

Through the 2023 Match, 237 MCW medical students obtained first-year residency positions. A total of 72 students remained in Wisconsin for PGY1 residency training – 29% of MCW-Milwaukee students, 40% of MCW-Central Wisconsin students and 38% of MCW-Green Bay students. Since the opening of MCW’s regional campuses, 35% of MCW-Central Wisconsin graduates and 34% of MCW-Green Bay graduates have remained in Wisconsin for residency training. The greatest percentage of specialties represented through the 2023 Match were in internal medicine, family medicine, anesthesiology, pediatrics and emergency medicine.
Master of Science in Anesthesia Program

As part of the five-year Academic Affairs program review process, Master of Science in Anesthesia (MSA) program leaders were motivated to make changes to the program's mission, vision and values to reflect the current state the program more accurately. The curriculum, student activities and levels of student support provided by staff and faculty were reviewed and program leaders recognized the student-centric focus was disconnected from the program's initial mission and vision. As such, students were brought to the forefront of the MSA program's values and mission. Program leaders are confident that the new vision statement will help guide faculty, staff and students into a new era of the program.

**Program Mission:**

We are committed to providing our students with a premier educational experience. Through a supportive and rigorous curriculum along with access to comprehensive and diverse clinical training, students are prepared for a rewarding career in the communities they serve.

**Program Vision:**

Meet community needs for improved access to high-quality anesthesia care by providing our students with cutting edge, evidence-based education.

**Program Core Values:**

- Student-centered mission and vision
- Professionalism
- Resiliency
- Equity and Inclusion
- Quality Physician-led, team-based care

“**My journey in the MCW MSA Program has proven to be both demanding and highly fulfilling. Transitioning from a non-medical career, I've had the opportunity to bring a unique perspective and skillset, which my training has further enhanced as I prepare to venture out in my future role as a Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant.”**

– Victor Velazquez, 2nd year MSA Student

**MCW Physician Associate Program Preview**

MCW is pleased to announce it is developing a new Master of Science Physician Associate (PA) Program. This 28-month program will focus on training academically-minded PAs who reflect the diversity of the communities we serve. MCW’s first cohort of PA students will start their courses in May 2025. Over the past year, the program faculty and staff have been designing an interprofessional-focused curriculum, hiring key personnel and building admissions requirements. In addition, the program is preparing for its accreditation site visit in 2024 and building a diverse and inclusive culture for faculty, staff and students.

“We are proud to bring a unique focus to MCW’s PA program. Future students will be taught by practicing PAs, NPs, physicians, and experienced PA educators and will learn alongside students preparing to be physicians, pharmacists, anesthesiologist assistants and genetic counselors. They will be readily prepared to walk into any health care setting and provide exceptional care for all patients.”

– Christine Everett, PhD, PA-C, MPH
MCW Physician Associate Program Founding Director
MCW Student Dedicated to Improving Care for Diverse Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Populations

Joyce Lee, a fourth-year medical student at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW), thinks it would be helpful for the public to learn about the extreme diversity of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) populations, particularly within the scope of healthcare and public health.

“We speak over 100 languages and come from more than 100 countries,” she says. “Something else that’s not well understood by the public, according to Lee, is the health disparities that exist within these populations, each as diverse as the countries themselves. Lee says the narratives about these populations tend to focus on groups that have a higher socioeconomic status, a result of immigration policies that welcomed those who were more educated.

“We forget about the other AANHPI populations who are more socially disadvantaged, come from a lower socioeconomic status, and who also have poorer health,” Lee says. “We really want to show and educate future healthcare providers about the different disparities that exist in their communities, and that we’re not just a monolithic group.” READ MORE>>

MCW Student Reconnects With Her Island Homeland Through New Global Research Partnership

Ana Mia Corujo Ramirez moved to the Midwest from Puerto Rico as an undergrad to pursue her passion for research at Iowa State University. Now, at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW), rising third-year medical student Corujo Ramirez is using those research skills to contribute to decreasing health disparities at home.

In 2018, Corujo Ramirez was a participant in the Mayo Clinic’s prestigious Post-Baccalaureate Research Education Program. Just one year prior, in 2017, Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico, a Caribbean Island of 3.2 million people. Long-lasting impacts from that hurricane still continue to affect the island to this day.

“Not being home was really difficult,” she recalls. “I always wanted to do a little bit more to help.”

Corujo Ramirez learned about a primary investigator who was working to implement a mental health curriculum in marginalized communities in Puerto Rico and jumped at the opportunity to support this effort. Her job was to help pick experiments that would allow students to see the effects of stress. The study furthered her passion for helping others.

“I realized that I love working with communities and like connecting the benchwork experience that I have with kids in communities,” Corujo Ramirez says. READ MORE>>

A Fresh Perspective on Research

If someone 10 years ago had told Amanda Marks, a fifth-year Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) graduate student, that she’d be where she is now, she would have thought they were crazy.

“This is not a world I even knew existed,” Marks says.

Marks, who dropped out of high school at the age of 16, will defend her doctoral thesis soon. In summer 2022 she won two prestigious awards for her innovative research on kidney disease and presented at a national conference.

“I got the award that night, and I cried,” she says. “Some of the emotion was the gratitude she had for winning the award, but part of it was the relief she felt in finally feeling free to share her story of perseverance with colleagues and others in the field.

“It’s OK that I am a high school dropout and that my path was different,” she says. “There were people coming up to me and telling me my story was inspiring.” READ MORE>>
MCW Student Explores Native American Heritage During Her Path in Medicine

Morgan Lockhart, like thousands of medical students across the country and world, is anxiously awaiting Match Day on March 17. That day, she and other graduating medical students will receive a communication from the National Residency Matching Program (NRMP) that will reveal where the next leg of their journey in medicine will take place.

Wherever she ends up, Lockhart says, she hopes to continue the journey that took root during her time at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW).

“I hope to continue to do mentorship work with Indigenous populations,” Lockhart explains. READ MORE>>

Jump-Starting a Pharmacy Career

For second-year MCW pharmacy student Jessica Mickevicius, walking with her Carroll University undergraduate class at graduation was very surreal. “It was crazy to think that I had already completed a whole year of pharmacy school and was well on my way to my future career when all of the other students graduating from my class were still trying to figure out what was next for them. I feel very secure in my choices and know that I am working my way to my dream career,” shares Mickevicius.

Mickevicius is a participant in the MCW School of Pharmacy’s groundbreaking undergraduate dual-degree program, which provides an accelerated route for students to earn both a Bachelor of Science (BS) or Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree from an undergraduate partner school and a Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree from MCW.

The dual-degree program takes six or seven years to complete, including three to four years of undergraduate curriculum at the partner school followed by three years of PharmD curriculum at MCW. Students in the 3+3 dual-degree program who successfully complete their first year in the MCW School of Pharmacy will fulfill final requirements for their undergraduate degree through “reverse transfer” of those credits. This option alleviates some of the financial burden of school tuition for students seeking to obtain both a bachelor’s degree and PharmD degree. READ MORE>>

MCW Student Creates Nonprofit That Provides Books to Help Refugees Learn English

For Maie Zagloul, a second-year medical student at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW), taking English as a second language (ESL) classes as a child had a lasting impact on her.

“During that time, it was very much taking students out of the classroom and taking them away from their peers and giving them that one-on-one time,” she recalls.

And while that may be helpful for some, it also had disadvantages.

“I did not spend any time inside the classroom, and that really bothered my mom,” says Zagloul, adding that it also made her feel isolated.

Zagloul, who is of Egyptian and Albanian descent, was born in America but moved with her family soon after to Egypt. They moved back to the Milwaukee area when Zagloul was in the second grade, and she struggled with English upon her return.

As a way to help, her mother read books with her and her brother each night.

“It helped me develop my English in a really fun way, and it’s just like a memory that really stuck with me because I like reading a lot,” shares Zagloul, who is now fluent in Albanian, Arabic and English. READ MORE>>
Degrees and Teaching Awards for 2023 Academic Year

**DEGREES AWARDED**

- **72** Masters
- **240** MD
- **18** MSA
- **40** PhD
- **35** PharmD

**FACULTY TEACHING AWARDS**

- **Ernest O. Henschel Clinical Teaching Award:** Jayshil Patel, MD
- **Graduate Student Award for Outstanding Mentor:** Daisy Sahoo, PhD
- **Graduate Student Award for Outstanding Teacher:** Erin Syverson, MGC, CGC
- **Harry Beckman Basic Science Teaching Award:** Matthew Hodges, PhD
- **MCWAH Housestaff Award for Excellence in Teaching:** Required Rotations – Christine Pando, MD; Elective Rotations – Isaac Melin, MD
- **School of Pharmacy Faculty Preceptor of the Year:** Kevin Bozymski, PharmD, BCPS, BCPP – Assistant Professor, Department of Clinical Sciences
- **Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience Preceptor of the Year:** Randy Dawes, RPh – Owner, Swan Serv-U Pharmacy
- **Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience Preceptor of the Year:** Benjamin Scott, PharmD, BCPS, BCPP

**MCW by the Numbers**

*Numbers represent current 2023-2024 academic year*

- **GRADUATE STUDENTS:** 441
- **PHARMACY STUDENTS:** 128
- **MSA PROGRAM STUDENTS:** 51
- **MEDICAL STUDENTS – ALL THREE CAMPUSES:** 1,041

**ENROLLMENT BY FEDERALLY DEFINED SEX AND RACE/ETHNICITY:**

- **HISPANIC/LATINX:** 164
- **ASIAN:** 234
- **BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN:** 104
- **CAUCASIAN:** 924
- **TWO OR MORE RACES:** 53
- **RACE & ETHNICITY UNKNOWN:** 51

**PERCENT OF CURRENTLY ENROLLED STUDENTS WHO ARE WISCONSIN RESIDENTS:** 49%*

**MCW ENROLLMENT BY GENDER:**

- **60% FEMALE**
- **40% MALE**

Includes students in the Medical School at all three campuses, in the School of Pharmacy, in the Master of Science in Anesthesia program and the Graduate School.

**ENROLLMENT BY FEDERALLY DEFINED NON-US CITIZEN OR PERMANENT RESIDENT:** 131
Students Cultivating Growth and Success Through Peer Connections and Support
Students Cultivating Growth and Success Through Peer Connections and Support
Students Cultivating Growth and Success Through Peer Connections and Support
Students Cultivating Growth and Success Through Peer Connections and Support