

MCW Health Sciences Summit

Feb. 2-5, 2026

Monday, February 2, 2026 * [REGISTER HERE](#) to receive calendar invites!

<p>12:00pm – 1:00pm</p>	<p>AI & Healthcare: Shaping the Future of Medicine Together Track: All Students & Postdocs Speaker: Ankur Chugh, MD Associate Chief Medical Officer (ACMIO) of Artificial Intelligence at Children's Wisconsin, Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the Medical College of Wisconsin</p> <p>Discover how artificial intelligence is revolutionizing medicine—from powering breakthroughs in biomedical research to transforming the way clinicians make decisions and care for patients. This dynamic session will dive into real-world applications of AI, explore the ethical challenges we must confront, and spotlight exciting career and research opportunities at the intersection of technology and health. Whether you're an MD, PharmD, graduate student, or postdoc, join us to see how you can help shape the future of healthcare with AI.</p>
<p>2:00pm – 3:00pm</p>	<p>Graduate School to Real World: Alumni Panel Track: PhD Students & Postdocs Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emily Welby, PhD – Research Scientist II, MCW (former MCW postdoc) • Bailey C. Sarka, PhD '24 - Account Executive at Stellate Communications • Ben Sajdak, PhD '18 - Director of Research at Fauna Bio; Adjunct Professor of Biology at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh • Jean Bikomeye, PhD' 24 - Postdoctoral Researcher I, MCW <p>Join this panel discussion featuring alumni who have successfully navigated the transition into the professional world. Receive valuable guidance and insights on launching your career with confidence and dive into the enduring question: How do I choose between academia, industry, or the public sector?</p>
<p>3:00pm – 4:00pm</p>	<p>Ignite Your Purpose: Navigating Specialty Decision-Making Track: Medical School Speakers: Kate Dielentheis, MD - Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology; Cheefeng Lee - MS1 CW, Julia Nowik - MS4 MKE</p> <p>Deciding on a specialty is a pivotal moment in your medical journey. This session aims to provide you with the tools, perspectives, and considerations necessary to make an informed decision that aligns with your strengths, passions, and long-term career goals.</p>
<p>4:00pm – 8:00pm</p>	<p>Specialty Open Houses Track: Medical School</p>

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

<p>11:30am – 1:00pm</p>	<p>Wellness Drop-in Hour with MCW Office of Student Health & Wellness Track: All Students & Postdocs Location: MCW Campus Cafeteria Lobby</p> <p>Take a break and recharge at our wellness drop-in event! Stop by anytime between 11:30am and 1:00pm to relax with friendly therapy dogs, de-stress, and enjoy our “Brain Break” tables filled with coloring, crafts, and other fun, low-pressure activities. Whether you need a moment of calm or quick reset between classes, this is your space to unwind and feel refreshed.</p>
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12:00pm – 1:00pm	<p>How to Choose a Specialty Track: Pharmacy Students Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthew Stanton, PharmD, BCPS, DABAT - Clinical Associate Professor, MCW • Carolyn Oxencis, PharmD, BCPS, BCOP - Clinical Associate Professor, MCW • Kaitlin Larson, PharmD '25 - Pharmacy Practice Resident, Children’s Wisconsin <p>This session will discuss post-graduate pharmacy training opportunities, current specialty areas and where your values and interests might fit, and unique patient care opportunities available to specialized clinical pharmacists.</p>
4:00pm – 6:00pm	<p>Specialty Open Houses Track: Medical School</p>

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

12:00pm – 1:00pm	<p>Navigating Freedom of Expression at MCW Track: All Students & Postdocs Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Knight, MA – Student Service Program Manager, MCW Central Wisconsin • Logan Elkin — 5th year Graduate Student • Paul Harker-Murray, MD, PhD — Medical Director, Clinical Trials Office; Pediatric Cancer Specialist, Children’s Wisconsin; Professor, Medical College of Wisconsin <p>Understand the principles of freedom of expression, potential limitations, the challenges of self-censorship and nuances that face our learners and postdocs through real-world scenarios.</p>
1:00pm – 2:00pm	<p>Spilling the Tea: Real Talk with Senior Grad Students Track: PhD Students Location: MKE Campus (Discovery Classroom) <i>*Food provided, pre-registration required</i> Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juan Taborda- 4th year Pharmacy and Toxicology Student • Olaide Abiona- 5th year Microbiology and Immunology Student • Paul Sidlowski- 4th year Biochemistry Student • Rachel Mazorow- 6th year Biomedical Engineering Student <p>Join us for an informal panel where senior graduate students “spill the tea” on navigating grad school. Hear their candid advice on preparing for committee meetings, annual reports, and qualifying exams; organizing and managing lab data; and making the most of your protected time. Enjoy tea, coffee, and light snacks while gaining practical advice from students who’ve walked the same path.</p>
4:00pm – 5:00pm	<p>Residency Program Director Panel Track: Medical School Specialties Represented: Neurology, General Surgery, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Radiology, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Orthopaedic Surgery, Radiation Oncology, Neurosurgery, Otolaryngology</p> <p>Learn the ins-and-outs of the residency interview process, interview essentials, and ranking strategies. Panelists will discuss how to best prepare for the interview process, when to send interest letters, how to prepare appropriate questions and expected etiquette, how programs evaluate candidates, and more.</p>

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Life after PharmD Alumni Panel **Track: Pharmacy School**

Speakers:

- **Becka Anton, PharmD '20** - Medical Science Liaison, Biogen
- **Megan Mills, PharmD '20** - Clinical Oncology Pharmacist, Froedtert
- **Jessica Barazowski, PharmD '21** - Veterinary Staff Pharmacist, Oregon State University
- **Christy Pachner, PharmD '21** - Hospital Pharmacist, Ascension
- **Micheal Stubenvoll, PharmD '21** - Pharmacy Manager, Sister Bay Hometown Pharmacy

4:00pm – 5:00pm

When it comes to the pharmacy industry, there are endless career specialties! Learn from a fabulous group of MCW alumni on how you can prepare yourself to launch a successful career and stand out as a future candidate.

Specialty Open Houses

Track: Medical School

5:00pm – 6:00pm

Thursday, February 5, 2026

Navigating the Scholarly Publishing Landscape in the Health Sciences

Speaker: Ashley Zeidler, MLIS | Scholarly Communications Librarian, MCW

Track: All Students & Postdocs

12:00pm – 1:00pm

Join MCW Libraries for an informative session designed to strengthen your research and publishing skills. Get practical tips on discovering and accessing relevant biomedical literature utilizing MCW Libraries' electronic resources. You'll also gain a better understanding of the scholarly publishing landscape, journal selection, and what you need to know as an author.

On-Campus Social & Networking Events!

**Participation capped. Be sure to register!*

Track: All Students & Postdocs

Location: MKE Rooms H1210/H1230/H1250

4:00pm – 6:00pm

Join your peers for an evening of fun, relaxation, and networking! Enjoy food and beverages, participate in arts & crafts activities, join a small-group scavenger hunt, and meet students and postdocs across all MCW programs.

*Each campus will host its own social event. GB/CW students, watch for details from your campus!