Think Tank Co-Chairs
Syed Ahmed, M.D., M.P.H., Dr.PH., F.A.A.F.P. is the Senior Associate Dean for Community Engagement at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Ahmed is also a Professor of Family and Community Medicine. Dr. Ahmed has made nationally and internationally recognized contributions to the field of community health, community-academic partnerships, community-based participatory research and community engaged research.

Jeanne M. Hossenlopp, Ph.D. Professor Hossenlopp is the Vice Provost for Research and Dean of the Graduate School at Marquette University and a Co-Director of the Clinical and Translational Science Institute of Southeast Wisconsin. She received a B.A. degree in Chemistry from Colgate University, a M.A. degree in Education from Siena Heights College and a Ph.D. degree in Physical Chemistry from Syracuse University. Her current research involves both fundamental and applied studies in materials science.

Community Engagement Key Function Core Team of Faculty and Staff
Mia DeFino, M.S. holds a M.S. in Pharmacology from the University of Washington and a B.S. in Biochemistry and Psychology from the University of Wisconsin Madison. She currently is a Program Coordinator for the Community Engagement Key Function and supports CTSI activities.

Elaine Drew, Ph.D. is an applied medical anthropologist and works with indigenous, ethnic minority, and underserved communities utilizing a community-based participatory research approach to conduct research and promote health equity for all. Dr. Drew has experience conducting qualitative and mixed-methods research. She is currently working on funded cancer and diabetes prevention projects.

Christina Eldredge, M.D., M.S. is a Board Certified Family Physician. Her M.D. is from the University of Miami Miller School Of Medicine and she received her M.S. in Medical Informatics from the joint MCW and MSOE graduate program. She previously served in the US Navy as a family physician and is now pursuing a doctoral degree in Biomedical and Health Informatics at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Her research interests focus on community-engaged and user-centered design of health information technology solutions to promote public health and improve healthcare access and delivery in the primary care setting.

Zeno Franco, Ph.D. holds a Ph.D. in clinical psychology, with an emphasis in Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder treatment and trauma. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship at MCW studying Community-Based Participatory Research. He is the Principal Investigator for various Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Program community-academic research projects. Dr. Franco research focuses community mental health, community resilience and disaster response, social psychology, and technology.

Shari Hagedorn is a Program Coordinator for the Community Engagement Key Function and supports related CTSI activities.

Anne Kissack, M.P.H., B.S., R.D. is the Program Manager for the Community Engagement Key Function and supports related CTSI activities. She received her B.S. in Dietetics from Purdue University and Master in Public Health from the University of Iowa.

David Nelson, Ph.D., M.S. holds a Ph.D. in Adult Education, an M.S. in Epidemiology and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at MCW studying Community-Based Participatory Research. Dr. Nelson is currently the principal investigator for various Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Program community-academic research projects. He works with many quality community partners on a variety of individual and population based programs and projects related to physical activity, nutrition, chronic disease, and health disparities.

Think Tank for Community Engagement in Research Participants
Sheikh Iqbal Ahamed, Ph.D. holds a Ph.D. in computer science. Dr. Ahamed is a Professor at Marquette University in the Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science and the Director of the Ubicomp Laboratory. Also, he is Adjunct faculty of the Clinical and Translational Science Institute at the Medical College of Wisconsin. His research interests are: information dissemination in Ubiquitous Computing Environment, Middleware for Embedded Devices, Component Based Software Engineering, Web-based Software Development, and Mobile Ad Hoc Networks.

Sanjib Bhattacharyya, Ph.D. is the Deputy Laboratory Director for the City of Milwaukee Health Department. He is a Clinical Instructor and Adjunct Faculty for the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee within the Joseph J. Zilber School of Public Health. His Ph.D. is in Medical Microbiology and Molecular Biology and he holds a M.S. in Cytology and Genetics as well as a B.S. in Zoology.
Thomas Bray, M.S. is the Dean of Applied Research, Director of Grants and Projects at Milwaukee School of Engineering and a Co-Director of the Clinical and Translational Science Institute of Southeast Wisconsin. He attended Syracuse University.

SuJean Choi, Ph.D. holds a Ph.D. in Psychology and did her post-doctoral work in the Department of Physiology at UCSF. Dr. Choi is an Associate Professor in the Biomedical Sciences in the College of Health Sciences at Marquette University. Her research focuses on the central mechanisms of feeding behavior, body weight regulation, and metabolism.

Allen Cowley, Jr., Ph.D. is Chairman and Professor for the Department of Physiology and the Director of the Pilot and Collaborative Clinical and Translational Research Program with the Clinical and Translational Science Institute at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Cowley received his Ph.D. and M.S. from University of Mississippi and Hahnemann Medical College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He has a B.A. in Economics.

Kelly Duffy, Ph.D. holds a PhD in Physiology with an emphasis in human genomics from the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Duffy currently is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Radiology at the Medical College of Wisconsin. She is interested in translational science and the science of team science. Her research focuses on vascular anomalies and lymphatic malformations.

Steve Gradus, Ph.D., A.B.M.M. holds a Ph.D. in Medical Microbiology and Immunology and is certified as a Diplomate from the American Board of Medical Microbiology (ABMM). Dr. Gradus is the Laboratory Director of the City of Milwaukee Public Health Laboratory and has an Adjunct Faculty appointment at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Zilber School of Public Health. The Laboratory responds in real time, with health department investigators, to support public health interventions and proactively detect and prevent disease outbreaks.

David Harder, Ph.D. is the Associate Dean for Research Mentoring Professor for the Department of Physiology, Medicine, and Pediatrics and Director for Institutional Mentoring with the Clinical and Translational Science Institute at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He holds a Ph.D. in Biophysics and a M.S. in Physiology from the Medical College of Wisconsin and a B.S. in Zoology from the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Harder’s research interests include cellular and molecular mechanisms of muscle cell contraction and the modification endothelial factors, neurotransmitters, and endogenous vaso-active agents.

Cecilia Hillard, Ph.D. holds a Ph.D. in Pharmacology and Toxicology with a focus on Neuropharmacology. Dr. Hillard is a Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology and the Director of the Neuroscience Research Center at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Her research focus is on the cannabinoids, the receptors with which they interact and the role endocannabinoids play in brain function.

Theodore (Ted) Kotchen, M.D. is the Associate Dean for Clinical Research and Professor of Medicine in the Department of Medicine Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism, and Clinical Nutrition at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He is also the Director of the KL2 Program for the Clinical and Translational Science Institute. He received his M.D. from Harvard College and Western Reserve Medical School. His research interests focus on hypertension and blood pressure control and treatment.

John F. LaDisa, Jr., Ph.D. is an Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering at Marquette University. He received his Ph.D., M.S., and B.S. degrees in Biomedical Engineering at Marquette University. At Stanford University he was a Postdoctoral Scholar in Pediatric Cardiology. His current research involves cardiovascular biomechanics and medical device design.

John Lombardo, Ph.D. holds a Ph.D. in counseling psychology and splits his time between the Office of Postdoctoral Education as a Career Services Consultant at the Medical College of Wisconsin and teaching counseling at Marquette University. His work focuses on helping scientists and other technical professionals make career decisions in both academic and industry settings. Dr. Lombardo is passionate about helping scientists and leaders find appropriate positions and then to excel in those positions.

Donna McCarthy, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N. holds a Ph.D., a nursing degree and fellowship of the American Academy of Nursing. She is currently a Professor in the College of Nursing at Marquette University. Dr. McCarthy’s research interests address the pathobiology of illness symptoms, including fever, anorexia, and fatigue.
Mark McNally, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He received his Ph.D. in Biology from the State University of New York at Buffalo. His laboratory uses molecular, genetic, and biochemical approaches to study post-transcriptional mechanisms of gene regulation, including RNA splicing and polyadenylation control.

Susan McRoy, Ph.D. is the Director of the Decision Systems and Artificial Intelligence Lab in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She received her Ph.D. and M.S. degrees in Computer Science at University of Toronto and B.S. degree in Computer and Communication Science from University of Michigan. She is a Professor for the Doctoral Program in Biomedical and Health Informatics.

Andrea Moosreiner R.D. Andrea is a Registered Dietitian and received her B.S. in Dietetics from Mount Mary University. She is the Bionutritionist for the Clinical and Translational Science Institutes’ Bionutrition and Body Composition Lab of the Adult Translational Research Unit which provides services to researchers from all CTSI affiliated institutions.

Ramani Ramchandran, Ph.D. holds a Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular biology. Dr. Ramchandran is a Professor of Pediatrics (developmental biology), is the Vice Chair of Research in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and has been named the Patrick J. and Margaret G. McMahon Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Medical College of Wisconsin. His research focuses on the role of vasculature, or blood vessel formation, in embryonic development and disease. Dr. Ramchandran also serves as the Director of the Vascular Biology Program and Director of the Zebrafish Drug Screening Core.

John (Jack) R. Routes, M.D. is the Medical Director for the Allergy/Immunology Department at the Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin, Professor of Pediatrics, Medicine and Microbiology and Molecular Genetics at the Medical College of Wisconsin and Co-Director for the Clinical and Translational Science Institute. He received his M.D. from the Indiana University School of Medicine. He conducts research at the Children’s Research Institute.

Amy Rymaszewski holds a B.S. from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She currently is a Graduate Student in the Department of Pharmacology in the lab of Dr. Haris Vikis. Her current research focus is to understand the role of neutrophils in inflammation and lung tumor promotion.

Suzette Svboda-Newman is a Program Manager in Strategic Outreach at the Medical College of Wisconsin for the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin through Research Education Program.

Malika Siker M.D. received her degree from the University of Wisconsin, School of Medicine and was Residency trained in Radiation Oncology at the Medical College of Wisconsin. She is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology and practices at the Medical College Clinical Cancer Center. Her emphasis areas are in pediatric brain tumors and adult CNS tumors.

Stan Stojkovic, Ph.D. is the Dean of the Helen Bader School of Social Welfare at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He received his Ph.D. degree in Social Science and M.S. degree in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University, B.S. degree in Criminal Justice from University of Wisconsin-Platteville, and A.A. in Police Science from Milwaukee Area Technical College. He is a Professor of Criminal Justice.

Robert Topp, Ph.D., R.N. holds a Ph.D. and a nursing degree. Dr. Topp is the Associate Dean for Research in the College of Nursing at Marquette University. His research interests focus on the effect of physical fitness prior to knee surgery and behavioral treatment of childhood obesity. Dr. Topp is also involved with the Clinical and Translational Science Institute through participating in the Office of Regional Collaborations.

Gilbert C. White, II, M.D. is the Executive Vice President for Research and Director of the Blood Research Institute. He also holds the Richard H. and Sara E. Aster Chair for Medical Research at the Blood Center of Wisconsin and is a Professor in the Department of Medicine, Biochemistry, and Pharmacology & Toxicology at the Medical College of Wisconsin. His research interests focus on thrombosis, hemostasis and vascular biology, with the overall goal of understanding the signaling pathways that mediate the hemostatic responses of blood platelets.