

VOLUME 24 • NUMBER 2 • 2022

FOR ALUMNI, FRIENDS, FACULTY AND STUDENTS OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Quarterly

DREAMS

REALIZED

MD GRADUATES
CELEBRATE THEIR
ACHIEVEMENTS p. 8

AUTISM GROUP THERAPY p. 4

TRIUMPH'S COMMUNITY IMPACT p. 10

MEDICAL ALUMNI WEEKEND p. 14



School of Medicine
and Public Health
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

There's More Online!
Visit med.wisc.edu/quarterly

QUARTERLY

The Magazine for Alumni, Friends,
Faculty and Students of the University of Wisconsin
School of Medicine and Public Health

MANAGING EDITOR

Kris Whitman

ART DIRECTOR

Christine Klann

PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHER

John Maniaci

Production

Michael Lemberger

WISCONSIN MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (WMAA)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sarah B. Rothschild

EDITORIAL BOARD

Patrick McBride, MD '80, MPH, chair
Mathew Aschbrenner, MD '06
Elizabeth Bensen, MD '92
Kathryn S. Budzak, MD '69
Mark Fenlon, MD '84, MBA
Christopher L. Larson, MD '75
Gwen McIntosh, MD '96, MPH
Patrick Remington, MD '81, MPH
Peggy Scallon, MD '92
Jonathan Temte, MD '87

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Robert N. Golden, MD
Andrea Larson
Sarah B. Rothschild
Jill Watson
Kris Whitman

2022-2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Kyla Lee, MD '98, president
Peggy Scallon, MD '92, president-elect
Mark Fenlon, MD '84, MBA,
past president
Susan Isensee, MD '83, treasurer

Soma Struck, MD '08
Johnny Tackett, MD '11, MHS (national)
Abigail Taub, MD '12
Sarah Tevis, MD '10 (national)
Maria Weber, MD '88
Ryan Wubben, MD '97
Robert Zemple, MD '12

BOARD MEMBERS

Mathew Aschbrenner, MD '06
Mark Asplund, MD '82
Scott Bassuener, MD '07
Meredith Cruz, MD '05, MPH
Marvin Dingle, MD '15 (national)
Kristine Flowers, MD '94
Brian Hong, MD '11
Julian Hong, MD '14 (national)
Tito Izard, MD '96
Thomas Kloosterboer, MD '82
Juliane Lee, MD '94 (national)
Rachel Loomans, MD '09
Patrick McBride, MD '80, MPH
Gwen McIntosh, MD '96, MPH
Thomas Puetz, MD '90
Melissa Ricker, MD '20 (resident)
Lisa Shen, MD '10 (national)
Rom Stevens, MD '82 (national)

BOARD ADVISORY COUNCIL

Karen Adler-Fischer, MD '80
Kathryn S. Budzak, MD '69
Philip Farrell, MD, PhD
Donn Fuhrmann, MD '76
Kay Gruling, MD '88
Daniel Jackson, MD '03
John Kryger, MD '92
Christopher L. Larson, MD '75
Ann Liebeskind, MD '98
Steven Wiesner, MD '85

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Robert N. Golden, MD
Sarah B. Rothschild
Jill Watson
Kris Whitman

QUARTERLY is published four times a year by the
Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association (WMAA)
and the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH)

For editorial information, call (608) 261-1034

For address corrections and to reach the WMAA, call (608) 263-4915

E-mail us at quarterly@med.wisc.edu

Visit us on the web at med.wisc.edu/quarterly

JULY 2022

Friday, July 1, through
Friday, September 30

Bike the State Challenge; see
intranet.med.wisc.edu/bike-the-state/

AUGUST 2022

Friday, August 26

White Coat Ceremony*

Wednesday, August 31

Stethoscope Presentation and Cookout*

SEPTEMBER 2022

Friday, September 30

Middleton Society Event*

OCTOBER 2022

Friday, October 21

WMAA Board of Directors Meeting,
WMAA Homecoming and
Fall Class Reunion Friday Night Bash*

Saturday, October 22

WMAA Tailgate Party,
Homecoming football game, and
Reunions for the MD Classes of
1971, '82, '87, '92, '97,
2002, '07, '12 and '17*

* Event details are subject to change based on Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention guidelines related to COVID-19 in this region.

Connect with
WMAA and
Alumni on
Social Media



Please search for @uwmedalum
on Facebook and Instagram.
Follow us for fun updates!

CALENDAR

CONTENTS

QUARTERLY • VOLUME 24 • NUMBER 2



Red and white tulips bloom in front of Bascom Hall at the University of Wisconsin-Madison on a hot spring day in May 2022.
—Photo by Althea Dotzour/UW-Madison

4



Autism Group Therapy

A new Waisman Center program helps young adults navigate through life's transitions and offers guidance for families.

8



Dreams Realized

Soon-to-be alumni reflected upon their accomplishments as they celebrated their medical school graduation.

14 Alumni Notebook

25 Goodbye Dear Friends

27 Awards

30 Healer's Journey

31 Student Life

32 Spotlight

34 Impactful Giving

38 Research Advances

40 Perspectives

10



TRIUMPH's Community Impact

Projects by medical students in the Training in Urban Medicine and Public Health Program address social determinants of health.

On the Cover

At the MD Graduate Recognition Ceremony in May 2022, Nancy Ly relished the moment she was hooded, with assistance from faculty members.

—Photo by Todd Brown/Media Solutions

ROBERT N. GOLDEN, MD



Fifteen years ago, we began the process of defining what it means to be the nation's first integrated school of medicine *and* public health. A cornerstone of that transformation has been a focus on the community: engaging with communities and learning from our community partners the best approaches for advancing the health of people and populations. This issue of *Quarterly* highlights several manifestations of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health's (SMPH) deep, enduring connections with the community.

For instance, the Waisman Center—a significant SMPH partner located right across the street—has created an autism group-therapy program. This is a remarkable example of how research, training, patient care and community service can be synergistic. The new offering advances our academic medical center's capacity to serve the needs of an important patient population.

The feature story about the SMPH's Training in Urban Medicine and Public Health (TRIUMPH) Program showcases the impact made by Dr. KaHoua Yang when she was a medical student. She exemplified TRIUMPH students as she planned and implemented a community-focused project with the help

of dedicated community mentors. Immersive experiences allow our medical students to learn from and address the needs of local organizations and the people they serve. This venture demonstrates an important aspect of our school's transformation.

In sculpting our vision, we were able to learn from and build upon the long-standing traditions of the UW Carbone Cancer Center. With a history of integrating medicine, public health and community engagement in its activities, UW Carbone and its supporters make a meaningful difference. You will read about how UW Basketball Coach Greg Gard and his wife, Michelle Gard, established Garding Against Cancer, which has raised more than \$6.5 million over six years to benefit cancer research and patient care in Wisconsin. We share our gratitude with the Gards and their growing cadre of generous supporters, respectively, who hosted and attended virtual events during the pandemic and an in-person signature event this spring.

We also applaud medical student Bethany Erb, who delved deeply into the ethics of health equity in her winning entry in the Dr. Norman Fost Award for the Best Medical Student Bioethics Essay; see Healer's Journey on page 30.

The Student Life section shares another shining example of medical students who successfully communicate with the public on topics at the intersection of medicine and public health. Harnessing an entertaining, relevant method of community engagement, Leigh Berman and Mayra Betancourt Ponce created a podcast called "What Brings You In Today?" It highlights the importance of narrative medicine, calling upon storytelling to help followers gain a deep understanding of other people's diverse experiences, with the goal of enhancing patient-centered care. I am impressed that during the terrifying early stretch of the COVID-19 pandemic, they were able to "make lemonade out of lemons" by creating a humanistic communication tool that educates and entertains listeners.

Simultaneous with the launch of our transformation, the SMPH established the Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR). Our initial application to the National Institutes of Health for a Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) was a heavy lift—led by Dr. Marc Drezner in 2007—that resulted in today's successful organization. In the Perspectives column, Drs. Allan Brasier and Elizabeth Burnside describe ICTR's track record of receiving substantial, competitive NIH grant renewals. The organization is among the most impactful CTSA's in the nation, and its storied past predicts an exciting future.

We have now welcomed the annual evolution of two distinct seasons in Madison—summer (also known as "water skiing season") and road construction (also known as "traffic-jam season"). The city's vibrant lakes and wetlands host ample bluegill and seasonal populations of sandhill cranes. We hope you will take the cue to visit our community, enjoy the sights and sounds along the lakeshore, and perhaps paddle your kayak around Picnic Point. We would love to see you in person again.

Robert N. Golden, MD
 Dean, University of Wisconsin
 School of Medicine and Public Health
 Vice Chancellor for Medical Affairs,
 UW-Madison

MARK FENLON, MD '84, MBA

Greetings, fellow alumni and friends of the Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association (WMAA) and University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH).

It seems like yesterday that I began my tenure as president of the WMAA. The past two years have certainly been challenging for all of us. No one would have guessed how the impact of the novel coronavirus would affect our daily lives, let alone our ability to engage in typical modes of communication. Our medical students had to pivot to virtual learning as online meetings became customary.

While the change was challenging, it also allowed the WMAA to engage more alumni from around the nation and world in different ways. From online class reunions to virtual graduations, we were able to remain engaged with our alma mater and its medical students and alumni. We've learned a lot about those interactions in the past two years, and some virtual events are likely to stay.

Thankfully, we are now back to in-person and hybrid meetings and events. Friday, May 13, marked the graduation of our newest alumni, the MD Class of 2022. While no one forgets their medical school years, this class will have unique memories related to the particular challenges wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic. The wisdom of incorporating public health into the SMPH curriculum became quite apparent in the past few years.

On April 29, 2022, I was honored to host our annual WMAA Awards Banquet, along with Dean Golden. It was a great evening and a pure joy to be back in person for this special event. If I've learned anything during my tenure as president, it's that the annual

awardees are outstanding, and they are very deserving of these awards.

The opportunity to participate on and lead the WMAA Board of Directors has been very gratifying. The SMPH has continued to build upon its already stellar reputation. As I have written before, as alumni, we all own part of that and can be proud of our school. I continue to be impressed by the knowledge, drive and ingenuity of our students and UW-Madison faculty.

As I wind down my time as the WMAA president, I want to acknowledge those who have helped guide me along the way. Past President Dr. Dan Jackson was a great role model but a tough act to follow. Dr. Patrick McBride was a critical player and teacher, calling on his many years of institutional history. Many other board members and past presidents also have contributed to my knowledge about the WMAA and SMPH. It has been a pleasure to work with all of them.

Thank you to the WMAA staff—Andrea Larson, Maureen Brady and Hannah Shaw. Their energy is incredible, and they are a joy to work with. Also, thanks to Jill Watson and Sara Dillivan-Graves from the UW Foundation and Alumni Association. The connection with the WMAA is seamless. Special thanks to Karen Peterson, our recently retired WMAA executive director. She worked hard to recruit me to the board and mentored me along the way.

The WMAA is in good hands with our new executive director, Sarah B. Rothschild. She has already established herself as a strategic thinker who is skilled in building relationships, and she brings many new ideas to the table. The alumni survey that many of you completed was Sarah's idea, and it will provide actionable data to inform our ongoing strategic plan.



KEVIN CLARKE

Last, I'd like to welcome our incoming WMAA president, Dr. Kyla Lee. I am certain she will excel in the role. Hopefully, I will be the only WMAA president to serve their term almost totally virtually!

As I ride (my Harley) off into the sunset, I thank you for the opportunity to serve as WMAA president.

On, Wisconsin!

Mark Fenlon, MD '84, MBA
President, Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association



Left to right: Michelle, Lizzie and Rick Oster

Autism Group Therapy

WAISMAN CENTER PROGRAM HELPS YOUNG ADULTS NAVIGATE THROUGH LIFE'S TRANSITIONS

Elizabeth “Lizzie” Oster was 16 years old when she was diagnosed with autism.* Most autistic people are diagnosed young, typically between the ages of 4 and 5, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and they can start therapy early. For Lizzie Oster, this wasn’t how it went. It took years, a slew of misdiagnoses and many ineffectual therapists before the idea of autism was brought to the table. She endured visits with physicians who didn’t understand her, a brief inpatient hospital stay and nearly impossible communication with her parents. All of those years that she went without a diagnosis meant huge amounts of time lost when she and her family could have benefited from treatment.

For Lizzie Oster and her family, her autism diagnosis was a relief.

“It was really difficult before we had the diagnosis,” says her dad, Rick Oster.

A diagnosis meant they could begin to understand how Lizzie Oster’s brain works, learn from therapy with autism specialists and finally figure out how to communicate and support one another. This long, difficult journey then brought the Oster family to the Waisman Center in Madison, Wisconsin, with the hope that the center’s Autism Treatment Programs would be a good fit for Lizzie Oster. The program is headed by Molly Murphy, PhD, BCBA-D, a behavioral analyst and clinical adjunct professor in the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine

and Public Health’s (SMPH) Department of Pediatrics.

“We had gone other places and hadn’t gotten good results,” Rick Oster shares, adding that at this point in their journey, their family needed a win.

The family began therapy with Madeline Barger, MS, LMFT, BCBA, CST, the Autism Treatment Programs’ lead behavior analyst. She is a Wisconsin-licensed behavior analyst, licensed marriage and family therapist, and an American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors and Therapists-certified sex therapist. Barger’s treatment style immediately resonated with the Oster family.

“The difference we noticed immediately was the Waisman Center takes a more holistic family approach,” says Michelle Oster, Lizzie Oster’s mom. “With many of the previous therapies, we would have no idea what they were working with Lizzie on or what we could do to support her. Madeline

“The difference we noticed immediately was the Waisman Center takes a more holistic family approach.”

—Michelle Oster

* Lizzie Oster feels strongly about being referred to as an autistic person rather than a person with autism. The language in this piece reflects that preference.

Barger and the Waisman Center really taught Rick and me about our family, how best we could support Lizzie, and how we could understand her, too.”

The Oster family credits Barger and the Waisman Center with saving their family.

“Our one-on-one sessions [with Madeline Barger] changed our whole family and our lives,” notes Rick Oster.

With Lizzie Oster now in college and beginning the challenges of transitioning into adult life, Barger thought she would benefit from the newly constructed autistic adult treatment series developed at the Waisman Center to provide education and support around the skills needed to transition into adulthood. As the lead provider for teens and adults in the Waisman Autism Treatment Programs, Barger launched this unique group-treatment series to help fill a gap in treatment for older autistic people.

“The reason we started with adults is based on a high community demand and clinical need. This 2021 group is specifically an adult women’s group because autistic women often report later-in-life diagnoses,” explains Barger. “Late diagnoses tend to lead to less-effective treatment interventions, and [the women] often come to us with

pretty intense trauma histories prior to their autism diagnosis.”

She continues, “We want to take steps to support autistic adults with access to appropriate, autism-informed health care, which is lacking in the community.”

Lizzie Oster experienced firsthand this gap in autism treatment for young adults who were diagnosed late. Prior to coming to the Waisman Center, she had seen an autism specialist but found that provider unhelpful because the program was designed for autistic children.

“We want to take steps to support autistic adults with access to appropriate, autism-informed health care, which is lacking in the community.”

**—Madeline Barger, MS,
LMFT, BCBA, CST**

“She showed me resources to teach autistic people, but it was really designed for autistic children,” Lizzie Oster says. “It was horrible and kind of infantilizing, as well.”

The year-long, young-adult group-therapy series is split into three curriculums, each designed to address an important challenge of experiencing adulthood. The first is Transitioning Together, a psycho-education model focused on adult transition. The program was developed at the Waisman Center by Leann DaWalt, PhD, a senior scientist, Waisman investigator and director of the center’s University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. Transitioning Together is based on more than 20 years of longitudinal research.

The second is a customized group version of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) PEERS® (Program for the Education and Enrichment of Relational Skills) program. And the important and unique third trimester, called Advanced Adult Relationships, was designed by Barger, who has rare, specialized training that allows her to provide systemic sexuality education and treatment for autistic people. This educational program allows group participants to meet their individual adult relationship goals toward dating, intimacy, partnering and general sexuality. According to Barger, this is the only program of its kind in the United States.

Transitioning Together builds the basis for fostering self-efficacy, social engagement



and problem-solving. The UCLA PEERS® program delves into necessary social skills, such as initiating conversations and building and maintaining friendships. Advanced Adult Relationships is best delivered after the initial foundation of social relationships is built, and it targets skills needed to foster healthy adult relationships. Each of these programs is successfully run by itself, but together, they form the year-long treatment series offered at the Waisman Center. And as Barger works with the young adults, Alyssa Walsh, PhD, and Sara Warner, PsyD, both licensed psychologists, run a concurrent group to teach parents the best ways to support their young adults.

“For Transitioning Together, the goal of the parent group is to reduce family stress, build a sense of community and engage in family problem-solving in a group context,” Walsh says. “Then, within the PEERS® program and the Advanced Adult Relationships curriculum, the goal is to talk about the same type of social skills that Madeline Barger is discussing with the young adults, so parents can support them in those areas.”

The Oster family says they have reaped enormous benefits from the autism group-therapy program, with one of the biggest being a sense of belonging and community.

“I think it’s cool because I haven’t been able to meet a lot of other autistic people other than sort of at a glance, and never females,” says Lizzie Oster. “It’s been really nice for me to meet some other autistic girls and see how they interact because I feel like sometimes watching someone else, you can recognize your behaviors in them.”

Rick and Michelle Oster say there is a peace in talking with other parents who understand the struggles of having an autistic child without them needing to explain it.

“We are learning from the other parents, as well. Having those shared resources and that forum to share, because all our girls are late-diagnosed and are high-functioning

TODD BROWN/MEDIA SOLUTIONS



The Waisman Center—located on the west end of the UW-Madison campus, across the street from the Health Sciences Learning Center and the Clinical Science Center that houses University Hospital and many clinics—aims to advance knowledge of human development, developmental disabilities and neurodegenerative diseases.

on the autism spectrum, it is really helpful,” Michelle Oster says. “Sometimes I am just too tired to explain, and I don’t have to do that with the parents in this group. They understand, and that’s a good feeling.”

Following this first year-long autism group-therapy series, Barger and Walsh are excited by the results. Their unique combination of licensures, which allow them to provide both psychotherapy and behavioral therapy, is unusual in the autism-treatment world. But they have found that being able to provide both services in a group setting uniquely benefits their patients.

The Oster family credits Madeline Barger and the Waisman Center with saving their family.

“So far, our group members are reporting decreased anxiety levels, and they’re increasing their targeted participation goals. They’re talking more and sharing more,” Barger says. “They report excitement at the possibility of cultivating new social skills toward creating and maintaining friendships

and more intimate relationships. They’re all really invested in this.”

Barger and Walsh have big plans for the autism group-therapy program. They want to build a larger, more robust training program around the group-therapy series to cultivate more clinicians who can provide this type of care. Holding the combination of licensures needed to do it, they know the unique construction of their programming offers something special, and they want to make it available for more autistic young adults who could benefit from it.

“At the moment, we are small in number at the Waisman Center’s Autism Treatment Programs specific to serving adults. But we are mighty in drive, experience and clinical skill,” Barger says. “We hope, over time, to have more staff so we can build something bigger.”

For now, though, the group-therapy series is more than the Oster family could have hoped for.

“I don’t know what we would do without this young-adult transition program,” Michelle Oster says. “I kind of feel like you either get in somewhere early or you’re like Lizzie. We’re so grateful that we could be a part of this program.”

Madeline Barger, MS, LMFT, BCBA, CST, leads an online autism-education session for parents.

PHOTOS BY TODD BROWN/MEDIA SOLUTIONS

Dreams Realized

MD GRADUATES CELEBRATE THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS



On Friday, May 13, 2022, the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) triumphantly celebrated an in-person MD Graduate Recognition Ceremony following two years of such events being held virtually.

The Class of 2022 navigated the COVID-19 pandemic for a significant span of their studies. Experiencing the pandemic's impact while preparing for their future careers required determination, creativity and adaptability. The challenges and complexities brought into focus the students' dedication to caring for communities, particularly those disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

Addressing the MD graduates at UW-Madison's Memorial Union, Dean

Robert N. Golden, MD, said, "I deeply admire your resilience in moving into your core clinical training just as the worst global pandemic in a century was exploding. COVID-19 taught us, in the most powerful way, the importance of integrating medicine and public health. We need to learn about and apply public health measures—such as masking, hand washing and social distancing—just as we do about antiviral medications and monoclonal antibodies. We also learned that our long-standing societal investments in medical research and health care delivery produced life-saving returns, very quickly. Further, we saw firsthand that when it comes to health, the global village has no borders or boundaries."

He continued, "As we reflect on our collective COVID past and present, we celebrate all that you have learned and achieved. And looking to the future, I know the best is yet to come."

Above (left to right): Nicholas Schreiter, Ashley Peotter and Collin Goebel. Opposite page, top row: Daniel Montes takes a selfie with his brother; Benjamin Kannenberg, a graduate chosen by his classmates, delivers a speech while faculty and staff observe. Middle row: Leeann Bui receives her hood; the Class of 2022 recites the Declaration of Geneva. Bottom row: Jeremy Williams receives his hood; Alexis Ray poses with her family.





Before she graduated from medical school, KaHoua Yang, MD '22, worked with farmers markets in Milwaukee for her TRIUMPH community project.

TRIUMPH's Community Impact

STUDENT PROJECTS ADDRESS SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

As a medical student, KaHoua Yang, MD '22, was eager to begin her community health project, which is a key component of each student's experience in the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health's (SMPH) Training in Urban Medicine and Public Health (TRIUMPH) Program. She had planned to work with Fondy Food Center's Fruit and Vegetable Prescription Program, in which primary health care providers write prescriptions for patients to buy fresh produce. Yang would be a liaison between Advocate Aurora Health clinics and the food center on the north side of Milwaukee. Her role would be to assess the clinics' plans for the prescriptions and to follow up on individuals' redemption of vouchers at farmers markets. Yang also hoped to enroll more clinic sites and increase the voucher redemption rate.

When the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the clinics, Yang had to pivot. She went to work for the Fondy Food Center and its Milwaukee Market Match, a pilot program that began in 2020. Funded by a grant

from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, the Market Match doubled the value of FoodShare dollars when used at any of five farmers markets in the city. Nearly 800 households used the match during the 10-week pilot, leading to a second pilot year in 2021.

Yang knew when she applied to medical school at the SMPH that she wanted to expand and deepen her knowledge of the needs and assets of city environments. A native of Wausau, Wisconsin, she had earned a bachelor's degree in biochemistry from UW-Madison and started her career by teaching high school biology, chemistry and astronomy in Chicago public schools. This experience helped her realize that working in an urban setting appealed to her. After returning to UW-Madison for a master's degree in bacteriology and managing research laboratories on campus, she enrolled in the SMPH and was accepted into TRIUMPH. This urban training track within the school's MD Program started in 2009 to help address health inequities and

chronic physician shortages in Wisconsin's urban areas.

A "sister" program to the SMPH's Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine—which focuses on admitting and training medical students who are committed to improving the health of rural communities—TRIUMPH got its start when Cynthia Haq, MD (PG '87), then a professor in the SMPH Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, gleaned knowledge from the annual County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, created within the UW Population Health Institute. Patrick Remington, MD '81, MPH, professor emeritus in the SMPH Department of Population Health Sciences—the inaugural associate dean for public health when the roadmaps project was developed—pointed out to Haq that if data from Milwaukee County were removed from the rankings, Wisconsin would rank as the nation's healthiest state.

"It was shocking to see that our most populous county had some of the greatest inequities and poor health outcomes," recalls Haq, who approached SMPH senior

leaders with the idea of establishing a new educational track focused on health inequities in Milwaukee. With their support, she began building the program essentially “from scratch.” In 2009, TRIUMPH’s first cohort of six students began a six-month pilot program.

From the beginning, Haq emphasized not just the challenges but the assets and gifts to be found in the urban community. She met with community leaders and identified the “bright lights” who were acting to create positive change there.

“I wanted to help students see the glass as half-full, to fall in love with the people and community, and to envision themselves as change agents to promote community health,” she notes.

Kjersti Knox, MD ’11, was among the second cohort of TRIUMPH students—the first eight to earn medical degrees in the full 18-month program. She is now the program’s director and a clinical adjunct assistant professor of family medicine at the SMPH. In addition to Knox, the TRIUMPH leadership team includes Michelle Buelow, MD ’11, MPH, and Theresa Umhoefer-Wittry, MD ’12, co-associate directors who were part of the first and third TRIUMPH cohorts, respectively, and Melissa Lemke, program manager.

Today, the program has expanded to enroll 16 students per year. TRIUMPH students begin medical school in Madison and then spend two and a half years in Milwaukee. With more than 50 partners for internships and hands-on experiences, TRIUMPH also has multiple teaching sites within Advocate Aurora Health and additional sites at federally qualified health centers and neighborhood-based clinics.

In line with program goals, 99 percent of TRIUMPH graduates have selected residencies in urban areas, and more than half practice in primary care.

“Many TRIUMPH alumni now practice in the clinics, hospitals and federally qualified health centers in which they trained, so they are offering medical care with a community-informed lens—and humility,” notes Knox. “Every day, they apply TRIUMPH skills, most



TODD BROWN/MEDIA SOLUTIONS

TRIUMPH leaders (left to right): Michelle Buelow, MD ’11, MPH, Kjersti Knox, MD ’11, and Theresa Umhoefer-Wittry, MD ’12

importantly to listen, build relationships and connect with the community.”

These skills proved beneficial for Yang as she transitioned into TRIUMPH in her second year of medical school. In Milwaukee, her clinic training days began at 7 a.m. with a review of the day’s schedule and patient charts. And with those patients came the first of many lessons.

“When you read a patient’s chart, you sometimes have a preconceived notion of who they are—there’s a whole list of medical conditions that patients have—and I remember thinking ‘How is this patient still up and moving around?’ But then I would walk into the exam room, and the patient would be super alert and happy and look nothing like what I had pictured based just on what’s in their chart,” she recalls. “That would surprise me every single time. It was a reminder that I can’t judge my patients based only on what’s in the record. My patients are so much more than that.”

Being of Hmong descent, Yang thought Milwaukee, with its large Hmong population, would be a good choice for her career. Her primary contact with Hmong patients came during her inpatient rotations, when she could use her cultural knowledge to help patients and providers navigate cultural nuances to improve communication.

“When I’d walk in the room and the patients would realize I was Hmong, there was often a change in their demeanor. I could tell they were thinking, ‘Oh, you know me,’” she shares. “I’ve had many of those experiences.”

As the acronym “TRIUMPH” reflects, the program emphasizes both medical care and public health—specifically

how to understand and act on social determinants—such as education, housing and nutrition—that powerfully affect health.

These factors are often the focus of the required student projects. For her pandemic-adapted project, Yang analyzed data on the number of purchasers using the Milwaukee Market Match, including how often they purchased items and their home ZIP code, and she put together a final report that allowed people to visualize the data.

In the match’s first pilot of 10 weeks, Yang found that nearly 800 households used matching funds to a total of \$19,653. Most purchasers bought their produce at the Fondy Farmers Market in the Lindsay Heights neighborhood, but more than 30 Milwaukee ZIP codes were represented. By the end of the second pilot, participation had ballooned to nearly 1,700 households purchasing four times the dollar value of the previous year.

As the 2022 season approached, Meg Kilkenny—the healthy communities coordinator for UW-Madison Extension Milwaukee County and the co-facilitator for the Milwaukee Farmers Market Coalition with Fondy Food Center—was hearing from many former customers who wanted to use the Market Match again.

About Yang’s two-year TRIUMPH project, Kilkenny comments, “She went above and beyond all of our expectations for examining data and providing a thorough and visual, aesthetically pleasing analysis of our programmatic impacts. The Milwaukee Farmers Market Coalition has been actively using KaHoua’s work to illustrate the geographic reach of this program alongside its positive impacts on improving the health and well-being of thousands of low-income

Milwaukeeans by increasing access to healthy, affordable food.”

Kilkenny continues, “Her work [has made] it possible for us to show the county and other decision makers how this program works and how important it is for the community. She did such an amazing job, especially with the 2021 program analysis, which she completed while being a new mom. Her TRIUMPH assignment will have positive ripple effects possibly for years to come.”

Using Yang’s data, Fondy Food Center and other partners went to the Milwaukee County Board to request a \$1 million grant from the county’s American Rescue Plan funding. In late May 2022, the board voted unanimously to award the Milwaukee Market Match \$1.1 million to sustain the program through 2024. Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley called the program “another step forward in our journey to bridge the gap in health disparities” in the county.

As Yang prepares to start a family medicine residency in northern Illinois, she says she feels proud of the outcomes of her TRIUMPH project and grateful that it could succeed at an uncertain time.

“Our TRIUMPH directors have been phenomenal, especially during the pandemic,” Yang reflects. “They helped ground us [students] and keep us informed and feeling safe. I sing their praises often.”

Knox concludes, “Our students like Dr. Yang are an inspiration to me and to the broad TRIUMPH community in

Milwaukee. They have demonstrated exceptional flexibility and resilience, and they were a source of energy and support for each other and for their teams throughout the pandemic. I am profoundly excited for the impact that Dr. Yang and her colleagues will have in their communities throughout their careers.”



Top row (left to right): Benjamin Kannenberg, Dan Arndorfer, Samantha (Sam) Prince, Alexis Ray, Melissa Lemke (program manager), Joseph Archer, Andrew Carlson, Jose Bien (JB) Hernandez, Joaquin Villaruz. Middle row: Peter Ngo, Viktoriya (Vika) Ovsepyan, Veronica Daniel, KaHoua Yang, Tom Enright, Theresa Umhoefer-Wittry, MD '12 (co-associate program director). Bottom row: Julia DeSantis, Kjersti Knox, MD '11 (program director), Karina Barretto, Tammy Hoang, Lena Law.

About the SMPH Statewide Campus

Early in their medical training, all medical students at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) begin developing their doctor-patient communication skills as they learn patient history-taking and physical examination techniques at community sites.

Hundreds of physicians throughout the state volunteer their time and expertise by serving as community faculty and mentors to students in the SMPH’s MD Program. In each of their four years of training, medical students have educational experiences with community faculty at hospitals and clinics throughout Wisconsin. Beginning partway through their second year, medical students receive more involved clinical training in rotations in Madison, Green Bay, La Crosse, Marshfield, Milwaukee and other Wisconsin communities.

Statewide partnerships are a hallmark of two SMPH programs that address the need for physicians who practice in underserved rural and urban communities—the Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine (WARM) and the Training in Urban Medicine and Public Health (TRIUMPH) Program, respectively.

In addition to facilities in the Madison area, the SMPH’s statewide campus includes:

- Marshfield Clinic Health System/Northern Academic Campus;
- Gundersen Health System/Western Academic Campus; and
- Advocate Aurora Health/Eastern Academic Campus.

Advocate Aurora Health is a partner in the TRIUMPH Program, and with its association with Aurora BayCare Medical Center in Green Bay, it is a partner with WARM.

As the 10th largest not-for-profit, integrated health care system in the United States, Advocate Aurora Health serves nearly 3 million patients each year. It has more than 300 Milwaukee-based teaching faculty who train medical students in clinical settings and assist with community health projects. Students on rotations in the health care system’s Milwaukee sites have opportunities to care for underserved patient populations at the Bread of Healing Clinic and Walker’s Point Community Clinic, among others.

Watch future articles in *Quarterly* for information about the Marshfield Clinic Health System/Northern Academic Campus and Gundersen Health System/Western Academic Campus.

 **There’s more online:**
med.wisc.edu/about-us/statewide-campus/

Medical Alumni Weekend

MD CLASSMATES RELISH THEIR RETURN TO MADISON



TODD BROWN/MEDIA SOLUTIONS (2) AND SARAH ROTHSCHILD

Top row (left to right): John Kleiner, MD '70, Kurt Konkell, MD '70, Richard Horak, MD '70, Lorin Busselberg, MD '70, Paul Wertsch, MD '70, James Bruckman, MD '70, Martyn Wills, MD '70, Michael Ebersold, MD '70, John Bollinger, MD '70, Shirley Roy, MD '70. Bottom row: Thomas Winch, MD '67, John Bargren, MD '67, Thomas Madland, MD '67, William Gee, MD '67; Vincent Barr, MD '72, Wendy Barr, Suzanne Herszenson, Sidney Herszenson, MD '72.

As Dr. Seuss aptly declared, “Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory.”

Medical alumni of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) often tell Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association (WMAA) staff how much they value moments with classmates and friends, and how eager they've been

to share memories—and make new ones—in person when it was safe to do so following years of virtual events during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Excitement was palpable on June 2 and 3, 2022, when nearly 150 SMPH alumni and guests traveled to Madison from 16 states for the SMPH's Spring Medical Alumni Weekend. Members of the Classes of 1957, '62, '67, '70, '72 and '77, plus the Half-

Century Society enjoyed class meals and a State of the School Address featuring Dean Robert N. Golden, MD; Beth A. Drolet, MD, chair, Department of Dermatology; and Ayman Taher, co-president, MD Class of 2025. At the Madison Club, Pyle Center and Memorial Union Terrace, participants reminisced and shared updates.

WMAA President Kyla Lee, MD '98, thanked the class representatives who



Top row (left to right): M1 Ayman Taher, co-president, Class of 2025 (center), speaks with alumni; Christine Frinak, Charles Frinak, MD '77, John Rowe, MD '77. Bottom row: Gloria Sarto, MD '58 (PG '63), Jon Hanifin, MD '65, John Drye, MD '65, Patricia Randall, MD '66, James Angevine '59, Louis Bernhardt, MD '63.

worked with the WMAA to plan the festivities. She specifically mentioned John Pederson, MD '72, whose class graduated 50 years ago, and Sandy Osborn, MD '70, and Paul Wertsch, MD '70, whose class celebrated its 50-year reunion virtually in 2020 and again, in person, at this event.

Opening his address, Golden said, "Our incredible alumni community is a cornerstone for our school's strength and vitality."

He described examples of the SMPH's thriving research enterprise, which made up 44 percent of UW-Madison's research portfolio in fiscal year 2020-2021; the increasing stature and quality of the school's educational programs, fueled by a growing cadre of dedicated faculty and academic staff members; and the expanding diversity of the school's clinical work force and student body.

Golden said, "We are proud of our progress. For the past several years, more than 30 percent of our entering MD students are from backgrounds that are historically underrepresented in our profession. Much of our success is due to you, as you have supported more than 200 scholarships—a major factor in attracting the brightest, most dedicated and diverse group of future physicians."

MD Class Reunions

TODD BROWN/MEDIA SOLUTIONS (6)



Class of 1957

*Front row (left to right): Theodore Fox, H. Leon Oxman, John McKenna.
Back row: Sanford Mallin, Donald Kinkel, Bruce Stoehr, James Ferwerda.*



Class of 1962

*Front row (left to right): James Basiliere, Charlotte Burns, Richard Van Dreef.
Back row: Kathryn Nichol, Richard Geline, David Hill, William Martens.*



Class of 1967

*Front row (left to right): Larry Johnson, Thomas Winch, John Jaeger, John Bargren, Edward Kinsfogel.
Back row: James Kuplic, William Gee, Neil Hoffman, Thomas Madland, Lee Tyne.*



Class of 1970

Front row (left to right): Sandra Osborn, Ann Selzer, Shirley Roy, Lorin Busselberg. Back row: William Swift, Martyn Wills, John Kleiner, Paul Wertsch, Kurt Konkel, James Bruckman.

Class of 1972

Front row (left to right): George Gay, Wilbur Hillman, Edward Ehlinger, Robert Chudnow, Galen Hasler, Nicolas Maragos, Warren Procci. Back row: Vincent Barr, Greg Lochen, Michael Layde, Lawrence Frazin, Charles Garvey, John Maki, Richard Hurwitz, Howard Thalacker, Henry Anderson, John Pederson, Sidney Herszenon.



Class of 1977

Front row (left to right): George Davis, Dorothy Jayne, Ruth Rosenthal, David Howes, Eugene Kastenson, George Schaezner, Jeffrey Schauer. Back row: David Spriggs, Ronald Behling, John Rowe, Sylvia Weir, Robert Stanley, Gary Schwartz, Charles Frinak.

WMAA Awards

DISTINGUISHED RECIPIENTS HONORED AT BANQUET

On April 29, 2022, in the first in-person alumni awards program since before the COVID-19 pandemic, the Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association (WMAA) and University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) honored the following individuals for exceptional contributions to the school, its students, and their fields of practice and communities:

MEDICAL ALUMNI CITATION AWARD: Craig Wilson, MD '82

RESIDENT CITATION AWARD: Bruce Klein, MD (PG '89)

EARLY-CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: Daniel Jackson, MD '03 (PG '10)

BASIC SCIENCE EMERITUS FACULTY AWARD: Tom C.T. Yin, PhD

CLINICAL SCIENCE EMERITUS FACULTY AWARD: Patricia Kokotailo, MD, MPH

RALPH HAWLEY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD: Nicole St. Clair, MD '03

WMAA SERVICE AWARD: Susan Isensee, MD '83 (PG '86)

SIGURD SIVERTSON MEDICAL EDUCATION AWARD: Paul Maes, DO (PG '96)

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP IN THE WMAA AWARD: Jane Shepard, MA

The Medical Alumni Citation Award honors an alumnus who has achieved distinction in medicine. Achievement is recognized through excellence in the practice of medicine, in academic activities and in research accomplishment.

Wilson is a professor emeritus in the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) School of Public Health's Department of Epidemiology. For decades, Wilson has been integrating medicine and public health in ways that have had enormous global impact.



After completing Peace Corps service in Western Samoa and earning his medical degree from the SMPH, his commitment to global health and interest in infectious disease blossomed. Wilson completed a pediatrics residency at Stanford University, an infectious disease fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital and a postdoctoral molecular parasitology fellowship at the Harvard School of Public Health. He served on the faculty of the UAB School of Medicine's Departments of Pediatrics, Medicine and Microbiology, and in the UAB School of Public Health's Departments of Epidemiology and International Health. He was director of the Sparkman Center for Global Health for more than 10 years, and over several decades, he completed groundbreaking research in critical areas, including the molecular epidemiology of drug resistance in malaria, and the prevention and management of HIV with a focus on adolescent and LGBTQ+ populations

domestically. He was the inaugural chair of the Adolescent Medicine Trial Network for HIV/AIDS Interventions from 2001 to 2018 and the inaugural co-chair of the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) Division of AIDS Youth Prevention Research Working Group. Wilson continues his deep involvement in Africa focused on HIV care and health care workforce development.

The Resident Citation Award honors an individual who has completed a residency or fellowship at UW Health and achieved distinction in medicine. Achievement is recognized through excellence in the practice of medicine, in academic activities and in research accomplishment.

Klein is the Gerard B. Odell Professor and Shirley S. Matchette Endowed Professor in the SMPH Departments of Pediatrics, Medicine, and Medical Microbiology and Immunology.



He has had a profound impact on mycology and immunology and on countless learners. After he earned his medical degree at Boston University and completed a pediatrics residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital, he completed an infectious disease fellowship at UW Health and joined the SMPH faculty. His work on fungal pathogenesis, vaccines, and diagnostic and treatment techniques has been transformative.

Since 1999, Klein has served as chief of the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases in the Department of Pediatrics. He founded

and directs the NIH Microbes in Health and Disease Training Program. In his laboratory, Klein has mentored 18 graduate students, 25 postdoctoral researchers and 20 undergraduate students. His many honors include two NIH MERIT awards and election into the Association of American Physicians and the American Academy of Microbiology.

The Early-Career Achievement Award honors an alumnus who has attained exemplary success in 20 years post-graduation. The recipient will have made outstanding contributions through clinical service, research, education and/or administrative leadership.

Jackson is a professor in the SMPH Department of Pediatrics' Division of Allergy, Immunology and Rheumatology. He is widely regarded as an outstanding clinician, researcher, teacher, mentor and leader.



Having earned his medical degree from the SMPH and completed a pediatrics residency at the University of California, Davis, Jackson returned to UW Health for an allergy and immunology fellowship. He then joined the SMPH faculty.

An internationally known pediatric asthma investigator across the continuum of basic, clinical and translational science, Jackson has published more than 100 peer-reviewed articles and performed some of the first work on how COVID-19 impacts individuals with asthma and allergies. Jackson's many honors include the Klosterfrau International Award for Research of Airway Diseases in Childhood and the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology's Burton Zweiman Memorial Lectureship. From 2018 to 2020, he served with distinction as the president of the Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association.

The Basic Science Emeritus Faculty Award is given to a basic scientist who demonstrates long and effective service to the SMPH in teaching and/or research or noteworthy administration, including program development.

Yin is a professor emeritus in the SMPH Department of Neuroscience, where he has made significant contributions in research, teaching and service.



He completed a PhD in electrical and computer engineering from the University of Michigan and postdoctoral research at Johns Hopkins University before joining UW-Madison in 1977. His research in auditory neuroscience led to fundamental discoveries about spatial hearing and was highly regarded. He was continuously funded by the NIH throughout his career. He received the inaugural Hartmann Prize in Auditory Neuroscience from the Acoustical Society of America and the Award of Merit from the Association for Research in Otolaryngology.

His dedication to teaching began with lectures to medical students even before his faculty appointment began, and he played an instrumental role in the first-year neuroscience course for decades. He also taught graduate students and founded a popular undergraduate course that became the backbone of the neurobiology major. He was awarded a UW-Madison Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award in 2003.

Yin also directed the neuroscience graduate program for eight years and served on three NIH study sections. In the early years of the Department of Neuroscience, he was interim chair and played a major role in bringing together faculty from three departments.

The Clinical Science Emeritus Faculty Award is given to a clinical scientist who demonstrates long and effective service to the SMPH in teaching and/or research or noteworthy administration, including program development.

Kokotailo, a pediatrician and adolescent medicine specialist, is a professor emerita in the SMPH Department of Pediatrics.



She earned her medical degree from Northwestern University and a master of public health degree from the University of Illinois Chicago. She completed a pediatrics residency and an adolescent medicine fellowship at Johns Hopkins.

In 1989, she joined the SMPH faculty. Throughout her career, she provided outstanding clinical care to children, adolescents and young adults and excelled as an international leader in adolescent substance abuse, medical education and faculty development.

For many years, Kokotailo directed medical education and faculty development in the SMPH Department of Pediatrics. She was honored with four prestigious teaching awards, including a UW-Madison Distinguished Teaching Award. She later became the school's associate dean for faculty development and affairs. She led the creation of the Centennial Scholars Program, which provides essential support for faculty from groups experiencing health disparities in Wisconsin. Her appointments as a visiting professor and scholar at institutions like King's College London have allowed her to spread her expertise across the globe. In retirement, Kokotailo serves as a master facilitator with the National Research Mentoring Network and continues to teach.

The Ralph Hawley Distinguished Service Award honors an alumnus who has made outstanding contributions to the local community through medical practice, teaching, research or other humanitarian activities.

St. Clair is an associate professor in the SMPH's Department of Pediatrics' Divisions of Hospital Medicine and Global Health and director of Global Child Health Education.



Having earned her medical degree at the SMPH, St. Clair completed the Combined Residency Program in Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and Boston University. She practiced as a pediatric hospitalist at the Medical College of Wisconsin and Children's Hospital of Wisconsin in Milwaukee before returning to the SMPH and UW Health in 2017. As a hospitalist at American Family Children's Hospital, she is passionate about teaching students and residents as she provides care for children and families.

Over the past two decades, St. Clair has worked in Mexico, Haiti, Lesotho and Belize, and she has collaborated on best practices in global health education. She is the editor of the American Board of Pediatrics' *Program Director's Guide to Global Health Education*, which is used in residency programs across the United States and Canada.

The Medical Alumni Service Award honors an alumnus who has exhibited exceptional commitment to the WMAA over the years.

Isensee is a retired family physician from SSM Health in Madison and a diplomat in the American Board of Obesity Medicine.

She earned her medical degree at the SMPH and completed a family medicine residency in the school's Department of Family Medicine and Community Health. She then served as a physician for the Dean Medical Center, now SSM Health, for three decades. For 25 years, she was a family physician and began to split her time between family practice and weight management, eventually devoting all of her time to helping patients through the challenges of weight management.



Isensee has exhibited unwavering advocacy for the WMAA and the SMPH. She served on the WMAA Board of Directors for 14 years, including a term as president from 2016 to 2018; she continues to serve on the WMAA Board of Director's Executive Committee. Also, her leadership of the Class of 1983 helped rally her classmates in support of their class scholarship fund, which will support medical students in perpetuity.

In retirement, Isensee continues to give back to patients and the community.

The Sigurd Sivertson Medical Education Award recognizes an individual who has contributed to the education of medical students throughout their career.

Maes is a family medicine physician at Aurora BayCare Medical Center in Green Bay and block director of the SMPH's Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine (WARM) in the Advocate Aurora Health/Eastern Academic Campus' Green Bay location.



He earned a doctor of osteopathy degree from the New York Institute of Technology/ College of Osteopathic Medicine. Next, he

completed a family medicine residency at the SMPH and joined the school's faculty as part of the SMPH/Aurora Family Medicine Residency Program in Milwaukee.

Later, Maes moved to Door County, Wisconsin, where he has a rural family practice and is heavily involved in WARM. He says Door County is a wonderful place for students to experience life as a rural family doctor working in many settings. Maes has served as the educational site lead for Green Bay and site lead for the Chronic and Preventive Care course. He is highly engaged in student community health projects. Maes received the 2019 Aurora BayCare Medical Center's Teacher of the Year Award.

The Honorary Life Membership in the WMAA Award honors a colleague who has been particularly supportive and helpful to SMPH students and alumni.

Shepard's work to build an exceptional and diverse SMPH student body and her collaboration with the WMAA have been essential in building lifelong connections.



She earned a master's degree in education and human development from George Washington University. From there, she had a three-decade career in higher education, mainly in admissions.

In 2008, Shepard joined the SMPH's MD Program as an admissions advisor and later served as director of the Office of Admissions for more than 10 years. In addition to managing more than 5,000 applications for about 175 spots annually, the Office of Admissions is charged with developing strategies for ensuring that medical student cohorts represent the communities they serve to the greatest extent possible. Shepard was instrumental in much of the progress the SMPH has had in these areas. She retired from the school in 2021.

WMAA Teaching Awards



Loren Fuglestad,
MD '93 (PG '96)



Thomas Leece,
MD '09



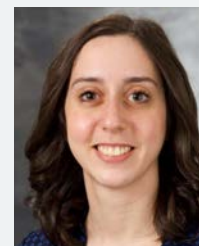
Dawn Effenbein,
MD, MPH (PG '15)



Gary Van
Oudenhoven, MD



Marie Forgie, DO



Talya Spivak, MD

Every year, the Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association (WMAA) grants an award to a distinguished clinical teacher in each of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health's (SMPH) five major teaching locations—Green Bay, La Crosse, Madison, Marshfield and Milwaukee—and to one distinguished resident teacher. Nominations are made by fourth-year medical students, and award recipients are selected by a collective vote of the class. The Class of 2022 chose the following recipients:

- Green Bay: Loren Fuglestad, MD '93 (PG '96)
- La Crosse: Thomas Leece, MD '09
- Madison: Dawn Effenbein, MD, MPH (PG '15)
- Marshfield: Gary Van Oudenhoven, MD
- Milwaukee: Marie Forgie, DO
- Distinguished Resident Award:
Talya Spivak, MD

Fuglestad is a family medicine physician at Bellin Medical Group—Howard Clinic in Green Bay. He earned his medical degree at the SMPH and completed a family medicine residency in the school's Department of Family Medicine and Community Health Residency Program in Wausau, Wisconsin.

A student said, "Dr. Fuglestad is among the top physicians I worked with during medical school. I appreciated how he provided a sense of trust in my work and listened to my suggested plans. Further, when my plans were missing something, I valued how he viewed it as an opportunity to teach rather than as an inconvenience."

Leece practices internal medicine at Gundersen Health System in La Crosse. He earned his medical degree at the SMPH and completed an internal medicine residency at Indiana University School of Medicine.

A student said, "Dr. Leece has the patience and dedication of a teacher, and the kindness and compassion of a humanist. He encourages a team-based approach to care that makes every member feel empowered and valued, while delivering a seamless experience to patients. His passion for medicine is evident to all, and his impact on the next generation of physicians can't be understated!"

Effenbein is an associate professor in the SMPH Department of Surgery. She earned her medical degree at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland; she completed a general surgery residency at Duke University Medical Center, earned her master of public health degree at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and completed an endocrine surgery fellowship at UW Health in Madison.

A student said, "Dr. Effenbein is an incredible teacher, role model and mentor. Her dedication to students is motivating and inspiring. She always makes you feel heard, and there is never a doubt that she has your best interest at heart."

Van Oudenhoven is an internal medicine physician at Marshfield Clinic Health System. He earned his medical degree from Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee and completed an internal medicine residency and critical care fellowship at University of

Minnesota—Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis.

A student said, "It is clear that Dr. Van Oudenhoven cares firstly about his patients and the quality of their care, and he hopes to pass that care to future generations of physicians. His dedication to thoughtful discussion and education has helped form me into a greater physician."

Forgie works in obstetrics and gynecology at Aurora Health Care in Milwaukee. She earned her doctor of osteopathy degree from Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed an obstetrics and gynecology residency at Aurora Health Care in Milwaukee.

A student said, "Dr. Forgie is wonderful to work with in every way. In the operating room, she gave me specific tasks, patiently taught me to do them well, and graduated my autonomy as I improved. She is an accessible, compassionate teacher and site block leader, and once reorganized her own schedule ... to give me additional time to practice skills in a supportive environment."

Spivak is a third-year resident in the SMPH Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She earned her medical degree from the University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences in Ohio.

A student said, "Dr. Spivak was among the kindest, most thoughtful residents I have worked with. She was extremely welcoming and always made an extra effort to ensure medical students felt included and valued. She was always open to questions, no matter how busy she was."



Skyline of downtown Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where the Training in Urban Medicine and Public Health (TRIUMPH) Program is based.

RAY GARCIA, MD '16

After I earned my medical degree in the TRIUMPH Program of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, I completed an internal medicine residency at Montefiore/Einstein in the Bronx and an addiction medicine fellowship at Oregon Health and Science University. I have been practicing as a primary care provider and addiction specialist at Progressive Community Health Centers in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. There, I care for a wide variety of patients who have complex chronic medical conditions, including people living with HIV and chronic hepatitis C,

and those with substance-use disorders.

Being a part of the TRIUMPH Program allowed me to understand the importance of social determinants of health. This led me to pursue my residency at Montefiore/Einstein, where I was able to train in social medicine and learn to practice with an eye toward social justice and harm reduction. With these skills, I have been able to advocate for the community that I serve and help patients navigate through social barriers to achieve health.

I am currently a U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration National Health

Service Corps Scholar, as well as a member of the American Academy of HIV Medicine, American Society of Addiction Medicine and American College of Physicians.

One of my most memorable patient stories is that of a woman with opioid-use disorder who decided to address her addiction while pregnant. As her primary care physician, I worked collaboratively with her obstetrician to safely start buprenorphine therapy for her use disorder throughout her pregnancy and postpartum period. More than six months later—and with her opioid-use disorder in early remission—



she and her infant son are doing great.

I thoroughly enjoy practicing community health and encourage medical students to seek rotations outside the academic medical center setting so they can experience the wealth of innovative strategies offered by community-based organizations to improve health and wellness.

LAWRENCE MOORE, MD '19, MPH '19

I earned a dual MD/MPH (master of public health) degree at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health. I now am a third-year resident at the Aurora Family Medicine Program in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where I provide general medical care from “the womb to the tomb.” I am honored to share that I will remain here as a faculty member beginning in fall 2022.

What I love about family medicine is that there are very few “typical” cases. One day, I may reassure new parents, insert a woman’s intrauterine device, or help a patient navigate their new cancer diagnosis,

and the next day could be completely different.

One of my most memorable moments, at the beginning of my residency, involves seeing two siblings for a common skin rash. After the visit, their mother requested that I become their primary care provider, and I gladly accepted. Over the last three years, I have continued to care for them and have enjoyed watching them navigate high school. I am privileged to now care for the whole family, including their mom, dad and older sibling. Furthermore, the family intends to follow me to my new practice!

When I finished my Peace Corps service before medical school, I knew that longitudinal relationships and community involvement were important to me when deciding to pursue a career as a physician. During my post-baccalaureate premedical program, interactions with Drs. Cindy Haq and Paul Hunter (MD '89) and Marge Stearns helped me realize that family medicine would provide me with what I was looking for in the profession, and so much more.

I try to thank every patient for coming to the clinic because each patient has a multitude of options regarding how to



spend their time. The clinic encounter means they chose their health. The concept of health differs greatly amongst my patients. I found that taking time to set goals and expectations early with patients goes a long way toward ensuring that we have productive, satisfying interactions.

LOREN KRUEGER, MD '15

My current practice is in Atlanta, Georgia, in Emory University’s Department of Dermatology. I spend the majority of my time at our Emory Clinics, which are outpatient dermatology clinics, and I also work at Grady Hospital.

I love the mix of general dermatology, but I have a particular focus on skin of color dermatology, hair and scalp disorders, and pigmentary disorders.

When I reflect on memorable patients, I think of a transplant patient with epidermodysplasia verruciformis, for whom I provide care. The disease has presented with thousands of small, white macules on her

brown skin. Understandably, she is devastated by this, yet she is kind, patient and positive in all of our interactions. I am so fortunate to care for her, and I am motivated to leave no stone unturned in finding the best possible treatment options for her.

At the end of my first year of medical school, I remember taking our dermatology course. This was our first taste of clinical medicine, and I found myself enamored with the course. I remember approaching Dr. William Aughenbaugh (MD '97) after our exam and sharing my interest. This was the beginning of a

wonderful mentoring relationship that continues to this day.

Following my graduation from medical school in the TRIUMPH Program, I completed my intern year at the University of Chicago and my dermatology residency at New York University.

In my current department, I serve as the director for diversity, equity and inclusion. I also serve as a member of the American Academy of Dermatology’s (AAD) Diversity Committee and as co-chair of the AAD’s Diversity Champion Workshop. I co-chair the Diversity in Action Task Force for the Skin of Color Society and am a member of that organization’s board of directors.



I find dermatology to be an amazing field with endless options. Each day brings the perfect mix of patients, and they are very appreciative of their care. People in this field always desire new technologies, therapies and perspectives, and I encourage others to consider the specialty!

Class Notes

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
med.wisc.edu/shareyournews

Class of 2019



Brett Morris' pooch competed in the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show from June 18 to 22, 2022. His wire-haired vizsla, Ernie, placed third in his breed. The Westminster Kennel Club, established in 1877, is America's oldest non-profit organization dedicated to the sport of dogs. Annually, the club hosts its iconic dog show, which is the second-largest continuously held sporting event in the nation. It has been televised since 1948, making it the longest running nationally televised live dog show.

Class of 1998

Janice Litza was appointed in July 2021 as the regional chief medical officer for Ascension Wisconsin. In this role, she oversees patient safety, quality and experience, and she is responsible for building collaboration across sites and within the community. She is responsible for the following hospitals: Ascension All Saints in Racine, Ascension Franklin, and Ascension St. Francis in Milwaukee. Previously, starting in 2019, she was the vice president for medical affairs for Ascension All Saints.



Class of 1978

Daryl Knox recently retired from his position as the medical director and chief medical officer for the Harris Center for Mental Health



and IDD (intellectual or developmental disabilities), a large community mental health center in Houston. Employing more than 60 psychiatric physicians and other mental health professionals, the center specializes in the treatment of individuals with severe and persistent mental illness that is compounded by multiple social determinants of health. Knox currently serves as an associate professor of psychiatry at the University of Texas McGovern Medical School in Houston. He is a member of the American Psychiatric Association (APA) Assembly and a Distinguished Life Fellow of the APA. He recently was inducted into the American College of Psychiatry. Highlights of his career include serving as president of the Houston Psychiatric Society and president of the Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians (TSPP), from which he received the TSPP Distinguished Service Award in 2019. Knox co-authored several articles and book chapters related to psychiatric practice in public health systems. He lives in Sugar Land, Texas, with his wife of 48 years, Cynthia, and enjoys spending time with their three grandchildren.

CORRECTION: In *Quarterly*, Vol. 24, No. 1, 2022, page 5 included an incorrect date. In regard to basic science "firsts" at UW-Madison, the article stated that creation of the first synthetic gene occurred in 1979, when in fact, that occurred in 1970. We regret the error.

Call for WMAA Award Nominations

The Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association (WMAA) Awards Committee invites you to nominate colleagues and alumni for consideration in the 2023 WMAA Awards. Please visit the web site at med.wisc.edu/alumni/awards/ to download award nomination forms and view descriptions of each award. Your nominations will be greatly appreciated!

Nominations are due on September 30, 2022, and they must include:

- a cover letter that includes a brief statement of the nominee's accomplishments;
- a completed nomination form (see web link above); and
- the nominee's updated curriculum vitae.

The WMAA Awards Committee will meet in November 2022 to review all nominations, which will then go to the WMAA Board of Directors for approval. Awards will be made at the association's annual Awards Banquet in April 2023. Please note that the Citation Award recipients are selected one year in advance, so nominations for these awards will be for 2024.

Questions? Contact Andrea Larson at andrea.larson@wisc.edu or (608) 262-7335.

KATHRYN E. “KATIE” NIXDORF, MD '06 (PG '10)

TODD BROWN/MEDIA SOLUTIONS



Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association (WMAA) Board Member Kathryn E. “Katie” Nixdorf, MD '06 (PG '10), passed away on March 3, 2022, in Lino Lakes, Minnesota, at age 42. Having grown up in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, she earned her undergraduate degree in zoology from University of Wisconsin-Madison and her medical degree from the UW School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH). She completed a neurology residency at UW Health and a pain

management fellowship at the Oregon Health and Science University.

Nixdorf showed her Badger Pride from her first days at UW-Madison until her untimely death. In medical school, she was active in the Medical Student Association and received the inaugural WMAA Scholarship, for which she shared much gratitude. She and classmate Mathew Aschbrenner, MD '06, served as co-representatives for their SMPH Class of 2006 and as fellow members of the WMAA Board of Directors. Nixdorf has been a national member of that board since 2013. Further, Nixdorf volunteered for the WMAA Student-Alumni Partnership Program, which connects students with alumni for purposes of career exploration, and she was a member of the SMPH's Middleton Society in recognition of her dedication to giving back to her alma mater.

As a pain management physician in the University of Minnesota Health Fairview system (now called M Health Fairview), Nixdorf quickly rose to the position of medical

director of pain management. She was the medical leader for the Fairview Opioid Oversight Committee and the site director for the Pain Management Fellowship Program, reflecting her dedication to training and mentoring new physicians and advanced practice providers. Colleagues say she made deep friendships at every step of her career and was extremely dedicated to her patients, striving to make a difference in people's lives.

“Dr. Nixdorf was a special person who possessed the capacity to care deeply and take action,” says WMAA Executive Director Sarah B. Rothschild. “She held a special place in her heart for UW-Madison, and we are grateful her legacy lives on and will support medical students in perpetuity.”

In her memory, the SMPH Class of 2006 Class Scholarship Fund has been renamed the Kathryn E. Nixdorf, MD, SMPH Class of 2006/WMAA Scholarship Fund. Memorial gifts may be made to the University of Wisconsin Foundation at supportuw.org/giveto/med2006

In Memoriam

Jeanne A. Griffith, MD '50
Madison, Wisconsin
March 15, 2022

Edmund R. Liebl, MD '52
Madison, Wisconsin
April 18, 2022

Myron N. Lovett, MD '54
Palm Desert, California
August 1, 2021

Donald V. Blink, MD '60
Eau Claire, Wisconsin
April 2, 2022

Glenn A. Meyer, MD '60 (PG '65)
Dousman, Wisconsin
July 29, 2021

John R. Bertram, MD '70
Fitchburg, Wisconsin
June 15, 2022

Eric S. Heaney, MD '74
Mauston, Wisconsin
April 29, 2022

Jan K. Hilliker, MD '74
Danville, Pennsylvania
March 17, 2022

Malcolm P. Snider, MD '78
(PG '83)
Salem, Oregon
February 19, 2022

John A. Butler, MD '80
Eagle River, Wisconsin
April 23, 2022

Kathryn E. Nixdorf, MD '06
(PG '10)
Lino Lakes, Minnesota
March 3, 2022

Erik S. Fossum, MD '10
Carmel, Indiana
February 9, 2022

Former Faculty Members

Michael E. Becker, MD
Madison, Wisconsin
April 3, 2022

Enid M. Gilbert Barness, MD
Minneapolis, Minnesota
April 28, 2022

William T. McKinney Jr., MD
Madison, Wisconsin
March 31, 2022

David Paul Moberg, PhD
Madison, Wisconsin
April 27, 2022

Kelsey A. Musgrove, MD
Middleton, Wisconsin
April 3, 2022

ENID M. GILBERT BARNES, MD



An internationally renowned physician-researcher, Enid M. Gilbert Barnes, MD, died on April 28, 2022, at age 94, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Born in Sydney, Australia, Gilbert Barnes earned her medical degree at the University of Sydney Medical School when few women were entering the profession. She completed pathology and pediatrics residencies in

London, Boston and Philadelphia, and a research fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania and Children's Hospital in Washington, DC.

She was a world expert on congenital heart defects and was highly respected for contributions to tumor biology, congenital anomalies, and many genetic and hereditary disorders. Her research on sudden-infant-death syndrome identified its major cause as suffocation and led to the national public campaign of "Back to Sleep." Her research on fetal alcohol syndrome led to warnings of alcohol consumption during pregnancy. She saved hundreds of thousands of babies' lives.

Gilbert Barnes held faculty roles at universities in Massachusetts; Pennsylvania; Washington, DC; Texas; West Virginia; Wisconsin; and Florida. In 1970, she joined the faculty of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH), where she won numerous teaching

awards. Following her 1992 retirement from the SMPH as an emeritus professor, Gilbert Barnes moved her career to the University of South Florida and taught into her mid-80s.

She earned countless honors and awards, and she was widely published, often co-authoring with her husband, Lewis A. Barnes, MD, a world-renowned pediatrician who served on the SMPH faculty for years.

Elizabeth Petty, MD '86 (PG '89)—the SMPH senior associate dean for academic affairs who earned her medical degree at the SMPH and completed a residency in the Department of Pediatrics—recalls Gilbert Barnes as a fabulous teacher and mentor.

"She taught pathology brilliantly in medical school and was a great mentor during residency," Petty notes. "I took pathology electives to learn from her wisdom. She was an incredible role model and supporter for all learners, especially for women."

WILLIAM T. "BILL" MCKINNEY JR., MD



William T. "Bill" McKinney Jr., MD—an internationally recognized psychiatric investigator whose research resulted in important early contributions in understanding the biological underpinnings of depression—died at age 84 in Madison, Wisconsin, on March 31, 2022. He spent more than two decades as a clinical psychiatrist, scientist, professor and mentor

at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH).

His special interest in the use of primate models for the investigation of mental illness led to his first theoretical paper in 1969. He was widely published in scientific journals, and he authored the book, *Models of Mental Disorders: A New Comparative Psychiatry*.

McKinney was internationally renowned as an innovative and highly productive scientist, educator and leader. He was president of the Wisconsin Psychiatric Association and director of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

Having joined the SMPH Department of Psychiatry in 1969, he served as its chair from February 1975 through July 1980. In 1995, McKinney joined the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine; there, he held an endowed chair in affective disorders and directed the Asher Center for the Study and Treatment of Depressive Disorders.

In 2006, McKinney received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Baylor University, his undergraduate alma mater. He earned his medical degree from Vanderbilt University and completed residencies at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and Stanford University.

"Dr. McKinney was a pioneer researcher during the early, exciting days when [those in] psychiatry began to understand the biological nature of mental illnesses. His work established the importance of using preclinical animal models to better understand factors that contribute to clinical depression. During our department's formative years, he established the ethos of excellence in research and academia," shares Ned Kalin, MD, chair, SMPH Department of Psychiatry, a former mentee and colleague of McKinney's. "Above all, he was committed to reducing the suffering of patients with psychiatric disorders."

Dean's Teaching and Research Mentorship Awards

by Kaine Korzekwa

Recipients of the annual Dean's Teaching Awards and Dean's Award for Excellence in Medical Student Research Mentorship were recognized in May 2022.

"These awards are a great honor because prior award winners choose the new recipients," says Dean Robert N. Golden, MD. "These faculty members of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) exhibit excellence in activities central to our school's academic enterprise and to the success of the next generation of physicians and investigators."

Dean's Teaching Awards

- Maxfield Flynn, MD, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Medicine
- Kjersti Knox, MD '11, assistant clinical adjunct professor, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health
- Kirstin Nackers, MD '09 (PG '12), associate professor, Department of Pediatrics
- Parvathy Pillai, MD, MPH, assistant professor, Department of Population Health Sciences

Dean's Award for Excellence in Medical Student Research Mentorship

- David F. Jarrard, MD, the John P. Livesey Chair in Urologic Oncology and professor, Department of Urology

Flynn served as an assistant block leader for two years and became the integrated block leader for the Phase 1 Food, Fasting, and Fitness Block of the SMPH's ForWard Curriculum. Nominators and students say Flynn's teaching style resonates with learners at all levels. He welcomes questions and helps students apply classroom concepts directly to patient care.



Award recipients (left to right): Parvathy Pillai, MD, MPH; Maxfield Flynn, MD, PhD; Kirstin Nackers, MD '09 (PG '12); Kjersti Knox, MD '11; not pictured: David F. Jarrard, MD

TODD BROWN/MEDIA SOLUTIONS

Knox directs the SMPH's Training in Urban Medicine and Public Health (TRIUMPH) Program, in which she earned her medical degree in its second cohort. Knox also has introduced students to primary care by serving as an instructor in the Chronic and Preventative Care Block and as a preceptor. Nominators say it is incredible to witness her passion for training students and residents to serve underrepresented, underserved communities.

Nackers directs undergraduate education in the Department of Pediatrics and is the integrated block leader for Phase 2 Care Across the Life Cycle in the ForWard Curriculum. For the past year, she has served as the interim director of assessment for Phase 2. Nackers expertly integrates pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, and geriatrics in Care Across the Life Cycle. Nominators describe how she utilizes student and faculty feedback to improve the quality of education, and students say she actively listens and gives insightful advice.

Pillai is the faculty director of the SMPH's Path of Distinction in Public Health Program and the thread director for public health, evidence-based medicine and scientific

inquiry in the ForWard Curriculum. Her innovative approaches are infused throughout the curriculum, including her lectures on health equity and a Community Voices activity in which students hear from local community members. Students say Pillai has their best interest at heart and always strives to make them feel comfortable and confident. She helps students think broadly about their roles.

Jarrard focuses on improving urologic cancer detection and outcomes, and he leads studies on prostate cancer prevention and treatment. The associate director for translational research at the UW Carbone Cancer Center, he dedicates his time and energy to mentoring students. His faculty nominator commented on his skills at the intersection of teaching and research. The many medical students Jarrard mentored through the Shapiro Summer Research Program have published dozens of papers, given even more presentations and embarked successfully on diverse career paths. His mentees say they appreciate his calm, humble and thoughtful style and the way he creates an environment in which they feel protected and valued.

Alpha Omega Alpha

MEDICAL STUDENTS, FACULTY, HOUSE STAFF AND AN ALUMNUS INDUCTED INTO NATIONAL HONOR MEDICAL SOCIETY

In April 2022, the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) honor medical society welcomed 35 fourth-year medical students, nine faculty members and an alumnus from the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH), as well as three residents and a fellow from UW Health. The induction continued the strong tradition of honoring individuals for their high level of professionalism.

The AOA recognizes honesty, honorable conduct, morality, virtue, unselfishness,

ethical ideals, dedication to serving others and leadership. Robert N. Golden, MD, dean of the SMPH, and Rebecca S. Sippel, MD (PG '06), professor of surgery and the AOA councilor for the Wisconsin Chapter—along with the balance of the SMPH and Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association community—share heartfelt congratulations with these inductees.

John Meurer, MD '86, MBA, professor of pediatrics and community health at the Medical College of Wisconsin, was the

2022 AOA Dr. David de Harter and Diane de Harter Visiting Professor. Maurer earned his medical degree at the SMPH and his master of business administration degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. He completed a pediatrics residency at Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital in Houston and a policy fellowship in the David Winston Program in Washington, DC. Meurer was inducted into the AOA with others from the SMPH.



TODD BROWN/MEDIA SOLUTIONS (5)

Dean Robert N. Golden, MD (upper left), with faculty members and an alumnus who were inducted into the AOA. Front row (left to right): Jeffrey Kanne, MD, professor, Department of Radiology; Michael Fiore, MD, MPH, MBA, professor, Department of Medicine; Patricia Tellez-Giron, MD (PG '00), associate professor, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health; Kari Wisinski, MD, professor, Department of Medicine. Back row: Sarah McAchran, MD, associate professor, Department of Urology; Amgad Hanna, MD, professor, Department of Neurological Surgery; David Andes, MD (PG '95, '98), professor, Department of Medicine; John Meurer, MD '86, MBA (inducted as an alumnus); Brian Sharp, MD, associate professor, BerbeeWalsh Department of Emergency Medicine; Joshua Mezrich, MD (PG '07), professor, Department of Surgery.



Dean Robert N. Golden, MD (upper left), with medical student inductees. Front row (left to right): Abdullah Adil, Rachel Van Doorn, Christina Dudley, Taylor-Paige Stewart. Back row: Paul Skelton, Mazdak Bradberry, Michelle Su, Grant Quilling, Jonathan Le, Brody Fitzpatrick, Jacob Faultersack, Jessica Witt.

Dean Robert N. Golden, MD (upper left), with medical student inductees. Front row (left to right): Kate Lauer, Kathryn Schulz, Logan Yeager, Elizabeth Stoeckl. Back row: Benjamin Zellmer, Katherine Smith, Daniel Arndorfer, Alyssa Joachim, Gabriel Sobczak, Alexa Temme, Benjamin Kannenberg, Lauren Watchmaker.



Dean Robert N. Golden, MD (left), with medical student inductees. Left to right: Michael Rigby, Anna Heffron, Katarina Braun, Kevin Rymut.



Dean Robert N. Golden, MD (left), with house staff inductees. Left to right: Michael Sclarici, MD, resident, Department of Medicine, Division of Internal Medicine; Jennifer Mirrielees, MD '20, MS '13, resident, Berbee Walsh Department of Emergency Medicine; Jennifer Philip, MD (PG '21), fellow, Department of Surgery; James Barrett, MD, resident, Department of Surgery.



WINNING ENTRY IN THE EIGHTH ANNUAL

Bioethics Essay Contest

As a second-year medical student at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH), Bethany M. Erb received the 2022 Dr. Norman Fost Award for the Best Medical Student Bioethics Essay. The contest—sponsored by the SMPH and its Department of Medical History and Bioethics—invited students to critically examine the ethical values and principles relevant to health disparities. This essay was edited for publication in *Quarterly*; the unedited essay, including references, is available at <https://go.wisc.edu/bioethicssaywinner>

Inequality or Inequity: The Ethics of Health Outcomes in the United States

by Bethany M. Erb

Just as nucleotides link polarized deoxyribonucleic acid strands, many health inequalities are a nexus between race and socioeconomic status in the United States. The COVID-19 pandemic starkly exposed these inequalities. Non-white populations experience higher rates of COVID-19-related hospitalization and death compared with non-Hispanic white populations, despite accounting for demographic variables. Health inequalities, whose effects are unequally distributed between socially constructed groups, are intrinsic moral problems.



Unaddressed, these inequalities will sink deeper into the status quo—new mutations of their causal injustices and biases will arise and maintain their original cause: a national tradition of codified racism.

It is important to clarify what health inequalities are inequities—immoral differences in health outcomes. For instance, age-related health differences are not unjust. A 30-year-old has a relatively lower risk of osteoporosis compared to a 70-year-old because bone resorption is an unavoidable part of aging. The 70-year-old has had younger bones, and the 30-year-old will have older bones; neither is denied access to the other's health state based on their position in social hierarchies.

Health inequities are rooted in the unfair distribution of resources and opportunities. As such, health inequalities become inequities when they are not biologically determined nor products of cultural differences but arise in part due to identity-based discrimination. These inequalities are remnants of institutional oppression, perpetuating unjust economic and social policies.

Race and socioeconomic status often have a synergistic effect on disease distribution. Minority groups face implicit bias within the American health care system that affects treatment and prognosis. These same groups have historically been denied access to economic and social resources and opportunities that predict positive health outcomes and social stratum. Since bias toward persons of color is a driving cause of these phenomena, and one of our nation's moral tenets is that racism is a violation of the categorical imperative and norms of equal opportunity and respect, health inequalities between racial and socioeconomic groups are intrinsic moral problems.

A familiar objection is that health inequalities reflect individual autonomy more

than circumstance. If less healthy people are capable of freely choosing between health outcomes, then they create their fate. If people can make choices in relative isolation from a broader social environment, the individual is the only meaningful level of moral analysis. Health inequalities cannot be injustices if the individual is the sole moral agent responsible for their existence.

I would argue this objection overlooks the neuroscience of free will and the reality of health determinants that lie outside of choice. Research suggests the unconscious initiates activity. This suggests the social and environmental habitat—which helps create a reservoir of feelings, thoughts, urges and memories—is responsible in part for population outcomes. Health inequalities are then moral issues.

It is not necessary to accept this degree of determinism to acknowledge many health predictors defy choice. Poverty, with its stressors and lack of ways to handle them, is one such variable. Being born into a low-income family or neighborhood predicts premature mortality and morbidity. Given housing segregation practices and environmental injustices define many low-income areas, it is highly problematic to claim the individual can be held responsible for health outcomes shaped by poverty. This example helps us imagine how policy and social determinants of health can be just as (or more than) responsible as the individual for multifactorial health conditions.

Many health inequalities are remnants of legislated economic and racial oppression in the United States. Thus, these inequalities are intrinsic moral problems that violate norms of dignity and respect. Acknowledging the moral weight of such health inequalities is necessary. We only begin to lift the load of this injustice when we accept it is real and unfit to bear.

What Brings You in Today?

Mayra Betancourt Ponce (left)
and Leigh Berman

STUDENT-RUN PODCAST HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANCE OF NARRATIVE MEDICINE

by Leigh Berman and
Mayra Betancourt Ponce

In September 2020, Leigh Berman and Mayra Betancourt Ponce released the first episode of *What Brings You in Today?* (WBYIT), the first student-run, narrative-medicine podcast developed at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH). Narrative medicine, a field at the intersection of health care and the humanities, calls upon storytelling to gain a deep understanding of people's experiences and enhance empathetic, patient-centered care. The podcast has more than 5,000 listeners.

In the first episode, Berman and Betancourt Ponce featured an essay—"An Ode to My Ladies," by Christine Seibert, MD—which explored how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected patient-physician relationships. The moderators have covered a variety of stories about medical

training and practice, highlighting the fluidity of experiences in this field and emphasizing the humanistic side of medicine. Themes have included death and dignity, failure in medicine, truths hidden in medical memes on social media, and creativity in medicine, in which they featured "The Highest Bidder," by Anne Jacobson, MD '96. Medical students, residents, attending physicians, mental health providers, social workers and educators from throughout the nation have been guests.

Before creating WBYIT, Betancourt Ponce and Berman recognized a need for creative, reflective spaces within medical school. As second-year medical students, they bonded over a shared interest in journalism and writing and brainstormed ways to incorporate these passions into their medical training. This inspired them to create the SMPH's Medical Writing Interest Group, which produces an online journal, *The Script*, that features written works and artwork by members of the school

community. Wanting to dive deeper into topics depicted in the journal—which often question what it means to be a medical student and to practice medicine—they pursued podcasting, an interview-based and social media-driven modality, as their second creative project. As they look back on that decision, it seems like a bold move, given that neither had experience with podcasting. Nevertheless, they have enjoyed the learning process and appreciated the support from SMPH administrators and the Kern National Network on Caring and Character, which was established in partnership with the SMPH and six other medical schools.

Crucial to Berman and Betancourt Ponce's success in creating a space for narrative medicine at the SMPH was forming a group of like-minded medical students interested in the medical humanities. Group members develop podcast content, share ideas about potential themes and guests, produce the podcasts and run its social

—continued on page 36

Kenney Earns International Award for Tumor Virology Research

Shannon C. Kenney, MD, the Wattawa Bascom Professor in Cancer Research and a professor in the Departments of



Oncology and Medicine at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH), received the prestigious Henle Award from the Board of the International Association for Research on Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV) and Associated Diseases. This award recognizes internationally renowned scientists who have made major contributions to the understanding and/or treatment of EBV and associated diseases. She received the award at the organization's international symposium in early July 2022.

EBV is one of the eight known human herpesviruses, best known for causing infectious mononucleosis. It is the first human virus discovered to have oncogenic properties and is associated with several types of cancer. Continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) since 1987, Kenney's work has been foundational in identifying the molecular regulation of EBV. Her expansive research includes potential new therapies against EBV-induced tumors.

Kenney currently holds four NIH grants and serves as the senior co-leader of the Human Cancer Virology Program in the UW Carbone Cancer Center.

She has served as president of the International Association for Research on Epstein-Barr Virus and Associated Diseases. Kenney also has received the Woodward Prize from the American Clinical and Climatological Association.

Mitchell Receives Sonography Lifetime Achievement Award

Carol Mitchell, PhD, received the 2022 Sonographer Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Society of Echocardiography



(ASE) for her outstanding achievements in cardiovascular ultrasound and for serving as a role model through service, research and teaching. Those who earn this award have a career in cardiovascular ultrasound spanning at least 25 years and are recognized at local, national and international levels.

An associate professor in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine in the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health's Department of Medicine, with an affiliate appointment in the Department of Medical Physics, Mitchell has helped advance the role sonographers play in quality patient care. She started her career as a radiology technologist and was eventually registered in nearly all ultrasound modalities—abdomen; obstetrics and gynecology; vascular technology; breast; neurosonography; and fetal, pediatric and adult echocardiography. She also holds the advanced cardiac sonographer credential from Cardiovascular Credentialing International.

Mitchell is the author or co-author of more than 65 peer-reviewed articles and 12 book chapters; she also authored *Adult Echo Review: A Q&A Review for the ARDMS Specialty Exam*, edition 2. She is the principal investigator or a collaborator for many research projects. She has won numerous awards, including the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography Distinguished Educator of the Year Award. Further, she has held leadership roles at ASE and has helped the organization create cardiovascular education resources for members.

Golden Reappointed as SMPH Dean Following Five-Year Review

Every five years, deans of University of Wisconsin-Madison schools and colleges undergo a comprehensive review to assess their academic and administrative leadership and performance.



Robert N. Golden, MD—the Robert Turell Professor in Medical Leadership; dean of the UW School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) and professor in its Department of Psychiatry; vice chancellor for medical affairs at UW-Madison; and chair of the board of UW Health—was among four deans for whom reviews were completed in spring 2022, resulting in an accepted reappointment.

Golden earned his medical degree from Boston University School of Medicine and completed a psychiatry residency and chief residency at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC). He served as a medical staff (research) fellow in the Clinical Pharmacology Section of the National Institute of Mental Health Intramural Research Program and held leadership positions at the UNC School of Medicine, ultimately serving as vice dean. Golden became the SMPH's ninth dean in 2006. He is the longest serving dean at UW-Madison, and among the longest serving medical school deans in the nation.

"During his tenure at the SMPH, Dean Golden has been instrumental in supporting and creating programs that make the nation's first school of medicine *and* public health shine as an international leader," says Karl Scholz, UW-Madison's interim chancellor. "He is known for his thorough, thoughtful approach to promoting the school's mission of advancing health and health equity through outstanding education, remarkable service to patients and communities, and innovative research."

Dempsey Honored with International Medal in Neurosurgery

Robert Dempsey, MD, the Manucher J. Javid Professor and Chair of Neurological Surgery at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and



Public Health (SMPH), received the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (WFNS) Medal of Honor in March 2022. This award commemorates his lifelong contributions to surgical care, research, teaching and humanitarian work worldwide.

The WFNS was founded in 1955 in Switzerland and is composed of 130 member societies representing the majority of all neurosurgeons in the world. It has consultative status with the United Nations and exists to promote global improvement of neurosurgical care, training and research to benefit all. The medal is the organization's highest honor.

Dempsey's work over three decades has assisted the establishment of organized training programs; trauma protocols; and care for brain tumors, congenital defects in children, and stroke and central nervous system trauma in regions of Africa, Central and South America, and Asia. By developing the infrastructure to support this work in hospitals, Dempsey assists critical care units, nurse training, radiology and pathology, along with surgical care. These programs have benefited patients in more than 27 sites of need around the world.

At the SMPH, Dempsey's National Institutes of Health-funded research focuses on cerebral ischemia, vascular cognitive decline and repair of the injured brain.

Gern Named Distinguished Scientist in Allergy and Immunology

James Gern, MD, received the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI) 2022 Distinguished Scientist Award.



The award honors investigators in allergy and immunology who have advanced research, and it recognizes leadership contributions to the specialty. Gern's award recognizes his focus on identifying mechanistic pathways that promote the inception of asthma in children.

A professor and vice chair of research in the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health's Department of Pediatrics and chief of the department's Allergy, Immunology and Rheumatology Division, Gern leads a research group that aims to define the role of environmental factors in the initiation and disease activity of asthma, and to identify interactions between host, viral and environmental factors that determine the severity of respiratory illnesses. The research group leads several National Institutes of Health-funded translational research studies.

Gern also leads the Children's Respiratory and Environmental Workgroup, a consortium that combines data from 13 birth-cohort studies in the United States to address questions about early-life risk factors for asthma. He also is the principal investigator for the UW Asthma and Allergic Diseases Clinical Research Center.

He has received honors such as the University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine Distinguished Physician Alumnus Award, and election to the American Pediatric Society, the American Association of Physicians and the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society.

Andes, Sperandio Elected Fellows in the AAAS

David Andes, MD (PG '95, '99) (upper photo), and Vanessa Sperandio, PhD (lower photo), were elected Fellows of the American

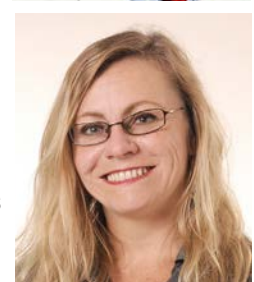


Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in spring 2022. The honor recognizes efforts to advance science and society, with the Fellows expected to maintain the highest standards of scientific integrity and professional ethics.

Andes is a professor in the Departments of Medicine and Medical Microbiology and Immunology, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH). He was honored for distinguished contributions to medical mycology through advances in defining antifungal resistance mechanisms; pharmacology; drug discovery and development; translational clinical trials; professional service; and patient care.

Sperandio, chair of the SMPH Department of Medical Microbiology, was recognized for her distinguished contributions to the field of microbial pathogenesis and discoveries pertaining to cross-kingdom signaling.

"The AAAS is proud to bestow the honor of AAAS Fellow to some of today's brightest minds who are integral to forging our path into the future," says Sudip Parikh, PhD, AAAS chief executive officer. "We celebrate these distinguished individuals for their invaluable contributions to the scientific enterprise."



Garding

Against

Cancer

DEDICATED
PARTNERSHIP
SUPPORTS CANCER
RESEARCH AND CARE
IN WISCONSIN



Coach Greg Gard addresses the audience at the 2022 Garding Against Cancer signature event.



Michelle and Greg Gard at a 2021 event in Janesville, Wisconsin

by Chris Malina and Beth Pinkerton

On a snowy December night in 2016, Badger Men’s Basketball Coach Greg Gard and his wife, Michelle Gard, launched a new initiative known as Garding Against Cancer. Cancer had hit home for them with the loss of Greg Gard’s father, Glen Gard, and they invited 75 guests to join them at Madison’s Edgewater Hotel to share

the message: cancer affects too many of us, and there’s something we can do about it.

The pitch was simple: invest in cancer research and patient care initiatives here in Wisconsin. By partnering with the University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center and community organizations across the state, money raised here would stay here, helping patients who need assistance now while also funding home-grown research to develop tomorrow’s cancer cures.

Nearly six years and more than \$6.5 million later, Garding Against Cancer has made a significant impact in the fight against the disease. Money raised has funded groundbreaking immunotherapy research, helped purchase state-of-the-art electron microscopes and other equipment, and allowed UW Carbone’s Precision Medicine Molecular Tumor Board to expand. That’s in addition to benefiting dozens

of communities and statewide partner organizations, which provide services and care to cancer patients and their families.

But as Greg and Michelle Gard reflect, it’s not the big events or even the dollar totals they remember most. It’s the moments when they’ve been able to hold the hands of patients in hospice care, sit with families during times of need, or share their message of inspiration and hope with those whose lives have been affected by cancer.

“You can have a positive impact and make somebody feel a little bit better in the day that they’re in,” says Greg Gard. “That’s been probably as rewarding or more rewarding than any dollars raised.”

Having been on the other side of that equation, the Gardes know all too well the pain that comes with a loved one receiving a cancer diagnosis. Garding Against Cancer has helped them heal from loss.



Greg Gard (left) and his father, Glen Gard

Sharing a Personal Mission

Hard working. Big hearted. Salt-of-the-earth kind of guy. Those are a few ways people have described Greg Gard's father.

"What I remember most about Glen is his smile and how welcoming he was," Michelle Gard recalls. "There wasn't a topic he couldn't talk with people about, and he always made you feel like you were the most important person."

Growing up in a small farming community in southeastern Wisconsin, Glen Gard knew the importance of looking out for neighbors. During his career as an agricultural loan officer, he saw firsthand the impact of money staying local and being invested back into the community. A father of three, Glen Gard had a "think globally, shop locally" mentality, something that Greg Gard didn't fully appreciate until much later.

"I probably learned more about him since he passed away than when he was alive," Greg Gard comments. "People have been more willing to share their experiences and stories about him. I've learned that his impact behind the scenes was pretty immense."

In May 2015, Glen Gard was diagnosed with glioblastoma multiforme, a relatively rare but aggressive brain cancer. The diagnosis left the Gard family with a lot of hard questions. But one of the first phone calls Greg Gard received after his father's cancer diagnosis was from Howard Bailey, MD, director of the UW Carbone Cancer Center.

"He ended up being a sounding board for us through this whole process," says Greg Gard.

Glen Gard spoke highly of the treatment and care he received at UW Carbone, but glioblastoma can be very challenging to treat, and it moves quickly. He passed away on October 30, 2015, at age 72.

Less than two months later, Greg Gard was named interim head coach of the Wisconsin men's basketball team. While still grieving the loss of his father, he was forced to start thinking about how to position his team for another Final Four run. But he also began thinking about how he could use his new job as a platform.

"Knowing we were going to have a voice, we were looking for a way we could impact and help others," Greg Gard notes.

The Gards had previously supported cancer research, but the loss of Glen Gard

win for the Gards, but it was only part of their overall strategy to engage with the entire state.

"Being from rural communities, we really wanted to reach out to the wider Wisconsin community," Michelle Gard reflects. "It was important for us to be able to fund different things, in addition to research, around the state. It's a reflection of Glen, as well."

So, the Gards began crisscrossing Wisconsin, hosting events in various towns and cities, and raising funds for local cancer prevention and patient care. Over the years, Garding Against Cancer events have included pheasant hunts, golf outings, 5K races and much more. Additionally, the organization has spun the annual "UW vs. UW" exhibition basketball game into a friendly competition



At the 2022 signature event (left to right): Joe Krabbenhoft, associate head coach; Charlie Berens, comedian; Greg Gard, head coach; and Sharif Chambliss, assistant coach

to glioblastoma made their connection to the cause stronger—and much more personal—than they could have ever imagined. Within months, they began taking steps to build an initiative that would allow them to raise money for the cause, in a way that would have made Glen Gard proud.

Reaching Across Wisconsin

The Gards hosted their first signature event at the UW Kohl Center in May 2017. The event drew more than 600 attendees and raised over \$1 million. It was a huge

to raise funds in communities like Oshkosh, Menomonie, La Crosse, Wausau, Whitewater and Janesville. In 2022, they'll head to UW-Eau Claire.

Over time, various organizations, companies and individuals began hosting Garding Against Cancer fundraisers in their own unique Wisconsin ways. Churches have hosted fish fry fundraisers. High school basketball teams have hosted competitions. Even elementary schools have gotten in on the action.

—continued on next page

Garding Against Cancer *Continued from page 35*

“People are continually trying to find ways, even small ways, to help in their communities,” Greg Gard says.

Money raised through Garding Against Cancer is set aside to help with supportive services for patients and other cancer initiatives in local communities. Much of the \$225,000 raised prior to the 2019 Garding Against Cancer basketball game between UW-Madison and UW-La Crosse was used to fund skin cancer screenings, education and prevention in the area because La Crosse County’s melanoma rate is higher than the state average. Funds raised in Whitewater and Janesville supported a mammogram voucher program, exercise program, financial assistance to those undergoing treatment and cancer screenings.

Continuing During the Pandemic

In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Garding Against Cancer hosted its signature

event virtually; it provided a remote performance by Michelle and Greg Gard’s favorite local band—Madison County; an update on cancer research; and more than a few surprise guest appearances from Badger favorites. Despite the radical change of venue, the event netted more than \$500,000.

The initiative’s signature event returned to the Kohl Center in May 2022 with a Kentucky Derby theme, renewed energy and ample laughter spurred by a performance by Charlie Berens, a comedian and UW-Madison alumnus.

Dustin Deming, MD '07 (PG '10, '12), shared his story as a colon cancer researcher, physician and patient. In his laboratory at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health, Deming grows organoids—basically the patient’s cancer tissue—to test different treatment options to determine

which treatment will be most likely to kill specific types of cancer. It costs \$1,000 per patient for this new approach to create these cultures, but \$100,000 of the more than \$800,000 raised at the 2022 Garding Against Cancer signature event will fund this innovation for 100 patients.

The evening was bittersweet as Greg Gard shared that cancer had struck close to home again—another loved one has been diagnosed with cancer. So, while the Gards love their work and all that they’ve been able to accomplish, there’s something they’d love even more: finding a cure for cancer.

“That would be the best result,” Greg Gard concludes. “That there isn’t a need for this anymore.”



There’s more online!
gardingagainstcancer.org/about/

What Brings You in Today? *Continued from page 31*

media account. The team also includes a paid undergraduate student affiliated with the UW-Madison Department of Life Sciences Communication who artistically edits recorded interviews into podcast episodes. Betancourt Ponce and Berman served as hosts for the podcast’s first season before they transitioned into production-focused roles. They ensured the project’s sustainability by inviting two team members to take over as hosts. They hope new undergraduate and medical students will join the WBYIT team every year and will find value in engaging with narrative medicine.

Berman and Betancourt Ponce—who refer to themselves as “partners in crime”—agree that creating WBYIT has been one of their most formative experiences during their time at the SMPH. As they have advanced through their medical training, they have recognized valuable skills they gained from this project. In addition to learning what goes into producing a podcast, they have developed

active, empathetic listening practices; written and verbal communication abilities; and team-management strategies—skills that can be directly applied to their daily lives and to patient care. Moreover, having a space to question what it means to be in medicine, reflect on their lived experiences, discuss problems within the field, and connect with individuals in different career stages has helped make their medical education exciting and well-rounded. The two also recognize this project as a form of “burnout prevention” for themselves and potentially for other students, as narrative medicine challenges the fast-paced and often isolating culture of medicine by inviting individuals to share stories, which fosters a sense of community.

As Berman begins a psychiatry residency and Betancourt Ponce focuses on the research portion of her dual MD/PhD in the SMPH’s Medical Scientist Training Program—and with others at the helm of WBYIT—the duo is looking for new ways to engage with

narrative medicine. Because they believe medical students benefit from being exposed to this type of storytelling early in their training, Betancourt Ponce and Berman seek to develop modalities to help students learn about and engage with this growing field.

From effective communication to self-reflection, many of the skills and knowledge to be gained from narrative medicine seem inherent to the practice of medicine; however, narrative medicine is not explicitly included in most medical curricula. Berman and Betancourt Ponce are looking forward to helping incorporate narrative medicine principles into medical education by developing a variety of activities, lessons and platforms aimed at helping students practice critical patient-care skills, navigate the challenges and joys of this field, and find connections with their peers and themselves through the power of stories.



There’s more online!
buzzsprout.com/1332028/

Paying it Forward

SCHOLARSHIP DONORS HELP SUPPORT FUTURE PHYSICIANS



Top row (left to right): Dan Hathaway, MD '69, and Jalin Roberson; Steven Karges, Olivia Rater, MD '22, and Lynn Karges; Gabriella Geiger, Rodrigo De La Torre, Ashley Portillo Recinos, Sydney Ring, Sonam Dolma, Haley Buerger-Cole, Cristian Ambrosio, Richard Granger and Arissa Milton. Bottom row: Kha Lor and Sandra Bertics; Melissa Ricker, MD '20, and Rutvi Shah, MD '22; Colin Korlesky, Austin Kayser, MD '22, and JB Hernandez, MD '22; Peggy Scallon, MD '92 (PG '95), Grace Seibert, John Kryger, MD '92 (PG '97), and Rick Papandrea, MD '92. —Photos by Todd Brown/Media Solutions

At the April 2022 Scholarship Reception, representatives of the Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association (WMAA) and University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) thanked generous donors and introduced them to grateful medical students who received funds.

They also celebrated the successful WMAA Scholarship Matching Campaign, which ran from October 1, 2020, through December 31, 2021. The WMAA received just over \$1 million in new cash gifts to match-eligible funds, says Sarah B. Rothschild, the association's executive director. WMAA matching funds helped create 32 new scholarships and enhance 16 existing scholarships (see *Quarterly*, Vol. 23, No. 3, 2021).

At the event, Rutvi Shah, MD '22 (then a medical student), shared her story about immigrating at age 4 to the United States.

"In India, I lived with my parents, uncle, aunt, cousins and grandparents. My mom had become a teacher at age 18 so she could support her family [of origin] before she and my father got married. And my dad worked very long hours," she explained.

Shah described how her father—ahead of the rest of the family—immigrated to Chicago for a job, with \$100, two suitcases and the hope of a bright future for the family.

"They taught me the value of hard work, dedication and perseverance," adding that her parents made many sacrifices to assure the children got a quality education. "Thank you to our scholarship donors whose generosity has meant so much to me and my

fellow classmates. Your financial support and your belief in us mean so much."

Brian Hong, MD '11, spoke about his motivation to donate money to scholarships.

A rural general surgeon in New London, Wisconsin, Hong said his parents emigrated from Seoul, South Korea, in the late 1970s with about \$1,000, limited English-speaking skills and dreams for their kids.

"I saw their sacrifice to make a better life for my brother and me. I admire their selfless attitude, and I hope to pass this along by giving back to an organization such as the UW School of Medicine and Public Health," he said. "Medical school made [my career] possible, and I want to help others find their passion in medicine by giving back to my class scholarship fund, which reduces medical students' debt burden."

Diabetic Foot Ulcers Severely Impact Rural Black Patients

Rural patients who identify as Black are at sharply increased risk of death or leg amputation due to diabetic foot ulcers, according to a study by University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) researchers who analyzed national patient-outcome data.

"They are undergoing major amputations at a rate that is much higher than it should be," says Meghan Brennan, MD (PG '09, '11, '14), an assistant professor in the school's Department of Medicine, who led the study, published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association Network Open*.



Brennan and her co-authors analyzed Medicare data for 124,487 patients with diabetic foot ulcers who were hospitalized in 2013 and 2014. They found that while the overall group had a 17.6 percent rate of major amputation or death, people who identified as Black had a rate of 21.9 percent, a 4.3

percent disparity. Those living in rural areas had a 0.7 percent increase in death or amputation. The amplified effect for rural people who identify as Black was not the sum of the two (4.3+0.7=5 percent), but rather an increase of 10.4 percent in death and amputation.

Brennan says the results were double what researchers expected and may indicate areas for improvement, especially as rural patients are triaged through the ambulatory system for specialty care.

She is working with the Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative, which represents 43 rural health care systems in Wisconsin, to design better triage tools to expedite care for rural patients and improve limb salvage.

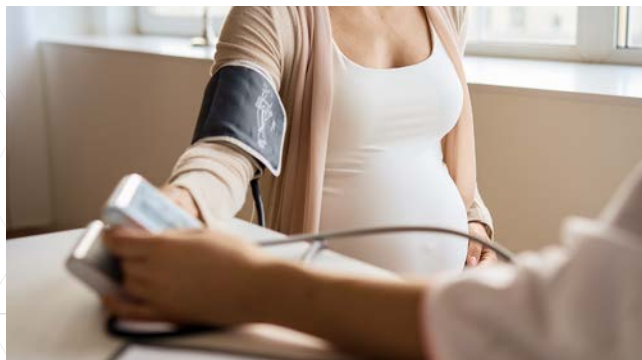
A UW Health infectious disease physician and SMPH investigator, Brennan also co-directs the Diabetic Foot Ulcer Clinic at the William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital.

Blood Pressure Control in Pregnancy Improves Birth Outcomes

A large study of pregnant women found that treating mildly elevated blood pressure reduces pre-term births and life-threatening preeclampsia.

Published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, the study provides the first comprehensive data for treating non-severe forms of chronic hypertension during pregnancy. It concluded that treating mild chronic hypertension with medication is beneficial and safe for pregnant women and their babies.

The study took place at 70 academic medical centers and included patients at UW Health and other Wisconsin locations. Kara Hoppe, DO, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, University of



Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, the principal investigator for the Wisconsin sites, notes that results may change treatment guidelines. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists guidelines call for treating pregnant women with blood pressure at or above 160/105. Generally, pregnant women with blood pressures less than

160/110 are not treated. One concern has been uncertainty about the risk of medications.

About 2,400 women who were 20 to 23 weeks pregnant with mildly elevated blood pressure were randomly assigned into two groups. One received no medication unless they developed severe blood pressure, and the other group

was treated with standard hypertension medication.

Women and their babies in the medicated group had a reduced chance of developing serious conditions that would require inducing birth before 35 weeks gestation. In the medicated group, 30.2 percent developed serious conditions compared with 37 percent in the untreated group. About 12.2 percent of the treated group, compared with 16.7 percent of the untreated group, had to deliver their babies before 35 weeks of gestation due to blood pressure issues. Birth weights of babies in the two groups were similar. All races were represented in this trial, and there were no different outcomes among groups.

Researchers Share Outcomes of Grassroots Academic-Community Partnerships

After K-12 schools closed in March 2020 to help mitigate COVID-19's spread, school districts nationwide realized that remote learning was difficult and often not successful. With insufficient public funding and an incomplete understanding of COVID-19 epidemiology and transmission, school districts sought help from local health care professionals to determine when and how schools could safely reopen in-person.

One such partnership was between the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH), UW Health and Wisconsin public school districts. Medical advisors



from the SMPH's Department of Pediatrics participated in meetings with school district leaders. The department and UW Health's Healthy Kids Collaborative formed the UW Health Coordinated Response to Schools Task Force to provide accurate COVID-19 educational material and bring

together medical advisors from across the state. The task force also interacted closely with the Wisconsin Departments of Public Instruction and Health Services and local public health departments.

The Wisconsin academic-community partnership is one of four described in a study,

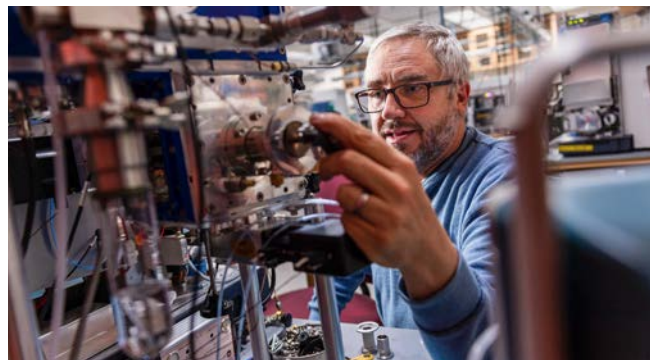
“Building a National Framework to Pair Scientists and Schools During a Global Pandemic,” published in *Pediatrics*. Sabrina Butteris, MD, and Gregory DeMuri, MD (PG '92), professors, SMPH Department of Pediatrics, were among the co-authors, along with Shawn Koval of the Healthy Kids Collaborative.

The article compiled challenges faced and lessons learned. For instance, because of polarized environments, academic institutions focused on translating science for schools rather than serving as decision makers; each district required a personalized approach; and robust child health depends on collaboration among public school and health systems.

Game-Changing Technology Could Transform Biotechnology

Novel research in the laboratory of Joshua Coon, PhD, is the culmination of a nearly five-year effort to marry mass spectrometry technology and electron microscopy. Coon is a professor in the Department of Biomolecular Chemistry at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) and the Thomas and Margaret Pyle Chair at the Morgridge Institute for Research at UW-Madison.

In a paper published in *Nature Communications*, the research team describes modifying an Orbitrap mass spectrometer to “aim” single-particle protein complexes



onto a chemical matrix directly from the ion beam of the mass spectrometry instrument.

The technology provides the first evidence that the 3D structure of proteins is retained while undergoing mass spectrometry analysis and that atomic structures maintain their shapes outside

the natural environment—one that closely mimics outer space. This finding provides a huge step in confidence that mass spectrometry researchers can have in their experimental findings.

The Coon Lab specializes in developing instruments and technologies to help scientists

address fundamental questions in biology. That team's work, spearheaded by Mike Westphall, a distinguished instrument innovator, started on a path to unite the potential of mass spectrometry with electron microscopy—a transformative technology because it illuminates the smallest pieces of living organisms, with the goal of understanding the impact of diseases and disorders on human health. And cryo-electron microscopy reveals the atomic structure of proteins.

The Coon Lab's technology now has the power to impact the mass spectrometry and electron microscopy fields.

Innovations in Clinical and Translational Research

Despite high research expenditures and a substantial health care infrastructure, the United States suffers from poor health outcomes compared to other industrialized nations. Wisconsin ranks among the worst states for general health and maternal/fetal outcomes, and it leads in negative outcomes such as deaths from fall-related injuries.

Over the last half century, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has made a heavy investment in the discovery and “first-to-human” approaches assuming that many modest investments in moving innovation to patients and communities would be sufficient to improve poor outcomes. Unfortunately, decades of data show that this is not the case. The time from technology discovery to clinical trials (29 years) and final approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (36 years) has inexorably increased.

In response, the NIH established the National Institute for Clinical and Translational Sciences as the home for the Clinical Translational Sciences Award (CTSA)—a highly competitive award supporting 60 elite U.S. academic medical centers to enhance the speed and efficiency of translating scientific innovations into clinical practice. The CTSA consortium has been foundational in advancing translational science as a discipline based on systems thinking, teamwork and proficiency in crossing disciplinary boundaries.

Since 2007, University of Wisconsin-Madison has continuously received the CTSA Award, which supports the UW Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR). Aimed at advancing innovations in translational science through training, regulatory improvements, pilot funding and infrastructure support, ICTR is a collaboration among the UW Schools of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH), Nursing, Veterinary Medicine, and Pharmacy, the UW College of Engineering and Marshfield Clinic.

Over the past five years, ICTR supported 1,650 investigators engaged in 3,700

projects, and its pilot awards program granted \$3.75 million to highly competitive teams to support innovative approaches to clinical and translational research. Likewise, since its inception, ICTR has directly supported more than 70 early-career faculty members in our KL2 program and 72 pre- and post-doctoral trainees from departments and programs across UW-Madison. Finally, ICTR and the university are nationally renowned for developing evidence-based approaches to research mentorship and disseminating best practices by training 501 facilitators at 51 CTSA sites nationwide.

With its most recent renewal, ICTR is poised to advance several key initiatives:

Team Science. It is evident that functional, multidisciplinary, translational teams enhance the application and development of drugs/devices or health care interventions. ICTR’s nationally recognized Team Science Program provides education, training and team-based interventions. A future focus will be how translational teams can improve the culture of reproducibility to make sure scientific discoveries and products are relevant and generalizable.

Dissemination and Implementation (D&I) Science. ICTR is working to infuse D&I into all phases of research. The D&I Launchpad provides education, consultations and support for UW-Madison investigators to integrate evidence-based interventions into health care systems. Pilot programs support teams by providing wrap-around services to awardees in marketing, business planning and identification of purveyor organizations.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility. Exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, striking disparities in life expectancy, health and emotional well-being of Black, Latinx and Native American individuals, among others, remain a simmering problem. Approaches include:

- To enhance inclusion and diversity in clinical research, ICTR has developed a “Just Research” training program to equip

research teams with knowledge and skills needed to implement inclusive recruitment and retention methods and engage historically underrepresented populations.

- ICTR is the UW-Madison home for the NIH *All of Us* research program, partnering with historically underrepresented participants to contribute surveys, electronic health record data and biospecimens for genomic research. Among other *All of Us* sites, it leads the nation in participant retention.
- ICTR’s Neighborhood Health Partnerships Program provides information on a variety of health outcomes to local stakeholders. Reports have been delivered statewide to 152 groups and 30 health care systems that promote community engagement.

ICTR’s work depends on many committed partners, including UW Health, UW colleges and schools, and the Wisconsin Partnership Program. Together, we look forward to accelerating clinical and translational research so more lifesaving and well-being-enhancing innovations make it to our patients and communities faster and more equitably.



Elizabeth Burnside, MD, MPH (left)
Deputy Executive Director, ICTR;
Associate Dean for Team Science and
Interdisciplinary Research, SMPH

Allan Brasier, MD (right)
Executive Director, ICTR; Senior Associate
Dean for Clinical and Translational
Research, SMPH



I Know YOU

... OR DO I?

If you think you can identify the person in the photograph at right, send your guess to quarterly@med.wisc.edu. We'll draw one of the correct responses and announce the winner in the next issue of *Quarterly*.

For the last issue (see below), Barbara Hansen, MD '83, won the prize drawing and will receive a gift from the Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association!



HINT ABOUT PHOTO ABOVE:

Canoeing is among her skill sets.

UW-MADISON ARCHIVES



ABOUT LAST ISSUE'S PHOTO:

In the last issue of *Quarterly*, 17 people correctly identified Sigurd E. "Sig" Sivertson, MD '47, emeritus professor, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH). He passed away at age 89 in October 2013 in Stillwater, Minnesota.

Sivertson earned his medical degree at the SMPH in 1947, while enlisted in the U.S. Army. He completed an internal medicine internship at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth, Minnesota, then re-enlisted in the Army, which stationed him in Kobe, Japan, and at an evacuation hospital and the first MASH unit in Korea. Next, he completed a medical residency and began a faculty position at Gundersen Clinic-Lutheran Hospital (now Gundersen Health System) in his hometown of La Crosse, Wisconsin. In his 13 years at Gundersen, Sivertson established himself as an innovative educator and excellent physician. He became its first director of medical education and research, and he served as a liaison with the SMPH and a preceptor for SMPH students.

In 1968, Sivertson joined the faculty of the SMPH, where he became the assistant dean for education, assistant dean for clinical affairs, associate chair

for continuing medical education and the representative for the UW Institute on Aging. He founded the Physician Assistant Program, expanded the school's Preceptorship Program statewide, and continued to see patients throughout.

Following his 1989 retirement, Sivertson and his wife enjoyed splitting their year between Florida and northern Wisconsin. Later, they moved to Stillwater.

William Flader, MD '64, recalled Sivertson's mentoring at Gundersen Clinic-Lutheran Hospital in the 1960s.

Lou Bernhardt, MD '63 (PG '72), described Sivertson as caring deeply about education for medical students.

Patrick McBride, MD '80, MPH, commented about his wry smile, dry wit and fatherly ways.

And Lee Podoll, MD '64, FACR, referred to Sivertson as "one of the nicest men I have ever met."

**PLEASE SHARE
YOUR NEWS!**

Please send us information about your honors, appointments, career advancements, publications, volunteer work and other activities of interest. We'll include your news in the Alumni Notebook section of *Quarterly* magazine as space allows. Please include names, dates and locations. Photographs are encouraged.

Have you moved?

Please send us your new address.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association
750 Highland Ave.
Madison, WI 53705

OR online at med.wisc.edu/alumni/share-your-news

OR e-mail quarterly@med.wisc.edu

OR via phone at (608) 263-4915

**University of Wisconsin
Medical Alumni Association**
Health Sciences Learning Center
750 Highland Ave.
Madison, WI 53705

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Madison, WI
Permit No. 1121



MS-1070983-22

Reunions for the MD Classes of 1971, '82, '87, '92, '97, 2002, '07, '12 and '17

Reunite in Madison

MD CLASS REUNIONS

for UW Homecoming Weekend October 21-22, 2022

For details and registration information, see: go.wisc.edu/mli2zz



Wisconsin Medical
Alumni Association
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH