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

Quarterly

BUCKY

WELCOMES

ALUMNI

MD ALUMNI
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QUALITY CARE p.6



School of Medicine
and Public Health
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



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QUARTERLY

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

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CALENDAR

January 2024

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

Operation: Education

Health Sciences Learning Center

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24

Career Advice from Badgers

Zoom

February 2024

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Alternative Careers in Medicine Alumni Panel

Zoom

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Alumni Reception and Presentation: Partnering to

Advance Health Equity in Milwaukee

Italian Community Center

March 2024

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

Match Day

Health Sciences Learning Center and livestream

April 2024

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

Spring WMAA Board of Directors Meeting, WMAA
Scholarship Reception, and WMAA Awards Banquet

May 2024

FRIDAY, MAY 10

MD Graduate Recognition Ceremony

Memorial Union and livestream

June 2024

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

Medical Alumni Day for the Classes of 1959, '64, '69,
'74, and '79, and the Half-Century Society

Health Sciences Learning Center and Park Hotel

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



A campus banner promotes the Wisconsin Medicine campaign, which aims to usher in a new era of medicine for UW Health and the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health.

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COWLES' DECADES OF QUALITY CARE

More than 65 years after successful treatment for a rare form of dwarfism, Susan Cowles returns to UW Health to have her mobility restored again.

ON THE COVER

Bucky Badger and John Amuzu, MD '88 (PG '93), interact at the MD Class of 1988 reunion during Homecoming weekend.

—Photo by Todd Brown/Media Solutions

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ROBERT N. GOLDEN, MD

*Dean, University of Wisconsin
School of Medicine and
Public Health
Vice chancellor for medical affairs,
UW–Madison*

While reviewing this issue of *Quarterly* and thinking about new year's resolutions for the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH), I reflected upon a variation of a notable theme, "Think globally, act locally – and globally." As you will see, several articles feature topics of local and global importance.

Our university community bid farewell to a luminary, Paul DeLuca, PhD, whose work made a significant difference at UW–Madison, as well as nationally and internationally. The former vice dean for research and graduate studies at the SMPH and provost for UW–Madison was an incredible force for progress and innovation. Over his four-decade career, Paul served with distinction in leadership roles that advanced medical physics and its translation into improved patient care. Along with the global village, we will miss him dearly.

Another article highlights our school's LGBTQ+ Health Fellowship, which we proudly launched as the inaugural program sponsored by the American Medical Association Foundation. This fellowship reflects our longstanding commitment to an important patient population. The work by the faculty, staff, graduates, and trainees involved in this program already has made an impact on our academic health system and the community we serve. We know this offering will increase understanding and expertise in this area. Linked to this article is an update about the fall 2023 SMPH Diversity Summit, which focused on protecting and advancing trans health. This summit helped broaden awareness of this vital topic within and beyond our campus.

Also in this issue, we celebrate several amazing leaders. The 2023 Belzer Award recipients – Molly Carnes, MD, MS '01 (PG '81); Laurel Rice, MD; and Susan Lederer, PhD '87 – have dedicated their careers to advancing the missions of the SMPH in ways that will yield far-reaching

benefits for decades. We also applaud the recipients of the Group on Women in Medicine and Science Awards: Christina Hull, PhD; Jessica Robbins, MD (PG '09); Elizabeth Burnside, MD, MPH, MS; Beth Weaver, PhD; Abigail Cutler, MD, MPH; Sunduz Keles, PhD; and Deborah Rusy, MD '92 (PG '96, '97), MBA, FASA. At the award ceremonies, I listened with deep appreciation as presenters described the impactful work of these honorees, whose leadership and role modeling continues to advance our vision well beyond the borders of our state.

Equally impressive is the humanitarian work by alumna Grace D. Bandow, MD '01, who has shared her time, skills, and knowledge in Jordan, Nepal, and other locales, including her home state. Her compassion takes the Wisconsin Idea to a global scale.

Finally, you will read in the Perspectives column, penned by Sanjay Asthana, MD, FACP, about groundbreaking work being done in the Department of Medicine's Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology and Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center. The center and its partners conduct cutting-edge research in Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, with the goal of providing solutions that will benefit patients worldwide.

Whether you live nearby or far from Madison, we encourage you to visit your alma mater. It is always delightful to welcome home our alumni for reunions – as we did for eight MD classes over Homecoming weekend – and share our gratitude with those who serve the SMPH. We applaud the Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association Board of Directors, including its two newest members (see page 19). If your travels bring you to Madison, we will be happy to arrange a personal tour and show you the exciting things happening at the SMPH and UW–Madison. In the meantime, we wish you a warm, healthy, and happy new year!

These are thrilling times for the Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association (WMAA) and University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH). Alumni engagement at events is growing. Increasingly, we have been learning that our well-being intersects with the relationships we foster and connections we build. I believe there has never been a more impactful time to get involved!

On Homecoming weekend, we cheered the Wisconsin football victory over Rutgers as part of a lively two days that featured reunions for the MD Classes of 1983, '88, '93, '98, 2003, '08, '13, and '18. Many thanks to the WMAA staff – led by Executive Director Sarah B. Rothschild – for their work to bring people together. We had an excellent turnout to rekindle friendships and reconnect with our SMPH roots. I had the chance to see my class advisor, Philip M. Farrell, MD, PhD (PG '72), and view the incredible medical student projects highlighted by the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

I found it heartwarming to visit with my classmates, including co-representatives Ann Liebeskind, MD '98, and Tim Richer, MD '98. Listening to the stories around me, I felt proud of my classmates. One supports her 50-bed community hospital with essential obstetrics and gynecology care in rural Wisconsin. Another devotes his orthopedics career to patients suffering with arthritis. He now presents outcomes data, nationally, on ankle replacements that allow people to get back to mobility, with longer-term outcomes than were possible in the past. At our 25-year mark, my classmates are still connected to the ideals we held close in medical school. Most notable is the commitment to pass it forward as we support students through our mentorship, teaching, and class scholarship fund, mirroring the commitment of many SMPH alumni.

The need for connection is true for patients and students, too. Christine Sinsky, MD '82, FACP, vice president for professional satisfaction, American Medical Association, recently spoke at Grand Rounds on “Reorienting

the U.S. Healthcare System Around Relationships.” She reminded us of the power of relationships and continuity in medicine as leading to better care for patients and less burnout for medical providers. Similarly, a report by U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, MD, MBA, “The Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community,” describes how loneliness and isolation increase health care spending and decrease academic achievement. As I met with medical students at Homecoming and other events this year, they spoke of feeling supported by programs, such as the school’s Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine, Training in Urban Medicine and Public Health, and Native American Center for Health Professions, as well as various student organizations (see page 36). It brings me hope to know that the WMAA fosters connections among our students and alumni while supporting the SMPH.

Thank you for all you do for your communities and the WMAA. I encourage all alumni to “be the connection” by giving back to the SMPH. Here are some ways to show your gratitude:

- Participate in the Stethoscope Program. A \$200 donation provides a high-quality, SMPH-branded tool to welcome a new medical student in August.
- Volunteer for our Student Alumni Partnership Program by sharing with medical students your perspective of the community in which they are interviewing; shadowing opportunities; and advice over email or a cup of coffee.
- Work with the WMAA staff to co-host an alumni reception in your geographic area.
- Contribute to the WMAA Fund to help a student with unexpected expenses, such as medical bills or the need to travel for a loved one’s funeral.

I hope you’ll consider being an upstander for a key organization that helps foster belonging at the SMPH. It is more important now than ever to spread the mission of the Wisconsin Idea!



KYLA LEE, MD '98, FACP
(she/her/hers)
President, Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association

BROOKE DOVAL/GUNDERSEN HEALTH SYSTEM

Middleton Society

SHARING MEDICAL ADVANCES WITH FAITHFUL SUPPORTERS





Opposite page, top row (left to right): James Dahlberg, PhD, Wayne Becker, PhD, and M2 Kalifa Wright; James Rice, MD '76, and M3 Ayman Taher. Bottom row: Dan Schwarz and Ann Wallace; keynote speaker Christian Capitini, MD, with Austin Schuetz and speaker Kim Schuetz. Above, top row: M2 Thomas Staniszewski and James Krause, PhD '80; M2 Ly Hoang with his poster. Bottom row: poster presenters M4 Annalise Panthofer, M2 Mark Hermann, M2 Manasa Kalluri, M2 Kalifa Wright, M2 Ly Hoang, M4 Sahand Chase Eftekari, M2 Logan Moore; M3 Ritika Punathil and Paul Wertsch, MD '70.

In welcoming participants to the fall 2023 Middleton Society dinner, Christine Seibert, MD, noted that the Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association founded the society in the mid-1980s with a small handful of loyal alumni and donors. Today, the society has more than 4,000 members.

"This evening, we are celebrating your generosity and thanking you, this special group of our most committed supporters," said Seibert, the associate dean for medical student education and services at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

(SMPH). "Through the Middleton Society, we honor you – our alumni, faculty, and friends of the school – whose altruism supports the dreams and discoveries of our faculty, students, and staff. Because of your investments and support, we have accelerated the progress in our missions to advance health and health equity."

The evening's keynote speaker, Christian Capitini, MD, associate professor, Department of Pediatrics, described his work as a physician-scientist who is developing immunotherapies to treat childhood

cancers. His talk was titled "CAR T Cells: Genetically Engineering the Immune System to Cure Cancer."

Taking the podium next was Kim Schuetz, whose son, Austin Schuetz, receives state-of-the-art medical care by Capitini and his team. Kim Schuetz talked about their family's journey navigating cancer care for Austin Schuetz, and she concluded with a heartfelt message of gratitude to the medical professionals, as well as the donors who support research that leads to life-saving treatments.



Susan Cowles values the ability to stay active, including walking her dog, Hamish, on the beach in Door County, Wisconsin.

Cowles' Care Keeps Her Moving for Decades

Since she was a little girl, Susan Cowles had good reason to suspect that her knees may one day need medical attention. She was grateful for more than six pain-free decades, but by her early 70s, a knee replacement became imminent.

Now 75, Cowles was born with an extremely rare skeletal abnormality known as Schmid Metaphyseal Chondrodysplasia. It is typically characterized by short stature and a waddling gait.

As a child, Cowles and her parents frequently traveled to Madison so she could receive care from specialists at University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics (now UW Health). While she built a life and career in medical social work in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Cowles returned to Madison for care once again as an adult more than six decades later.

Aside from her 4'5" stature and short, bowed legs, little else has gotten in Cowles' way. Once she reached her early 70s, however, she began experiencing serious knee arthritis.

"Genu Varum, or 'bowed legs,' is a common deformity with patients



Susan Cowles at age 8

who have Schmid Metaphyseal Chondrodysplasia," says Brian Nickel, MD, Cowles' orthopedic surgeon at UW Health and an assistant professor in the Department of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH). "Because Susan's legs were not straight, extra pressure continued to mount, especially on the inside of her right

knee," he adds. "Her resiliency allowed her knees to last until her early 70s before the pain got bad enough on her right side to make her a candidate for a total knee replacement."

Nickel, whose training includes a fellowship at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City, has performed thousands of knee and hip replacements since he joined UW Health and the SMPH in 2018. He says Cowles' surgery required far more preparation and planning than a more conventional patient would need.

Nickel's Most Challenging Knee Surgery

"Every step of Susan's surgery was different because of her short stature," Nickel says. "This was the most challenging surgery I have done on a first-time knee replacement patient. At UW Health, one of the advantages for patients like Susan is that our team has frequent experience with complex cases. Not only do we provide the highest-ranked care in the state for orthopedic surgery, but we also know how to deal with the so-called curve balls. This makes it all the more fulfilling to help patients



X-rays of Susan Cowles' legs, pre- and post-surgery in 2022

like Susan get back to living a better life."

Now with her surgery several months behind her, Cowles is back to walking a mile every day supplemented with plenty of yoga stretching. She is incredibly pleased with her outcome.



Brian Nickel, MD

"This was the most challenging surgery I have done on a first-time knee replacement patient."

—Brian Nickel, MD

Making Cowles' story even more compelling is the amount of time since she first traveled to Madison for care. Some 65 years ago, Cowles' parents were having a hard time getting answers about their daughter's short stature.

"I was misdiagnosed twice as a child, leaving my parents stumped and discouraged," Cowles says. "Finally, when I was about 9, our family doctor arranged for me to see a pediatric specialist at UW-Madison named Dr. David W. Smith."

Smith had joined the SMPH faculty not long after the 1957 creation of the Department of Pediatrics, where he worked for nearly a decade. He became known as a pioneer in the field of dysmorphology – the study of birth defects including growth abnormalities.

Cowles' Love for Madison

"I just loved coming to Madison with my parents," Cowles says. "We would always make a day of it and spend time exploring the university campus. I remember thinking how much I wanted to go to college there, but coming from a strong Catholic family, my

Cowles joined a trailblazing medical study that would lead to the establishment of Schmid Metaphyseal Chondrodysplasia as a unique form of inherited dwarfism.

parents preferred that I go to a Catholic university in Milwaukee. I never lost my love for Madison, however."

While being seen by Smith and a young doctor-in-training named Arlan Rosenbloom, MD '58 (PG '65, '66), Cowles joined a trailblazing medical study that would lead to the establishment of Schmid Metaphyseal Chondrodysplasia as a unique form of inherited dwarfism. Because the field of genetics was in its infancy in the 1960s, Smith's study – published in the *Journal of Pediatrics* in

Loving life and feeling free from debilitating knee pain, Cowles is amazed at her good fortune, especially with two UW Health encounters spanning more than 65 years.

1965 – would later emerge as a seminal piece of clinical research.

“Dr. Smith and I drove across Wisconsin meeting with about two dozen children like Susan and their families,” recalls Rosenbloom, the 89-year-old, nationally distinguished expert in growth abnormalities. “We learned that the cells at the end of the shorter bones in these kids were disorganized, which disrupted the normal growth process.”

Fast forward to 2022, when the pain in Cowles’ right knee was making life difficult.



“An orthopedic surgeon in Milwaukee asked me to have DNA testing to confirm that I truly had the Schmid form of metaphyseal dysplasia,” Cowles says. “I started by calling a local genetics department, but nobody called me back for two weeks. So, I Googled the Genetics Department at UW. A genetics counselor named Peggy Modaff [MS ’95, CGC] answered her phone directly and listened to my story.”

A Genetic Counselor’s Assistance

Not only did Modaff send Cowles a DNA test kit right away – the test confirmed Cowles’ original Schmid diagnosis – but later Modaff provided her with recommendations for UW Health orthopedic surgeons.

“Peggy sent me the names of two UW orthopedic surgeons, and one of those was Dr. Brian Nickel,” Cowles says. “That’s how I first connected with him, so thanks to Peggy and her fast response, I was on my way.”

Modaff’s immediate willingness to listen to Cowles’ phone call and act swiftly left Cowles extremely impressed.

“So many people say they’ll get back to you and never do,” Cowles says. “Peggy was absolutely fabulous.”

Loving life and feeling free from debilitating knee pain, Cowles is amazed at her good fortune, especially with two UW Health encounters spanning more than 65 years.

“Everything good to me happens at UW,” she says.

Susan Cowles (right) with her husband, Verne Cowles, on a recent vacation in Portugal

Rosenbloom’s Stellar Career

A pioneer in pediatric endocrinology, Arlan Rosenbloom, MD ’58 (PG ’65, ’66), has been recognized throughout his career as a prominent educator, researcher, and clinician. He has authored or co-authored more than 350 articles, chapters, or books, primarily on diabetes and growth problems. His research mainly has focused on type 1 diabetes in children.



Arlan Rosenbloom, MD ’58 (PG ’65, ’66)

Rosenbloom earned his medical degree from the UW Medical School (now the UW School of Medicine and Public Health). He completed a residency in pediatrics and a fellowship in pediatric endocrinology and diabetes at UW Children’s Hospital (now American Family Children’s Hospital) in 1965 and 1966, respectively.

In 1968, Rosenbloom joined the faculty of the University of Florida (UF) College of Medicine, where he founded and served as chief of the Division of Pediatric Endocrinology in the Department of Pediatrics until 1994. In Florida, he developed the Regional Diabetes and Endocrine Program and the Camp for Children and Youth with Diabetes. He was the founding director of the UF College of Medicine’s Diabetes Center and directed the National Institutes of Health-funded General Clinical Research Center.

Among Rosenbloom’s many honors, he received the Medical Alumni Citation – Distinguished Alumni Award from the Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association in 1995. He has been named a distinguished service professor emeritus of pediatrics at the UF College of Medicine and a professor emeritus at Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador. In 2017, he received the Pediatric Endocrine Society’s highest award, the VanWyk Prize. He also received the society’s 2003 Distinguished Physician Award to recognize his prominent role in shaping standards of care for children with diabetes or other endocrine disorders.

Rosenbloom and his wife reside in Florida.

Bucky Welcomes Alumni

BADGER SPIRIT IS STRONG ON HOMECOMING WEEKEND



by Kris Whitman

He's a fur-covered mascot with a talent for making people smile – and even polka at times. Indeed, Bucky Badger delights Wisconsin fans of any age. Unlike the low-profile badgers in the natural world, the gregarious Bucky spreads cheer, including at Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association (WMAA) and University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) events during Homecoming weekend, October 6-7, 2023.

Following a Friday afternoon WMAA board meeting and reception, approximately 175 alumni and their guests attended the association-sponsored reunion dinners for the MD

Classes of 1983, '88, '93, '98, 2003, '08, '13, and '18 at the Madison Concourse Hotel (see next pages), and nearly 300 participated in the Saturday morning tailgate party at Union South. Later that day, red-and-white clad fans trekked to Camp Randall to cheer as the Wisconsin football team prevailed over Rutgers.

Among the revelers were Susan Isensee, MD '83 (PG '86), and Barry Lessin, MD '83, who serve as class co-representatives for the Class of 1983. They were thrilled by the high level of attendance for their 40th reunion.

"Homecoming was a blast! The Concourse was a great venue, the food was excellent, and Barry brought music and a PA system for our

reunion," says Isensee, who retired in 2017 following a three-decade career at Dean Medical Center (now SSM Health) in Madison; in the later years of her career, she switched from family medicine to focus on helping patients through the challenges of obesity and weight management.

Lessin drew upon his event-planning experiences as an undergraduate at UW-Madison, when he was active in the famed Pail and Shovel Party – known for starting the tradition of flamingos on Bascom Hill and other pranks around campus – and planned toga parties in parking lot 60.

He reflects, "During our first two years of medical school, we were based at the



Opposite page, clockwise from top left: M1 Chris Pelayo, Bucky, and Pedro Banda, MD '93; Jane Jerzak, Bucky, and Jim Jerzak, MD '83; and Nicholas Coorough, MD '13, Carissa Coorough, and their children. Above, clockwise from top left: Leaders of student organizations within the Office of Multicultural Affairs; former classmates share a hug; Darrell Rauwerdink, MD '83, and Kim Miller, MD '83; Steven Hammer, MD '83, Jodi Hammer, and Tim Rentmeester, MD '83 (PG '86).

Medical Sciences Center in the heart of campus, and we enjoyed time together at the Memorial Union, Union South, and on State Street. We figured out that if we balanced our studies with time to take care of ourselves, we would learn better and enjoy ourselves."

About the class reunion weekend, Lessin shares that it zipped by too quickly.

"I wish I could freeze every second of it. We have been very close as a class, and we have a huge amount of respect for each other. Even though we may get together only every five years, the best aspect is that we have a unique comfort level when we are together. It was a great feeling to sit there telling stories. These are people who I went to

school with 40 years ago, but it does not feel any different today," says Lessin, a diagnostic radiologist and director of the River Forest Breast Center in River Forest, Illinois.

In agreement, Isensee says, "I loved seeing classmates and reminiscing about our years at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health, including our professors, classes, and various antics that happened while we were there. We have a great class!"

Two decades ago, Isensee and Lessin were instrumental in working with their class to create the Class of 1983 Scholarship Fund, which has grown substantially and now provides support to three medical students.

In a nod to other classes planning reunions, Isensee says, "I encourage everyone to attend and enjoy time reminiscing. Also, this is a chance to give back to the school that gave us an education to become the best doctors we could be!"

Sarah B. Rothschild, WMAA executive director, notes, "Drs. Isensee and Lessin shared their favorite reasons for attending reunions, and there are plenty more, including opportunities to experience our beautiful campus and Madison, immerse yourself in our vast network of Badger physicians from across the country, and meet medical students who are following the paths you forged for them on their way to becoming physicians."

MD Class Reunions



CLASS OF 1983

Front row (left to right): Peter Stamas, Osman Sanyer, Kathryn Krohn-Gill, Joann Lohr, Susan Isensee, John Carlson, Darrell Rauwerdink, Barry Lessin, Janie Washington, Tim Rentmeester, Bruce Stoehr. Back row: Kim Miller, Douglas Olk, Eric Berg, Jeff Oswald, Dean Sienko, Gary Koritzinsky, Kevin Sandmire, Jim Tomic, Gary Kubalak, Chris Huiras, Jim Jerzak, Glen Gutzke, Andrew Braun, Michael Erdmann, Jim Schlais.



CLASS OF 1988

Left to right: Erin Fain, Jennifer Vipond, Brian Frohna, Robert Welch, Kay Gruling, Stuart Winter.



CLASS OF 1993

Front row (left to right): Martin Balish, June DeSimone, Audrey Nolten, Jennifer Brumm, Mark Brumm, Bob Kim. Back row: William Cooper, Loren Fuglestad, Thomas Gettelman, Pedro Banda, John Temprano, Nick Armstrong, Michael Vander Kooy.



CLASS OF 1998

Front row (left to right): James Haine, Tom Herr, Conrad Yu, Anish Desai, Alison Craig-Shashko, Heather Wells-Holtey, Ann Liebeskind, Maria Lao. Back row: Dan Schraith, Stephen Wagner, Christine Chuppa, Suzy Davidowitz, Kristin Brink, Xuan Thy Schulenburg, Deborah Wubben, Amy Moschell, Beverly Ness, Tim Richer, Kyla Lee, Paul Cammack.

CLASS OF 2003

Left to right: Sunu Eapen, Nate Lebak, Meghan Lubner, Sam Lubner, Greg Horwitz, Bucky Badger, Dan Jackson, Tom Westfall.





CLASS OF 2008

Front row (left to right): Nicole Hennessy, Abby Heller, Zobeida Diaz, Elizabeth Ester. Back row: Gregory Rachu, Andrew Ju, Aaron Struck, Bridget DeLong Wozniak, Lisa Veglahn, Jessica Kuester.

CLASS OF 2013

Front row (left to right): Trevor McKown, Jenna Sebranek, Andrea Jones, Nick Coorough. Back row: Katie Reimer, Siarhei Vysotski, Gonzalo Barinaga, Melissa Hidde, John Awowale.



CLASS OF 2018

Front row (left to right): Gabrielle Wacławik, Katharine Kelly, Saira Khanna, Maureen Riegert. Back row: Sean Buck, Cassandra Schandel, Alex Kivimaki, Katharine Molinarolo, Karla Wetley.

Welcome Derrick and Stiles to the WMAA Board

In July 2023, two University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) alumni – Allison J. Derrick, MD '09, MPH '09, and Matthew Stiles, MD '03 – joined the Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association (WMAA) Board of Directors for their initial three-year terms. Stiles is a national member. Sarah B. Rothschild, WMAA executive director, thanks these new members, as well as all board members and board advisory council members, for their commitment to the SMPH and WMAA.

ALLISON J. DERRICK, MD '09, MPH '09

Your current practice?

I am a plastic and reconstructive surgeon at Gundersen Health System in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

I enjoy the variety of cases my specialty has to offer, whether it is restoring and/or reconstructing functional defects or improving my patients' quality of life in other ways.

Your fondest memory of the SMPH?

I had an amazing experience on the mission trip to San Lucas Tolimán, Guatemala. I also loved the annual Dean's Cup, as well as ping-pong study breaks.

SMPH faculty member you most remember and why?

I thoroughly enjoyed the engaging physiology lectures presented by Kevin Strang, PhD '94, and the way Gary Lyons, PhD, shared his genuine love for

histology and teaching. I loved the way Dennis Maki, MD '67, could make every clinical case feel like an FBI investigation. I am thankful to strong female role models, such as Karen Krabbenhoft, PhD '92, and Delora Mount, MD, for inspiring my love of anatomy and serving as mentors throughout the process.

Your hobbies and interests?

Outside of work, I spend most of my time shuffling our four kids to their various activities, and I enjoy being their number 1 fan in all they do. I also love retreating to our cabin in northern Wisconsin for some slower-paced, quality family time, and planning vacations. We hope to visit all the national parks as a family before our youngest graduates from high school.

Family update?

My husband, Thomas Leece, MD '09, and I both work full time at Gundersen Health System. Our kids range from 2 to 10 years old. They are our pride and joy and keep us very busy!

Goals for the WMAA?

I look at my position as a way to give back to my alma mater and stay connected with future generations of Badger physicians.

MATTHEW STILES, MD '03

Your current practice?

I am a cardiac anesthesiologist in a private practice group in St. Paul, Minnesota. For almost 17 years, I have been with

my current group, which has the privilege of serving a diverse patient population.

Your fondest memory of the SMPH?

Besides meeting lifelong friends, my greatest memory was meeting my future wife and classmate, Monica Chadha Stiles, MD '03.

SMPH faculty member you most remember and why?

Many great faculty members have been instrumental in my educational path. One of the most entertaining was John Harting, MD, who taught neuroscience my first year of medical school. He made that topic come to life for me. The jokes and skits made coming to class fun and made learning enjoyable.

Your hobbies and interests?

During the pandemic, I have developed a passion for different techniques and recipes for baking bread, and I have experimented with grilling on the Green Egg. Upgrading our home's wireless network for distance learning also has made me into our family's IT support person.

Family update?

Monica and I live in Stillwater, Minnesota, with our two wonderful children. Our eldest, Mansi, is a senior in high school and getting ready to head off to college to become an engineer. Our youngest, Rohan, is a freshman in high school. All four of us are die-hard Badger and Packer fans!

Goals for the WMAA?

I am so proud to be a graduate of the SMPH and part of the WMAA. My goals include continuing to connect current and prospective students with alumni as a way to build networks of learning and leadership.





BRIANA CALORE, MD '05

Through a fellowship with Roger Mann, MD, who wrote the textbooks I used, I received subspecialty training in foot and ankle surgery. Now, I am an attending orthopedic surgeon at Bassett Healthcare in Cooperstown, New York. I perform total ankle replacement; anterior and posterior total hip replacement; total knee replacement; fracture surgery; and ankle, knee, and shoulder arthroscopy.

Sometimes orthopedic surgery cases are simple, such as the need to acutely clean gravel from an ankle joint of a patient who was in a motorcycle accident. Other

cases take more planning, such as the care needed by an otherwise healthy 40-year-old male with avascular necrosis, pain, and deformity of the bilateral tali due to steroid treatment for Crohn's disease as a teenager. Instead of doing bilateral pantalar fusions, I contracted a company to design and 3D-print a custom talus bone that will articulate with a total ankle replacement.

During my first year of medical school, the cadaver in my anatomy lab had total knee replacements. They appeared state of the art, and I found them interesting. I started a research project in orthopedic spine

surgery, and I enjoyed all aspects of my rotations in orthopedic surgery.

I did the first year of my residency at Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan (Detroit Receiving, Sinai Grace, and Providence Hospitals), and at the beginning of my second year, I moved to Stanford University Hospital and Clinics in California. I am a member of the American Association of Orthopedic Surgery, the American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society, the Ruth Jackson Society, and the Medical Society of the State of New York.

Fixing broken bones, realigning joints, and cutting



out arthritis are all very satisfying daily activities. Patients with chronic pain are best treated by an interdisciplinary care team. Many of our patients recover and return to enjoying their hobbies, work, and time with loved ones.

DANIELLE N. RIES DE CHAFFIN, MD '12 (PG '17)

I am practicing orthopedic trauma at a Level 1 trauma center, the Billings Clinic, in Montana. Here, I see all levels of orthopedic trauma, from simple ankle fractures to the most complex pelvis and acetabular fracture cases.

My most memorable patient is a middle-aged gentleman who was hit by a car. He had five major injuries all involving his joints. I performed a complex surgery on him almost every day for a week. In my practice, the best feeling I have had so far was the first time he walked into my clinic and gave me a big hug after I had been wondering whether he would ever be able to walk again.

I knew I wanted to go into orthopedics in medical school, but I was not sure I would subspecialize in trauma orthopedics until my third year of residency at UW Health in Madison. While I enjoyed my training in every specialty, the trauma cases were always the most exciting and fulfilling to me. In addition to liking the surgical aspects of trauma care, I enjoyed the ability to connect with patients and their families during difficult times in their lives.

I am board certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery and am active as a fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, a clinical member of the

Orthopaedic Trauma Association, and a member of AO Trauma and the Montana Orthopedic Society.

Orthopedics has many different subspecialties. I like the excitement and variety of orthopedic trauma, whereas others might like the ability to perfect a case that has a lot of repetition. Like most other surgical fields, training is grueling, but with a strong interest and dedication, it is also very rewarding.

The best piece of advice I could give to those interested in orthopedics is to find a mentor who can help you navigate through the inevitable ups and downs of the training process.



PATRICK SCERPELLA, MD '87

Currently, I practice at SSM Health - St. Mary's Madison, with a subspecialty elective practice in foot and ankle orthopedics.

My father was a general and vascular surgeon, and when I entered medical school, I had an interest in surgery. During a third-year rotation in orthopedics, I developed an interest in this field. I completed a surgical internship at Gundersen Health System in La Crosse, Wisconsin, followed by an orthopedic residency at UW Health in Madison and a foot and ankle orthopedic fellowship at the University

of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore.

I am a member of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons and the American Orthopedic Foot and Ankle Society.

Patients with diabetes are a group that really stands out as memorable. Their orthopedic foot and ankle problems are usually not routine and can be threatening to their limbs. Successful care can often be challenging. Patients are usually aware of the difficulty of their orthopedic problems.

I have found orthopedics to be consistently engaging and always changing. Though it is considered a surgical

specialty, much of the care provided is non-operative, and this gives physicians more ways to help patients. The wide variety among the subspecialties of orthopedics provides opportunities for physicians to find their strengths.





International

Perspective

BANDOW'S MISSIONS AIM TO HEAL BODIES AND PSYCHES

At the Zataari Refugee Camp in Jordan, Grace Bandow, MD '01, examines a patient.

MARK SEMEGEN (3)

Grace D. Bandow, MD '01

by Lisa Brunette

A decade ago, Grace Bandow, MD '01, had established a thriving dermatology practice in Rhode Island, but she was feeling a little restless — in search of a “fresh perspective,” as she puts it now. Like many Americans, she watched as a protest movement in Syria metastasized into a civil war. Television images, while horrifying, were little more than snapshots of a catastrophe that seemed to grow more brutal by the day.

Then her telephone rang. A friend and dermatology colleague in New York City, Samer Jaber, MD, had been

asked to help provide medical care to Syrian refugees in Jordan. He thought she might be courageous enough to go with him. She was, and that started her on the path to serving people in various countries in desperate need of medical and other help.

Bandow, who hails from Madison, Wisconsin, had been interested in international medical work at least since she was a medical student at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH). While enrolled there, she traveled to work in a hospital in Auckland, New Zealand. During her dermatology residency at Washington University in St. Louis, she studied tropical skin diseases in Brazil.

She traces the roots of her commitment to global medical work to a combination of “an urge to help and a strong tendency toward wanderlust.” Her mother — who earned her bachelor of arts degree at UW–Madison in 1989 — modeled service through her work with Hospice, Amanda the Panda, and Guide Dogs of America. Bandow continues to be inspired by her mom, who is now 77 years old and still traveling the world.

Jaber and Bandow arrived in Jordan in March 2014 at the teeming Zaatari Refugee Camp, which then housed close to 80,000 displaced people. The medical team began to confront what Bandow calls “the sheer endless scale of the problem.” The total number of



At the Zaatarî Refugee Camp, people live in tents and makeshift buildings made from shipping containers.

Syrian refugees is now estimated to be 14 million since the start of the war.

At that camp, mothers with children, children without mothers, and single fathers stood in the desert sun for hours waiting for a chance to be seen. The doctors worked on mats on the sand, in tents, or in makeshift buildings created from shipping containers. Refugees who came to see them lived in tents and other crude housing made from whatever material was available. Over the past seven years, these temporary homes have morphed into permanent structures, becoming one of Jordan's largest cities. Seeing up to 300 patients per day, Bandow learned some basic Arabic phrases but relied heavily on the help of Jordanian medical students for translation.

Going to a desert environment in which people live in close quarters, Bandow and Jaber expected — and found — maladies such as leishmaniasis, impetigo, fungal infections, and scabies. They often treated common conditions like acne, rosacea, and various dermatitides. They found that typical skin conditions were made much worse by heat, sun, dehydration, crowding, and lack of basic supplies. They were surprised that simple medications and basic skin care were desperately needed. Writing about their work in the *Washington Post* inspired the interest of Unilever and spawned The Vaseline Healing Project, a collaboration among clinicians to help heal skin diseases in

more than 70 countries affected by poverty, natural disasters, and war.

Many patients also sought treatment for burns from tent fires, from cooking with kerosene stoves, or from injuries sustained during the war itself. In almost every case, the combination of the harsh environment, overcrowded conditions, and lack of care made the illnesses and injuries worse. But the doctors and other care providers also supplied another critical ingredient: emotional support through simply seeing the patients and hearing their stories. Those patients, Bandow notes, needed to know that someone cared that they existed and had not been forgotten.

Bandow's next mission took her to Bahrabise, Nepal, a small hamlet in the mountains about 15 miles from the Tibetan border. A severe earthquake in April 2015 had killed an estimated 9,000 people and injured more than 16,000. Approximately 97 percent of the homes in the district surrounding Bahrabise had been destroyed.

Bandow and Jaber worked with Nepali physicians through the Children's Hospital for Eye, Ear, and Rehabilitation Services. In August 2016, the caregivers took hours-long Jeep rides into the

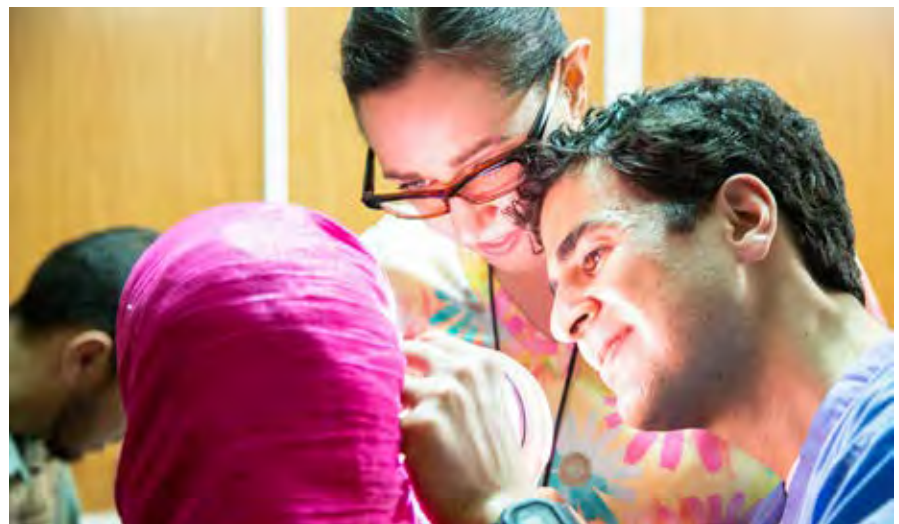
remote mountains so they could tend to illnesses and injuries for more than 400 patients per day. But dry heat was less of an issue: August is monsoon season in Nepal, with near-daily rain and very warm temperatures.

Subsequently, Bandow provided additional medical help in Panama through New England Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic halted virtually all medical missions around the world. To continue service during this period of restricted travel, Bandow joined the MAVEN Project, a nonprofit organization that uses a digital platform to connect U.S. primary-care providers in safety-net clinics with experienced specialists for consultations, mentoring, and education.

While still offering help to those in need through this project, she has been able to devote herself to her busy practice, now in Connecticut, and to her husband and three step-kids. But Bandow's wanderlust has not waned. She is planning her next steps for overseas medical work and is scheduled for a photography expedition to the Amazon.

Offering a perspective gained through her experiences, Bandow says, "Every place I have traveled, a consistent theme is that even a single patient interaction makes a difference. People in distress want to know someone is interested in their story, that they do not struggle alone, and that there is hope and a way to get better. Training local health care workers to continue care after a mission trip ends is the key to creating lasting results."

Grace Bandow, MD '01 (center), and Samer Jaber, MD, provide medical care to a Syrian refugee in Jordan.



Class Notes

Compiled by Andrea Larson

CLASS OF 2022

Megan Roedel

received an honorable mention for presenting one of the top three abstracts at the Society for Fetal Urology's Clinical Case Presentation Session. The September 2023 session allowed residents and fellows to present their most interesting or unique clinical cases. Roedel's talk was titled "Challenges in Managing Complex Genitourinary Anomalies in a Neonatal Patient: Emphasizing the Role of Parental Engagement." She is a second-year urology resident at UW Health in Madison.



CLASS OF 2017

Sarah Donohue

received the 2023 Distinguished Fellow Award from the American College of Rheumatology (ACR). Each year, the ACR honors clinical and research fellows who have performed meritoriously. Donohue completed an internal medicine residency and a rheumatology fellowship at UW Health. She is now an assistant professor in the Department of Medicine's Division of Rheumatology at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH). She practices in the UW Health Rheumatology Clinic.



CLASS OF 2014

Laurel Bessey

received the Early-Career Development Award from the Association for Academic Psychiatry. The award recognizes promising faculty members and provides an opportunity to learn and share teaching techniques, skills, and innovations, and to network with other junior faculty members from across the country. She is an assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the SMPH and the associate residency training director for the Psychiatry Residency at UW Health, where she completed a psychiatry residency.



CLASS OF 2013

Holly Caretta-Weyer

was recently elected as the inaugural chair of the Council of Residency Directors' Competency-Based Medical Education Task Force for Emergency Medicine. Her work in implementing competency-based education led the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada to recognize her as the International Medical Educator of the Year in 2022. She now serves as the interim associate dean for admissions and director of assessment for the Stanford University School of Medicine, and director of evaluation and assessment for the Stanford University Emergency Medicine



Residency Program. Caretta-Weyer completed an emergency medicine residency at UW Health, where she served as chief resident. She then completed a medical education scholarship fellowship at Oregon Health and Science University and a master's degree in health professions education at the University of Illinois-Chicago. She is a PhD candidate at Maastricht University.

CLASS OF 2009

Matthew Niesen

completed an orthopedic surgery residency at the University of California, Los Angeles, where he served as chief resident. He then completed a fellowship in hip, knee, and shoulder replacement at the Mayo Clinic. While serving as the hospital chief of staff and a hospital board member at Prairie Ridge Health in Columbus, Wisconsin, Niesen discovered a passion for leadership, which led him to complete a master of health administration degree at Cornell University. In 2022, he moved to his current practice at Reedsburg Area Medical Center in Wisconsin. He aims to provide his patients with quality discussion time in the clinic, and state-of-the-art technology in the operating room. He has experience with robotic-assisted knee replacements and has performed more than 500 knee replacements using custom, 3D-printed knees. In fall 2023, Niesen was the first in Wisconsin to implant a "smart" knee, which provides feedback to the patient and provider after a total knee replacement. He and his wife, Mallory Niesen, have five children, ages 9 to 18. They love to travel, follow the Badgers, and support their children's pursuits.



CLASS OF 2008

Jaime Hook

finished her post-doctoral training and started the Hook Lung Imaging Laboratory at the Icahn School of Medicine in New York City in 2019. She leads a team of eight scientists and trainees, and the team has published high-impact papers, including a recent one in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation* that, based on work in mouse models, proposes a new approach for preventing fatal secondary pneumonia in people with influenza. They hope this work will someday translate to clinical trials. During medical school, Hook worked with Maureen Smith, MD, MPH, PhD, in the Department of Population Health Sciences, and Elizabeth Cox, MD, PhD, in the Department of Pediatrics, and she says those experiences fueled her interest in a career as a physician-scientist.



Yolanda

Whyte is serving as the president of Ethical and Respectful Treatment of Humans, also known as EARTH, a human rights organization. A pediatrician, she has expanded the scope of her practice to incorporate environmental health and advocacy. In this role, she advocates for child human rights and is dedicated to restoring humanity in institutionalized health care. Whyte completed a pediatrics internship at the Medical College of Virginia and a community pediatrics residency at Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta. She is a past member of the Environmental Protection Agency's Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee, as well as the past vice chair of the National Medical Association's Environmental Health Task Force.



CLASS OF 1968

Barry Rumack

was awarded the Prince Mahidol Award 2023 in the Field of Public Health. The award is named in honor of the Thai prince. Candidates for this award were considered by the Scientific Advisory Committee, International Award Committee, and board of trustees, at a meeting presided over by H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. Rumack is a professor emeritus of pediatrics and emergency medicine and director emeritus of the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center. His primary clinical and research interest has been in clinical toxicology, with a special interest in acetaminophen poisoning.



CLASS OF 2003

Meghan

Lubner was awarded the 2023 Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) Lifetime Honored Educator Award. She is a professor in the SMPH Department of Radiology and the chief of clinical and research CT abdominal imaging and intervention. She joined the faculty in 2009 after completing an internal medicine residency at Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology at Washington University in St. Louis followed by an abdominal imaging fellowship at UW Health in Madison.



CLASS OF 1989

Alan Glicklich

was appointed as the chief medical officer for Nuvig Therapeutics, Inc., a venture-funded biotech company that develops novel biologic therapeutics to treat inflammatory autoimmune diseases. Glicklich has more than 25 years of experience working in biotech companies across all phases of development. He previously served as the chief medical officer for Chinook Therapeutics, a biotech company focused on treatment of rare kidney diseases, and Bird Rock Bio, which focuses on developing novel monoclonal antibodies.



CLASS OF 1966

William

Busse will receive the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (AAAAI) Lifetime Contribution to the AAAAI

and A/I Specialty Award in 2024. He is being recognized for his excellence in leadership, service, research, clinical care, and mentorship, along with more than 50 years of contributions to the AAAAI. Busse has served as the academy's president and as the leader of numerous committees and divisions. He also helped establish the AAAAI Foundation's commitment to fund research of junior investigators at critical, early stages in their careers. As a result, the AAAAI Foundation has given more than \$10 million to date.



In Memoriam

William F. Schoenwetter, MD '59
November 15, 2023
Wayzata, Minnesota

Mona K. Stern, MD '59
October 7, 2023
Gary, Indiana

Leon J. Nesvacil, MD '61
September 21, 2023
Hugo, Minnesota

Warren R. Procci, MD '72
September 1, 2023
Pasadena, California

Michael A. Weiner, MD '74
November 3, 2023
Madison, Wisconsin

Keyla Guadalupe, MD '02
April 25, 2023
Pewaukee, Wisconsin

Alfred G. Valles, MD '05
October 13, 2023
Fresno, California

Former Faculty Members

Paul M. DeLuca, Jr., PhD
October 30, 2023
Latrobe, Pennsylvania

Robert "Bob" DeMars, PhD
November 2023
Madison, Wisconsin

Goodbye Dear Friend

PAUL M. DELUCA, JR., PHD

Paul M. DeLuca, Jr., PhD, emeritus professor of medical physics at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) and former provost of UW–Madison, died on October 30, 2023, in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. He was 79 years old.

After completing his doctorate in nuclear physics at the University of Notre Dame, DeLuca arrived at UW–Madison in 1971. He worked as a postdoctoral fellow and assistant scientist before he joined the SMPH faculty in 1975. He served as chair of the SMPH Department of Medical Physics for 10 years, during which he helped expand its research, training programs, and facilities. He became the school's vice dean for research and graduate studies, and he was instrumental in developing the Wisconsin Institutes for Medical Research and other research initiatives. Further, DeLuca served as UW–Madison's provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs from 2009 until his retirement in 2014.

"Dr. DeLuca was a spectacular leader, colleague, and friend. He served our school and university with incredible wisdom, effectiveness, warmth, and great humor," says Robert N.

Golden, MD, dean of the SMPH. "I was delighted when he became provost, and I deeply valued the opportunity to work with him in advancing the vision and missions of our university."

As provost, DeLuca guided major leadership changes at the university as he played a lead role in recruiting and hiring 10 new deans and directors for campus units. He helped develop programs to advance the quality of undergraduate education; launch innovative, massive, online courses; and initiate and advance Discovery to Product, a major partnership between UW–Madison and the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation that focuses on entrepreneurship and technology transfer.

DeLuca's research centered on the connection between physics and medicine, including the effects of high-energy particle radiation on humans. He authored or co-authored more than 75 research papers, many focusing on various applications of physics to the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. He also supervised nearly 50 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.

A fellow in the American Association of Physicists in Medicine, DeLuca received that association's William D.

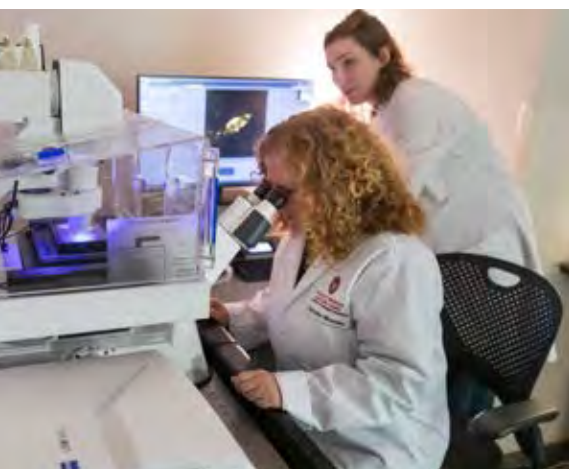


UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Coolidge Award. He also received the Folkert O. Belzer Lifetime Achievement Award from the SMPH and was named a Rennebohm Research Professor at UW–Madison.

His family encourages donations to the Paul DeLuca, PhD, Scholar Fund, endowed by several of DeLuca's former students. The fund directly benefits students and will support medical physics for years to come. To donate, visit supportuw.org/giveto/DeLucaScholarFund.

UW-Madison Chancellor Tours the SMPH



TODD BROWN/MEDIA SOLUTIONS (4)

On September 18, 2023, the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) welcomed UW-Madison Chancellor Jennifer Mnookin, PhD, JD, for a tour of training and research spaces in the Health Sciences Learning Center, Wisconsin Institutes for Medical Research, and Clinical Science Center.

Mnookin spent time engaging with health professions students, learning how simulation enhances education, donning her own lab coat, seeing research facilities, peering into microscopes with the help of graduate students, and more.

Top left: In the school's Office of Multicultural Affairs and Native American Center for Health Professions, Mnookin engaged with a diverse group of SMPH health professions students. They discussed the student experience, including how the university can support first-generation students, and how a strong, diverse clinician workforce will be poised to advance health and promote health equity.

Top right: In the Optical Imaging Core, a shared facility that offers imaging services on six microscopy systems, Mnookin visited with graduate student Ziheng Zhang about his work investigating neurodegenerative diseases.

Bottom left: Under the guidance of Emma Watson Roberts, PhD, Mnookin peered into a confocal microscope. High-powered microscopes help researchers learn about cellular processes.

Bottom right: In the UW Health Clinical Simulation Program, Shannon DiMarco, MSHS, showed Mnookin a manikin used in training by SMPH and UW Health students, faculty, and staff members. The cutting-edge center provides robust learning opportunities to prepare health care professionals for actual patient care situations. It utilizes virtual reality, highly realistic manikins, and other technologies to advance learning.

Reeder to Become Chair of Radiology

Scott Reeder, MD, PhD, will become chair of the Department of Radiology at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) in January 2024.



A renowned academic leader and researcher, he joined the SMPH faculty in 2005. Now a professor of radiology, he has served as director of the Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Fellowship, chief of MRI and of the Section of Cardiovascular Imaging, and senior vice chair of research, among other roles. He is affiliated and partners with multiple departments across campus.

Reeder earned his medical and doctoral degrees from Johns Hopkins University. He completed a diagnostic radiology residency as well as an abdominal and cardiovascular imaging fellowship at Stanford University.

His research and entrepreneurship focus on the assessment and imaging of liver disease. His group develops noninvasive quantitative imaging methods that improve the diagnosis and care of patients with abdominal illnesses.

Reeder co-founded Calimetrix, a Madison-based startup that designs, manufactures, and markets advanced MRI test objects for research. He has served as president of several international and national organizations.

Noting that Reeder's skills in collaboration, inclusion, and innovation will further advance the department's highly respected reputation, SMPH Dean Robert N. Golden, MD, says, "Dr. Reeder has an outstanding track record as an exceptional leader, and he is clearly committed to expanding the school and academic health system's clinical, research, and educational enterprise."

Harari Receives ASTRO Mentorship Award

Paul Harari, MD, the Jack Fowler Professor and Chair of Human Oncology in the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health's (SMPH) Department of Human Oncology, was recognized by the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) with the ASTRO Mentorship Award. The organization honored him for his role as an extraordinary role model who has excelled as a mentor, clinician, educator, and researcher. ASTRO is committed to recognizing individuals who dedicate their time, energy, and expertise to support the careers of the next generation of radiation oncologists.

As the principal investigator for the Wisconsin Head and Neck Cancer Specialized Programs of Research Excellence Grant – a \$15 million effort, known as a SPORE grant, from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) – and a member of the UW Carbone Cancer Center Senior Leadership Council, Harari facilitates the interaction of investigators involved in basic, translational, and clinical cancer research activities. He is deeply committed to the leadership of multidisciplinary clinical, teaching, and research teams.

Harari earned his medical degree from the University of Virginia School of Medicine and completed a radiation oncology residency at the University of Arizona. From 2016 to 2020, he served on the ASTRO presidential track; he currently serves as president of the American Radium Society with a major focus on illuminating the power and precision of radiation to improve human health and quality of life.



Santiago is Named Among Most Influential Latino Leaders

Manuel Santiago, MEd, was named among Wisconsin's 40 most influential Latino leaders for 2023 by Madison365, a journalistic organization focused on issues of concern to communities of color and their allies.



Santiago, the director of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health's (SMPH) Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA), was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and raised in Puerto Rico. The first in his family to complete college, he earned a bachelor of science degree in public communication from the University of Puerto Rico – Rio Piedras. Next, in Milwaukee, he worked for organizations that support the Hispanic community and worked for 21 years at Marquette University as the coordinator of multicultural programs and as the associate director of the Health Careers Opportunities Program. He developed and implemented programs that address the social and cultural needs of minority students, with the goal of increasing enrollment of first-generation and low-income students in health career tracks. At Marquette, Santiago earned his master of education degree.

In 2014, he joined the SMPH's OMA, which promotes diversity and inclusion and leads initiatives to increase the number of historically underrepresented students in medicine. Santiago has helped build the school's most diverse student body. He also serves on the board of directors of the Medical Organization for Latino Advancement's Wisconsin chapter.

Busse to Receive AAAAI Lifetime Contribution Award

William W. Busse, MD '66 (PG '70), will receive the 2024 Lifetime Contribution to the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (AAAAI) and Allergy and Immunology Specialty Award. He is the former George R. and Elaine Love Professor and Chair of Medicine at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health and has been a faculty member in the Department of Medicine's Division of Allergy, Pulmonary, and Critical Care since 1974.



A nationally recognized leader in asthma and allergy research, Busse is being honored for his excellence in leadership, service, research, clinical care, and mentorship. For more than 50 years, he has contributed to the AAAAI, including as its president and the leader of numerous committees and divisions. Busse also helped establish the AAAAI Foundation's commitment to fund research of junior investigators, leading to more than \$10 million being given for this cause to date.

Busse earned his medical degree from the SMPH and completed an internal medicine residency and allergy and clinical immunology research fellowship at UW Health.

His research career – centered on key mechanistic aspects of asthma – is exemplified by continuous National Institutes of Health-funded grant support. Busse has served as the principal investigator for numerous multi-investigator programs, including the landmark Inner-City Asthma Consortium. He and his collaborators were among the earliest in their field to conduct translational research in asthma.

Farrell Honored as a Newborn Screening Clinician Champion

Philip M. Farrell, MD, PhD (PG '72), received the 2023 Clinician Champion Award in Newborn Screening from the Association of Public Health Laboratories/International Society for Neonatal Screening. The lifetime achievement award honors patient care providers who have made significant contributions to ensure newborns receive adequate screening and follow-up care; assure timely, effective communication of screening results; and/or strengthen the impact of newborn screening.



Farrell is the emeritus dean of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) and emeritus professor in the Departments of Pediatrics and Population Health Sciences. His research and clinical work were key to the 2004 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Cystic Fibrosis (CF) Foundation recommendation to screen newborns for CF. He has published widely on newborn CF screening.

During his three decades on the SMPH faculty, Farrell served as chair of the Department of Pediatrics for 10 years, medical director of American Family Children's Hospital for eight years, and dean of the SMPH and vice chancellor for medical affairs at UW-Madison for 10 years. He led the SMPH through many changes, including construction of the Health Sciences Learning Center, groundbreaking on the Interdisciplinary Research Complex, and transformation of the school into an integrated school of medicine and public health.

Grist Earns Scientific Achievement Award from BioForward

Thomas Grist, MD, chair, Department of Radiology, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH), received the 2023 Hector F. Deluca Scientific Achievement Award from BioForward Wisconsin. The award recognizes Grist's achievements in the biohealth and life science fields.



Grist is the John H. Juhl Professor of Radiology and Medical Physics at the SMPH and has more than 40 years of experience in the development of new imaging technology, especially magnetic resonance imaging. As a diagnostic radiologist at UW Health, he has developed many novel imaging techniques to improve the ability to diagnose and treat diseases, especially cardiovascular disorders. He co-invented a method for time-resolved, dynamic magnetic resonance angiography that is used globally to evaluate vascular diseases. His research has been consistently funded by national and international organizations, and he has recruited faculty and staff members with the goal of bringing advanced imaging techniques to the SMPH and UW Health.

Grist's 18 years of leadership at the SMPH have led to remarkable growth in research, including the development and dissemination of new imaging methods beyond UW-Madison. His pioneering work and his commitment to translating imaging technologies into clinical applications have resulted in patents and collaborations with several Wisconsin-based companies, especially GE Healthcare. He serves as principal investigator on a strategic research partnership with GE Healthcare in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

Women in Medicine and Science Awards

ROBBINS, HULL, BURNSIDE, WEAVER, CUTLER, KELES, AND RUSY HONORED



Left to right: Abigail Cutler, MD, MPH; Jessica Robbins, MD (PG '09); Christina Hull, PhD; Sunduz Keles, PhD; Deborah Rusy, MD '92 (PG '96, '97), MBA, FASA; and Beth Weaver, PhD; not pictured: Elizabeth Burnside, MD, MPH, MS

by Kris Whitman

The University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health's (SMPH) chapter of the Group on Women in Medicine and Science (GWIMS) honored seven faculty members with awards at the group's symposium in late November 2023.

Part of the Association of American Medical Colleges, the school's GWIMS brings together and recognizes thought leaders who explore topics in leadership and professional development for women in medicine and science.

The SMPH GWIMS president, Nasia Safdar, MD, PhD (PG '00, '02), associate dean for clinical trials and a professor in the Department of Medicine, presented the following awards at the symposium:

EXCELLENCE IN MENTORSHIP AWARDS

- Jessica Robbins, MD (PG '09), professor, Department of Radiology

- Christina Hull, PhD, professor, Department of Biomolecular Chemistry and Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology

ADVANCING WOMEN IN MEDICINE AND SCIENCE AWARD

- Elizabeth Burnside, MD, MPH, MS, professor, Department of Radiology

GWIMS/BIRCWH WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH MENTORSHIP AWARD

- Beth Weaver, PhD, professor, Department of Cell and Regenerative Biology and Department of Oncology

IMPACT AWARDS

- Abigail Cutler, MD, MPH, assistant professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Sunduz Keles, PhD, professor, Department of Biostatistics
- Deborah Rusy, MD '92 (PG '96, '97), MBA, FASA, professor (CHS), Department of Anesthesiology

Robbins earned her medical degree and completed a diagnostic radiology residency at the University of Michigan. She completed an abdominal imaging fellowship at UW Health before joining the SMPH Department of Radiology in 2009. As the department's vice chair for faculty development and enrichment, she is a tireless advocate for the professional development and well-being of radiologists. She leads mentorship activities, encourages career planning and advancement, and promotes diversity and inclusion. She also served for 13 years as the associate director for the Diagnostic Radiology Residency Program, and she has contributed to mentorship of faculty across the SMPH through her involvement with the Office of Faculty Affairs and Development.

Robbins also mentors future and early-career radiologists through national organizations, and she has served in leadership roles for some such groups.

Hull earned her doctorate from the University of California, San Francisco, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Duke University. In 2003, she joined the SMPH faculty.

Recognized internationally for her research in fungal pathogenesis, Hull also is considered by students as a genuine source of support and advocacy. Through programs, including the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Gilliam Fellows mentor education course, she has gained extensive training in culturally inclusive mentoring. She mentors other researchers through every stage of their academic careers, and she mentored scores of doctoral students throughout her nine years as director of a National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded training grant.

The SMPH used Hull's vision for a more integrated training effort when crafting the graduate student education goals in the 2021–26 Basic Sciences Strategic Plan.

Burnside received her medical and master of public health degrees from Tufts University School of Medicine, completed a radiology residency and a breast imaging fellowship at the University of California, San Francisco, and earned a master's in medical informatics from Stanford University. In 2001, she joined the SMPH and now serves as the executive co-director of the Institute for Clinical and Translational Research and associate dean for team science and interdisciplinary research. Burnside is the contact principal investigator of the NIH-supported UW Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health (BIRCWH) Program. She also leads a new professional development pathway program designed to support investigators from historically underrepresented backgrounds as they advance clinical and translational research.

A successful physician-scientist who receives substantial extramural funding, Burnside focuses her research on the use of computational methods to improve decision-making in breast imaging, with the goal of improving population-based screening and diagnosis.

Burnside practices clinical radiology, specializing in breast imaging. She has a track record of mentoring clinician-scientists and trainees from translational disciplines. She has contributed to the larger mission of the university and her specialty through leadership in national organizations.

Weaver earned her doctorate in biomolecular sciences from the University of California, San Diego. She initially joined the SMPH Department of Pharmacology, in addition to her current departments. She now co-leads the Developmental Therapeutics Program at Carbone Cancer Center.

A scientist involved in basic and translational approaches, Weaver focuses on chromosomal instability in breast cancer and the mechanism of action of taxol, a chemotherapeutic agent that is broadly used to treat breast cancer. Her findings have been paradigm-shifting in the way the biomedical community thinks about taxol's mechanism.

Weaver invests extensive time helping others reach their career goals. Her mentoring approach of providing ample space for students to explore and experiment has helped graduates succeed. Weaver also co-teaches a cancer-related graduate course for physician-scientists and researchers.

Cutler earned her medical degree from the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine and a master of public health degree from the Yale University School of Public Health. She completed an obstetrics and gynecology residency at Yale-New Haven Hospital and a complex family planning fellowship at the Yale School of Medicine.

In 2021, Cutler joined the SMPH faculty. She is the director of the Ryan Program for Residency Training in Family Planning and an associate director of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency Program. She has worked tirelessly to make sure residents can continue to receive required training in all aspects of family planning.

Throughout Wisconsin and beyond, Cutler has worked to educate legislators, patients, and the general public about the importance of health equity and full-spectrum obstetrics and gynecology training and patient care. She also leads

and collaborates on reproductive health-related research.

Keles earned a doctorate in biostatistics from the University of California, Berkeley, where she also conducted postdoctoral research. She joined the SMPH Department of Biostatistics and Medical Informatics and the UW Department of Statistics in 2004. With more than 20 years of experience with statistical and computational methods for genomics, she has pioneered foundational models for high-dimensional and high-throughput sequencing data analysis. Keles' research interests span developing statistical and computational methods for denoising and signal extraction from sequencing data and modeling of high-dimensional data. She is a world-renowned leader in statistical methodology to address timely biological and medical questions. Her collaborations include research in blood cancers, diabetes, and genomics.

Rusy earned her medical degree from the SMPH and completed an anesthesiology residency and neuroanesthesiology fellowship at UW Health. In 1996, she joined the SMPH's Department of Anesthesiology. She directs global health efforts for that department.

She has combined her interests of neuroanesthesia, pediatric anesthesia, and global anesthesia outreach as a leader on more than 40 medical missions over two decades – demonstrating an unwavering devotion to improving health care in underserved communities around the world. On these missions, she has mentored numerous residents and junior faculty members and has helped introduce surgeons, nurses, and anesthesiologists to the needs of countries around the globe.

Rusy consistently ranks among the most highly lauded lecturers and operating room educators at UW Health. She has developed programs that allow residents and early-career faculty members to bolster their academic development. Further, she has served as a leader in many local and national organizations.

A photograph of three women standing side-by-side, smiling. The woman on the left has short white hair and is wearing a blue blazer over a blue top and dark pants. The woman in the middle has short grey hair, wears glasses, a blue patterned scarf, a black blazer, and dark pants. The woman on the right has short grey hair, wears glasses, a teal blazer over a black top, and a black skirt. They are standing in front of a light-colored wall with a subtle grid pattern.

Carnes, Rice, and Lederer

Receive

Folkert Belzer Awards

TODD BROWN/MEDIA SOLUTIONS

*Left to right: Molly Carnes, MD, MS '01 (PG '81);
Laurel Rice, MD; and Susan Lederer, PhD '87*

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS HONOR SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS

by Beth Pinkerton

The Folkert O. Belzer Award is the highest honor the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) bestows upon its faculty members for their lifetime achievements. Named in honor of Folkert O. Belzer, MD – the transformational chair of the Department of Surgery and co-inventor of the “Belzer Solution,” which helped revolutionize organ transplantation – the award was created more than a quarter-century ago to honor the school’s most outstanding leaders who have had a major impact on the school and on academic medicine.

In October 2023, Belzer Awards were presented to Molly Carnes, MD, MS ’01 (PG ’81); Laurel Rice, MD; and Susan Lederer, PhD ’87, who have advanced the SMPH’s missions through their expertise in important fields, including medicine, history, ethics, social sciences, and women’s health. Collectively, they have served with distinction as strong and impactful leaders; passionate advocates; inspirational mentors; and visionary program builders.

“I deeply appreciate their service as highly valued advisors and partners, as they worked closely with the leadership of our school, the university, and major national organizations to advance an ambitious vision for the future of academic medicine here and throughout the country,” shared SMPH Dean Robert N. Golden, MD, upon presenting the awards. “Their impact will be felt for generations to come, serving as a foundation for the construction of a better, more inclusive school of medicine and public health that is shaped by their commitment to health equity and social justice.”

Molly Carnes, MD, MS ’01 (PG ’81)

When she earned tenure in 1990, Carnes – now an emerita professor of medicine – was the only woman tenured physician in the Department of Medicine. She set out to change that. What

followed were decades of developing stellar programs devoted to recruiting and retaining women in science and medicine, and to studying women’s health and gender differences.

Noting that the Department of Medicine faculty now includes 27 female tenured professors, Carnes says, “It’s not just the numbers. They are changing the culture, making the microenvironment more supportive and inclusive.”

Her work has earned multiple awards, including the Presidential Award from the American Medical Women’s Association and the Distinguished Educator Award from the Association for Clinical and Translational Science.

Carnes earned her medical degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Next, she completed an internal medicine residency and geriatrics and gerontology fellowship at UW Health. Further, she earned a master’s degree in epidemiology from the SMPH.

During her training, she discovered a passion and talent for developing programs that integrate research, education, and clinical care. She helped establish the Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center, which is home to internationally renowned research programs on aging, Alzheimer’s disease, and the health of older women. In 1999, Carnes and colleagues founded the UW Center for Women’s Health Research, among the first 12 federally funded National Centers of Excellence in Women’s Health Research.

She had developed a strong network of women across campus who were also investigating gender bias in science, technology, engineering, and math, which led to receiving a \$3.75 million grant to establish the Women in Science and Engineering Leadership Institute (WISELI). Just before Carnes’ retirement in 2022, WISELI – known today as the Wisconsin Inclusion in Science and Engineering Leadership Institute – celebrated its 20th anniversary and was awarded the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Prize for Enhancing Faculty

Gender Diversity in Biomedical and Behavioral Science.

Carnes has been proud to see many women she has mentored become leaders in academic science and medicine, and she hopes to have left a lasting legacy through her work to change the attitudes and behaviors of those who shape the culture in the Department of Medicine, SMPH, UW–Madison, and beyond.

With NIH funding, she worked with faculty members in 19 departments of internal medicine across the United States to become bias-literate and use evidence-based strategies to “break the bias habit” through the Bias Reduction in Internal Medicine Initiative. This is the only multisite, randomized controlled trial of its kind.

Regarding her perception of the state of medicine today, Carnes reflects, “I was naïve to think it was all about numbers. I had not counted on how tenacious the societal norms are that say female-gendered roles and women are of lower value than male-gendered roles and men. It’s quite discouraging. We have lots of women in leadership positions, but there remains systematic bias against women and other minoritized groups. I am pleased that awareness of the impact of stereotype-based assumptions has increased remarkably. Just look at the new Barbie movie. It makes the gendered assumptions explicit – that’s progress!”

Noting that she has been confronted by naysayers throughout her 31-year career, Carnes says, “Some of my most impactful choices, I realized, were whose words and advice I chose to believe.”

For instance, when a professor in medical school told her she was too nice to go into academic medicine, Carnes shares, “I chose not to believe him and discovered you can be nice and go into academic medicine; you just have to move to the Midwest.”

Another faculty member told her, “Women don’t have what it takes to do research.” And after she had secured a

\$14 million NIH grant, a consultant told her that if she wanted to succeed, she would need to stop laughing and talking with her hands.

"That criticism knocked the wind out of me – I love to laugh, and when I talk with my hands, I am honoring my father. I went home and pulled the covers over my head. Then I called my mother, who said, 'Molly, just be yourself.' I chose to listen to my mother."

Carnes' advice is, "Whatever happens, be nice, make good choices, laugh a lot and – if you want to – talk with your hands."

She has spent decades paving the way so others can be themselves. She and her husband, Bennett Vogelmann, MD (PG '81, '85) – an emeritus professor of medicine who was a faculty member in the Department of Medicine's Division of Infectious Disease and director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program for 31 years – are loving retirement and are grateful to be healthy and able to continue spending time with one another.

"I have done enough," she says. "It's time for others to build upon what I and many others have done."

Laurel Rice, MD

Many describe Rice – an emerita professor of obstetrics and gynecology and former chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology – as a "force of nature" who has left an indelible mark on the SMPH and UW Health, as well as on women's health in Wisconsin and beyond.

Rice earned her medical degree from the University of Colorado School of Medicine. She completed an obstetrics and gynecology residency and a gynecologic oncology fellowship at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, in Boston.

She was recruited and served as chair of the SMPH Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology from 2007 until her retirement in 2022.

While she served on the faculty at Harvard Medical School and the University of Virginia, Rice established herself nationally as an expert

researcher, educator, and clinician in the care of women with gynecologic malignancies. She has published extensively in this area, as well as on health disparities.

Rice says she welcomed the opportunity to embrace all aspects of women's health and make a broader contribution when she accepted the position as chair at the SMPH. Throughout her career, regardless of what position she held, she maintained a deep appreciation and love of patient care, recognizing that this aspect of her career was a personal and professional privilege.

"Patient care is the bedrock upon which everything else – education, research, advocacy – rests. That was the best part of my career," she shares.

Rice's impact as a leader can be felt on a nationwide scale. She has lectured extensively throughout the United States and has served as president of the American Gynecological and Obstetrical Society, Society of Gynecologic Oncology, and Council of University Chairs of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Her many honors include receiving the YWCA Women of Distinction Leadership Award and being named an Ovarian Cancer Hero by *CURE Magazine*.

Rice also served, during her tenure as chair, as interim residency program director and vice chair of research in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

When reflecting upon her career, she says, "While I wasn't necessarily aware of it at the time, I think one of my most meaningful contributions was mentoring junior faculty and trainees, bringing along the next generation of individuals committed to excellence in women's health care."

Having been an outspoken advocate for access to contraception and reproductive rights throughout her career, Rice notes that, in recent years, state and national policy changes have required her to provide leadership on an entirely different scale.

"U.S. health care has multiple misaligned forces, and we face

formidable challenges. That is certainly true for women's health. I had the privilege of working in an institution, the UW School of Medicine and Public Health, that appreciates the complexities and does its very best to push forward, maintaining the best interest of patients," she says.

Rice has testified about the impact of legislative changes related to physician training and residency accreditation, as well as the impact on patient health and well-being. She supported the development of the UW Collaborative for Reproductive Equity (CORE), a campuswide initiative focused on reproductive health research and translation in order to address critical health care needs of women in Wisconsin.

In early 2020, as the world was temporarily shutting down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Rice and CORE Director Jenny Higgins, PhD, MPH, co-authored an editorial opposing limited access to contraception and reproductive health by including them under the umbrella of "elective health care." Rice also served as an investigator for a CORE study, published in the *American Journal of Public Health* in May 2021, that included surveys of 913 (a 67 percent response rate) of SMPH physicians about their attitudes and knowledge around reproductive health.

"Research carried out by CORE has shown that a vast majority of SMPH physicians, including all subspecialties, put the reproductive health needs of the patient first," she reports.

Rice has been happy to pause briefly and reflect. She is especially grateful for her family, including her "great life partner" and husband, Eugene "Chip" Foley, MD, and "the apples of my eye," children Olivia and Conor Foley.

Of her future plans, Rice hopes to devote more time to a prenatal care program she helped establish at the Peter Christensen Health Center in Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin. Prior to creation of this program, many residents there were without basic prenatal care. Now, the Department of Obstetrics

and Gynecology's Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine holds monthly clinics to provide consults for high-risk patients, ultrasounds, and coordination of care. A joint venture with the Maternal-Child Health Program of the Community Health Department of Lac du Flambeau, the center provides supportive, nonjudgmental, trauma-informed care.

Rice says, "The work is so important, and we are hoping to expand the program to other parts of northern Wisconsin."

Susan Lederer, PhD '87

Lederer, a talented historian and researcher of American medicine and public health in the 19th and 20th centuries, served as chair of the Department of Medical History and Bioethics for nearly 15 years.

As an undergraduate at Johns Hopkins University, she anticipated pursuing a career in medicine but discovered she had a passion for medical history. After receiving a bachelor of arts degree in the history of science, Lederer came to UW-Madison, where she earned master of arts and doctoral degrees, also in the history of science.

Noting that the study of animal research piqued her curiosity, she recalls, "I was fascinated by the fact that the first people who were interested in protecting human subjects in medical experimentation were people already committed to protecting animals in the laboratory. It was such an interesting phenomenon — they said that people were animals, too."

Lederer has published multiple books and journal articles focused on the history of human experimentation, biomedical innovations, cadaver programs, blood and tissue transplantation, and informed consent.

Her first book, *Subjected to Science: Human Experimentation in America Before the Second World War*, published by Johns Hopkins Press in 1995, provided the first full-length history of biomedical research with human subjects from 1890 to 1940. It includes detailed accounts of experiments on healthy and unhealthy men, women, and children.

In her second book, *Flesh and Blood: Organ Transplantation and Blood Transfusion in 20th Century America*, published by Oxford University Press in 2008, Lederer looks at the history of organ donation, especially the ethical challenges around addressing the shortage of organs in the decades before 1954.

Lederer left UW-Madison to teach at Penn State College of Medicine and then Yale School of Medicine, but in 2008, she returned to the SMPH to serve as department chair. She has become one of the school's biggest cheerleaders.

"From my experience, I can clearly state that our school is the best school of medicine and public health," she says. "Best students, best faculty, best staff, and best leadership."

Lederer is especially proud of the university's forward thinking when it established the Department of Medical History and Bioethics in 1950. She says the department may be second only to Johns Hopkins, which established its department in 1929 and holds the distinction of having the oldest academic department of the history of medicine in the English-speaking world.

"In the last five years or so, there's been a burgeoning interest in medical humanities, but most schools are late to the table. Wisconsin has been at the forefront of integrating these topics in the medical curriculum and in conducting a lot of research in this area in our various disciplines," she shares.

Lederer has provided incredible service at the SMPH and in the nation. She was a member of the school's Medical Student Admissions Committee for seven years, including two as its vice-chair. At the request of President Bill Clinton in 1994, she was appointed to serve on the federal Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments. She also has served as the president of the American Association for the History of Medicine.

Above all, Lederer says, "I hope my legacy is the extraordinary faculty we were able to recruit and retain with the support of the SMPH Dean's Leadership

Team. I cannot resist reminding faculty and staff about the faculty in the Department of Medical History and Bioethics and their work on some of the most important issues in the past and present."

The department is leading the way in research around the ethics of climate change, neuroethics, animal research, the history of structural racism, issues of reproducibility in basic science research, surgical decision-making, and viral sovereignty.

While she has stepped down as chair, Lederer has no plans to stop exploring the history and ethics of medicine. She was named the Ronald L. Numbers Professor of Medical History and Bioethics by the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation in 2023. She will be the co-chair of the 2025 International Congress of History of Science and Technology, which will be hosted online and at the University of Otago Dunedin campus in New Zealand.

Lederer's latest book — co-authored with Susan Lawrence, PhD, professor of history at the University of Tennessee — is scheduled for release in 2024.

With a working title of *American Cadavers: 1780–1980*, the book explores the history of men and women who wanted to donate their bodies to science.

Her sabbatical this past year has given Lederer more time to write. She says she always has a healthy inventory of papers she wants to publish, and the ideas keep coming.

Lederer concludes by asking the perennial question: "As medicine continues to evolve, just because you *can* do something, *should* you?"

Expanding Horizons

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS HIGHLIGHT MYRIAD INTERESTS



by Kris Whitman

Each fall, the Medical Student Association (MSA) at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health holds a Student Organization Fair to provide an opportunity for medical students to showcase their activities outside of the curriculum.

According to Xander Idrogo, a second-year medical student who was the MSA vice president when he planned the 2023 fair, this is a great way for first-year medical students to interact with upper classes of medical students

as they make connections with leaders and members of student organizations related to their interests.

Sharing gratitude for the Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association's sponsorship of the annual event and of student organizations throughout the year, Idrogo says he has been able to advocate for addressing health disparities, mentor pre-medical students, and explore medical careers through his participation in student organizations. For instance, Idrogo is part of the Latino Medical Student Association, through which he mentors students

from populations underrepresented in medicine.

"I also am part of the Strudel Student Review Group, in which we organize exam review sessions for early classes in medical school," he says. "And I help lead the Dermatology Interest Group to determine whether that field is the right fit for my future career."

Idrogo shares, "As someone who is not from Wisconsin, my involvement in these organizations has helped me stay grounded and connected with the medical school and Madison community, and this has made Wisconsin a welcoming place!"



At the well-attended Student Organization Fair in fall 2023, medical students visited with leaders of groups that can help them explore fields of medicine and other activities outside the curriculum. SMPH medical students can choose from many organizations, such as the examples shown at right.

Student Organizations at the SMPH

Student organizations are supported in various ways, including through grants, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health departments, and the Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association (WMAA). According to Sarah B. Rothschild, WMAA executive director, donations to the WMAA Fund are essential to helping the organizations succeed. Also, the groups often seek alumni to share their knowledge. Those interested in connecting are encouraged to contact the WMAA at (608) 263-4915 or wmaa@med.wisc.edu.

Anesthesiology Interest Group
 Artificial Intelligence in Medicine
 Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association
 Association of Native American Medical Students
 Business in Medicine
 Catholic Medical Association Student Section
 Christian Medical Association
 Dermatology Interest Group
 Disability Advocacy Coalition in Medicine
 Doctors Ought to Care
 Emergency Medicine Interest Group
 Family Medicine Interest Group
 First-Generation, Low-Income Medical Students
 Future Physicians Futbol Club
 Global Health, One Health Interest Group
 Golf Interest Group
 Hiking for Health Club
 Infectious Diseases Interest Group
 Interventional Radiology Interest Group
 Latino Medical Student Association
 Master of Public Health Student Organization
 MEDiC Student-Run Free Clinics
 Medical Education Interest Group
 Medical Student Association
 Medical Student Coalition Fighting Food Insecurity
 Medical Student Ethics Committee
 Medical Students for a Sustainable Future
 Medical Students for Choice
 Medical Students for Minority Concerns

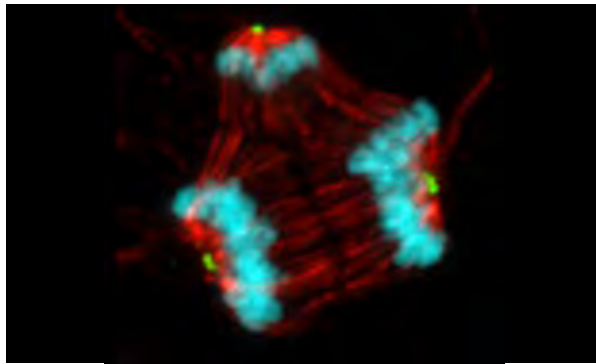
Medical Students Offering Maternal Support
 Medicine in Motion
 Mentorship Achievement Program
 Muslim Medical Students Association
 Nephrology Interest Group
 Neuroscience Interest Group
 Obstetrics and Gynecology Interest Group
 Oncology Student Interest Group
 Ophthalmology Interest Group
 Orthopedics Interest Group
 Otolaryngology Interest Group
 Pathology Student Interest Group
 Pediatric Interest Group
 Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Interest Group
 Physicians for Human Rights
 Plastic Surgery Interest Group
 Population Health Sciences Student Organization
 Prescription Civic Health
 Prescription Notes
 Promoting Recognition of Identity, Dignity, and Equality in Healthcare
 Psychiatry Student Interest Group
 Radiology Interest Group
 ReSpectacle
 Rural Health Interest Group
 Scrubs Addressing the Firearm Epidemic
 Size Inclusivity in Medicine
 Slipped Discs Ultimate Frisbee Club
 South Asian Medical Student Association
 Strudel Student Review Group
 Student Interest Group in Neurology
 Student National Medical Association
 Students for Rare
 Surgery Interest Group
 Technology, Entrepreneurship Changing Healthcare
 Vascular Surgery Interest Group
 Vital Reads
 Wilderness Medicine Interest Group
 Wisconsin Medical Society, Medical Student Section
 Women in Medicine

Common Chemotherapy Drugs Don't Work Like Doctors Initially Thought

A new study at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) suggests that chemotherapy may not be reaching its full potential, in part because researchers and doctors have misunderstood how some common cancer drugs ward off tumors.

For decades, researchers believed that microtubule poisons treated cancerous tumors by halting cell division. But a team of scientists found this is not the process; instead, the drugs alter mitosis, sometimes enough to cause cancer cells to die and the disease to regress.

The study was led by Beth Weaver, PhD, professor,



CALEB CARLSEN/DEPARTMENT OF CELL AND REGENERATIVE BIOLOGY

Departments of Oncology and Cell and Regenerative Biology, in collaboration with Mark Burkard, MD, PhD, professor, Departments of Oncology and Medicine. Published in *PLOS Biology*, the study broadens findings the group made about a microtubule poison called

paclitaxel (Taxol), which is used to treat common malignancies, including breast, ovarian, and lung cancers.

Calling the results "mind-blowing," Weaver says, "The problem was we were all using [paclitaxel] at concentrations higher than those that actually get into the tumor."

The team wanted to know if other microtubule poisons also worked by scrambling the genome. The question has significant implications in the search for cancer treatments. Using tumor samples from breast cancer patients who received standard anti-microtubule chemotherapy, the team studied how much of the drugs made it into tumors and how cells responded. While the cells continued to divide after being exposed to paclitaxel, they did so abnormally.

Findings reveal the likely reason microtubule poisons are often effective, and why attempts to find chemo drugs based on stopping mitosis have been disappointing.

Gene-Editing Technique Holds Potential for Treating Blindness in Children

Using a new experimental technique to fix faulty eye cells, a team led by University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) researchers was able to repair a gene mutation that causes one form of childhood blindness. The scientists showed that their approach worked in lab-grown cells derived from a patient with the currently untreatable inherited disease Leber congenital amaurosis (LCA) and a mouse model that mimics the disease.

The method uses silica nanocapsules to deliver the gene-editing tool CRISPR base editor to retinal cells. The proof-of-concept study restored the function

of a protein that controls the flow of potassium ions in retinal tissue, allowing light-detecting cells to work properly.

"Our goal is to design a package that will carry CRISPR base editors to the retina," notes Bikash



H. ADAM STEINBERG/DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS

Pattnaik, PhD, associate professor, SMPH Department of Pediatrics. "It will be able to introduce nanoparticles in the eye to target the cell types identified for therapy."

Pattnaik, affiliated with the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual

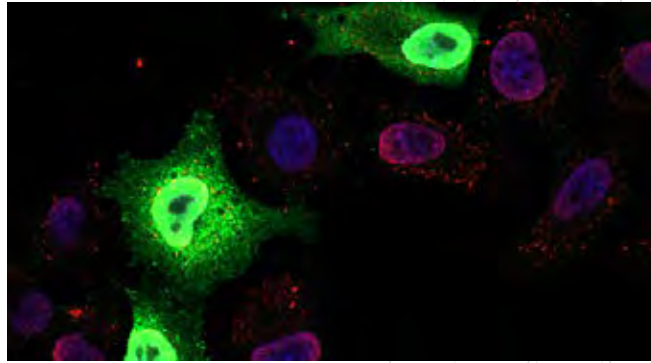
Sciences, led a team including scientists from UW-Madison, Harvard, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology that published the study in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. They are seeking to develop treatments for two genetic forms of childhood blindness: LCA and Best disease. The diseases are rare, but the team expects that its new technology also will be able to treat other eye diseases.

Silica nanocapsules do not interact with the body, lowering the risk of immune system responses that other methods may elicit, and the new technique offers specificity. Pattnaik says this work is a critical first step toward restoring the sight of affected young patients.

Genetic Screening Tool Uses Pathogens to Probe Infectious Process

Of the thousands of genes that shape interactions between human cells and the influenza virus, scientists have identified only around a quarter. This leaves much of the infectious process shrouded in obscurity.

Using CRISPR-Cas9 gene-editing technology, a University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health team developed a tool to find the genes that influenza A virus exploits for replication. The researchers have begun identifying more human genes that can inadvertently aid the virus in multiplying, and developed a method to probe the interplay between cells and pathogens.



While the screens are useful, their power for identifying genes' functions has limits. Traditional screens require modifying human cells prior to infecting them, which could color interpretations. Knockout screens can miss the influence of some genes. The team overcame these

obstacles by engineering the influenza A virus to direct a type of CRISPR-Cas9 screen that activates human gene expression. Next, they designed an influenza virus that includes genetic sequences that act as both a director and subject of the Cas9 screen.

The team then created influenza viruses that target every gene in the human genome to see which viruses grew best and which were eliminated. The researchers could quickly identify genes that aided replication. The screen only works in a lab.

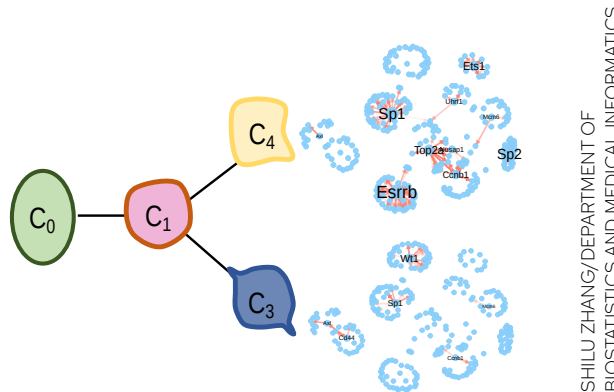
"Our screen allows the virus to tell us which genes have the biggest impact on replication," says Andrew Mehle, PhD, professor, Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology, who guided the study published in *Cell Host and Microbe*.

The researchers also identified a human enzyme that assists influenza A virus replication.

Computational Tool Helps Uncover Gene Networks and Predict Cell Fate

What "type" a cell is in a multicellular organism is defined by the genes the cell activates. Gene regulatory networks (GRNs) in each cell determine which genes must be expressed. Mistakes in gene expression can make cells reach undesired states such as cancer. To date, scientists had only a coarse understanding of GRNs and, thus, many biological processes.

Research at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) and Wisconsin Institute for Discovery (WID) may provide key insights that will help researchers construct a more precise view of what drives cellular identity. The



SHILU ZHANG/DEPARTMENT OF BIOSTATISTICS AND MEDICAL INFORMATICS

study, published in *Nature Communications*, describes single-cell Multi-Task Network Inference (scMTNI), which uses omics datasets and machine-learning to examine which GRNs set a cell on its path to an endpoint.

"We are trying to understand how cells transition from one state,

e.g., a pluripotent state, to a more differentiated state. We want to know what might lead to cells becoming aberrant," says Sushmita Roy, PhD, associate professor, SMPH Department of Biostatistics and Medical Informatics and a WID faculty member.

"We are developing computational tools that can integrate molecular profiles

for each individual cell to define these GRNs," says Roy.

Current methods do not accurately model population heterogeneity and the dynamics of cell transitions. To address this challenge, Roy and graduate student Shilu Zhang developed scMTNI and identified key GRNs that are likely crucial for the dynamics of the system. The Roy lab is collaborating with others who are studying transitions, including cellular reprogramming and forward differentiation. Roy hopes the scMTNI tool will help researchers understand the underpinnings of why some cells transition to disease states, and help guide strategies to develop patient-specific disease models.

Advances in Dementia Research

Currently, over 56 million Americans are older than 65. By 2050, this number will increase to nearly 85 million. Much of this growth is due to aging Baby Boomers – who are vulnerable to aging-associated diseases, including dementia, and higher morbidity and mortality compared to younger people.

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is the most common cause of dementia, afflicting more than 6.7 million Americans. The sixth leading cause of death in the nation, AD imposes devastating suffering and socioeconomic burdens on patients, families, and society. The disease's hallmark is the deposition of amyloid and tau, two abnormal proteins that are deposited in parts of the brain and lead to cognitive and functional deficits and eventual loss of life.

The Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology in the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health's (SMPH) Department of Medicine is renowned internationally for its programs in aging and dementia research. The SMPH supports the National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC), the nation's first geriatrics-based center of excellence in dementia research. The center conducts state-of-the-art research across the full continuum of AD pathophysiology and collaborates extensively with the NIH-funded Wisconsin Registry for Alzheimer's Prevention (WRAP), led by Sterling Johnson, PhD, professor of medicine and associate director of the ADRC. The ADRC and WRAP provide access to two of the largest, longest-followed cohorts of well-characterized, diverse participants, plus datasets for research on AD and related dementias. Findings are relevant to improving patient care, enhancing quality of life, reducing caregiver stress, and decreasing health care costs.

Studies show that AD pathology starts decades before symptoms. The ADRC is among the first centers in the country to identify brain imaging, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), and cognitive and blood-based biomarkers of preclinical AD that could help diagnose the disease early, providing an opportunity for treatment or prevention strategies to slow or stop progression.

The NIH recently awarded a \$150 million grant to Johnson for a study aimed at identifying diseases that commonly coexist in patients with dementia. The national project will collect brain images, biomarker data, and consent for brain autopsies in ethnoculturally diverse participants. The study will generate information concerning the heterogeneity of clinical presentations and pathology, among other factors.

Evidence shows that health inequities and health care discrimination lead to a delay in AD diagnosis and treatment in millions of people from underserved, underrepresented groups across the nation. Under the guidance of Carey Gleason, PhD, MS '09, the ADRC is examining AD disparities through the establishment of two of the largest cohorts of African American and Native American participants in the United States. Preliminary findings from a National Institute on Aging-funded study suggest that a lower plasma ratio of two abnormal forms of amyloid in African Americans is associated with cognitive decline during preclinical AD.

Other research has provided evidence that exposure to sociocultural, biological, and environmental factors over the life course affects risk of and resilience to AD and related dementias. Under the leadership of Amy Kind, MD '01, PhD '11 (PG '04, '05), the UW Center for Health Disparities Research is among the first to underscore the significance of examining the potential relationship between social determinants of health

and the pathobiology of AD and related dementias. In June 2018, her team published a landmark paper identifying an Area Deprivation Index as a marker of neighborhood disadvantage and a major contributor to health inequities in the United States, including those related to dementia.

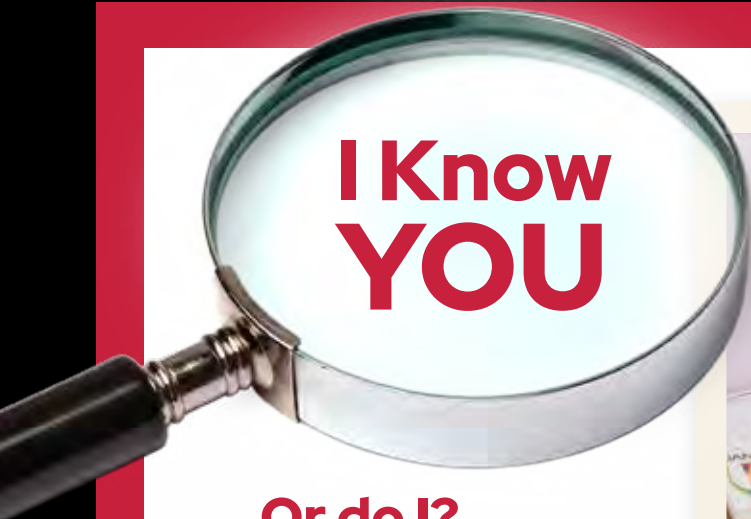
In 2018, an NIH-funded study that I led, entitled "Wisconsin Longitudinal Study – Initial Lifetime Impact on Alzheimer's Disease," involved over 6,000 Wisconsin high school graduates of 1957 who have been followed by the UW Department of Sociology for more than 60 years. The study aims to examine the potential effects of lifelong exposure to social determinants of health on risk of and resilience to dementia. In May 2023, the study was renewed with a \$50 million NIH grant. The renewed study is the first to evaluate the association between social determinants of health and biomarkers of AD and related dementias in a population-based cohort.

Through these and future endeavors, the ADRC will continue generating information that will expand our understanding of the molecular pathobiology and early diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of AD and related dementias.



SANJAY ASTHANA, MD, FACP

Associate dean for gerontology; Duncan G. and Lottie H. Ballantine Professor of Geriatrics; head, Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology, Department of Medicine; and director, Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health



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*.



HINT ABOUT PHOTO ABOVE:

She is passionate about infants and young children.

ABOUT LAST ISSUE'S PHOTO:

Jim Davis, MD, MS, won the prize drawing and will receive a gift from the Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association!



In the last issue of *Quarterly*, 23 people correctly identified Emeritus Professor Marc Hansen, MD, one of the founders of the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health (DFMCH) at the University

of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health; he also founded the Family Practice Residency Program. With training as a pediatric nephrologist, he held long-time joint appointments in the DFMCH and Department of Pediatrics. He retired in 1993 and lives near Madison.

Former trainees and colleagues described Hansen as "an amazing human," "a brilliant teacher, leader, and clinician," and "much beloved by the faculty and residents."

Several respondents – including Patrick McBride, MD '80, MPH; John P. Hansen, MD '69; and Mary E. Wilson, MD '71 – said Hansen was influential in their careers. Wilson referred to him as an "inspirational teacher during my first two years in medical school."

Barry Rumack, MD '68, wrote, "Dr. Hansen got me to go into pediatrics. He was such an important mentor that we [with Carol Rumack, MD '69] named our son in honor of Marc. We had a couple of opportunities to visit with him in Madison and at his summer place in

Cooke City, Montana. He has been an extraordinary teacher. When we were in medical school, we went with him to clinics he established for migrant laborers."

Michael McHenry, MD '79 (PG '82), recalls when Hansen was a preceptor and "helped me make the appropriate diagnosis of *H influenzae* meningitis in an infant. I remember that day well."

Lauree Thomas, MD '79, noted, "My first diagnosis of otitis media in a child was confirmed by Dr. Hansen! He was an excellent physician, professor, compassionate carer of students, and warm mentor. He played a significant role in my education and was chosen to hood me at graduation. He has a proud legacy of teaching, practicing medicine, and leading at UW-Madison!"

Louis C. Bernhardt, MD '63 (PG '72), described Hansen as thoughtful and compassionate, as well as an "important cog" in the DFMCH. He also recalled that Hansen built a harpsichord.

**PLEASE SHARE
YOUR NEWS!**

Please send information about your honors, appointments, career advancements, publications, volunteer work, and other activities. We'll include your news in *Quarterly* as space allows. Please include names, dates, and locations. Photos are encouraged.

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