

EDUCATION YEAR IN REVIEW

2023-2024 IMPACT REPORT



PREPARING TOMORROW'S
HEALTH PROFESSIONALS:
**ACADEMIC PROGRAMS PROMOTING
SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY**

PREPARING TOMORROW'S HEALTH PROFESSIONALS: ACADEMIC PROGRAMS PROMOTING SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

The Medical College of Wisconsin's education mission is dedicated to preparing tomorrow's health professionals and scientists to become leaders in their communities, across the country and around the world through a continued quest for knowledge and growth. Together with our innovative approach to academic medicine, this has not only prepared our students to excel in their fields, but also has instilled a responsibility to administer compassionate, equitable and culturally competent care. With each passing year, MCW's faculty, staff and students continue to demonstrate inspiring new approaches to learning and the importance of promoting service to our community.

MCW's School of Graduate Studies recorded an all-time high for applications in the 2023-2024 academic year, with over 750 applications processed and submitted. In May, the School welcomed its new Dean, Daisy Sahoo, PhD, and "Toast Tuesday" became a well-loved point of meaningful connection between School of Graduate Studies students, faculty and staff. MCW's School of Pharmacy partnered with RPRD Diagnostics to give first-year pharmacy students the opportunity to engage in personalized

pharmacogenomics testing. This experience will assist future pharmacists with exploring how their patients' genes respond to and tolerate certain medications. In July 2024, the School of Medicine's Milwaukee campus successfully launched the Health Equity Scholars Program (HESP), a health equity training track aimed at addressing health and health care disparities in Wisconsin. MCW-Green Bay's student organization, Med Thread, fostered connections with local cancer patients through the creation and donation of hand-made blankets. At MCW-Central Wisconsin, the recently launched Rural Health Equity Scholars Program aims to educate students about the impacts of racism and other barriers to health equity faced by both rural Hispanic and Non-Hispanic communities in Central Wisconsin.

MCW remains a distinguished leader and innovator in the education and development of the next generation of physicians, scientists, pharmacists and health professionals. We continue to embrace the responsibility of ensuring all MCW learners are equipped with the skills to adapt to the everchanging landscape of medical discovery and patient care, while making a difference in the communities they will serve.

STUDENT INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

Pathway Programs Forge Road to Success in Health Sciences Professions

The Office of the Dean charged the Office of Student Inclusion and Diversity (OSID) with aligning the more than 20 pathway programs to support middle school, high school, college, and current students interested in pursuing careers in the health sciences. While these programs are led by many different MCW departments, offices, and institutes, each has unique aims and practices which support students interested in health and science careers. The OSID team successfully aligned the institution's pathway programs in 2024 through the launch of the new **HEALTH SCIENCES AND MEDICAL CAREER PATHWAYS DIRECTORY**. The directory showcases each of MCW's health science and medical career pathway programs in one convenient and user-friendly location, providing prospective participants an easier way to explore the many pathway opportunities offered at MCW. These programs have demonstrated success over the past decades in helping our students attain their dreams of becoming biomedical professionals. [READ MORE>>](#)



Wellness Initiatives Benefiting MCW and its Surrounding Communities

The MCW Office of Student Health and Wellness, in partnership with the MCW Wellness Program, hosted two successful Clothing Swap events during the 2023-2024 academic year. During each event, MCW faculty, staff and students gathered to exchange used clothing in an effort to promote sustainable consumption. By swapping, participants acquired additional clothing without incurring additional costs. During the 2023 Fall Clothing Swap, 425 clothing items were collected and 327 items found new homes. Throughout the 2024 Spring Clothing Swap, 649 items were collected and 436 items were taken. Following each event, unclaimed items were donated to a local agency. Due to its resounding success, the Clothing Swap event has already been planned for the 2024-2025 academic year!



The Office of Student Health and Wellness also partnered with the MCW Wellness Program and Student & Resident Behavioral Health to hold an event in September commemorating Suicide Prevention Awareness Week, while also partnering with current MCW-Milwaukee M3 student, Anna Burneske, to hold monthly yoga classes for students. [READ MORE>>](#)



11th annual Innovations in Healthcare Education Research (IHER) Conference

The Department of Academic Affairs hosted the 11th annual Innovations in Healthcare Education Research (IHER) Conference Sept. 17-19, which offered in-person and virtual participation options and brought together participants from 31 states and nine countries. The Conference featured faculty, staff and students who are passionate about discovering new approaches to assessing learning, faculty development, curricular design and teaching delivery methods that enhance the student learning experience and prepare students for a career in healthcare.

The IHER Conference has grown over time, with 320 participants in 2024. This was the third year with an international presence, as the Conference welcomed colleagues from Australia, Bahamas, Canada, Israel, Netherlands, Norway, Puerto Rico, Sweden and United Kingdom.



SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

MCW's School of Graduate Studies (SOGS) has had a whirlwind of a year! The School currently houses 42 programs ranging from doctoral to certificate programs. For the 2023-2024 school year, the SOGS welcomed 64 new PhD students, 12 new DrPH students, and 50 new master's students. They also had an all-time high for applications, with over 750 applications processed and submitted. In addition to these encouraging new admissions numbers, they also celebrated the first DrPH class during the Spring 2024 Commencement along with 104 graduating students! The School is excited to see all that these graduates will achieve in the years to come!

The School of Graduate Studies has also started a new tradition known as "Toast Tuesday." Every other Tuesday, students are invited to come into the SOGS office

and enjoy some toast and a cup of coffee with the School of Graduate Studies team! All graduate students are welcome, and it is a wonderful opportunity for students to interact with staff and faculty in the Graduate School.

In February 2024, the School welcomed its new Dean, Dr. Daisy Sahoo, who succeeded the previous Dean, Dr. Ravi Misra, who has since taken a new position as an Associate Provost here at MCW. Dr. Sahoo is a Professor in the Department of Medicine and she has been a member of the MCW community since 2007. She also holds secondary appointments in Biochemistry and Pharmacology & Toxicology. Dr. Sahoo was installed as the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies on May 6, and staff, faculty, and students were in attendance to celebrate this incredible milestone.

[READ MORE>>](#)



Daisy Sahoo, PhD, Dean of School of Graduate Studies



750+ TOTAL APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2024

• 484 DOCTORATE • 258 MASTERS • 56 CERTIFICATE & 24 NON-DEGREE

Graduate Student Award

OUTSTANDING MENTOR

Julie Freed,
MD, PhD



OUTSTANDING TEACHER

Jamie Harriman,
MS, CGC



"The Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) program at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) brings together exceptional public health professionals from across the country, fostering an environment of collaborative learning and mentorship from dedicated faculty. This program has equipped me for ongoing career advancement at MCW, enhancing my expertise in research and providing valuable experience in community engagement. I am proud to be among the inaugural cohort of graduates from the DrPH program and look forward to the future impact of the program."



– Kelli Brown, MPH, DrPH, DrPH Graduate, May 2024
Program Manager, MCW MS Global Health Equity program
and Office of Global Health

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

MCW School of Pharmacy Leads Innovation Through Pharmacogenomics Testing

When a medication isn't working for a patient, pharmacists and physicians can adjust the dosage or find alternatives – yet this takes time, additional office visits and wasted medications. Pharmacogenomics testing, however, allows prescribing decisions to be made preemptively instead of relying on trial and error.

Since its founding in 2017, the MCW School of Pharmacy has embraced the field of pharmacogenomics. First-year pharmacy students have the rare opportunity to engage in personalized pharmacogenomics testing thanks to a partnership with RPRD Diagnostics. They complete a buccal sample by swabbing the insides of their cheeks. Weeks later, after learning the foundational concepts required to interpret their results, students then explore how their genes may affect their respective responses to certain medications. [READ MORE>>](#)



MCW's School of Pharmacy has accomplished much this past year that we are proud of. [CHECK OUT MORE HERE! >>](#)



"I plan to complete a residency in pediatrics and work as an inpatient pharmacist at a children's hospital. MCW SOP's partnership with Children's Wisconsin (CW) has allowed me to foster my pediatric-focused learning and build connections within pediatric pharmacy. The opportunity to complete a Longitudinal Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience at CW has been incredibly beneficial in preparing me to meet these goals."

– Kaitlin Larson,
2025 PharmD Candidate



The Class of 2024 achieved a 96% Post-Graduate Training Match Rate in Post-Graduate Year 1 residencies and fellowships.

Total Presentations:
100

Total Publications:
35

involved students
9

Posters/ Abstracts:
14

Awards and Honors:
41

Guest Instructor Hours
1000+

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



This year's theme for the 2024 Medical College of Wisconsin Impact Report, Preparing Tomorrow's Health Professionals: Academic Programs Promoting Service to Our Community, allows MCW's School of Medicine (SOM) to showcase the many reasons we are extremely proud of our students, who in addition to succeeding academically, are making differences in their community and enriching the lives of others.

MCW-Milwaukee welcomed the five inaugural students in the Health Equity Scholars Program (HESP) in July. HESP helps connect medical students to the communities they will serve in the future.

The Med Thread student organization at the MCW-Green Bay campus handmade and donated blankets to local cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy.

MCW-Central Wisconsin, with support from the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment, established the Rural Health Equity Scholars Program. In this program, students partner with other community leaders to educate participants about the impact that racism and other barriers have on health equity.

We hope you will enjoy learning more about these inspiring programs within this year's Impact Report and share in our pride for our students and all that they are achieving.



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



Milwaukee Campus

Integration of academic programs promoting service to our surrounding communities was on full display in July 2024 as the MCW-Milwaukee campus launched the Health Equity Scholars Program (HESP). In the making for more than two years, HESP, co-directed by Catherine Ferguson, MD, and Michael Levas, MD, MS, was developed with input from community leaders, students and other additional stakeholders. The program aims to increase the number of physicians who choose to practice medicine in Milwaukee and specifically care for underserved, at-risk populations in the city. HESP leaders hosted a reception at ThriveOn King on August 8, during which, over seventy attendees - including MCW leaders, faculty and staff, various community partners, elected officials and their representatives - were introduced to the inaugural five-student HESP cohort.

[READ MORE>>](#)





“As a Rural Health Equity Scholar, I’m passionate about improving access to healthcare for rural communities. Through this program, I’ve gained valuable skills in facilitating change and engaging with the community, which I believe are crucial for making a real impact. My goal is to work in rural healthcare, where building trust with the people I serve will be essential to becoming the best doctor I can be.”

**– Dylan Pierce,
MCW-CW Class
of 2025**

“The Rural Health Equity Scholars program has been an exceedingly valuable resource in preparing me to practice in rural Wisconsin. It has always been my goal to give back to communities like the one that I came from, and this program is helping me gain the skills that are necessary to best serve my community.”

**– Marin Stowe,
MCW-CW
Class of 2026**



Green Bay Campus

MCW-Green Bay Students Provide Comfort and Compassion to Local Cancer Patients

By: Chandler Krajco, MCW-Green Bay Class of 2026

At MCW-Green Bay, the student organization known as Med Thread blends a passion for oncology with the craft of crocheting. Founded by MCW-GB Class of 2026 students Chandler Krajco, Brandon Harrison, Sarah Vorderbruggen, Mingee Kim, Abigail Swenson and Chantilly Yakes, this group donates handmade

blankets to cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy at Bellin’s Infusion Center. Each blanket is given to a patient receiving chemotherapy and is theirs to keep, often becoming a source of comfort they bring with them through the end of their treatment.



For medical students, involvement in Med Thread offers an important reminder of the human side of medicine. M3 student, Elizabeth Martin, shared, “It has been a wonderful experience to be a part of a group that chooses to spend their spare time (which can be hard to come by as a medical student!) to create something for others. It’s uplifting to see what we can accomplish for the community when we work together.” [READ MORE>>](#)

Central Wisconsin Campus

Over the past year, students from MCW-Central Wisconsin have participated in the newly established Rural Health Equity Scholars Program, funded by the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment. This program aims to educate participants about the impacts of racism and other barriers to health equity faced by both rural Hispanic and Non-Hispanic communities in Central Wisconsin through hands-on experience with community health workers, health navigators and physicians from the Wausau Free Clinic.

As part of this initiative, medical students are helping community members understand the significance of preventive care in the detection and management of chronic diseases such as hypertension and diabetes, and other topics selected by the community. Students have



engaged with Hispanic and Hmong community health workers at inclusive health and resource events held in community centers, churches and farms. Services they offer include administering influenza vaccinations at pop-up clinics, conducting blood pressure and diabetes screenings and providing Stop the Bleed training.

These initiatives, along with other community projects, continue to positively impact the lives of residents living in Central Wisconsin.

SCHOLARLY WORK

SCHOLARLY CONCENTRATIONS AND MEDICAL STUDENT SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM

MCW Scholarly Concentrations (formerly Scholarly Pathways) Program

Beginning July 1, 2024, MCW's Scholarly Pathways program became known as Scholarly Concentrations. Academic year 2023-2024 marked the year of programming success for Pathways, thanks in large part to our invested faculty. Program evaluation is an ongoing endeavor, but this spring, the Office of Student Scholarly Activities (OSSA) invested heavily in reassessing our outcomes and future directions. After compiling past evaluation data, they hosted five student focus groups and a Pathways Leadership Retreat, crafted a refreshed **MISSION STATEMENT**, and determined that the program would best support medical students with nomenclature that matched national trends. To that



end, OSSA has officially transitioned from Scholarly Pathways to Scholarly Concentrations, which continues to be led by Assistant Dean for Scholarly Activities, Margaret Samyn, MD, MBA. **TO LEARN MORE, VISIT THE SCHOLARLY CONCENTRATIONS WEBPAGE.**

Medical Student Summer Research Program

The Summer Academic program for Medical Students (SAMS) and the Medical Student Summer Research Program (MSSRP) offer opportunities that are designed to expose medical students to cutting-edge basic science, clinical or translational research, as well as scholarships in education, global health and quality improvement.

Students are integrated into the scholarly work of full-time Medical College of Wisconsin faculty investigators and gain valuable experience as a member of a team, working on some aspect of the faculty member's study.

The training is designed to help medical students acquire greater understanding of and appreciation for the tools and methodologies that support healthcare innovation and to visualize themselves in the physician-scientist role.

Students Enrolled in 2024 Summer Program:

163

Students Who Created Posters and Presented Their Scholarly Work in an In-Person Poster Session:

152

[VIEW THE 2024 SAMS AND MSSRP ABSTRACT PROGRAM >>](#)



School of Medicine Class of 2024 Projects:

623 Publications

892 Presentations

Top Two Scholarly Concentrations for AY 2023-2024

Clinician Educator (CE)
Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (QuIPS)

Class of 2024 Honors Designations:

Honors in Medical Education (first graduating class): **3**

Honors in Global Health (first graduating class): **2**

Honors in Community Engagement: **4**

2024 SCHOOL OF MEDICINE RESIDENCY MATCH

2024 MATCH DAY CELEBRATION

Match Day took place on Friday, March 15, 2024, and marked the culmination of four years of MCW medical students' preparation throughout their educational experience. MCW's 99% cumulative match rate for 2024 far exceeded the **NATIONAL MATCH RATE OF 92-95%**. This day follows a year's work for MCW students applying to residency programs in the specialty of their choice, traveling for interviews and submitting a ranking of their preferred programs to find out where they will go for the next phase of their career. Guests and a select number of MCW faculty and staff celebrated Match Day in person at Milwaukee's GATHER at Deer District. Additionally, a **VIRTUAL CONGRATS VIDEO**, consisting of photos submitted by graduating medical students, was shared with the entire MCW community.



School and campus match-rate percentages:

99%

MILWAUKEE CAMPUS
Top 3 Match Specialties
 Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Pediatrics

100%

GREEN BAY CAMPUS
Top 3 Match Specialties
 Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, (Pediatrics and Psychiatry tied for third)

100%

CENTRAL WISCONSIN CAMPUS
Top 3 Match Specialties
 Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Anesthesiology

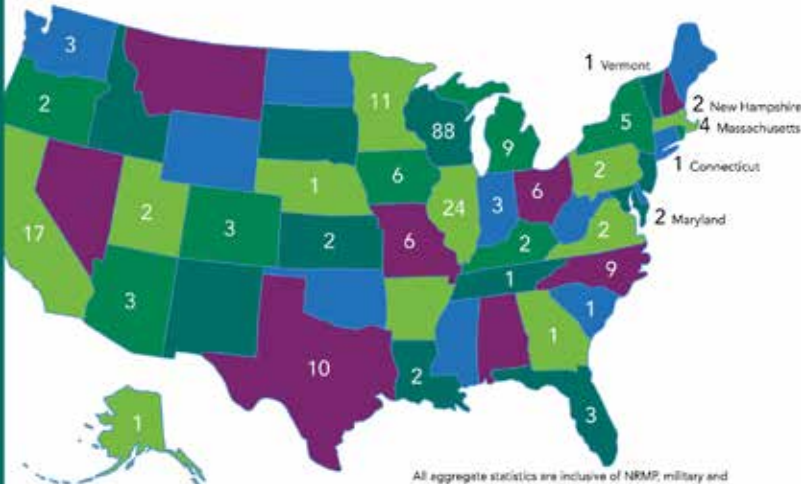
Highlights from the 2024 Match

Through the 2024 Match, **235** MCW medical students obtained first-year residency positions. A total of **88** students remained in Wisconsin for PGY1 residency training – **38%** of MCW-Milwaukee students, **40%** of MCW-Central Wisconsin students and **30%** of MCW-Green Bay students. The greatest percentage of specialties represented through the 2024 Match were in internal medicine, family medicine, surgery-general, anesthesiology, and (pediatrics and psychiatry tied for fifth).



Summary of PGY1 Programs	
Anesthesiology	19
Child Neurology	2
Emergency Medicine	7
Family Medicine	26
Internal Medicine	50
Internal Medicine/Dermatology	1
Internal Medicine/Pediatrics	4
Internal Medicine/Psychiatry	2
Interventional Radiology	
Integrated	1
Medicine-Preliminary	1
Neurology	5
Obstetrics and Gynecology	7
Ophthalmology	5
Otolaryngology	7
Otolaryngology	8
Pathology-Anatomic and Clinical	1
Pediatrics	18
Pediatrics/Anesthesiology	1
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	1
Plastic Surgery (Integrated)	5
Psychiatry	18
Radiology-Diagnostic	1
Surgery-General	23
Surgery-Preliminary	5
Transitional Year	10
Urology	1

2024 MCW RESIDENCY DISTRIBUTION

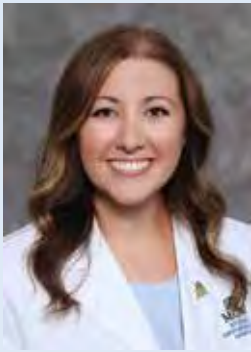


All aggregate statistics are inclusive of NRMP, military and specialty matches in the U.S. Some students have elected to not share their residency placements.

[VIEW LARGER MAP >>](#)



[LEARN MORE AT MCW.EDU](https://www.mcw.edu)



“The MSA program at MCW has proven to be challenging yet rewarding in the esteemed curriculum and serving the community. This has provided me the opportunity to grow within MCW, where I previously worked in research, as well as a future Certified Anesthesiologist Assistant.”

– Lauren Lunar, MSA Class of 2025 Student, MSA SGA President



Master of Science in Anesthesia Program

MCW’s Master of Science in Anesthesia (MSA) program has experienced numerous updates in the past year that have further advanced certified anesthesiologist assistant (CAA) education. New leadership in the Program Director role (Kyle Goham, MHSc, CAA) and Assistant Program Director of Clinical Education role (Brad Wright, CAA) has helped guide significant changes in the curricular phases, and student-centered feedback and values continue to strengthen the MSA program. Additionally, a new ultrasound course was launched to prepare the next generation of advanced practice providers to perform this technological procedure, which is a growing expectation of the CAA role. From recording-breaking application cycles, to near perfect post-graduation employment rates, it’s an exciting time to be involved with MCW’s MSA program and the future of CAA practice in the Wisconsin communities we serve.



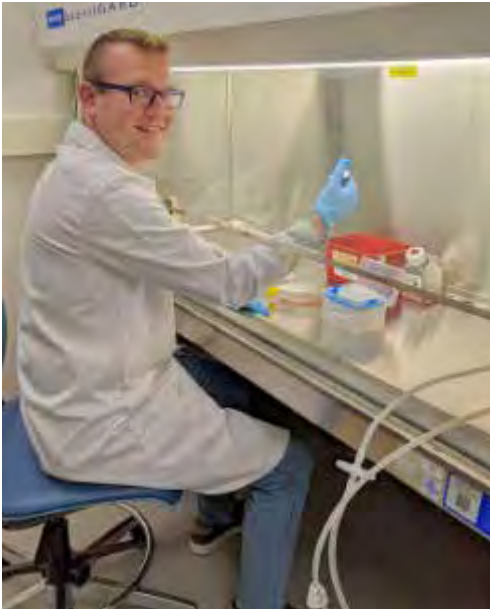
“In my first six years working with the MSA program as a preceptor and faculty, it has been phenomenal to witness the growth of each of our students over the 28 months that we have the opportunity to be a part of their anesthesia training. After transitioning into my role as Assistant Program Director of Clinical Education, I have been grateful to have gained a much broader understanding of all the individuals that put so much time and effort into our students’ training. Across the state of Wisconsin, we have hundreds of clinical educators sharing their knowledge and expertise to help develop these future anesthesia providers. Learning about the experiences and opportunities our students have with all of these educators and trying to do my part to continue to support and develop them has been extremely rewarding and I am excited for the continuing journey ahead.”

– Bradley Wright, CAA, MSA Assistant Professor, Assistant Program Director of Clinical Education



STUDENT PASSIONS FUEL PROMOTION OF EQUITY AND COMPASSION TO SUPPORT THE MCW AND GREATER MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY

On His Way to the CDC: MCW Researcher Becomes the Role Model He Never Had



Growing up in the 90s, Joe Rouse, PhD '24, a recent graduate of the Microbiology and Immunology program at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW), says that, as a gay man, he struggled to find role models with whom he could identify.

"I was always looking for a gay or queer idol to look up to, but of course there never were any that were visible to me," Dr. Rouse says. "They weren't really showing that to us back then."

The researcher and Army veteran is working to change that.

"Since I didn't have a role model when I was going through the education system, I now try to be as visible as possible so other people can see someone like themselves," he says. "It is important to let others know that someone who has dealt with the same thing they're dealing with could make it through."

Dr. Rouse has done more than just make it through, he's excelling. He recently secured a postdoctoral research fellowship with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), where he'll focus on the development and improvement of the influenza vaccine.

[READ MORE>>](#)

MCW Student Pursues Passion for Providing Culturally Competent Care for Asian Americans

A dileen Sii remembers being a grade schooler accompanying her grandmas to doctor's visits to translate for them.

"My grandma depended on my 10-year-old self to accurately relay her story because others did not understand her," says Sii, whose parents and grandmothers immigrated to the United States from Sibu, Malaysia. "Not having a strong command of either of my languages, I was nervous, but did the best I could."

Sii, a first-year medical student at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW), recalls those experiences as transformative. They planted the seed of her interest in pursuing a career in medicine and her passion to advocate for cultural competency in healthcare.

"I was fortunate to help ease my grandma's anxiety and ensure her concerns were heard, but not everyone has someone to advocate for them," she says. "Being able to provide that sense of comfort and be able to be that bridge is a driving factor in my desire to pursue medicine."

[READ MORE>>](#)

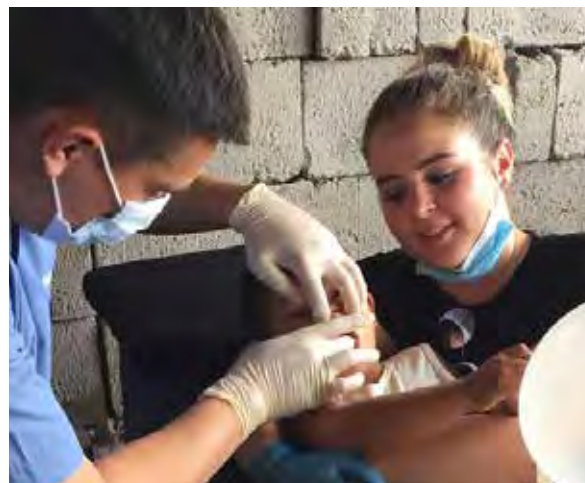


MCW Student Working to Bridge Digital Divide in Communities Where Lack of Internet Access Can Cause Health Inequities

A melia Papadimitriou knows what she wants to accomplish throughout her career.

"My mission is to advance health equity," says Papadimitriou, a third-year medical student at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) who plans to focus on emergency medicine. "It's my passion, my purpose, my why."

That passion has taken her across the globe, from her home in Montréal, Canada, to Puerto Rico, Peru and Ecuador, to New York City and now Milwaukee. Originally interested in global health, her experiences as a Master of Public Health student working for the New York City Department of Health during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and now as a medical student



in Milwaukee have taught her that health care challenges she witnessed abroad are also prevalent in the US.

"I realized that a lot of health disparities I saw in low-income countries in the Global South also exist here right in our backyard," Papadimitriou says. "Milwaukee is like a perfect laboratory for that." [READ MORE>>](#)



MCW Pharmacy Students Advocate for Pharmacy Policy Efforts at State Capitol

Students from the MCW School of Pharmacy joined a group of more than 280 pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy students who participated in the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin (PSW) 2024 Legislative Day. The annual event includes an educational session to learn about Wisconsin pharmacy policy efforts, plus tips for meeting with legislators and staffers.

“What I learned from Legislative Day was the importance of advocating for our profession so that we can create equitable access to healthcare for patients,” said first-year pharmacy student Rickie Yang.

Students gained advocacy experience, meeting in small groups with their respective senators and state

representatives to promote three pieces of legislation. One bill, which has passed in the Assembly but has not gone to the Senate floor, would expand access to oral and patch contraceptives by allowing pharmacists to independently prescribe these products. A second bill looks to reform policies surrounding pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs). Students encouraged legislators to bring the bill back next session, as it has only reached the public hearing stage in both houses. The final bill, which has passed in the Assembly but only reached the introductory phase in the Senate, proposes eliminating the requirement for pharmacists to take a law exam for licensure.

[READ MORE>>](#)

MCW Student Works to Inspire Other Students From Underrepresented Backgrounds to Overcome Challenges, Achieve Their Dreams

There were plenty of obstacles that could have stopped Justin Perez, a first-year medical student at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW), from being where he is today. Born in a small city in Guanajuato, Mexico, and raised in Milwaukee, he and his family faced numerous challenges common in immigrant communities, many related to health.

“Typical health challenges that many encounter can include not being able to find a secure job that pays you well enough to seek medical attention and not being able to obtain health insurance,” Perez says.

Those realities hit hard when Perez was 10 years old and his grandmother was diagnosed with breast cancer, and then again a few years later when his grandfather required open heart surgery. But being exposed to those challenges



also piqued Perez’s interest in the field of medicine.

“I just got curious and at some point, decided maybe this is something that interests me and that I would pursue further,” he says. [READ MORE>>](#)



Saturday Clinic for the Uninsured Achieves Gold Seal of Excellence

In November 2023, the Wisconsin Association of Free & Charitable Clinics (WAFCC) awarded the MCW-affiliated Saturday Clinic for the Uninsured (SCU) the Gold Seal of Excellence. The determination is made based on achievement of the WAFCC Standards of Excellence, which are measurable guidelines that aid clinics in providing quality care and optimizing accessibility.

MCW's medical and pharmacy students run the clinic under faculty supervision, utilizing an interprofessional model of care delivery that strives to understand, serve and promote the health and wellness needs of uninsured patients in Milwaukee while simultaneously educating future healthcare professionals.

In addition to MCW's students and faculty, an intertwining network of partnerships make SCU possible: donors provide funding; volunteer physicians and pharmacists such give their time and expertise; organizations such as the Milwaukee Free and Community Clinic Collaborative increase medication access; the Milwaukee Health Department supplies vaccines; and Ascension Columbia St. Mary's provides laboratory services and the clinic space at its Family Health Center.

[READ MORE>>](#)

'Medicine Chose Me': MCW Student Ready for Next Step in Journey

With Match Day around the corner on March 15, the time when graduating medical students around the country find out where they'll go for their residency, Casey Balson will leave the Medical College of Wisconsin-Central Wisconsin knowing she left her mark at the school and beyond. Balson, who graduates in May, helped create a peer support program for fellow medical students at MCW.

The program, Seeking Peer Outreach, is a student-led approach to addressing mental health among medical students, including issues such as stigma, isolation, depression and suicide risk.

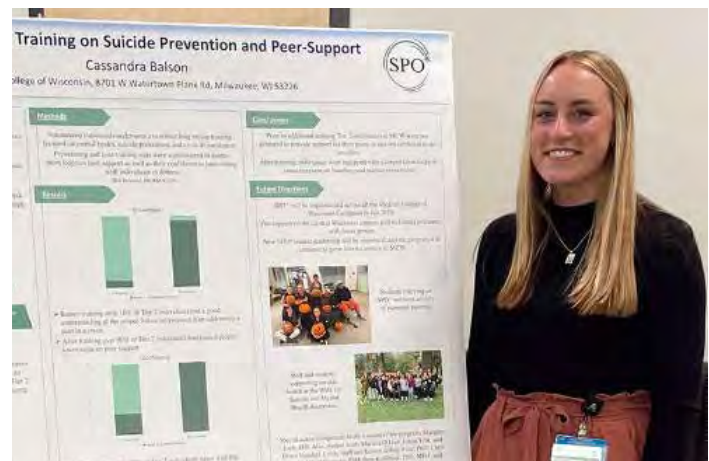
"We worked super hard to create an open, welcoming environment on campus where people felt like they could share their mental health struggles," Balson says.

Research has found that healthcare providers have a higher rate of suicide than the

general population and face additional stigmas that may decrease their willingness to seek support for well-being.

Balson and fellow MCW student Justin York began working as first-year medical students with Margaret Lieb, who started the program on the MCW-Central Wisconsin campus in Wausau and has since moved on to pursue her plastic surgery residency training at Southern Illinois University. In York and Balson's second year at MCW, they became student leads, overseeing the program as the pilot was completed and implementation began.

[READ MORE>>](#)



Milwaukee-Born MCW Graduate Makes her Mark in the Field of Genetic Counseling

Raised on the South Side of Milwaukee, Siomara Santana always knew she wanted to serve her community.

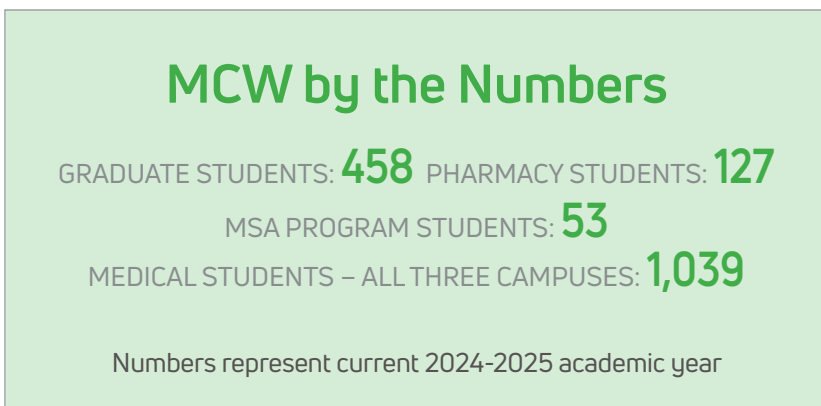
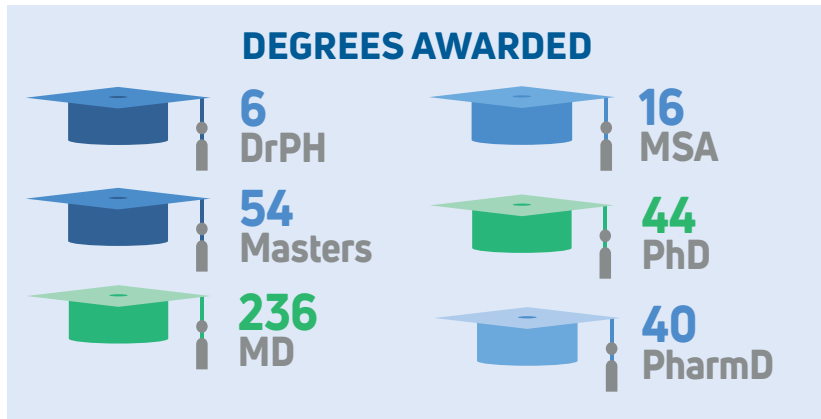
"I really wanted to give back to my community knowing that my community is what helped me get to where I am now," says Santana, who graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with a BS in biological science and from the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) with an MS in genetic counseling.

She's now a genetic counselor at the Milwaukee-based Versiti Comprehensive Center for Bleeding Disorders. She specializes in counseling patients with bleeding or clotting disorders, and collaborates with Versiti's Hematology Genetics Lab to facilitate genetic reports for patients across the U.S. and support quality improvement initiatives.

"We all come together and work toward creating a better service that we can provide to our community and patients," Santana says. [READ MORE>>](#)



Degrees and Teaching Awards for 2024 Academic Year



FACULTY TEACHING AWARDS

Ernest O. Henschel Clinical Teaching Award:
Jed Calata, MD

Graduate Student Award for Outstanding Mentor:
Julie Freed, MD, PhD

Graduate Student Award for Outstanding Teacher:
Jamie Harriman, MS, CGC

Harry Beckman Basic Science Teaching Award:
Hershel Raff, PhD

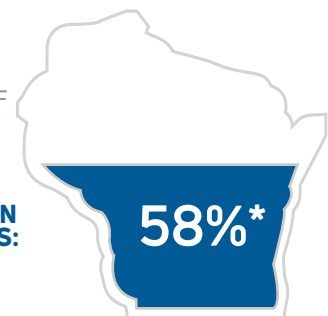
MCWAH Housestaff Award for Excellence in Teaching:
Paul Cho, MD; Jesse Kasim, MD

School of Pharmacy Instructors of the Year:
Biopharmaceutical Sciences Department
Abir El-Alfy, PhD Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, Professor
Clinical Sciences Department
Michael DeBisschop, PharmD
Matthew Stanton, PharmD, BCPS, DABAT Associate Professor

ENROLLMENT BY FEDERALLY DEFINED SEX AND RACE/ETHNICITY:

HISPANIC/LATINX	168
ASIAN	252
BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	102
CAUCASIAN	912
TWO OR MORE RACES	52
RACE & ETHNICITY UNKNOWN	50

PERCENT OF CURRENTLY ENROLLED STUDENTS WHO ARE WISCONSIN RESIDENTS:



570	MEDICAL STUDENTS - ALL THREE CAMPUSES
261	GRADUATE STUDENTS
97	PHARMACY STUDENTS
44	MSA PROGRAM STUDENTS

*Residency is carefully vetted for programs leading to an MD, including MSTP programs. Residency for other programs is based on the best available data in the Student Information System.

ENROLLMENT BY FEDERALLY DEFINED NON-US CITIZEN OR PERMANENT RESIDENT:

140

MCW ENROLLMENT BY GENDER:



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

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