

Central Wisconsin

Commencement

Doctorate of Medicine—MCW-Central Wisconsin

Friday, May 24, 2024



“But my dear graduates, let me be frank, the best years are very much ahead of you. And they can be whatever you want them to be... As much as you've changed during your time here, more change is coming. You're going to continue to evolve in unforeseen ways. You are full of complexities and wonders that haven't even begun to surface. Life's unpredictability will draw these out and what defines you now will be mere shades and hues of a more vibrant you over the next five, 10, 50 years. Honestly, I can't think of anything more liberating than that, knowing that life will look differently than you think it will.” –Octavia Spencer

Welcome to MCW–Central Wisconsin Commencement and Hooding Ceremony. I am grateful to have this special day to mark a milestone, not only for our graduates and their families, but for our entire campus community. Today we collectively celebrate a remarkable group of young physicians who have not only completed medical school, many of them in three years, but have also withstood the many challenges of training during the COVID-19 era. I know these young physicians are up to the challenge of helping create a new future for medicine in these challenging times.

I offer my heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to each of our graduates for their fortitude, resilience and team spirit. Their accomplishments in the classroom, in the clinical setting and the community are extraordinary.

Thank you to each of them for joining us on this challenging journey and for making MCW–Central Wisconsin a community–engaged campus working to create the next generation of physicians and leaders for our state. Each of these graduates leaves here with the hard–won opportunity to be called “doctor,” and leaves behind a lasting legacy for the next generation of medical students. We hope and pray for each of them to continue to become the healers and leaders who will set things right.

Congratulations and thanks are also in order for the families, friends and the entire Central Wisconsin community who have supported these graduates. Each of you shares in the joy and inspiration of this occasion. Your support has made all the difference.

Bon voyage to our graduates. Take pride in how far you have come, have faith in how far you can go, and don't forget to enjoy the journey!

Lisa Grill Dodson, MD
Sentry and Founding Campus Dean
Medical College of Wisconsin–Central Wisconsin

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knowledge changing life

Leadership

President Chief Executive Officer

John R. Raymond, Sr., MD, joined the Medical College of Wisconsin as its sixth President and CEO in July 2010. He previously served as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), where he had been a faculty member since 1996.



Dr. Raymond leads Wisconsin's only private health sciences university, which includes the nation's third-largest private medical school. Under his leadership, MCW continues to be a leader of innovation as Wisconsin's largest private research institution.

A practicing nephrologist with active roles in clinical care, teaching and faculty mentorship, Dr. Raymond also is a medical researcher studying the basic mechanisms of kidney cell function. He has published more than 140 full-length manuscripts and earned nearly \$40 million in funding in his career. He is a member of the Association of American Physicians and the American Society for Clinical Investigation.

Dr. Raymond is a member of the Board of Directors of the United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County and served as Co-chair of the 2020 United Way Campaign. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin's Blood Research Institute. Dr. Raymond is the Past President of the Board of the American Heart Association of Metro Milwaukee. He recently was named as a 2024 *Wisconsin Titan 100*, which recognizes the state's most accomplished business leaders in their respective industries.

Provost and Executive Vice President The Julia A. Uihlein, MA, Dean of the School of Medicine

Joseph E. Kerschner, MD, became Dean of the School of Medicine and Executive Vice President of the Medical College of Wisconsin in November 2011. Dr. Kerschner assumed the additional role of Provost in June 2017. In late 2020, Dr. Kerschner was named the inaugural Julia A. Uihlein, MA, Dean of the School of Medicine. He also is a Professor in the Departments of Otolaryngology and Communication Sciences, and Microbiology & Immunology. Dr. Kerschner's past executive positions include CEO of Children's Specialty Group and Executive Vice President of Children's Wisconsin.



An alumnus of MCW, Dr. Kerschner joined the faculty in 1998. As a physician at Children's Wisconsin, his clinical focus is on otitis media (ear infections), voice disorders and vascular anomalies in children. Dr. Kerschner's research includes studies to identify causes of and potential new treatments for pediatric ear infections. Dr. Kerschner has published more than 170 articles, book chapters and reviews in professional journals, and has presented extensively on his clinical and research areas of expertise at scientific meetings.

In November 2020, Dr. Kerschner completed his one-year tenure as Chair of the Board of Directors for the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), an organization that represents more than 170 medical schools in the United States and Canada. He also previously served as Chair of the AAMC's Council of Deans.

Sentry Dean and Founding Dean, Medical College of Wisconsin- Central Wisconsin

Lisa Grill Dodson, MD, Professor of Family and Community Medicine, joined the Medical College of Wisconsin as Founding Dean for the Medical College of Wisconsin-Central Wisconsin in August 2014. She was named the Sentry Dean, MCW-Central Wisconsin, in December 2019. Dr. Dodson provides overall leadership and management of MCW's regional medical school campus in Central Wisconsin and serves as the primary liaison for our health system, academic and community partners in that locale, as well as with MCW's Milwaukee campus.



Prior to joining the MCW faculty, Dr. Dodson was Director of the Oregon Area Health Education Center and Associate Professor of Family Medicine at Oregon Health & Science University in Portland.

Dr. Dodson advocates for innovation in both medical education and care delivery to ensure the availability of high-quality care to rural and other non-urban populations. Her leadership has been recognized by the receipt of several awards, including the Oregon Family Physician of the Year in 2009 and the MCW President's Community Engagement Award in 2017.

Leadership

Assistant Dean, Basic Sciences, Medical College of Wisconsin-Central Wisconsin

Roy M. Long, PhD, is the Assistant Dean for Basic Sciences and an Associate Professor of Microbiology and Immunology. He received his bachelor and graduate degrees from the Pennsylvania State University and completed his post-doctoral work at the University of Massachusetts Medical School and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Upon arriving at the Medical College of Wisconsin, he was named a Pew Biomedical Scholar for his research related to the spatial regulation of gene expression in the yeast *S. cerevisiae*. He previously served as a course director in both the Medical and Graduate Schools and currently is an instructor in the Medical School, where his teaching has been recognized by his election into the Medical College of Wisconsin Society of Teaching Scholars. Dr. Long served on the admissions committee for both the Medical and Graduate Schools, and he was formerly the Assistant Dean for Recruitment and Admissions. He received Medical College of Wisconsin Faculty Service Awards for his work on the Medical School Admissions and Academic Standing Committees. Dr. Long is a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the International Association of Medical Science Educators.



Assistant Dean, Clinical Learning, Medical College of Wisconsin-Central Wisconsin

Jacob P. Prunuske, MD, MSPH, is an Associate Professor of Family and Community Medicine and the Assistant Dean for Clinical Learning at the Medical College of Wisconsin-Central Wisconsin campus. He learned his bachelor and medical degrees at the University of Wisconsin. He completed his Family Medicine Residency and Master of Science in Public Health at the University of Utah. His research has focused on family medicine and public health education. Dr. Prunuske is board-certified by the American Board of Family Medicine and his clinical practice is with Aspirus Wausau Family Medicine. He enjoys mountain and fat biking, snowboarding, reading, cooking and games with family and friends.



Board of Trustees



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Chair of the Board:

Phil Flynn joined Associated Bank in 2009 as President and Chief Executive Officer and retired in 2021.

Previously, Mr. Flynn held the position of vice chairman and chief operating officer of Union Bank in California. During his nearly 30-year career at Union Bank, he held a broad range of other executive positions, including chief credit officer and head of commercial banking, specialized lending and wholesale banking activities.

In addition to the Medical College of Wisconsin, Mr. Flynn serves on the Boards of St. Norbert College and the Green Bay Packers.



Keynote Speaker

Kathy Kelsey Foley

Kathy Kelsey Foley and her husband, Ernie, have made Wausau their home since 1997, having previously lived in the community for five years beginning in 1986. Kathy has the distinction of serving as director of the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum twice, her tenures separated by her family's time away from the community. She returned to the helm of the Woodson in March 1998, retiring in December 2022. In recognition of Kathy's service, the Museum's Board of Director's awarded her the title of Director Emerita and renamed the Rooftop Sculpture Garden in her honor.

Kathy received her undergraduate degree in art history with departmental and general honors from Vassar College and a Masters degree also in art history from The Johns Hopkins University. Her museum training and professional and corporate experience include stints in the Department of Prints and Drawings at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC; curator at The Dayton Art Institute; founding director of Northwestern University's Block Museum of Art; and the Gap, where she served as manager of corporate internal communication.

During Kathy's Woodson tenure, the Museum was one of only ten 2017 recipients of the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation's highest honor, awarded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a Federal agency. Kathy was inducted as a Fellow of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters in April 2014, and received the Association of Midwest Museums' Distinguished Career Award in November 2020.

Since 2009, Kathy has served Aspirus Health in a variety of capacities. She is currently Vice Chair of the Aspirus, Inc. Board of Directors and Chair of the system Quality Committee. She is passionate about ensuring the accessibility of high-quality healthcare for the community and broader region and educating and nurturing the next generation of physicians and advanced practice providers to support healthy outcomes and robust quality of life for all who call north central Wisconsin home.

Kathy and Ernie are the parents of two daughters, who reside in Colorado with their families, which include two grandsons and a granddaughter.





Alumni Association Board of Directors

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Malika L. Siker, MD, GME '11

Herbert J. Zimmers, MD '70, GME '76

Executive Director of Alumni Relations

Angela K. Nelson

Graduates of 2024:

Congratulations on this momentous occasion! On behalf of the MCW/Marquette Medical Alumni Association, I welcome you to our proud, accomplished, and growing community, a network that can uplift and be an incredible resource.

You have all worked so hard for this day. I hope your experience at MCW provided a robust learning environment where collaboration among our scientists, clinicians, students, and healthcare professionals promoted persistent curiosity and provided you with unique and powerful educational opportunities. The Medical College of Wisconsin positioned you well to meet the ever changing needs of the communities you will serve.

We will follow your progress and success with great anticipation and admiration, because just as MCW will always be a part of you, you will always be a part of MCW. The Alumni Association continues to be grateful for all the ways our alumni are active on and off campus, whether in person or virtually. We have created tools to support students and we know that connecting students with those in our MCW alumni community is a powerful resource. I encourage you to continually seek out opportunities to connect with MCW and your fellow alumni (there are over 20,000 of us!). I hope to see you at MCWengage.com. If you have not already registered, please do so now.

Congratulations and best wishes,

Betty S. Pace, MD '81, GME '84

President, MCW/Marquette Medical Alumni Association

Medical School Oath

AS A MEMBER OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION:

I PLEDGE TO DEDICATE MYSELF to the service of humanity through the art and science of medicine;

The health and well-being of my patients will be MY FIRST CONSIDERATION

I WILL RESPECT the autonomy and dignity of my patients;

I WILL VALUE the individuality of my patients and care for all of them to the best of my ability;

I WILL SAFEGUARD the confidentiality of my patients;

I WILL PRACTICE my profession with conscience and integrity and in accordance with medical standards;

I WILL SHARE my medical knowledge for the benefit of the community and the improvement of health care;

I WILL GIVE to my teachers, colleagues, and students the respect and gratitude that is their due;

I WILL ATTEND to my own health, well-being, and abilities so that I am able to provide the best care for my patients;

I WILL ENGAGE in honest self-reflection upon my character, acknowledging both my strengths and limitations;

I WILL NOT USE my medical knowledge to violate human rights or civil liberties, even under threat.

I MAKE THESE PROMISES solemnly, freely, and upon my honor.

This oath, based on the Declaration of Geneva, was written in 2019 by MCW students:
Alexandra Cohn, Clara Bosco, Erica Woertz, Jamie Jasti, Maraika Robinson, Mohamed Khalil and Sarah Brink



Cassandra L. Balson

Waukesha, WI

Conferred Degree

Bachelor of Science, 2019
Illinois State University

Community Project

Effectiveness of Training
on Suicide Prevention and Peer-Support

Residency

Psychiatry
Medical College of Wisconsin Affiliated Hospitals

Jonathan M. Bressler

Conferred Degrees

Master of Public Health, 2015
Emory University

Bachelor of Science, 2008
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Community Project

Health Committee Guide for Wausau Area Refugee
Co-Sponsorship Teams

Residency

Family Medicine
Alaska Family Medicine Residency





Brian P. Butterfield

Rochester, MN

Conferred Degree

Bachelor of Science, 2017
University of Minnesota

Community Project

Assessment of Healthcare Satisfaction Among
Migrant and Seasonal and Agricultural
Workers

Residency

Medicine - Internal Medicine
California Pacific Medical Center

Mikaela M. DeCoster

Madison, WI

Conferred Degree

Bachelor of Science, 2019
Brigham Young University

Community Project

Delineating Teen Mental Health
Throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic

Residency

Surgery - General
University of Utah Health





Katherine M. Ernste

Faribault, MN

Conferred Degree

Bachelor of Arts, 2019
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

Community Project

A Medical Needs Assessment of the Uninsured
and Underinsured Population of the
Wausau Free Clinic

Residency

Family Medicine
Utah Valley Regional Medical Center

Ryan R. Gassner

Wausau, WI

Conferred Degree

Bachelor of Science, 2020
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Community Project

Assessing Opioid Addiction Treatment
in Marathon County

Residency

Mayo Clinic School of Graduate
Medical Education - Arizona





Christopher J. Hagen

Rhineland, WI

Conferred Degrees

Master of Arts, 2020
Loyola University Chicago

Bachelor of Science, 2018
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Community Project

Cranium Crew

Residency

Internal Medicine
Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center,
New Hampshire

Rachel L. Harrik

Ashwaubenon, WI

Conferred Degree

Bachelor of Science, 2017
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Community Project

Health Career Youth Programming for
Underrepresented Groups in Medicine:
Central Wisconsin's Efforts to Increase
Hmong Representation

Residency

Family Medicine
Providence St. Peter's Hospital -
Olympia, Washington





Kaitlyn Ihle

West Salem, WI

Conferred Degree

Bachelor of Science, 2020
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

Community Project

Cycling Without Age -
An Opportunity to Engage the Community

Residency

Family Medicine
Mayo Clinic School of Graduate
Medical Education, La Crosse, WI

Sara E. Johnson

Crandon, WI

Conferred Degree

Bachelor of Science, 2017
University of Wisconsin-Platteville

Community Project

Creating a Standardized Report Form
for Central Wisconsin School Nurses

Residency

Family Medicine
Aspirus Wausau Hospital





Eric R. Lee

Sacramento, CA

Conferred Degree

Bachelor of Science, 2015
University of Oregon

Community Project

An Assessment of Medical Needs within the
Central Wisconsin Hispanic Community

Residency

Emergency Medicine
UC Davis Medical Center - California

Olivia Rose Newgaard

Eden Prairie, MN

Conferred Degree

Bachelor of Arts, 2019
College of Saint Benedict

Community Project

A Medical Student Near Peer Mentoring Program
in Character Education Designed to Mitigate
Adverse Childhood Experiences in High School
Students

Residency

Anesthesiology
University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics





Thomas G. Voss

Casselton, ND

Conferred Degree

Bachelor of Science, 2019
University of Jamestown

Community Project

Increasing the Awareness and Addressing the
Satisfaction of the Women, Infant, and Children
(WIC) Program

Residency

Anesthesiology
Duke University Medical Center - North Carolina

Dana N. Warwick

Cumberland, WI

Conferred Degree

Bachelor of Science, 2017
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Community Project

Identifying Areas of Improvement in Healthcare
for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities

Residency

Family Medicine
Aspirus Wausau Family Medicine-Wisconsin





Emelyn Zaworski

Hudson, WI

Conferred Degree

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Community Project

Language Environment Analysis (LENA) Project

Residency

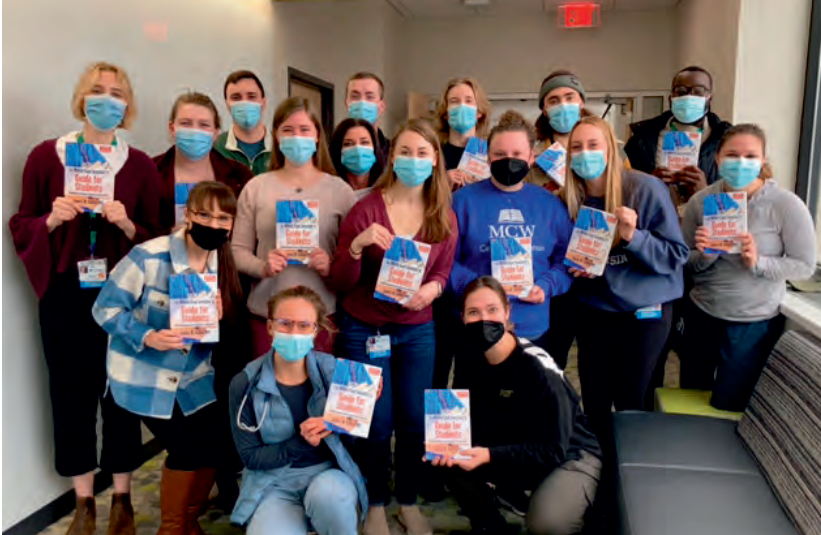
Transitional Year

Medical College of Wisconsin Affiliated Hospitals

Radiology-Diagnostic

Washington University - St. Louis, Missouri







It's Time. Connect and ENGAGE with your fellow alumni today!

Stay connected to fellow classmates and keep your bond to MCW strong by registering with ENGAGE, our new, exclusive online community for alumni.

Registering with MCW ENGAGE is quick and easy.

- 1 Visit mcwengage.com
- 2 Register using your preferred email address or LinkedIn account (Once your alumni status is verified, you will be granted access to ENGAGE.)
- 3 Explore ENGAGE and start connecting with other alums!

alumni@mcw.edu



mcw.edu/alumni

Dear Doctors...

Your journey toward this very special day has included many ups and downs, and you have successfully navigated many challenges and difficult decisions along the way. You have worked hard to earn the privilege of becoming a physician. We know you will have many uplifting and rewarding days ahead of you, as well as days that will be difficult and overwhelming. Our team at MCW-Central Wisconsin will continue to cheer for you, believe in you, and think of you often. Our care and concern for your well-being will continue into residency and beyond, and we will be available when you need us. Remember to take time for yourself along the way. Be proud of what you have achieved and enthusiastic about the opportunities ahead! We wish you the best and hope to hear from you often... **MCW-Central Wisconsin**

Neil Ahles

Jeff Amundson, PhD

Steve Bergin, MD

Anita Bublik-Anderson, MD

Lisa Dodson, MD

Mariah Drach

Leslie Fischer-Preuss, MS

Sumeet Goel, DO

Chris Knight, MA

Ed Krall, MD

Jeff Lamont, MD

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Heather Roth

Bob Sander, MD

Kari Schultz, MA

Charles Shabino, MD

Colette Solatka, MD, FACEP

Rachel Tate

Ying Vang

David Vogel, MD

Terri Walkush, MBA

John Wheat, DO





knowledge changing life

Our Mission

We are a distinguished leader and innovator in the education and development of the next generation of physicians, scientists, pharmacists and health professionals.

We discover and translate new knowledge in the biomedical and health sciences.

We provide cutting-edge, collaborative patient care of the highest quality.

We improve the health of the communities we serve.

mcw.edu

Congratulations Class of 2024!

#MCWKNOWLEDGE #MCW24 #MCWGrads24