

ACADEMIC YEAR IN REVIEW 2023-2024



OUR MISSION

Advance the health of our communities through innovative pharmacy education, continuous public and professional service and diverse scholarly collaborations.

MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDING DEAN

CORE VALUES

- We invest in our learners, patients, communities and one another.
- We serve with integrity, professionalism and compassion.
- We foster a culture of diversity and inclusion.
- We embrace interprofessional collaboration in education, scholarship and practice.
- We inspire the pursuit of knowledge, innovation and lifelong learning.



Our School of Pharmacy and PharmD program have been forward projecting since their inception, well suited to prepare pharmacists for the practice today and the future. This is exemplified by our three-year accelerated curriculum, clinical rotations throughout all years, pass-fail grading system, certification in immunizations during students' first quarter and interprofessional education experiences with other members of the healthcare team. With the addition of academic concentrations into the curriculum, students can now elect to customize their education with us. These focused concentrations enhance Doctor of Pharmacy program graduate's competitiveness in the job market and in postgraduate residency training.

This report will highlight our approaches to demonstrating our collective achievement of these core values – Learn, Innovate, Engage, Advocate – by our “Pharmily” of students, residents, faculty and staff. Enjoy!

George E. MacKinnon III, PhD,
DMSc (Hon.), MS, RPh



MCW SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

ABOUT US

The MCW School of Pharmacy is one of few institutions in the country offering an accelerated, three-year Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree.

Through partnerships with Froedtert Hospital, Children's Wisconsin and the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center, our program provides early, extensive exposure to a variety of clinical settings and world-class research in specialties such as precision medicine, pharmacogenomics, oncology, cardiology and psychiatry.

We pride ourselves on providing a supportive, approachable and innovative learning environment. Small class sizes provide students with significant attention from renowned faculty.

INNOVATIVE CURRICULUM

Students contribute to higher quality care in the Milwaukee community through hands-on patient care experiences that start in the first quarter of our PharmD program. Clinical rotations take place every Friday for first- and second-year students; third-year students are immersed in the practice setting full time.

We offer four academic concentrations, allowing students to customize their PharmD education to align best with their interests.

- Research
- Population Health
- Specialized Pharmacy Practice
- Entrepreneurship and Leadership

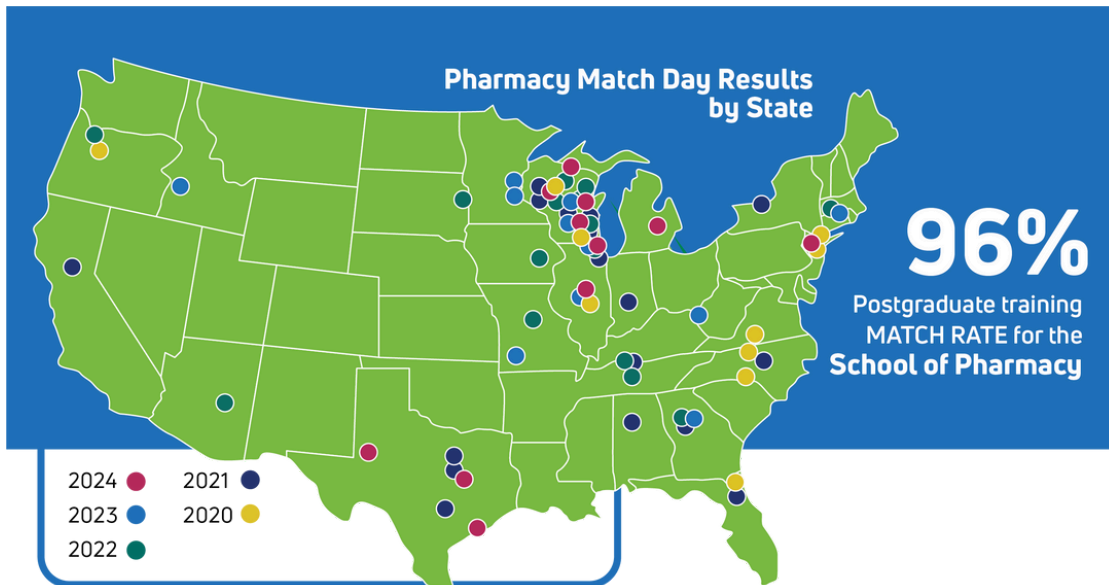


First-year pharmacy student Noemi Cervera Evangelista prepares epinephrine in the compounding lab during a mock emergency department scenario.





CLASS OF 2024 **STATS**



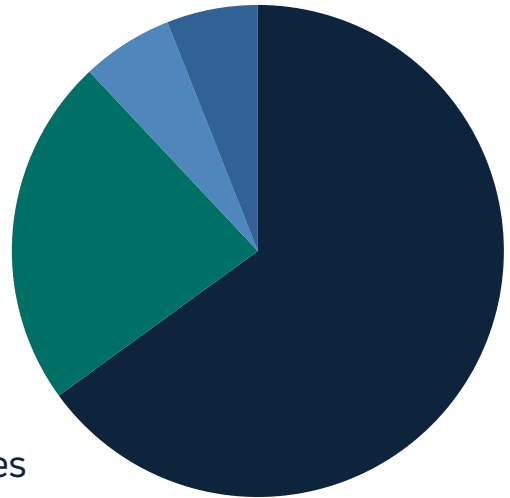
In late May, the MCW School of Pharmacy conferred the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree on 35 students in the Class of 2024. A number of graduates are continuing their education through residencies and fellowships.

Following the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Match, 22 of 23 participating students obtained postgraduate year one (PGY1) positions, yielding a 96 percent PGY1 match rate. An additional student also secured a postdoctoral fellowship position in the pharmaceutical industry.



TOP REASONS TO ATTEND MCW SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

- 65% 3-Year Accelerated Program
- 23% Supportive Faculty
- 6% Experiential Education,
Academic Medical Center Partnerships
- 6% Small Class Size,
Connection with Cohort



According to a survey of Class of 2024 graduates

NEW DUAL-DEGREE PARTNERSHIP

Students at various Wisconsin institutions are eligible for the MCW School of Pharmacy dual-degree program. Participants can earn their bachelor's and Doctor of Pharmacy degree in a total of six years, compared to the traditional eight. The accelerated timeline makes the path to becoming a pharmacist more accessible, saving students time and tuition money. We partner with 13 Wisconsin undergraduate institutions, with UW-Milwaukee being our newest addition this year.

“Had this partnership been available during my undergrad years, it would have been a game changer,” says Aaron Stange, second-year pharmacy student and UWM alumnus. “The opportunity to seamlessly integrate pharmaceutical studies would have enriched my learning experience and opened doors to a more holistic understanding of the pharmacy career paths.”



LEARN



MCW Pharmacy student Aaron Stange (center) discusses a patient case with members of the MSOE School of Nursing.

Interprofessional Education

Through interprofessional education activities, pharmacy students interact with students and learn from providers in other healthcare disciplines. We prepare students to pioneer new team-based practice models and contribute to higher quality care and better outcomes for both patients and the community.

Pharmacy students learn alongside peers in medical, anesthesia, medical interpreter, occupational therapy, clinical lab scientist, PA and nursing programs.

Boosting Engagement in the Classroom

MCW School of Pharmacy faculty presented at the Innovations in Healthcare Education Research (IHER) Conference about several ways educators of future healthcare professionals can boost engagement in their classrooms.

Gamification

Faculty leverage technology and use gamification to increase focus and make connections in the student's long-term memory. Gamified experiences include escape room and murder mystery activities.

Human-Centered Design

Faculty incorporate human-centered design or "designing with empathy" into the curriculum. This includes collaborating with the individuals for which you're designing the solution and ensuring they feel their voice is being valued.

Social Media Literacy

Some pharmacy classroom activities ask students to evaluate situations, myths or claims made on social media that directly impact public health decisions. It challenges students' critical thinking skills as they sift through conflicting information.



INNOVATE

Pharmacogenomics

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.

Mental Health First Aid Training

A national certification program called Mental Health First Aid prepares participants to identify and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use disorders. School of Pharmacy faculty member Kevin Bozymski, PharmD, BCPS, BCPP, psychiatric pharmacist and associate professor, is helping increase the number of those certified in Wisconsin. He and Himanshu Agrawal, MD, DFAPA, a psychiatrist with the Froedtert and the Medical College of Wisconsin Health Network, received grant funding from the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment, aiming to expose 10,000 people across the state to Mental Health First Aid training.

MCW pharmacy students have the opportunity to participate through a Mental Health First Aid elective course.



Pharmacy students (left to right) Sukna Sawah, Alaa Khatib, Sejud Assad, Owen Zaskowski and Abby Cruz complete their pharmacogenomics test.



ENGAGE



MCW School of Pharmacy Flu Clinic

Across three flu clinic days in October 2023, 52 pharmacy students immunized more than 300 people. Students gained confidence, knowledge and experience throughout this process.



Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

In April 2024, the MCW student chapter of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) collaborated with the Wauwatosa Police Department and MCW Public Safety to host a Prescription Drug Take-Back event. This event helps keep medications away from the wrong hands and out of waterways.

Nineteen High Schoolers Complete Pre-Pharmacy Scholars Program

The MCW School of Pharmacy utilized grant funding from the NACDS Foundation to launch the Pre-Pharmacy Scholars career exploration program for Milwaukee-area high schoolers. During a one-week summer boot camp, participants engaged in a vitals lab and compounding lab. They attended sessions about innovation in pharmacy practice and toured Froedtert Hospital and Children's Wisconsin. Scholars were paired with pharmacist and student-pharmacist mentors, meeting quarterly for college and career planning.



ADVOCATE

Saturday Clinic for the Uninsured Achieves Gold Seal of Excellence

In November 2023, the Wisconsin Association of Free and Charitable Clinics awarded the MCW-affiliated Saturday Clinic for the Uninsured the Gold Seal of Excellence. Of Wisconsin's 95 free and charitable clinics, the SCU is the eighth to achieve the Gold Seal – and the only awardee that is student-run. MCW's medical and pharmacy students run the clinic under faculty supervision. They utilize 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.



Mutsa Chiromo (left), 2026 MD Candidate
Brianna Albee (right), 2025 PharmD Candidate

Despensa de la Paz

Pharmacy students have multiple opportunities for community service through the MCW Neighborhood Partners program. In August 2023, students provided health screenings at Despensa de la Paz, a food pantry which serves a population of predominately Spanish speakers. MCW partnered with the MATC Medical Interpreter program for assistance communicating health information. Two MCW students, who are native Spanish speakers, also helped break down language barriers.



PSW Legislative Day

Students from the MCW School of Pharmacy joined a group of more than 150 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. Students gained advocacy experience, meeting in small groups with their respective senators and state representatives.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



United States Public Health Service (USPHS) Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Award

- Bridget Nelson, 2024 PharmD Graduate
- 4th MCW School of Pharmacy student to receive this prestigious national award

Top 10 Finalist - American Pharmacists Association (APhA) National Patient Counseling Competition

- Jennifer Erickson, 2025 PharmD Candidate

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) National Clinical Skills Competition Participants

- Brandon Johnson, 2025 PharmD Candidate
- Sophia Schulte, 2025 PharmD Candidate

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Jessica Barazowski, PharmD ('21)

Staff Pharmacist, Acheson Teaching Hospital Carlson College of Veterinary Medicine – Oregon State University

Dr. Barazowski is pursuing her Diplomate of the International College of Veterinary Pharmacy (DICVP) and continuing to gain knowledge of veterinary-specific pharmacology and pharmacotherapy. Long-term, she hopes to assist in the progression of veterinary pharmacy as a specialty and enhance veterinary pharmacy education.



LCDR Christopher Tran, PharmD ('20), MBA, BCSCP

Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Public Health Service
Chief of Pharmacy, Defense Health Agency – Pentagon Military Treatment Facility

As the chief of pharmacy, Dr. Tran and his team oversee pharmaceutical services and operations, ensuring the safe and effective management of medications for all active-duty sponsors and their beneficiaries. They are responsible for maintaining compliance with regulations, supporting public health initiatives and coordinating with healthcare providers to strengthen the overall health and medical readiness of the active-duty community.

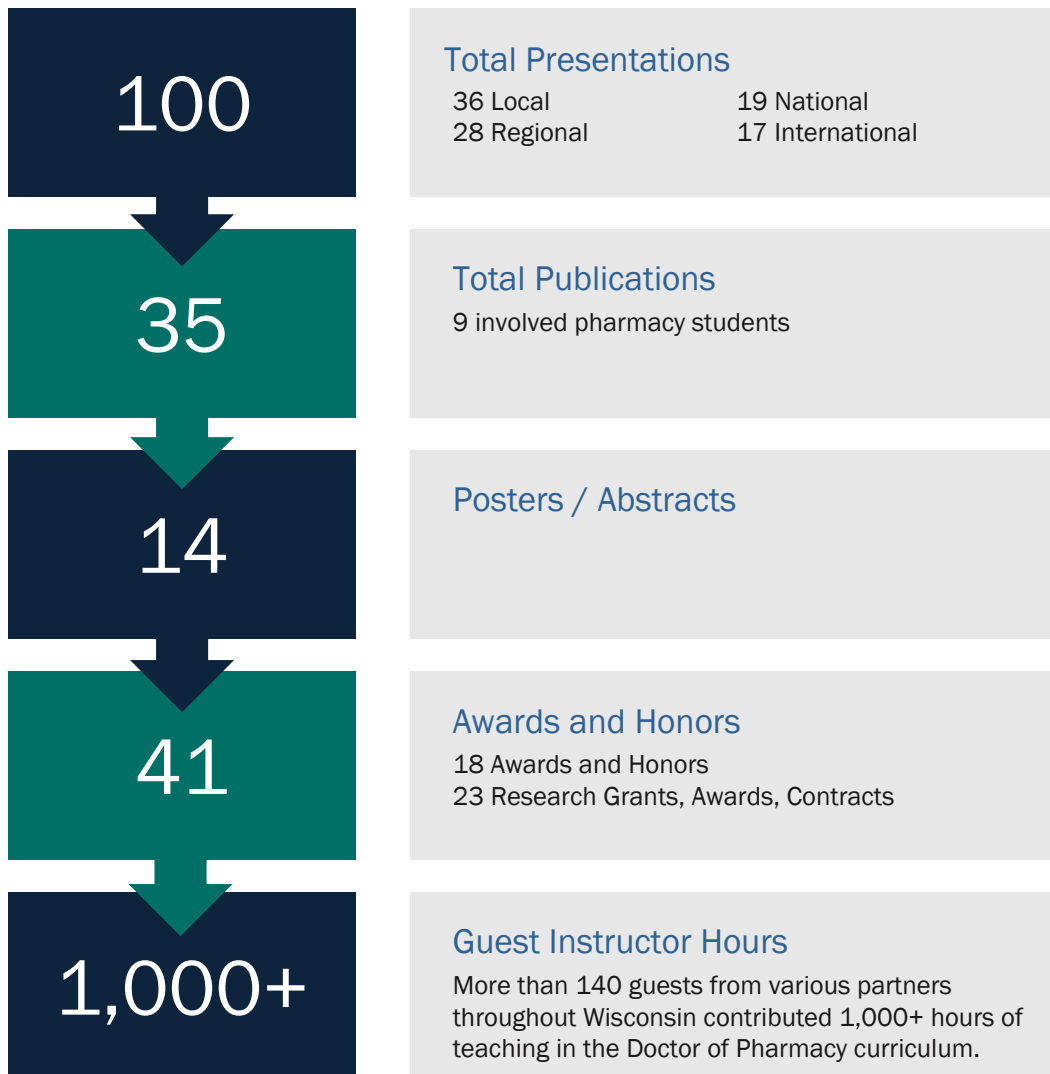


Lauren Farnsworth, PharmD ('20)

Pharmacy Manager, CVS Health

Dr. Farnsworth enjoys being in the community pharmacy setting because she is the most accessible healthcare provider for those who need help. As pharmacy manager, she has the same responsibilities as a staff pharmacist (filling and verifying prescriptions, preventing harmful drug interactions and explaining concepts in patient-friendly terminology), with the addition of handling the business side of the pharmacy (monitoring key performance indicators and profitability, then tracking how patients are impacted).

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS



INSTRUCTORS OF THE YEAR



Biopharmaceutical Sciences Department
PY1 & PY2 students selected:

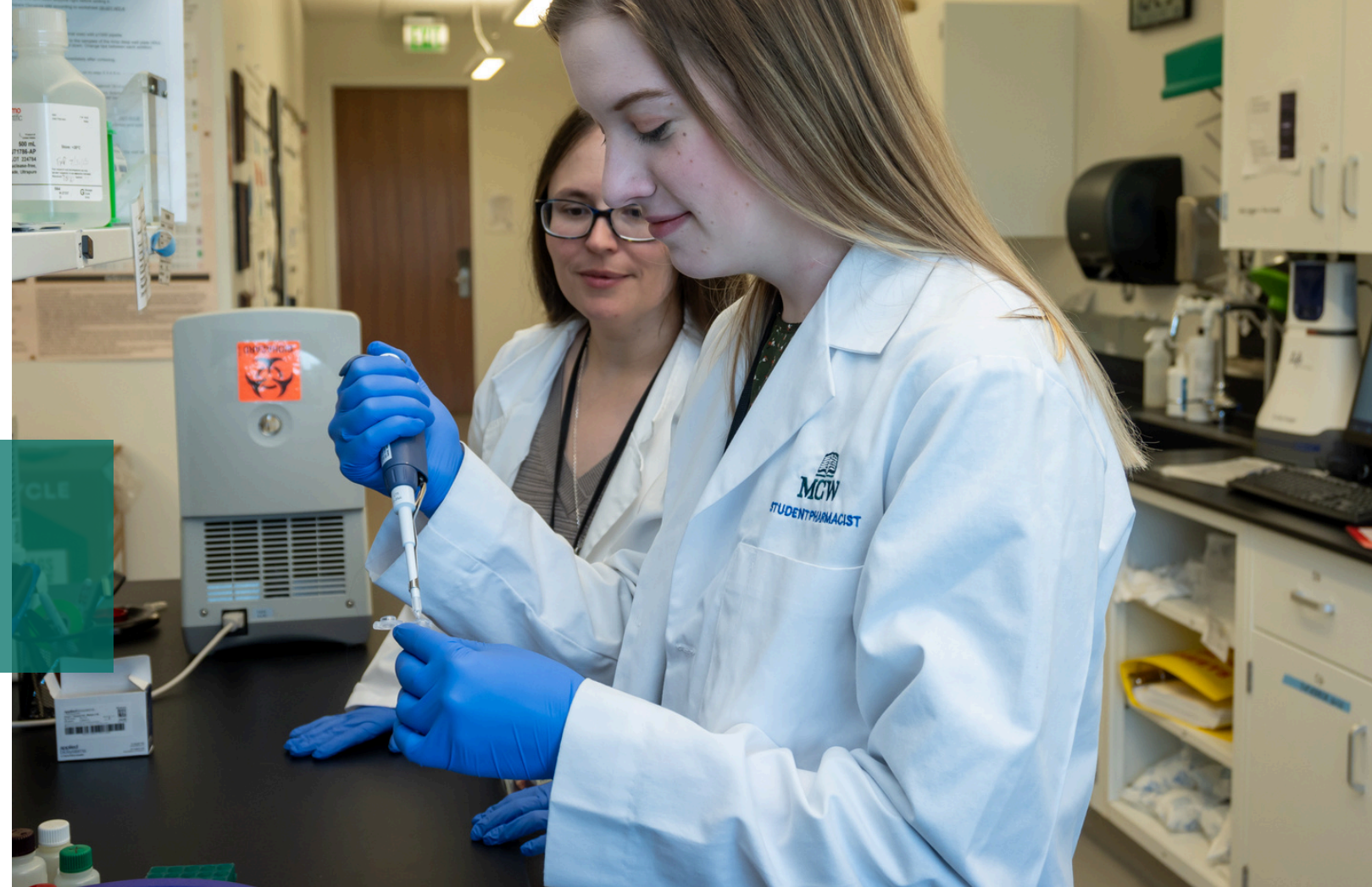
Abir El-Alfy, PhD
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, Professor

Clinical Sciences Department

PY1 students selected:
Michael DeBisschop, PharmD

PY2 students selected:
Matthew Stanton, PharmD, BCPS, DABAT
Associate Professor





STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

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