Alumnus leading Ebola virus treatment at Emory Hospital
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

In the four years I have served as president and CEO of the Medical College of Wisconsin, I’ve had the honor of traveling our beautiful state and reflecting on many of the unique communities and regions of Wisconsin and meeting the MCW alumni who providing medical care to those communities. More than one-third of the physicians practicing in Wisconsin today received a medical education at MCW.

As I reflect on that accomplishment, I am reminded that the need for physicians and other allied health professionals still is great, particularly in the northern and central regions of the state. MCW is addressing the physician need with the development of new medical school campuses in Green Bay and in Central Wisconsin.

As health care delivery evolves into larger, more complex teams, MCW is looking for ways through which our students can work in interprofessional settings, which allows health professionals who will work together, to train together. In collaboration with the Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE), we piloted a new program in interprofessional education between MCW medical students and nursing students at MSOE.

MCW also has begun exploring innovative ways to address shortages and maldistributions of other health professionals, who are essential in providing quality care to patients and families.

In that regard, we are exploring the possibility of opening a new pharmacy school to address a possible future shortage or maldistribution within our state. Pharmacists play a crucial role in the health care continuum, providing not only medication but also critical advice to patients and physicians, and serve as key partners with the entire health care team. We have engaged an external pharmacy consultant, have formed internal and external advisory boards, have met with the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin, and will be seeking broad input as we consider a potential MCW pharmacy school. We expect to be able to deliver a recommendation to the MCW Board of Trustees in March, 2015.

I believe MCW is uniquely suited to meet the health care needs of the state, and as that landscape continues to evolve, so shall MCW.

John R. Raymond, Sr., MD
President and CEO

ASSOCIATION MESSAGE

Milestones are a perfect time to reflect on the important events, people and moments that have changed our lives. In this issue of Alumni News, I look back at a young man excited to be attending MCW and excited at the prospect of a career in medicine. Twenty years later, I am honored to serve as the president of a robust and engaged MCW Alumni Association—an association that has evolved over the last two decades under the leadership of executive director William “Bill” Schultz, but which also has maintained some of the rich traditions upon which the Association was founded.

First, I encourage you to visit MCW. The students who walk down the hallways look very different than the students of the early and mid 1900’s. Today’s students are no less distinguished and accomplished than those whose portraits hang in the hallways of the first floor. However, this year’s matriculating class is the most diverse in MCW’s history. The next generation of physicians is privileged to train in an environment that offers the most cutting-edge technology available to medical students. Scholarly pathways offer students opportunities to explore their future careers beyond their specialties into the type of medicine they want to practice.

We have much to celebrate within our Association. The majority of classes have endowed scholarships, with millions of dollars coming from these class gifts over the past 18 years. This year class gifts totaled $900,000 with an additional 17 planned gifts totaling $5.7 million. Alumni Weekend has grown considerably and has resulted in thousands of alumni, with a strong commitment to MCW, returning for reunions.

As we honor our medical students and residents, I call upon you, our alumni, to engage them in ways which are meaningful and which will contribute to MCW’s continued success—not only at our Milwaukee campus but also at our new regional medical school campuses in Green Bay and in Central Wisconsin.

Supporting the MCW Annual Fund for Excellence allows the Alumni Association to help carry out our mission to support current students. Some of the initiatives funded from your support of the Annual Fund through the Association include welcome luncheon and Association gift for M-1 students, T. Michael Bolger, JD, MCW / Marquette Medical Alumni Association Diversity Scholarship, yearbook support, and many more.

A new generation is upon us at MCW, and I look forward to sharing the news with you, its proud graduates.

Timothy A. Crummy, MD ’97
Alumni Association President
A MOMENT’S NOTICE

Providing a brief look inside this issue of Alumni News

MCW alumnus treats first Ebola patients in U.S.

Once considering a future in international affairs or political science, Jay Varkey, MD ’02, never imagined that he would become the public face of the Ebola clinical team at Emory Hospital in Atlanta. Dr. Varkey’s true passion is the use and overuse of antibiotics and the impact of antibiotic use on infectious disease treatment.

Classes represented in this story: ’02

Alumni profiles

James Thomas, MD ’91, PhD ’89, GME ’95, and Arthur Derse, MD, GME ’83, JD, took very different routes in their medical careers at MCW, but they share a passion for their fields and a keen awareness about the ever-changing nature of medicine. Dr. Thomas, medical director of the MCW Cancer Center Clinical Trials Office, is key to the rapid growth of early phase clinical cancer trials now available to patients who need them the most. Dr. Derse, director of the MCW Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities, is helping to shape cutting-edge bioethics issues in the United States.

Classes represented in this story: ’83, ’89, ’91, ’95

New MCW Medical School brand launched

To convey the excitement of MCW’s new campuses in Green Bay and Central Wisconsin and to invigorate the look and feel of the Milwaukee campus, MCW has launched a new brand for the medical school including campus names, logos and tagline.

Alumnus featured on NY Med

Brain surgeon and… TV star? MCW alumnus Philip Stieg, MD ’83 appeared on ABC’s summer television series “NY Med,” and showed his grace under pressure in the operating room and in front of television cameras.

Classes represented in this story: ’83

MCW alumna honors heritage, family

Recent MCW alumna Tuong van Nguyen, MD ’14 took her global health research project to Vietnam, to outfit dozens of children with helmets and to increase head injury awareness.

Classes represented in this story: ’14

ON THE COVER

When the first Ebola patients transported from Africa to the United States arrived at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, they were greeted by an MCW alumnus who leads the infectious disease team at Emory.

ALSO INSIDE

The MCW Cancer Center is steadily becoming a world-class destination for pioneer clinical cancer trials under the leadership of James Thomas, MD, ’91, who is behind the Center’s Clinical Trials Office and Nicholas Family Foundation Translational Research Unit.
MCW Human and Molecular Genetics Center selected to run national sequencing center

The Medical College of Wisconsin Human Molecular Genetics Center (HMGC), in collaboration with Illumina, has been selected as one of two National Institutes of Health genomic sequencing sites for the Undiagnosed Disease Network (UDN). The UDN was created to use DNA sequencing and other strategies to advance laboratory and clinical research, and to aid in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with rare diseases.

Howard J. Jacob, PhD, the Warren P. Knowles Professor of Genetics at MCW and director of the HMGC, is primary investigator on the four-year, $2.5 million grant.

The HMGC will perform whole genome sequencing on 1,650 patients and their family members. Illumina will develop protocols, algorithms, quality improvements and act as a partner in streamlining the sequencing process, with a goal of turning around clinical results in two weeks per genome.

MCW established one of the globe’s first clinical whole genome sequencing programs, and clinically has evaluated hundreds of genomes and exomes since its inception.

MCW researchers to explore new treatments for pancreatic cancer

The Medical College of Wisconsin has received a five-year, $2.6 million grant from the National Institutes of Health’s National Cancer Institute to study new therapeutic approaches to treat pancreatic cancer.

About 46,000 people in the United States will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer this year. Pancreatic ductal carcinoma, which comprises 90 percent of those cases, is a highly aggressive cancer with no consistently successful treatment.

In this project, researchers will work to develop new methods of slowing or halting the metastasis of cancer cells by investigating a combination of energy metabolism inhibitors with relatively nontoxic mitochondria-targeted drugs. The results will advance researchers’ understanding of the roles of metabolism and energy in pancreatic cancer malignancy. Further, it could lead to the design and testing of new drugs that would halt the energy production of malignant cells, and ultimately lead to new therapies to treat pancreatic cancer.

Michael Dwinell, PhD, associate professor of microbiology and molecular genetics at MCW, and Balaraman Kalyanaraman, PhD, Harry R. & Angeline E. Quadracci Professor in Parkinson’s Research and professor and chairman of biophysics at MCW, are co-principal investigators of the grant.

MCW to advance research into liver cell production from skin cells

The Medical College of Wisconsin will advance work pioneered at MCW in which human skin cells are converted into liver cells, and to identify the molecular mechanisms of liver cell development.

Stephen Duncan, DPhil, the Marcus Professor of Human and Molecular Genetics and director of the MCW Program in Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Biology, is the primary investigator of the five-year, $2.1 million dollar grant from the National Institutes of Health’s National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases.

More than 30 million Americans have liver disease. The causes range from genetics to viruses such as hepatitis C, cancer, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease and cirrhosis caused by alcoholism.

Dr. Duncan has shown previously that it is possible to produce liver cells, or hiHeps, from human induced pluripotent stem cells that were once simply adult skin cells. Those hiHeps have been used to model infectious liver disease, inborn liver errors and other liver problems.

In this project, Dr. Duncan’s team will use the cell culture model to reveal the specific, complex molecular events that occur during human liver development, which will allow them to study inborn errors of liver metabolism, and possibly the identification of methods to correct liver diseases.
MCW study to investigate what causes pain from sickle cell disease

The Medical College of Wisconsin will study the underlying causes of pain from sickle cell disease, a common blood disorder that affects millions of people around the world and is particularly common in the United States in African Americans.

Cheryl Stucky, PhD, professor of cell biology, neurobiology and anatomy and director of the Neuroscience Doctoral Program at MCW, is the principle investigator of the five-year, $1.9 million grant from the National Institutes of Health’s National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is characterized by sickle-shaped red blood cells which become stuck in blood vessels, clogging blood flow. SCD is accompanied by crippling pain that tends to increase in severity and frequency with age. The exact cause of that pain is unknown.

Dr. Stucky has found that mice with severe SCD have severely dysfunctional mitochondria in their sensory neurons, which is likely affiliated with the pain and sensitivity to touch and cold temperatures in patients with SCD. The project will evaluate whether the reactive oxygen species generation that occurs in SCD causes that mitochondrial dysfunction, and determine if treatment with mitochondrial-targeted antioxidants reverses the pain.

MCW researchers to study what makes a virus infectious

The Medical College of Wisconsin has received a five-year, $2.2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health’s National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease to study the ways in which specific viruses become infectious. The research will examine viruses in the picornavirus family, which cause diseases ranging from the common cold to viral paralysis and encephalitis in humans, to an economically devastating disease that affects livestock.

William Jackson, PhD, assistant professor of microbiology and molecular genetics at MCW, is the principal investigator for the grant.

Recently Dr. Jackson’s lab discovered that an acidic environment in human cells is required for these viruses to change from a non-infectious particle to an infectious virus. The new award will allow the research team to identify potential therapies targeting acidic compartments in infected cells. Those therapies would reduce the production of infectious viruses, thereby limiting their spread and the resulting illness.

MCW enters into cooperation agreement with University of Sharjah, UAE

The Medical College of Wisconsin will explore ways to partner and collaborate on education, training and research endeavors with leaders and students at the University of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

John R. Raymond, Sr., MD, president and CEO of MCW, signed a memorandum of understanding with University of Sharjah Chancellor Hamid Al Naimiy.

Both parties seek to foster international cooperation through scholarly exchange such as visiting faculty members and research scholars, exchange of students, joint activities and meetings concerning education and research, joint educational programs at the graduate level and medical residency training programs and fellowships. The agreement also facilitates networking and supports collaboration between the educational programs, research centers and affiliated hospitals associated with each institution.

MCW to explore opening a school of pharmacy

The Medical College of Wisconsin will explore the feasibility of opening a school of pharmacy with possible campuses in Green Bay or Central Wisconsin, and specialty tracks in Milwaukee in areas such as genomics and personalized pharmacy, oncology, mental health and research.

A proposal has been submitted to MCW’s Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin endowment for development of the feasibility study.

“MCW successfully responded to our state’s projected shortage of physicians through the development of regional medical school campuses in Green Bay and Central Wisconsin. MCW would bring that same commitment to innovation in pharmacy education,” said John R. Raymond, Sr., MD, MCW’s president and CEO.

MCW is opening a new medical school campus in 2015 in Green Bay, and is projected to open a medical school campus in 2016 in Central Wisconsin.
MCW alumnus treats first Ebola patients in U.S.

“If you had told me in July that by the end of the month, I would be treating patients with Ebola here in the United States and my face would be all over national television, I don’t know that I would have believed you,”

— Jay Varkey, MD ‘02

Now, Varkey is a key member of the infectious disease team at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta treating the first Ebola patients transported to the United States.

Varkey, who also is an assistant professor of medicine at the Emory University School of Medicine, wasn’t even sure he would become a doctor—even though his father, Dr. Basil Varkey, served on the MCW faculty for years, and is now a Professor Emeritus of Medicine.

“Medicine was always a career option that interested me. But I wasn’t sure that I wanted to make the required commitment,” Varkey said.

Varkey enrolled in a premedical scholars program at Marquette University open to high school students at the time. Participants who were accepted to the program and who completed pre-med classes, kept a high grade point average and achieved a particular score on the MCAT, would automatically be accepted to MCW.

“It was a no-brainer,” said Varkey. “It allowed me to major at in International Affairs and Political Science and to explore multiple options, while still guaranteeing me entry into an excellent medical school.”

When it was time to make a decision, Varkey thought about his earliest memories of medicine, “Watching the veterans greet the doctors and nurses going into the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center, and seeing the warmth there, and the level of caring, and realizing how much my dad and his colleagues impacted the lives of our nation’s heroes.”

So when the first patients with Ebola—who had been volunteering with the sick in Africa—arrived at Emory’s Serious Communicable Disease (SCD) unit for ultra high-risk infectious diseases, it was another “no-brainer” for Varkey.

“When an American gets sick overseas, that patient has a right to come home for treatment here,” he said.

Varkey, whose interest in infectious diseases was sparked while rounding with Dr. Michael Frank at MCW as a medical student, was pulled into the mix immediately in his role as hospital epidemiologist.

“We had lots of internal questions from staff, and our job was to take every precaution, as we’ve been trained to do, to make sure that everyone working in the hospital, as well as the patients and visitors, would be safe. That was my initial role,” Varkey said.

Varkey’s role evolved and he joined the clinical care team as one of the key physicians treating the two patients, Dr. Kent Brantly and Nancy Writebol. A third patient was treated at Emory in September, but that patient’s identity has not been shared. A fourth patient, Ms. Amber Vinson, a critical care nurse from Dallas, Texas, was successfully treated and discharged from Emory University Hospital in October.

National interest in the patients, their treatment, and the possible risk of the disease spreading was extremely high. Varkey soon found himself in a third unique role: the public face of the Ebola clinical team at Emory.

“Communicating difficult and complex topics to a non-medical audience is a unique challenge that I enjoy, and I think it’s very important to convey what we do to the public,” he said. “But I really didn’t expect to see my face on national television talking about this!” he added with amusement.
Ebola may be top of mind for the public, but Varkey’s true passion is the use and overuse of antibiotics and the impact of antibiotic use on infectious disease treatment. He believes in the United States, both physicians and the public are being more judicious with the use of antibiotics, but he wants to see a similar change in the agricultural industry. Also, he noted, the Ebola outbreak has shown we are a global community.

“We can’t just fight these fights on U.S. soil. We have to pay attention to what’s going on around us, and make it a global effort,” he pointed out.

Varkey believes better communication and collaboration between physicians and pharmacists will lead to improvements in prescribing antibiotics, as well as other medications, and he said he was excited to see that MCW is exploring the feasibility of opening a School of Pharmacy.

“It’s fantastic on both fronts—for medicine and pharmacy. Novel opportunities would be offered at MCW for students as well as the teaching and clinical faculty. It’s exciting.”

"Communicating difficult and complex topics to a non-medical audience is a unique challenge that I enjoy, and I think it’s very important to convey what we do to the public."

Megan Determan’s life mirrors what she studies. “I like to have a lot of things going on at once,” said the fourth year graduate student, who is earning both her MD and her PhD through the Medical Student Training Program (MSTP) at MCW. Students in the MSTP complete the first two years of medical school, then turn their attention to research and earn a PhD, and then complete clinical rotations to earn an MD.

As if that weren’t challenging enough, Determan reached out to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for funding through its elite training program. The NIH funds only eight percent of those requests every year—and Determan is one of the few.

“I really enjoy discovery and I have wanted to be a doctor since middle school,” said Determan. Her desire also to pursue biomedical research came while she was in college. Her specific focus is the cellular mechanisms involved in genetically-caused diabetes.

“I want to work on cellular development. I’m learning the skills I need and tapping into the resources at MCW to grow my career. MCW has a lot of opportunities to work with all sorts of people on a variety of projects,” she said.

Determan also is working with people as a mentor—helping other students with grant applications for funding for training and research.

“As a mentor I have learned to assess a person’s needs quickly so I can understand how to help them succeed with their grantwriting,” she said. It’s been successful already; a student she mentored recently received funding from the NIH.

“MCW is different. It’s not all competition. It’s collaborative.”

mcw.edu EXTRA
Survival rates for patients with Ebola could improve because of discoveries being made by Dr. Varkey and other American physicians treating patients who return to the U.S. for care. Learn more at mcw.edu/Eboladiscoveries.
Alumnus propels innovative research, patient care at MCW Cancer Center

James P. Thomas, MD ’91, PhD ’89, GME ’95, hit the ground running when he returned to Wisconsin in 2010 to help the Medical College of Wisconsin Cancer Center strengthen its position as the region’s premier cancer research and treatment destination. He still hasn’t stopped—or even eased his pace.

“This is a very exciting time for MCW,” said Dr. Thomas, professor of medicine (hematology/oncology), founding medical director of the MCW Cancer Center Clinical Trials Office (CTO) and associate director for translational research.

The CTO is just one achievement of the Union Grove native, who previously served five years as medical director of the CTO at Ohio State University’s Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Opened in 2012, the MCW Cancer Center CTO provides the research community with a centralized, comprehensive program that simplifies the clinical trial process. Trials are now organized by disease treatment teams, not departments. Investigators benefit from a dedicated team of resources, centralized space at the Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin Clinical Cancer Center and specialized expertise and support.

“We have nearly four dozen staff members working on regulatory issues and budgeting to open more cancer trials, and open them more quickly.”

Dr. Thomas also was instrumental to the 2013 opening of the Nicholas Family Foundation Translational Research Unit (TRU). A powerful tool in translating laboratory research into patient care, there are only about a dozen TRUs around the country capable of conducting early-phase, investigator-initiated cancer clinical trials.

“Patients are participating in protocols and trials that are being tested in human beings for the first time,” Dr. Thomas said. “We have experienced staff on site to make sure trials are conducted properly, and state-of-the-art labs where investigators can study whether drugs are hitting their targets.”

The numbers speak to the success of the MCW Cancer Center, which now participates in nearly 400 clinical trials, more than any other health care system in eastern Wisconsin. The number of enrolled patients has doubled since 2012, and the number of trials developed and tracked by MCW faculty has increased by 700 percent in the last four years.

“The specialized expertise of our physicians and scientists and our cutting-edge trials are great for the region and the state,” Dr. Thomas said proudly. “We’re on the cusp of even greater things.”

One of those greater things is designation as a National Cancer Institute (NCI) Comprehensive Cancer Center.

“We hope to submit our application to the NCI in early 2016,” said Dr. Thomas. “It has been a multi-year process that would not have been possible without great work by fine leadership.”

mcw.edu EXTRA

Dr. Thomas conducts research on the pursuit of antioxidants to protect against reactive oxygen species (ROS) cell damage that leads to cancer and other diseases. Read about his discoveries, which have led to two patents, at mce.edu/Thomaspatents.

Growth in MCW Cancer Center Trial Accruals

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One of the most important things we teach future physicians is that the subject of medical ethics is not static – as new technologies evolve, new ethical issues arise.

The dynamic nature of bioethics is just one reason Arthur Derse, MD, GME ’83, JD, was drawn to the field while an emergency medicine resident at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW). Today, he is director of the MCW Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities, director of the Medical Humanities Program, Julia and David Uihlein Professor of Medical Humanities and professor of bioethics and emergency medicine.

“Many issues that arise in medicine are legal issues, but even more of them are ethical ones,” Dr. Derse said. “I think the law is something to take into account but it shouldn’t be the sole determinant of the relationship between a doctor and a patient, or a doctor and a patient’s family. What is the best course of action? Most of the time law and ethics agree. But medical ethics encompasses more than the law. For example, compassion, caring, and engendering trust are not legally required, but are all ethical imperatives. And many ethical issues may not have applicable legal precedent.”

Among the issues at the forefront of bioethics today: end-of-life care, physician-assisted suicide, reproductive medicine, electronic medical communication and most recently, genomics. Under Dr. Derse’s leadership, the Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities began a Program in Genomics and Ethics three years ago, supported by the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Research and Education Fund.

“So many questions come up as a result of our ability to sequence the individual human genome,” Dr. Derse said. “What are the ethical implications of learning that information? What happens when someone isn’t ill but is found to have a predisposition or risk factor for a disease?”

The Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities was established in 1982 as one of the first of its kind in the nation. Its work has grown to include conceptual and empirical research on key bioethics issues of regional, national and international importance; education of the next generation of bioethicists through the Center’s graduate program; the ethics training of medical students, residents and fellows; and consultation and outreach to civic, health care and professional organizations and policy makers throughout the United States.

Dr. Derse has worked at the Center since 1987 and has been director since 2009. He also serves as ethics committee chair at Froedtert Hospital and ethics consultant for the Milwaukee VA Hospital and Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin.

Dr. Derse says that above all, concerns for patients and research subjects are always at the core of what the Center’s faculty teaches MCW students.

“In everything we do—whether it’s clinical ethics, research ethics, or medical humanities—it’s all about the care of patients, the protection of research subjects, and the ethical discovery of new knowledge that benefits patients,” he said.
Regional campus becomes reality

In November 2011, the Wisconsin Hospital Association sent the state’s health care providers a reality check in its publication, “100 New Physicians per Year: An Imperative for Wisconsin.” The report projected a shortfall of 2000 physicians by 2030, with an emphasis on primary care and in specific regions of the state.

The Medical College of Wisconsin moved swiftly, quickly completed a feasibility study and began the planning process to develop two new medical school campuses in Green Bay and in Central Wisconsin. With support from the state of Wisconsin, philanthropic donors and MCW’s academic and healthcare partners in those regions, the work began.

MCW quickly identified a need to target Wisconsin-based students with an interest in practicing medicine in some of the regions most in need of physicians; thus, an immersive model of education was developed. This model reduces the initial cost, because rather than building a complete infrastructure at a cost well in excess of $100 million, the campuses could be developed in collaboration with those partners at a fraction of the cost. The students will live, learn, and do clinical training in Green Bay and in the communities of Central Wisconsin, including Wausau, Stevens Point, Wisconsin Rapids, and Marshfield.

What began as a vision is now a reality. MCW-Green Bay has received Liaison Committee on Medical Education and Higher Learning Commission accreditation. The curriculum for the three-year medical school has been completed.

As important, residency slots have been developed in psychiatry and in family medicine, and Graduate Medical Education leaders at MCW are working collaboratively with health care providers in those regions to develop new residency slots in primary care and general surgery, so that our graduating MDs have new options in Wisconsin to complete their training.

Now, it becomes even more exciting. The classrooms at MCW-Green Bay are nearly complete, applications are being accepted, and the hopeful students who will comprise the inaugural class of medical students are interviewing now for the first spots in the state’s newest medical school.

In July 2015, MCW will make history when the first class of students walks through the door of MCW-Green Bay. Support from alumni has helped make this possible, and there are many opportunities to support the growth of medical education at MCW. If you are interested in making a gift, visit www.mcw.edu/giving.

The report projected a shortfall of 2000 physicians by 2030, with an emphasis on primary care and in specific regions of the state.

How to get into medical school

The applications are flooding MCW’s inbox, and interviews for both the Milwaukee and Green Bay medical school campuses are underway. From nearly 8,000 applications submitted, merely 204 students will matriculate in Milwaukee, and between 20 and 25 in Green Bay.

What does it take to make the cut? Different medical schools look for different traits when evaluating potential students, and while MCW has evolved its technology, curriculum and tools to best teach today’s medical student, some of the preferred attributes have remained the same.

“We seek the brightest students with a high potential of being successful academically at MCW,” said William Hueston, MD, senior associate dean for academic affairs. “However, it’s not all about grades. The best physicians are altruistic and have identified a true calling in medicine; we also look for students who have sought early clinical exposure, because those individuals have a clearer understanding of what it takes to practice medicine.”

MCW: By the numbers

• Average MCAT score: 30+
• MCAT sections: 9 or higher on each of the numeric subsections
• Average GPA: 3.70
• Extracurriculars and leadership experience: critical

MCW-Green Bay students will take classes through Bellin College (shown above), St. Norbert College, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College and UW-Green Bay.
Medical College of Wisconsin and Marquette University School of Medicine alumni can now refer to their alma mater with a shortened moniker: MCW. The Medical College of Wisconsin has launched a new brand for its medical school, to convey the excitement of MCW’s new campuses in Green Bay and Central Wisconsin and to invigorate the look and feel of the Milwaukee campus.

Learn. Live. Care. Cure. The tagline for the medical school defines the opportunities and student experience for medical students at MCW.

“Students at the MCW medical school learn from seasoned, expert basic science and clinical faculty, live in the community in which they train, and learn to truly care for the patients they will someday serve. So where does ‘cure’ come in? While many diseases are managed and not ‘cured,’ it is the dream of everyone who practices medicine in some capacity to cure one of the diseases that impact millions, and which may be managed but has not yet been defeated,” explained Joseph E. Kerschner, MD ’90, Fel ’98, executive vice president of MCW and dean of the medical school.

While the iconic book and caduceus with serpent remains, the medical school campuses will be known as MCW-Milwaukee, MCW-Green Bay, and MCW-Central Wisconsin. As part of the official launch of the brand, alumni received a letter and a window cling sporting the new logo.

The tagline was developed after conducting extensive research both within MCW and also in the communities in which campuses are being developed. Key goals of the brand’s marketing and communications include attracting top Wisconsin-based students to the campuses and encouraging students to remain in those regions to practice, inspiring new and existing donors to invest in development and sustainability of the medical school, and generating support from all stakeholders to be successful.

“We began this process nearly a year ago,” said Dr. Kerschner. “It was important to us to hear from current students and alumni, our partner organizations, our Community Advisory Boards, and education leaders at a pre-med level and within our own faculty. We are excited to share the new MCW experience with everyone we touch, and we’re wearing the new logo with great pride as we continue to grow and evolve MCW.”

We invite you to check out the new medical school website at www.mcw.edu/medicalschool and explore ways in which you can be a part of the MCW excitement. To learn how you can support medical education at MCW, go to www.mcw.edu/giving.
Scholarship fund will benefit first-year medical students

John W. Walsh, MD ‘64, has many happy memories of his years at the Marquette University School of Medicine, the predecessor to the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW). Those memories are just one reason he chose to give back to his alma mater by establishing a scholarship fund for first year medical students at MCW.

“My fondest recollections are exemplified by the excellence and dedication of our teachers, the camaraderie of classmates and the unique, small-town atmosphere of Milwaukee,” said Dr. Walsh. “I’m glad to have been a part of it.”

That camaraderie was reignited over the summer when Dr. Walsh attended his 50th class reunion at MCW. He caught up with four classmates with whom he shared a table in anatomy class. All of them went on to become pathologists.

“I have deep appreciation for the inspiration and training I received from faculty who gave their time, talents and advice,” said Dr. Walsh. “I wanted to help provide similar opportunities for other aspiring doctors.”

Dr. Walsh served two years at Reynolds Army Hospital at Ft. Sill, Okla., after completing his residency at the University of California-San Francisco. In 1992, after many years in private practice, he joined Kaiser Permanente Medical Group in Walnut Creek, Calif., where he continues to work full time as a pathologist.

“Medical school is an arduous road, but my classmates and the faculty at MCW made it possible and enjoyable,” said Dr. Walsh. “This scholarship fund will enable future medical students to savor their experience.”

“True wealth comes from giving.”

Best of the Southwest

Clinical Conference
March 2-6, 2015
The Westward Look
Wyndham Grand Resort & Spa
Tucson, Arizona

Earn CME credit
Sponsored by the Medical College of Wisconsin/
Marquette Medical Alumni Association
See page 19 for more information.
The generous gifts of our alumni support medical education, research, and outreach in the communities we serve. Each of our students is touched by those donations, and we at MCW are grateful for your support.

The Honor Roll recognizes alumni who made a gift to the Medical College of Wisconsin between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014. That honor roll is published online at www.mcw.edu/alumnihonorroll. To make a new gift to the MCW program of your choice using our secure online tool, visit mcw.edu/giving or call the Office of Development at (414) 955-4700.

“I know of no better way to say thank you and increase the value of our education than by contributing to MCW.”
—LeRoy J. Byrd, MD ’64

“There are many reasons I give to MCW including the chance to honor incredible faculty who prepared me for a wonderfully rewarding career.”
—John J. Miller, MD, GME ’82
MCW alum featured on “NY Med” season 2

Philip Stieg, MD ’83, PhD ’80, is no stranger to the spotlight. The chief neurosurgeon at Weill Cornell Medical College, Dr. Stieg is used to having his every movement scrutinized while performing complicated procedures.

As if brain surgery isn’t strenuous enough on its own, this summer Dr. Stieg agreed to illustrate that grace under pressure to millions of viewers by appearing on ABC’s ‘NY Med.’ The nationally televised medical show profiles the care of complicated medical cases at several New York City hospitals.

In an episode broadcast this past July, Dr. Stieg was featured performing surgery to remove a tumor from a man’s spinal cord. The procedure was a success, and made for a heart-warming television moment.

While the show was created primarily for audience entertainment, Dr. Stieg maintains that at the end of the day, NY Med emphasized patient care.

“NY Med tried to pick up on some things that would interest its viewers,” said Dr. Stieg. “However, the show still dealt with real health care problems and how we help them.”

Dr. Stieg said he would welcome another chance to appear on NY Med and refutes the notion that the show added any pressure to an already nerve-wracking profession. He joked, “If going inside someone’s head doesn’t come across as exciting, adding another camera isn’t going make it any more thrilling.”

Recent alumna honors heritage, family

Tuong van Nguyen, MD ’14 isn’t just the first in her family to finish medical school. Add college and high school to the list.

Dr. Nguyen’s parents came to California as teenage refugees in the midst of the Vietnam War. Neither could speak English. Both dropped out of school because of the language barrier. Her dad found work as a mechanic, her mom as a manicurist.

“As the second-oldest of five children, I always had a lot of responsibility at home,” Dr. Nguyen said. “But I always knew I would take advantage of the opportunity for education. And I always knew I was interested in medicine.”

Now a first-year resident at Kaiser Permanente in Santa Clara, Calif., Dr. Nguyen reflected on the way she came to MCW.

“Interviewing at MCW was a wonderful experience,” she said. “Everyone was so friendly and welcoming. I liked the diversity the student body offered,” she said.

Also, MCW’s Global Health Pathway provided a unique and meaningful opportunity for Dr. Nguyen.

“While at MCW I co-founded a project on hepatitis in the Hmong community, and then MCW supported my global health research project in Vietnam, which focused on injury from not wearing bicycle and motorcycle helmets.”

Dr. Nguyen speaks proudly, not of her accomplishments, but of her experience in medical school.

“I wouldn’t have had these opportunities anywhere but MCW.”
1970s

Michael F. Nolan, PhD ’75, received the 2014 Master Teacher Award presented by the International Association of Medical Science Educators at its annual meeting in Nashville, Tenn. The award recognizes his career-long accomplishments as a medical science educator. Dr. Nolan is professor and vice chair of basic science at the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and Research Institute in Roanoke. He also holds the title of professor emeritus, Department of Pathology and Cell Biology in the Morsani College of Medicine at the University of South Florida in Tampa. He has published four textbooks and received more than 25 awards for teaching excellence at the medical and graduate medical education levels.

David R. Range, MD ’75, moved to New Zealand to treat patients at Southern District Health Board Southland Hospital in Invercargill, on the southern tip of the country. An ENT-otolaryngologist, Dr. Range previously lived and worked in Washington, D.C. He recently retired after 30 years with the U.S. Air Force.

1980s

Thomas Zoch, MD ’83, received a 2014 UW-Oshkosh Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award. Board certified in internal medicine, Dr. Zoch is Healthcare Insurance Executive for Ministry Health Care/Froedtert Health’s Network Health, and the medical director for Network Housecalls, which provides in-home health assessments to Network Health Medicare Advantage members. He also serves as an executive leader of Ministry Health Care and the medical director for the Fox Valley Technical College Paramedic/EMS program.

Jon Mukand, MD ’85, PhD, made Stanford University Libraries’ short-list for the William Saroyan International Prize for Writing, for his book The Man with the Bionic Brain: And Other Victories Over Paralysis. The book tells the story of Matthew Nagle, a young man with quadriplegia who made medical history with the implantation of the BrainGate neural interface system, which allowed Nagle to use his brain to manipulate a computer cursor. A rehabilitation specialist, Dr. Mukand served as principal investigator for the study of BrainGate. He is clinical assistant professor, Brown University; adjunct assistant professor, Tufts University; medical director, Southern New England Rehabilitation Center and medical director, Sargent Rehabilitation Center. The Saroyan Prize commemorates the life and legacy of William Saroyan, author, artist, dramatist and composer, and is intended to encourage new or emerging writers.

Christopher Schultz, MD ’85, received the Fellow of ASTRO (American Society for Radiation Oncology) designation at the ASTRO 56th annual meeting in San Francisco. Dr. Schultz is professor of radiation oncology at the Medical College of Wisconsin. His clinical interests include head and neck cancer, Hodgkin disease, low dose rate irradiation, gamma knife stereotactic radiosurgery, lymphoma and brain tumors. The ASTRO Fellows Program honors radiation oncologists who have made significant contributions to the field of radiation oncology in research, education, patient care and service to ASTRO.

Michael Volz, MD ’85, was elected president-elect of the Colorado Medical Society (CMS) at the organization’s 144th annual meeting in Vail. The CMS is the largest physician organization in the state, representing more than 7,500 physicians, physicians-in-training and medical students. Board certified in allergy/immunology, Dr. Volz is a solo-practice physician with offices in Denver and Colby, Kan. He has served as president of the Colorado Allergy and Asthma Society and as a member of the CMS Board of Directors and the Lung Association of Colorado Board of Directors. Dr. Volz will be sworn in as president of the CMS in September 2015.

1990s

Michael Borkowski, MD ’90, MPH ’98, was named medical director of Occupational Health Services for Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin. Board certified in occupational medicine, Dr. Borkowski has served as a consultant for more than 20 years. His specialties include disability rating, return to work and fitness for military duty evaluations; occupational illness and injury management; motor vehicle injury assessments and reviews; and worker’s health evaluation and aviation medical examinations.

Carole Street Vetter, MD ’93, was named the David S. Haskell, MD, Endowed Professor in Orthopaedic Education at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Vetter serves as program director for MCW’s orthopaedic physician residency.

continued on next page
Mark Harlow, MD ’86, GME ’91, visits MCW for two months each fall, but he’s not coming for the weather and the football. He comes to teach.

“It’s my way of giving back for all the time and knowledge that was given to me here,” the orthopaedic surgeon said. “I thoroughly enjoy my time in Milwaukee, and the wonderful students and teachers at MCW.”

A Burlington, Wis., native, Dr. Harlow serves as volunteer faculty in anatomy and orthopaedic medicine.

However, that isn’t his only charitable act.

“It’s fairly simple,” he said. “People who are sick need help.” Some of the places in greatest need, Dr. Harlow discovered, are very close to his current home in Rapid City, S.D. Since arriving in the state, he has served thousands of volunteer hours at the Pine Ridge Reservation (the poorest county in the United States) and the Rosebud Sioux Reservation.

“I’ve been to Haiti, I’ve been to a number of crisis points abroad, wherever the need is great,” Dr. Harlow said. “But I realized that the need is greatest here. I’m the first orthopedic surgeon ever on staff at Pine Ridge, where basic care is one of the many services I provide to my community. And I credit my time at MCW for giving me the skills to meet that need.”

Continued from page 15

program, and recently obtained a 10-year accreditation for the program. She also serves as director and designer of the orthopaedic surgery bio skill lab. Dr. Vetter has been a principal investigator and co-investigator on several research grants, including a $4.6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research.

Tina Fischer-Carne, MD ’96, joined HealthCare Partners medical staff at Florida Hospital Memorial Medical Center in Daytona Beach. She has practiced family medicine in Volusia County for more than 15 years.

2000s

Cuong Chi Tieu, MD ’04, was named medical director for the Child Center of Rogers Memorial Hospital in Oconomowoc, Wis. Board-certified in child and adolescent psychiatry and general psychiatry, Dr. Tieu specializes in treating children with emotional, learning or behavioral difficulties stemming from psychiatric illness, medical illness, learning disabilities and developmental disabilities. Dr. Tieu was chief resident of child psychiatry at the Medical College of Wisconsin from 2008 to 2009. He most recently served as assistant professor in the department of psychiatry at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Austin.

Qasim Cheema, MD ’06, joined the staff of Central Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. An interventional cardiologist, Dr. Cheema is board certified in cardiovascular disease and internal medicine. He was awarded the American Federation of Medical Research Award and the Outstanding Third Year Ward Resident Award in internal medicine.

Rebecca Gill, MD ’06, joined the staff of Mercy Medical Associates, Lourdes in Paducah, Ky. A general surgeon, Dr. Gill previously worked at Bingham Memorial Hospital in Blackfoot, Idaho.

2010s

Gurkaran S. Garcha, MD ’11, joined the staff of Borgess Inpatient Services in Kalamazoo, Mich. Dr. Garcha practices internal medicine.
1940s

William L. Drake, MD ’43, of St. Louis, Mo., died November 4, 2012. He served in the U.S. Army and attained the rank of captain. He later worked as an assistant pathologist at several hospitals, retiring as the director of pathology at Missouri Baptist Medical Center.

Foster J. Jacobson, MD ’45, of Mequon, Wis. and Boynton Beach, Fla., died July 30, 2014. He was 93 years old. An obstetrician and gynecologist, Dr. Jacobson practiced in Milwaukee for more than 50 years. He is survived by his wife, Shirley, three children and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Constantine “Connie” Panagis, MD ’46, of Milwaukee, died September 5, 2014. He was 91 years old. Dr. Panagis began his medical career as a captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corp during the Korean War. He later worked in private practice and became medical director at the Milwaukee County Medical Complex. In 1973 he was appointed health commissioner for the City of Milwaukee, a post he held for 15 years. He also served as head of the Student Health Center at UW-Milwaukee. Dr. Panagis was preceded in death by his wife, Lorraine. Survivors include seven children, 24 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Gerald N. Hoffmann, MD ’47, of Cannon Falls, Minn., died November 13, 2013. He was 89 years old. Dr. Hoffmann was preceded in death by his wife, Ardis. Survivors include three sons and their families.

John P. Miller, MD ’47, of San Bernardino, Calif., died February 26, 2014. He was 92 years old. Dr. Miller served in World War II and the Korean War. He later practiced family medicine as an ob/gyn. Survivors include his wife, JoAnn, five children and three grandchildren.

Daniel L. Rousseau, MD ’47, of Macomb, Mich. and Naples, Fla., died December 15, 2013. He was 85 years old. Dr. Rousseau served in the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Air Force. He was chief of radiology at Sampson Air Force Base Hospital. A pilot, he enjoyed flying, swimming, sailing and golfing. Dr. Rousseau is survived by his wife, Josephine, seven children and nine grandchildren.

Donald J. Albrecht, MD ’49, of Milwaukee, died June 14, 2014. He was 89 years old. Dr. Albrecht served in the U.S. Army and Air Force. He practiced OB/GYN for 30 years and served as president of St. Luke’s Hospital in Milwaukee. Dr. Albrecht enjoyed fishing and was a member of the Knights of Columbus. He was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy, and a son. Survivors include four children, 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

1950s

Norman Engbring, MD ’51, of Milwaukee, died July 9, 2014. He was 89 years old. Dr. Engbring was former senior associate dean of graduate medical education, professor of medicine (endocrinology) and founder of the MCW residency program. He helped create Medical College of Wisconsin Affiliated Hospitals (MCWAH), which joined multiple residency programs in the Milwaukee area and was identified as a national model for graduate medical education. Dr. Engbring was a recipient of the MCW Distinguished Service Award and a Walter Zeit fellow. After his retirement he established the MCW Archives and wrote a history of MCW entitled An Anchor for the Future. Dr. Engbring served in the U.S. military in the Pacific Theater during World War II. He enjoyed outdoor activities, theater and classical music. He is survived by his wife, Virginia, three children and one granddaughter. He was preceded in death by an infant daughter.

Patrick R. Robbie, MD ’58, of Los Angeles, Calif., died in his sleep December 1, 2013. He was 80 years old. Dr. Robbie completed his medical internship as a naval flight surgeon and his residency in pediatrics at L.A. County General Hospital. He spent his 40-year career as a pediatrician and neonatologist at Kaiser Permanente – Los Angeles Medical Center and helped to develop the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit there. After retirement, Dr. Robbie volunteered at Samuel Dixon Health Centers, helping patients without health care in the Santa Clarita Valley. He enjoyed cooking, fly fishing, traveling and spending time with family. Survivors include his wife, Cecilia, four children and seven grandchildren.

1960s

James S. Janowiak, MD ’61, of Merrill, Wis., died March 10, 2014. He was 82 years old. Dr. Janowiak served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. After graduating from medical school he practiced family medicine in Minnesota and Washington before settling in Merrill, where he practiced at Family Medicine Clinic until his retirement in 1996. Dr. Janowiak also taught medical students and future emergency medicine technicians. He enjoyed woodworking, baking, traveling and reading. Survivors include his wife, Barbara, six sons and one daughter, 15 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

James M. Hall, MD ’67, of Dataw Island, S.C., died July 19, 2014 of cancer. He was 72 years old. Dr. Hall practiced internal medicine and oncology at Sea Island Medical Oncology in Port Royal. He is survived by his wife, Terry.
Nicholas L. Owen, MD ’67, of Milwaukee, died September 30, 2014. He was 80 years old. Dr. Owen practiced internal medicine until his retirement in 1999. He was a long time member of the Milwaukee Academy of Medicine and served as co-editor of the organization’s newsletter. Dr. Owen enjoyed tennis and the performing arts. Survivors include his wife, Mary, four children and seven grandchildren.

A. Peter Haupert, MD ’68, of Waukesha, Wis., died September 27, 2014 after a battle with Parkinson’s disease. He was 80 years old. An ordained Moravian minister, Dr. Haupert began his medical career working as a missionary doctor in Nicaragua. After six years in Central America he worked for 22 years as an emergency room physician at Waukesha Memorial and Oconomowoc Hospitals. He enjoyed the outdoors, trains and literature. Dr. Haupert is survived by his wife, Joan, four children, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Roman R. Kaunas, MD ’70, of Elm Grove, Wis., died September 17, 2014. He was 70 years old. Dr. Kaunas served in the U.S. Army in Texas after graduating medical school. A psychiatrist specializing in geriatric psychiatry, he served on the faculty at the Medical College of Wisconsin and practiced at the Milwaukee County Mental Health Division. Dr. Kaunas was a skilled alpine skier and also enjoyed scuba diving, tennis, golf, racquetball and riding motorcycles. Survivors include his wife, Grazina, two children and three grandchildren.

Lewis H. Stocks III, MD ’71, of Raleigh, N.C., died May 23, 2014 following a battle with cancer. He was 71 years old. A general surgeon, Dr. Stocks also held a PhD in pharmacology from Marquette University. He was the first surgeon to perform laparoscopic surgery, stereotactic breast biopsies and lung volume reductions in Wake County. He also made several mission trips to Haiti. Dr. Stocks was a licensed pilot. He is survived by his wife, Jackie, five children and three grandchildren.

Lawrence Burkert, MD ’73, of Milwaukee, died May 26, 2014 after a brief illness. He was 75 years old. Dr. Burkert served in the U.S. Army for three years stationed in Stuttgart, Germany. Board certified in hematology, internal medicine and oncology, Dr. Burkert practiced medicine for 42 years. He enjoyed gardening, traveling, reading, sailing and spending time with family. Survivors include his wife, Carol, four children and nine grandchildren.

1980s

Ramon A. Agor, MD ’87, of Milwaukee, died May 14, 2014. He was 70 years old. An obstetrician, Dr. Agor practiced at Aurora Sinai, St. Mary’s, St. Francis and St. Joseph’s Hospitals. He retired in 2013. Dr. Agor is survived by his wife, Pureza, three children and five grandchildren.

1990s

Matthew S. Harrison, MD ’97, of Taos N.M. (formerly Duluth, Minn.), died February 21, 2014 after a battle with cancer. He was 52 years old. Dr. Harrison worked as a physical and sports medicine doctor at Holy Cross Hospital in Taos, New Mexico. He enjoyed running, ski racing, hiking and bike riding. Survivors include his wife, Beckett, and three children.
2015 Reunions

ALUMNI WEEKEND
May 1 – 2, 2015


Events will include the Alumni Banquet at the Pfister Hotel, presentation of awards, tours, CME and special class dinners.

50-YEAR REUNION
May 15 – 16, 2015

Class of 1965 reunion will be held in conjunction with the Medical College of Wisconsin’s 2015 Commencement weekend.

CLINICAL CONFERENCE
March 2 – 6, 2015


Educational sessions for CME credit are scheduled, and guests have access to a variety of recreational activities including tennis, hiking, biking, horseback riding, spa and swimming.

Register now:
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– Garrett McCoy, M2
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