


## 2022 Call for Applications Merit Reviewers

Applications submitted to the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment's (AHW) competitive call for applications are reviewed by merit review panels consisting of Wisconsin-based community leaders and MCW faculty and staff with expertise related to the focus of the request for applications. The following individuals serve on seven separate review panels to review applications submitted to AHW's 2022 competitive funding opportunities.

<p>(no photo available)</p> <p><b>Joseph Barbieri, PhD</b> <i>Professor</i> Microbiology &amp; Immunology Medical College of Wisconsin</p>	<p>(no bio available)</p>
 <p><b>Stacy L Barnes, PhD</b> <i>Associate Professor and Director</i> Marquette University</p>	<p>Dr. Barnes, PhD, is a Social Gerontologist with 35 years of experience in the field of aging. Dr. Barnes currently works for Marquette University as an Associate Professor of Practice for the College of Nursing and as Director of the Wisconsin Geriatric Education Center (WGEC), a statewide consortium dedicated to building the capacity of the health workforce to meet the complex needs of geriatric patients. During her tenure at Marquette, Dr. Barnes has been awarded more than \$13.7 million in grant funding and successfully led the WGEC consortium in training thousands of health providers to deliver patient-centered, team-based quality care. Dr. Barnes holds a master's degree in Gerontological Studies from the Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio and an interdisciplinary PhD in Social Gerontology from Marquette University. She also completed a one-year fellowship with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as part of its Primary Health Care Policy Fellowship program. Dr. Barnes is Past President of the National Association of Geriatric Education Centers and the National Association for Geriatric Education. In addition, she was honored to serve as a national delegate to the 2015 White House Conference on Aging.</p>
<p>(no photo available)</p> <p><b>Michele Battle, PhD</b> <i>Associate Professor</i> Cell Biology, Neurobiology &amp; Anatomy Medical College of Wisconsin</p>	<p>(no bio available)</p>



**Jeffrey Binder, MD**

*Professor*

*Neurology*

Medical College of Wisconsin

Dr. Binder is a vascular and cognitive neurologist by training, with over 25 years of experience as PI on cognitive neuroscience and clinical fMRI research studies in the field of language neuroscience. His work focuses on neural systems underlying semantic processing and concept representation, speech perception, reading, and aphasia. His clinical practice focuses on people with stroke and aphasia, and he and his colleagues study the pathological correlates of specific language deficits in these patients using lesion-behavior correlation mapping. Dr. Binder has also worked extensively on applications of fMRI for presurgical mapping, including development and validation of fMRI language lateralization methods and prediction of language and verbal memory outcomes. Dr. Binder was PI for 16 years on an NIH project focused on the neurobiology of language (Functional MRI of Human Brain Language Systems, R01 NS33576), and for 18 years on an NINDS-funded epilepsy fMRI project (Presurgical Applications of FMRI in Epilepsy, R01 NS35929). He was PI on the Epilepsy Connectome Project (U01 NS093650), a consortium that collected state-of-the-art MRI and MEG connectome data in 150 temporal lobe epilepsy patients, and is currently PI on an R01 examining the neurobiology of semantic memory systems using fMRI and lesion-behavior correlation mapping (Concept Representation in the Human Brain, R01DC016622).



**Jerica R Broeckling**

*Consultant*

Jerica Broeckling Advising

Jerica Broeckling works with social sector organizations to build their capacity for system change. Jerica’s role is national rather than local; she serves as researcher, advocate and educator on what works, with a focus on helping organizations create effective and long-term change. Today Jerica has a deep focus on accelerating organizational capacity for equity, diversity, and inclusion, working to help organizations understand equity through a systems lens and to align their operations, staffing, and programs to address inequities. Previous to her role as a consultant, she spent eight years with the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities network, a national network of human service organizations committed to excellence and innovation. As Associate Director for the Center for Engagement and Neighborhood Building, Jerica oversaw network learning and partnerships related to engaging client voice, healthy communities, civic participation, and job readiness. Today Jerica works closely with the Alliance as a consultant and has just completed a systems analysis and strategic plan for advancing socioeconomic mobility outcomes through a focus on social determinants of health and racial equity. Jerica’s Master’s Degree is in Nonprofit Administration from Marquette University. For seven years she served as a graduate instructor there, teaching courses on social innovation and nonprofit management. Jerica began her work in the social sector as a Peace Corps volunteer in Ghana, working with community organizations on child and maternal health.

(no photo available)

**Chytania Brown**

*Chief Executive Officer*

Employ Milwaukee Inc.

Chytania Brown has over 20 years of experience in criminal justice, workforce development, community development, policy, and advocacy. In 2020, she was appointed President and CEO of Employ Milwaukee, Inc. Chytania oversees the administration of federal, state, and philanthropic funds and the creation of effective programs that ensure alignment between the skills demanded by a changing economy and those offered by the region’s labor force. Chytania began her career as a parole agent followed by advancement into numerous Senior and Executive Leadership roles in workforce development, including 18 years at Employ Milwaukee, which was previously known as both the Private Industry Council (PIC) and Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board (MAWIB). As a change agent at Employ Milwaukee, she led the creation of a reentry department to provide tailored employment and training services to individuals involved in the criminal justice system, participated in national research projects, and expanded youth and young adult workforce resources by building an Office of Career Exploration. Prior to rejoining Employ Milwaukee in 2020, she served as the Administrator of the Division of Employment and Training at the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) under two gubernatorial administrations.



**Jennifer Campbell, PhD, MPH**  
*Assistant Professor*  
 Medicine  
 Medical College of Wisconsin

Dr. Campbell is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin in the Division of General Internal Medicine. Dr. Campbell completed her Master’s in Public Health from the California State University in Long Beach and her PhD in Public Health with an emphasis on Community and Behavioral Health Promotion from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. She completed the certificate program in Implementation Science from the University of California, San Francisco. As a Health Services researcher, Dr. Campbell’s area of interest is in identifying the barriers to care that occur across levels of influence for marginalized populations (ethnic minorities, low socioeconomic status, impoverished) with diabetes. Her research is focused on intervention development for type 2 diabetes from a holistic standpoint, accounting for multi-level influences. Dr. Campbell’s training fosters a unique approach to improving health equity by integrating health services and public health perspectives with an emphasis on mixed methods and implementation science to reduce health disparities in the burden of type 2 diabetes nationally and globally. Her current work is focused on understanding the role of multidimensional adversity and the intersection of individual, community, and health system factors on health and quality of life for community dwelling adults with type 2 diabetes living within distressed inner cities.

(no photo available)

**Anne Lauer Castro, MD**  
*Assistant Professor*  
 Anesthesiology  
 Medical College of Wisconsin

Dr. Castro an assistant professor of anesthesiology at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, her hometown. She attended college at the University of Notre Dame, studying English and French, along with pre-med courses. After graduation she spent two years working as a volunteer social worker at an orphanage in Honduras, during which time she had the opportunity to interpret for visiting medical brigades, which solidified her decision to pursue a career in medicine. When she returned to the U.S., she spent 1.5 years working as a Spanish interpreter at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin while also applying for medical school. Dr. Castro then attended medical school at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine from 2011-2015, after which she completed residency in anesthesia as well as fellowship in regional anesthesia and acute pain medicine at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, NC, finishing in 2020.



**Yiliang Chen, PhD**  
*Assistant Professor*  
 Medicine  
 Medical College of Wisconsin

Dr. Chen received a Ph.D. degree in the signaling Na/K-ATPase (NKA) research field. It was during that period that Dr. Chen linked the signal transduction role of NKA to lipid metabolism and regulation. Dr. Chen developed a strong motivation to study the problem of atherosclerosis, a common disease involving dyslipidemia, oxidative stress, and chronic inflammation. Dr. Chen joined the lab led by Dr. Roy Silverstein, who is a world-class expert in macrophage biology and vascular diseases including atherosclerosis. During Dr. Chen’s four-year (2011-2015) postdoctoral training in his lab, Dr. Chen successfully secured an AHA Postdoc Fellowship (2013-2014) and demonstrated a novel role for NKA in foam cell formation, which contributes to oxidative stress, inflammation, and atherosclerosis. Dr. Chen was promoted to Research Scientist at the BRI in 2015 and gained independence to freely explore new directions on how lipid metabolism is coupled to macrophage activation. As Dr. Chen expands his studies in the macrophage NKA signaling, he published a novel discovery showing a signaling complex consisting of NKA, CD36, and TLR4, all of which appear to play critical roles in macrophage immune activation as well as lipid metabolism. In September 2020, Dr. Chen was appointed as a tenure-track Assistant Professor at the Medical College of Wisconsin, independent research space in the BRI, and ability to build his own team. Dr. Chen is a member of the Cardiovascular Research Center at MCW and has established multiple collaborations.



**Susan Cohen, MD**

*Associate Professor*

Pediatrics

Medical College of Wisconsin

(no bio available)



**Rachel N Cusatis, PhD**

*Assistant Professor*

Medicine

Medical College of Wisconsin

Dr. Rachel Cusatis is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin. She is the Scientific Director of Patient Centered Research and Survivorship at the Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research (CIBMTR). Dr. Cusatis’s research focuses on the intersection of patient communication and decision making, patient-centered outcomes, and social determinants of health to understand individual and population health behaviors and outcomes. Through mixed methods approaches, she has collaboratively worked on projects analyzing patient reported outcomes, patient and provider communication, and decisional regret among patients after allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplant and other contexts. She is a sociologist by training and received her Bachelor’s degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her Master’s and PhD at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in sociology.

(no photo available)

**Aprill Dawson, PhD, MPH**

*Assistant Professor*

Medicine

Medical College of Wisconsin

(no bio available)





**Jefferson De Los Santos**

*Research Program Manager*

Family & Community Medicine

Medical College of Wisconsin

Jefferson De Los Santos currently serves as the Program Manager in the Department of Family Medicine, Center for Healthy Communities and Research. In this position, he works alongside faculty to develop new programs that support the research goals of the department. At the Center for Healthy Communities and Research, overseeing the programming of the Center's grants and serving as a conduit between community partners and MCW is an enriching experience. As Division Director at Milwaukee County Office of Emergency Management he reviewed federal grant applications and secured contracts with Milwaukee public venues. His clinical background is bolstered by 10+ years as a Clinical Trials Research Manager of Infectious Diseases at Columbia University. This experience in basic science and clinical research is kept fresh as an MCW IRB Committee member reviewer.

<p>(no photo available)</p> <p><b>Julia Dickson-Gomez, PhD</b>  <i>Professor</i>  Institute for Health &amp; Equity  Medical College of Wisconsin</p>	<p>Dr. Dickson-Gomez received her Ph.D. in medical anthropology in 1999. She then completed a NIDA-funded post-doctoral fellowship at Johns Hopkins to study HIV risk among Latinos and drug users. Dr. Dickson-Gomez joined MCW in 2007 at the Center for AIDS Intervention Research and transferred to the Institute for Health and Equity where she is a professor. Dr. Dickson-Gomez has been PI on eight NIDA-funded research projects on the topics of HIV prevention and care among people who use drugs, the effects of social determinants of health (housing, changes in laws) on substance use and HIV. She also evaluated structural interventions by, for example, conducting comparative effectiveness research on different models of supportive housing in Chicago. More recently, she focuses on research on implementation science and is currently funded to integrate buprenorphine into HIV drop-in-centers in Uganda using the Consolidated Framework of Implementation Science. Dr. Dickson-Gomez also used an implementation science framework to evaluate El Salvador's national HIV strategy.</p>
 <p><b>Diem Phuong (Phoenix) Do, PhD</b>  <i>Associate Professor</i>  University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee</p>	<p>Phoenix is an Associate Professor in Public Health Policy &amp; Administration at the Zilber School of Public Health at UW-Milwaukee. Phoenix has a BS in Civil Engineering from UCLA and a PhD in Policy Analysis from the RAND Graduate School. Phoenix was a Kellogg Health Disparities Post-Doctoral Scholar at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She served two years in Mali, West Africa as a Peace Corps Volunteer. Broadly, her research includes investigating policy-relevant issues within the intersection of race/ethnicity, spatial stratification, and health. Phoenix has expertise in policy analysis and applies her quantitative skillset to examine how residential segregation and neighborhood poverty shape population health and racial/ethnic health disparities. Her research is conducted through a social determinants of health lens and applies fundamental cause theory in examining how socioeconomic factors at both the individual and place level influence health and health disparities.</p>
 <p><b>Melinda R Dwinell, PhD</b>  <i>Professor</i>  Physiology  Medical College of Wisconsin</p>	<p>Dr. Dwinell earned her BS in Biology and Psychology from the University of Michigan, followed by her MS and PhD in Veterinary Science (focused on the neural control of breathing) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. As a postdoctoral fellow and Project Scientist at the University of California, San Diego, her research was focused on central nervous system changes during chronic hypoxia. Upon joining MCW as an Assistant Professor of Physiology in 2001, Dr. Dwinell shifted her focus to physiological genomics with a focus on mapping cardiovascular and respiratory phenotypes to the genome through the use of consomic and gene edited rats. During the past twenty years, Dr. Dwinell has been focused on the development of research resources including rodent models as models of complex disease, integrated large phenotype datasets, and informatic approaches to couple genomic data with phenotypes to elucidate the genetic basis of disease.</p>



**Jeffrey M Engelmann, PhD**  
*Assistant Professor*  
 Psychiatry & Behavioral Medicine  
 Medical College of Wisconsin

Dr. Engelmann received his PhD in cognitive and biological psychology from the University of Minnesota in 2010 and completed postdoctoral training in addiction neuroscience at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in 2013. His research focuses on using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), to better understand brain systems and processes that contribute to nicotine addiction and on using this information to develop more effective smoking cessation interventions. He completed a mentored research scientist development award (K01) from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, has served as co-investigator on two R01s and R21, and has current funding as principal investigator from AHW, the State of Wisconsin, and the Greater Milwaukee Foundation (GMF). He received a fundable score on an R03 from the National Institute on Drug Abuse that is currently pending. All of his current projects focus on reducing the health consequences of tobacco use in underserved populations. Highlights include the AHW grant in which they are developing and testing a culturally-tailored smoking cessation program for residents of multifamily public housing in Milwaukee and a GMF grant in which they are using fMRI to investigate the impact of menthol tobacco use on biomarkers of addiction among African American smokers.

(no photo available)

**Cassandra Marie Flagg**  
*Consultant*  
 Cassandra M Flagg Consulting  
 Services LLC

Cassandra Flagg has worked in the Milwaukee community for over 20 years providing resources for education, employment, social and economic development, mental and physical health, outdoor education and environmental health including but not limited to green infrastructure, storm water remediation around flooding and water restoration. She has a BA in business management and communications with certifications in project management and human resources management. She currently works with a local community-based organization (CBO), the City of Milwaukee and about 15 other CBOs to develop a Neighborhood Improvement District (NID) in the Lindsay Heights area. She is also working with the same CBO as the NID with Marquette University to perform a health equity study in the Lindsay Heights area with clinics and churches in the area.



**David Frazer, MPH**  
*Associate Director*  
 Center for Urban Population  
 Health

David Frazer supports overall management, administrative, communication and engagement of the Center. He provides day-to-day support for Center academic and administrative staff, across the three institutions. In addition, Mr. Frazer leads the expansion and sustainment of community partnerships and coordinating community-based research and initiatives. He facilitates collaborative, equitable involvement of the community in local research and is the link between the community at large and the Center. Mr. Frazer has experience in creating environments where community and academic partners can digest evidence and adapt what works into local solutions. He supports and provides a menu of approaches to engage with community or academia depending on the stage of research or program development. David received his Masters of Public Health from Tulane University's School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, his focus of study included program management and evaluation. He has worked in public health for 18 years and his experience ranges from forging grassroots community-based organization collaborations to providing technical assistance to the World Health Organization. His work experience and interests are in population health including environmental health; behavioral health including substance abuse, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, and hepatitis.

(no photo available)

**Julie Freed, MD, PhD**  
*Associate Professor*  
 Anesthesiology  
 Medical College of Wisconsin

Dr. Freed completed her PhD in Physiology at MCW in 2008 and her MD degree in 2011. She was appointed on the NIH T-32 grant during her extended research-track residency in Anesthesiology at MCW prior to completing her clinical fellowship in adult cardiothoracic anesthesia. During her residency she trained under the Northwestern Mutual Endowed Professor of Cardiology David D. Gutterman, MD. Her translational work which focuses on the role that sphingolipids have on human microvascular function has gained international recognition, was featured on the cover of the prestigious American Heart Association journal Circulation Research and has resulted in being awarded a FAER mentored research training grant (MRTG), an NIH K08 award through the NHLBI, and NIH R21 through the NIA. She was selected as the 2018 Steve Cullen Healthy Heart Scholar, has received funding through the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment (AHW), and has served as a co-investigator on many interdisciplinary grants through foundations as well as the NIH. Dr. Freed has a strong passion for developing the next generation of physician-scientists and takes pride in mentoring students and trainees. A sports enthusiast, she enjoys being active with her husband and two children Will (age 4) and Elizabeth (age 2).



**David Richard Friedland, MD, PhD**  
*Chief and Professor*  
 Otolaryngology & Communication  
 Sciences  
 Medical College of Wisconsin

Dr. Friedland did his medical and doctoral studies at Mount Sinai and City University of New York with a research focus on neurodevelopment. He did his post-doctoral fellowship on a T32 grant at Johns Hopkins exploring neuroanatomical correlates of auditory perception. He started his career at MCW with a K08 award to study molecular contributions to neuronal function in the auditory system and transitioned to more translational research with an R21 looking at mRNA in cholesteatoma. He currently is PI on a 5-year AHW grant studying outcomes in otolaryngology with particular attention to social determinants of health in the Southeast Wisconsin region. He has been Chief of Research for the department for over ten years and has had oversight and input into basic, translational, clinical, and population studies.



**Kathy Gale**  
*Executive Director*  
 Eras Senior Network

Kathy Gale has served as Executive Director for Eras Senior Network since 2001. She is responsible for day-to-day management of the agency including 30 employees and six programs leveraging more than 2,000 community volunteers. She works with the Board of Directors to lead fundraising and is responsible for grant writing, government grants and contracts, United Way funding, and development of partnerships to address system-level changes for older adults and family caregivers. Her experience includes non-profit marketing and fund-raising with the YWCA of Van Wert, Ohio and the Ames International Orchestra Association in Ames, Iowa. Kathy's formal education includes a master's degree in Fine Arts from the University of Michigan and a bachelor's degree in fine arts from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Kathy is also an Adjunct Instructor for General Music and Public Finance at Concordia University of Wisconsin. Kathy is currently a PhD candidate at Cardinal Stritch University, researching leadership and service.



**Emily Hall Ganos, PhD**  
*Program Officer*  
 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Dr. Ganos is a Senior Program Officer at Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), on staff for the last eight years. Her work spans a variety of programs, including supporting research on equitable health care models, creating toolkits to promote consumer engagement in health system transformation, efforts to support multi-sector partnerships for health and cross-sector collaboration, and launching a program called Community Solutions for Health Equity, which is focused on resourcing grassroots community-based organizations to advocate for more equitable care and services from their local health care systems. For her work in health philanthropy, she was recently recognized by Grantmakers in Health as a Terrance Kenan Institute Fellow, a program that was created to nurture the next generation of leaders in health care grantmaking and to further their professional development. She received her PhD in Public and Community Health from the Medical College of Wisconsin in 2013. Her dissertation work focused on the drivers of overuse in medicine. Emily's experience in the PhD program deepened her interest and expertise in community-engaged work, through the program's focus on community-based participatory research. In addition to the research training and strong theoretical foundations she built at MCW, she brought the "nothing about me without me" perspective from community based participatory research with her to her work at RWJF.



**Guilherme Garcia, PhD**

*Assistant Professor*

Biomedical Engineering  
Medical College of Wisconsin

Dr. Garcia is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at MCW. His research is highly translational. He works closely with surgeons in the MCW Department of Otolaryngology applying computational fluid dynamics (CFD) to quantify airflow in the human upper airways with the goal of improving the diagnosis and treatment of upper airway diseases. He has been the PI of an AHW-funded project.



**Joseph Goveas, MD**

*Professor*

Psychiatry & Behavioral Medicine  
Medical College of Wisconsin

(no bio available)

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**Stephen Hargarten, MD, MPH**

*Associate Dean and Professor*

Emergency Medicine  
Medical College of Wisconsin

(no bio available)



**Katrina Harwood**

*Health Officer / Director*

Rock County Public Health  
Department

Katrina Harwood currently serves as the Health Officer for Rock County. She has been working in local health departments for over 10 years, with experience in Iowa, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Katrina's role in local health departments has historically been with maternal and child health programs, both in the development and implementation of programs and the development and implementation of policy and system changes to address causes of poor health outcomes. She originally entered the public health workforce as a Registered Dietitian, and it was in her experience as a Registered Dietitian that she became acutely aware of the complexity of systems aimed at improving health and the impacts that social determinants of health have on health outcomes. In addition to obtaining a master's degree in nutrition and health science from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, she has also obtained a master's in public health with a concentration in health policy and management from Kent State University.





**Laura Hawks, MD, MPH**

*Assistant Professor  
Medicine*

Medical College of Wisconsin

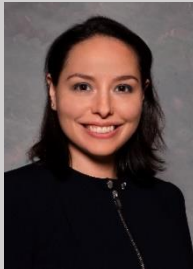
Laura Hawks, MD, MPH is a primary care doctor and health equity researcher at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, WI. She completed residency at Yale Internal Medicine Primary Care and received her Masters in Public Health from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Her clinical experience includes working at the Transitions Clinic, a post-incarceration clinic and treating patients at Cambridge Healthcare for the Homeless. More recently, she has established a primary care-based buprenorphine program at Froedtert. She teaches in Intro to Clinical and Translational Research course for the Masters of Clinical Translational Science at MCW's Graduate School. From a research standpoint, she has been studying the impacts of incarceration on health since she was a medical student. Her current work based in Milwaukee aims to help justice-involved patients with chronic disease achieve control of their illness.



**William A Henk, EdD**

*Former Dean and Professor  
Marquette University*

Dr. Henk served as Dean and Professor of Literacy in the College of Education at Marquette University from 2004 until his retirement in 2020. From 1983 to 2004, he served as a faculty member at the University of Georgia, Penn State Harrisburg (PSH), and Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC). At PSH and SIUC, he held the titles of Director of the School of Behavioral Sciences and Education and Chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, respectively. Dr. Henk earned a national reputation in literacy through multiple book chapters, conference presentations, and awards, as well as over 80 scholarly publications, leadership positions in professional organizations, and co-editing the journal, Reading Research and Instruction. At Marquette he led his College's community engagement efforts including the establishment of the Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, and he contributed significantly to the Milwaukee Succeeds community partnership. He oversaw the Education, Psychology, Health Education, and Training and Development Programs at PSH, as well as the Education and Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology programs at Marquette. In addition, he was appointed to the rank of affiliate associate professor of pediatrics in the Penn State College of Medicine at the Hershey Medical Center in 2000 where he taught courses in measurement and evaluation and consulted on brain-based learning research.



**Jennifer Hernandez-Meier, PhD**

*Assistant Professor  
Emergency Medicine*

Medical College of Wisconsin

Dr. Hernandez-Meier, PhD, MSW is an Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin. From 6/2013-12/2018 she served as a Research Scientist in the Comprehensive Injury Center at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Hernandez-Meier received her Doctorate and Master of Social Work from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Certificate (minor) in Criminal Justice from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her dissertation work examined the epidemiology and prevention of polysubstance use among college students. Dr. Hernandez-Meier's research interests include violence and injury prevention; firearm acquisition and possession policies; the epidemiology of alcohol and drug use; and innovative policies and interventions to address substance misuse, including prescription drug monitoring programs, medical systems-based initiatives and medication assisted treatment.




(no photo available)

**Amit Joshi, PhD**

*Associate Professor*

Biomedical Engineering  
Medical College of Wisconsin

(no bio available)

<p>(no photo available)</p> <p><b>Adina Kalet, MD</b>  <i>Institute Director and Professor</i>  Kern Institute  Medical College of Wisconsin</p>	<p>(no bio available)</p>
 <p><b>Kristina Kaljo, PhD</b>  <i>Assistant Professor</i>  Obstetrics &amp; Gynecology  Medical College of Wisconsin</p>	<p>Kristina Kaljo, PhD is Assistant Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Kern Institute for the Transformation of Medical Education at the Medical College of Wisconsin. She serves as the Director of the Kern Institute Faculty Pillar and Kinetic3 Teaching Academy to promote excellence in medical education across the professional continuum. Dr. Kaljo is the Co-Director of Student-centered Pipeline to Advance Research in Cancer Careers (SPARCC), funded by the National Cancer Institute. SPARCC is a summer research and educational enrichment program to recruit undergraduate students, underrepresented in biomedical research and medicine to enter the vast field of clinical cancer research. Dr. Kaljo has presented internationally and nationally on various topics in medical education research, including qualitative design, program analysis, culturally responsive pedagogy and curricular development.</p>
 <p><b>Candice S Klug, PhD</b>  <i>Professor</i>  Biophysics  Medical College of Wisconsin</p>	<p>Dr. Klug has been an NIH-funded faculty member for 18 years and an active NIH-reviewer for 16 years. Her basic science research expertise focuses on the structural and functional dynamics of proteins using biophysical techniques such as EPR spectroscopy.</p>
 <p><b>Anai Kothari, MD</b>  <i>Assistant Professor</i>  Surgery  Medical College of Wisconsin</p>	<p>Dr. Anai Kothari received his BS in Molecular Biology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his MD from the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. He completed his residency in General Surgery at Loyola University Medical Center, during which he completed a T32 research fellowship in the Cardinal Bernardin Cancer Center and earned an MS in Clinical Research Methods and Epidemiology with a focus on Machine Learning and Predictive Analytics. He then did a clinical fellowship in Complex General Surgical Oncology at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. He currently is an Assistant Professor of Surgical Oncology at the Medical College of Wisconsin with a focus on the surgical treatment of advanced gastrointestinal cancers. Dr. Kothari has grown data science programs at multiple institutions. He co-founded Loyola University Medical Center Department of Surgery's analytic research group (One:MAP Analytics) and provided surgical domain expertise for the Data-Driven Determinants for COVID-19 Oncology Discovery (D3CODE) program at MD Anderson Cancer Center. He has published over 60 peer-reviewed journal articles demonstrating how big data can improve surgical care at the clinical and population level. His current research is focused on leveraging real world data to guide clinical decision-making, developing predictive models to enhance intraoperative care, and using machine learning to identify and overcome disparities in cancer care.</p>



**Sara Krall, MSW**

*Homicide Prevention Program  
Director  
End Domestic Abuse*

Sara Krall is the Homicide Prevention Program Director at End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin. In this role, Sara authors the annual Wisconsin Domestic Violence Homicide Report and provides guidance to Wisconsin communities on research-based homicide prevention strategies including the Lethality Assessment Program – Maryland Model. Before joining End Domestic Abuse in 2012, Sara provided direct services to victims of domestic violence for nine years at both the Salvation Army in Seattle, WA, and Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS) in Madison, WI. Sara holds a B.A. degree in Sociology and a Masters in Social Work, both from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



**Anne E Kwitek, PhD**

*Associate Professor  
Physiology  
Medical College of Wisconsin*

Dr. Kwitek is an Associate Professor in Physiology and Medicine and the leader of the Rat Genome Database. Before being recruited to MCW in 2019, she was a faculty member of the Pharmacology Department and the Associate Director of the Iowa Institute of Human Genetics at the University of Iowa. Dr Kwitek has over 120 papers, reviews, and chapters with over 9500 citations and has been funded by the NIH, VA, USDA, and the American Heart Association. Dr Kwitek has also been an active teacher and mentor. She directly mentored over 30 students ranging from high school level through postdoctoral fellows, most of whom are pursuing careers in academic research or health care professions. Dr Kwitek is a fellow of the American Heart Association (AHA), has served on numerous committees in the AHA and the American Physiological Society and has served on national and international advisory boards involving human and rat genomic resources. She has participated in several NIH study sections as an ad hoc member and as a regular member of the NHLBI PPG Parent Committee (HLBP).

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**Joanne Lagatta, MD**

*Associate Professor  
Pediatrics  
Medical College of Wisconsin*

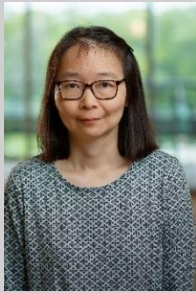
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**Sebastian Linde, PhD**

*Assistant Professor  
Medicine  
Medical College of Wisconsin*

Dr. Linde is a health economist and an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW). He has a Ph.D. in Economics, a MSc in Mathematics and a MPhil in Economic Research. Dr. Linde’s research draws on methodology from social network analysis, econometrics and causal machine learning in order to study provider, hospital and insurer organizational behavior and its subsequent impact on access, cost, quality and patient disparities. In recent work Dr. Linde has studied how Medicare provider patient sharing networks are formed and how the resulting network structures affect patient outcomes and health disparities. Additionally, Dr. Linde has studied how hospital level cost inefficiencies; and how prices are determined within health care markets, and how these go on to impact patients.



**Akiko Mammoto, MD, PhD**  
*Associate Professor*  
 Pediatrics  
 Medical College of Wisconsin

Dr. Mammoto’s fundamental scientific question is how blood vessels control organ morphogenesis and how deregulation of angiogenesis contributes to various diseases. During her postdoctoral training at Harvard Medical School / Boston Children’s Hospital, she conducted in vitro and in vivo angiogenesis experiments and developed expertise in molecular and cell biology, biochemistry and animal studies. Over the last 5-6 years, her group has sought to understand the role of endothelial signaling in organ development, regeneration, and pathology. These studies are currently funded by NIH R01s, R21s, and the American Heart Association. In addition to basic research work, she also conducted graduate school student teaching (IDP) in MCW. She was trained and worked as an Ob/Gyn physician for more than five years before she started basic research.

(no photo available)

**Erica Martin**  
*Senior Manager, Practice & Population Health Initiatives*  
 Wisconsin Pharmacy Foundation Inc.

Erica Martin is the Director of Practice and Population Health Initiatives at the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin (PSW). Prior to joining PSW in 2016, she worked at the Wisconsin Department of Children & Families and the Wisconsin State Senate. Erica earned her Bachelor of Science degree & a graduate-level Capstone Certificate in Leadership for Population Health Improvement from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is earning her Masters of Healthcare Administration and Certificate in Healthcare Compliance from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (graduating in May 2022). At PSW, Erica works on various pharmacy practice and system change initiatives, including expanding access to point-of-care testing, immunizations, and naloxone; pain stewardship; and advancement of pharmacy technicians.




**Timothy B Meier, PhD**  
*Associate Professor*  
 Neurosurgery  
 Medical College of Wisconsin

Timothy Meier, PhD, is an Associate Professor of Neurosurgery at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He received his PhD from the Neuroscience Training Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2012 and completed post-doctoral training at the Laureate Institute for Brain Research in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and at the Mind Research Network in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Dr. Meier has extensive experience studying the physiological effects of mTBI in various populations using a variety of advanced magnetic resonance imaging markers and fluid biomarkers, having published over 80 peer-reviewed manuscripts. He has been the Principal Investigator on multiple NINDS-funded projects focused on identifying the mechanisms of the acute and chronic effects of concussion in athletes using a cross-disciplinary neuroscience approach. He is also a co-investigator on multiple DOD and NIH funded studies of mTBI.

(no photo available)

**Ravi Misra, PhD**  
*Dean and Professor*  
 Biochemistry  
 Medical College of Wisconsin

Dr. Misra is the Dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, and Professor of Biochemistry. He received a BA in Microbiology and Religion from Rutgers College and his MS and PhD in Biochemistry from the Sackler Institute of Biomedical Sciences at the NYU School of Medicine. Dr. Misra’s postdoctoral training was eukaryotic gene regulation and signal transduction in the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics at Harvard Medical School. He joined the faculty of the Biochemistry Department at MCW in 1993 and in 2010 was appointed Dean of the MCW Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at MCW. Research interests include regulation of signaling and gene expression in cancer and neurons, and the control of early coronary vascular development. Dr. Misra has been funded by the NIH and other national funding agencies including the American Heart Association, American Federation for Aging, and the American Cancer Society. He has served on numerous NIH study sections. He was a charter member of the Cardiovascular Differentiation and Development section, as a reviewer on the AHA Regenerative Cell Biology study section, and currently as Chair of the Physiology and Pathobiology of Cardiovascular and Respiratory Systems Fellowship NIH study section. Dr. Misra is also Peer Reviewer for the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and served a member of the AAMC GREAT Group Steering Committee. As Dean, he also has extensive experience in high level institutional administration and program development.

<p>(no photo available)</p> <p><b>Andrew S Nencka, PhD</b>  <i>Center Associate Director and  Associate Professor  Radiology  Medical College of Wisconsin</i></p>	<p>Dr. Nencka is a MRI physicist on the Radiology faculty at the Medical College of Wisconsin, where he also serves as the associate director of the Center for Imaging Research. In these roles, he has been an investigator on numerous studies including imaging, functional neuroimaging, image processing, and deep learning with medical imaging data. His funded work includes technology development in MRI, and his publications focus on such technology development including pulse sequence development, image reconstruction, image processing and analysis, and deep learning applications in medical imaging. He served on multiple NIH grant review study sections, with review assignments focusing on neuroimaging technology development and cancer imaging.</p>
<p>(no photo available)</p> <p><b>Joan Neuner, MD, MPH</b>  <i>Professor  Medicine  Medical College of Wisconsin</i></p>	<p>Throughout her career, Dr. Neuner’s research has aimed at advancing equitable health delivery and improving decision-making in women’s health and cancer, particularly around medication use. After receiving training in health services research and completing a Harvard Medical School general internal medicine fellowship focused on comparative effectiveness, Dr. Neuner moved to the Medical College of Wisconsin and received a K08 from NIA to examine osteoporosis care in older women. She has since been continuously funded as PI or co-investigator by the NIH or the American Cancer Society to examine women’s health care delivery and outcomes, and recently was the inaugural recipient of the Medical College of Wisconsin’s Georgia Carroll Endowed Chair in Women’s Health. Dr. Neuner has published a number of studies aimed at understanding and improving breast cancer and osteoporosis care and reducing disparities. She has particular expertise in examining the mechanisms underlying medication nonadherence, and she currently leads an R01 grant that examines the mechanisms behind health system-related barriers to patient adherence to breast cancer medications using large administrative (claims) datasets and an R21 that examines patient distress and other patient-reported barriers to adherence using self-report tools in an electronic health record. Dr. Neuner also is leading the research project in an NIDDK-funded exploratory P20 to develop a registry of patients with urinary incontinence and build tools to improve care.</p>
<p>(no photo available)</p> <p><b>Ahmed Obeidat, MD, PhD</b>  <i>Assistant Professor  Neurology  Medical College of Wisconsin</i></p>	<p>(no bio available)</p>
 <p><b>Mukoso Ozieh, MD</b>  <i>Assistant Professor  Medicine  Medical College of Wisconsin</i></p>	<p>Dr. Mukoso Ozieh, MD, MSCR, is an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Nephrology and the Center for Advancing Population Science at the Medical College of Wisconsin and Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center. She completed her internal medicine residency training at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, and a Master of Science in Clinical Research (MSCR) degree at the Medical University of South Carolina during her nephrology fellowship under a T32 grant. Dr. Ozieh’s research focuses on understanding the interplay of social risk factors, lifestyle, and genetic risk factors in African Americans with chronic kidney disease and diabetes, developing and testing innovative interventions to improve health and health outcomes. She is a CTSI mentored career development (KL2) award recipient. Her ongoing studies are funded by the NIH National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) and NIH National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD).</p>



**Anna Palatnik, MD**

*Associate Professor*

Obstetrics & Gynecology  
Medical College of Wisconsin

Dr. Anna Palatnik joined the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in September 2016 in the Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine. Dr. Palatnik received her Medical degree from Sackler School of Medicine at Tel-Aviv University, Israel, in 2009. She went on to complete her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee in 2013 followed by a fellowship in Maternal Fetal Medicine at the Northwestern University in Chicago. Dr. Palatnik’s areas of expertise include high risk obstetrics with an emphasis on pregnancies complicated by maternal chronic medical conditions, such as diabetes and hypertension. Dr. Palatnik’s research interests include clinical obstetrics, fetal growth restriction and prenatal diagnosis of congenital heart disease. She has presented her research in several national and international meetings and has over 50 peer-review publications. She has served as an ad hoc reviewer at the NIH section and currently holds several grants investigating pregnancies complicated by hypertension.

(no photo available)

**Bin Pan, MD**

*Associate Professor*

Anesthesiology  
Medical College of Wisconsin

Dr. Pan earned their medical degree from Shaanxi Medical University in 1997 and followed by a four-year training in neurology at the Xi’an Jiaotong University and earned their PhD in neurophysiology from the Xi’an Jiaotong University. After that, Dr. Pan did postdoctoral research at the University of California Berkeley and Medical College of Wisconsin on mechanisms of synaptic transmission and drug addiction. After their faculty appointment, Dr. Pan has worked on translational research of chronic pain, affective disorders after pain, and traumatic brain injury to find ways to treat these diseases.



**Hannah Phillips**

*Healthy Communities Coordinator*  
UW-Madison Division of  
Extension

Hannah Phillips is a Certified Health Education Specialist with a Bachelor’s Degree in Community Health Education. She is a FoodWise Healthy Communities Coordinator at the UW-Madison Division of Extension. In this role, she works on policy, systems, and environmental change efforts to make it easier for people with limited income to eat healthy and be active. Her work includes coordinating a food security coalition, participating in community hunger-relief networks, providing technical assistance and training on school wellness policy and practices, and facilitating grant-funded projects. In the past, Hannah served as a Health Educator for a local health department, and a Prevention Coordinator, managing a federal grant and coordinating a community coalition.



**Sara Pillay, PhD**

*Assistant Professor*

Neurology  
Medical College of Wisconsin

Dr. Pillay an Assistant Professor of Neurology and a clinical neuropsychologist by training. She has a broad background in clinical psychology, with specific training and expertise in cognitive assessment and neuropsychology. She received her PhD in Clinical Psychology from Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, prior to completing a fellowship specialized in neuropsychology at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Pillay’s research focuses on using a multi-disciplinary translational research approach to understand language organization and recovery in neurologic disorders.

<p>(no photo available)</p> <p><b>Linda Piacentine, PhD, RN, ACNP-BC</b>  <i>Associate Professor</i>  Marquette University</p>	<p>Dr. Piacentine, PhD, RN, ACNP-BC is on faculty at Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI. Dr. Piacentine is a nurse practitioner and academic researcher who demonstrates strong leadership on interdisciplinary educational and research teams. Dr. Piacentine earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Master's of Science in Nursing Administration, a post-master's certificate as an Adult Nurse Practitioner, and a Ph.D. in Nursing. She also has recently earned a certificate in Telehealth. In her nursing career she has held staff, manager, educator, and researcher roles giving her a broad understanding and unique nursing leadership viewpoint to review panels. Dr. Piacentine has a strong understanding of patient care in various settings and the diverse and quickly changing needs of the health care workforce.</p>
 <p><b>Hershel Raff, PhD</b>  <i>Professor</i>  Medicine  Medical College of Wisconsin</p>	<p>Hershel Raff received a PhD from Johns Hopkins and was a post-doctoral fellow at UCSF. He is currently Professor of Medicine, Surgery, and Physiology at MCW and Director of the Endocrine Research Lab at Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center/Advocate Aurora Research Institute. He served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Endocrine Society and is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Physiological Society. His clinical research focuses on the human stress response and the development of new tests for the diagnosis of adrenal disorders. He developed late-night salivary cortisol testing for the diagnosis of Cushing's syndrome. He teaches endocrine physiology and pathophysiology to 1st year medical, graduate and pharmacy students, and clinical endocrinology fellows, and is course director of the M2 Endocrinology/Reproduction Course and the grad school Organ Systems Physiology Course. He was elected to AOA in 2005, was an inaugural inductee in the Society of Teaching Scholars and received the Beckman Basic Science Teaching Award five times. He is a co-author of several textbooks including Vander's Human Physiology and of Medical Physiology: A Systems Approach and has authored or coauthored 185 peer reviewed papers and 44 reviews and book chapters. He is the UpToDate Author/Editor for adrenal Clinical Laboratory Testing and is Associate Editor of Endocrinology (an Endocrine Society journal).</p>
 <p><b>Darren Rausch, MS</b>  <i>Director and Health Officer</i>  City of Greenfield Health Department</p>	<p>Darren Rausch, MS, CPH, has served as the Health Officer/Director of the Greenfield Health Department since June 2007. In this role, he is responsible for oversight and management of all public health programs and services for the nearly 38,000 residents within the City of Greenfield. Mr. Rausch has extensive teaching experience as a Lecturer with the UW-Milwaukee College of Nursing (since 2004) teaching Epidemiology, and as Adjunct Faculty with the UW-Milwaukee Zilber School of Public Health (since 2013) where he has taught Public Health Policy and Administration and Community Health Assessment, in addition to supervising MPH students in field placements and internships within his department. In addition, Mr. Rausch is a current PhD candidate at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Zilber School of Public Health, where he is studying Community and Behavioral Health Promotion. Mr. Rausch received his Master of Science in Epidemiology from the University of Iowa and has been Certified in Public Health by the National Board of Public Health Examiners. He completed a Bachelor of Arts double major at Cornell College (Mount Vernon, Iowa) in Chemistry and Biochemistry &amp; Molecular Biology.</p>
<p>(no photo available)</p> <p><b>Kevin Regner, MD</b>  <i>Chief and Professor</i>  Medicine  Medical College of Wisconsin</p> <p><i>(review panel chair)</i></p>	<p>(no bio available)</p>



**Phyllis Ann Richards, MA, MS**  
*Director of Equity, Diversity and  
 Inclusion and Research*  
 Alliance - COA

Phyllis Richards is the Director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Research at Alliance-COA. In her current role, she collaborates with internal and external partners on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion initiatives as well as supports the research and assessment needs of Alliance-COA. Her work includes leading EDI workshops and consultations, administering the Alliance-COA EDI Staff Assessment, the Commitments of High Impact Nonprofit Organization assessment, and the annual compensation study. She is also a qualified administrator of the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI). Using data, systems thinking and a results-based accountability approach, Phyllis works with Alliance-COA members to develop equity, diversity and inclusion strategies for their organizations. Prior to working with the Alliance, Phyllis founded the non-profit organization Parents Advocating for Cultural Equality and Educational Excellence (PACE3). She led this grassroots organization for nine years. The focus of PACE3 is to address the systemic racism, cultural competency and academic excellence concerns of parents and students of color at predominately white suburban Milwaukee school districts. She holds a MA in Social Policy from the University of Chicago’s Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice along with a MS in Educational Psychology with a concentration in Measurement and Statistics from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.



**Michelle Marie Riehle, PhD**  
*Assistant Professor*  
 Microbiology & Immunology  
 Medical College of Wisconsin

The NIH funded research in Dr. Riehle’s laboratory explores the role of genetic variation in non-coding regulatory elements in the susceptibility and resistance to malaria infection in the mosquito vector of one of the world's most deadly diseases. She has expertise in genetics, genomics, bioinformatics, molecular biology and microbiology. She obtained her PhD in Biological Sciences at the University of California Irvine, was a post-doctoral scientist at the University of Minnesota and ran a federally funded research lab at the University of Minnesota before coming to the Medical College of Wisconsin in 2018.

(no photo available)

**Michelle Congdon Scharnott**  
*National Vice President, Quality,  
 Outcomes Research and Analytics*  
 American Heart Association



Michelle Scharnott serves as the National Vice President in the Quality, Outcomes Research and Analytics department of the American Heart Association. She has been at the AHA for 18 years working with hospitals, departments of health, skilled nursing and clinics to improve quality of patient care. She manages 31 active grants and national sponsorships that are geared towards improving the patient pathway and treatment to guideline directed medical therapy. She leads a team of implementation managers and grant managers across the country. She oversees national volunteer leaderships groups and the research publication review for quality improvement programs and registry data. She has several published abstracts in the area of cardiovascular disease and stroke, including disparities of care in rural settings. She served as a commissioner for the National Association of Health Care Quality and is a Certified Professional of Healthcare Quality. She is pursuing a Doctorate in Health Sciences at A.T. Still University.

(no photo available)

**Kathleen M Schmainda, PhD**  
*Professor*  
 Biophysics  
 Medical College of Wisconsin

Dr. Schmainda has been actively involved in translational research and teaching at MCW for 25 years. This has included continuous NIH funding and service on NIH grant reviews. The clinical translational research she undertakes is situated at the interface of basic science and clinical care, working closely with the clinical teams at MCW. She also is very active in the community and various mentorship programs.



<p>(no photo available)</p> <p><b>Curt Sigmund, PhD</b>  <i>Chair and Professor</i>  Physiology  Medical College of Wisconsin</p> <p><i>(review panel chair)</i></p>	<p>(no bio available)</p>
 <p><b>Ashima Singh, PhD</b>  <i>Assistant Professor</i>  Pediatrics  Medical College of Wisconsin</p>	<p>Dr. Ashima Singh is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the Medical College of Wisconsin. She earned her PhD in Epidemiology at the University of Pittsburgh and MS in Biomedical Informatics from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Her broad research interest involves knowledge discovery through real world data. Dr. Singh’s current work involves leveraging the big data of electronic health records to understand health care systems, the health of populations, and real-world practices. These data allow a research continuum that includes treatment and diagnoses, risk assessment and prediction, and disparities and epidemiology. She has focused on understanding health care service utilization, in addition to clinical and patient reported outcomes for individuals with sickle cell disease. She also is leading the establishment of a statewide surveillance program for individuals with sickle cell disease that is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For this work, she is utilizing a variety of data sources to create a comprehensive registry to understand the long-term trends in healthcare service utilization and outcomes for individuals living with this rare condition in Wisconsin. She has over 20 publications and has presented her research numerous times at prominent national scientific meetings.</p>
<p>(no photo available)</p> <p><b>Rodney Sparapani, PhD</b>  <i>Associate Professor</i>  Institute for Health &amp; Equity  Medical College of Wisconsin</p>	<p>(no bio available)</p>
 <p><b>Tracey Sparrow, EdD</b>  <i>President</i>  Next Door Foundation</p>	<p>Dr. Sparrow is currently the President of Next Door, a nonprofit agency in Milwaukee providing high quality early childhood education and family support services to nearly 1,400 children a year from birth to five years old. She previously served as Vice President of Children’s Programs at Milwaukee Center for Independence. While there, she led the development of a new school (Wells Street Academy) for children with complex medical needs. She was also instrumental in expanding the agency’s prenatal services through a program called SmartBaby in partnership with Marquette University, Neighborhood Health Center and African American Breastfeeding Network. Dr. Sparrow spent seven years leading Milwaukee Academy of Science as its first President and CEO. Dr. Sparrow has served as adjunct professor at Alverno College, Cardinal Stritch University and Carroll University. She is also a past board member of the Principal’s Center at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Education. She received her doctoral degree in education at Cardinal Stritch University; her master’s degree in management at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; and her bachelor’s degree in sociology at Tulane University. In 2020, Dr. Sparrow received the Doctor of Humanities Honorary Degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin.</p>



**Rebecca Steuart, MD, MS**  
*Assistant Professor*  
 Pediatrics  
 Medical College of Wisconsin

Dr. Steuart a junior physician-scientist and new assistant professor at the Medical College of Wisconsin, in the division of Pediatric Complex Care. She recently completed her fellowship training in Pediatric Hospital Medicine at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital as well as her Master of Science degree in Clinical and Translational Research. Her career goal is to become an NIH-funded investigator in epidemiology and patient-centered outcomes research, leading the investigation into the multifactorial causes of poor long-term respiratory outcomes in children with chronic respiratory support needs, including tracheostomies and home ventilators, in order to ultimately develop standardized care recommendations and surveillance programs for children with medical complexity. Dr. Steuart is currently conducting retrospective outcomes research in this population's respiratory cultures, antibiotic use, and lung health outcomes, and she leads a grant funded, small prospective respiratory culture surveillance program.

(no photo available)

**Astrid Stucke, MD**  
*Professor*  
 Anesthesiology  
 Medical College of Wisconsin

(no bio available)



**Christina A Studebaker**  
*Community Impact Coordinator*  
 United Way of Door County

Christina Studebaker currently works for the United Way of Door County, assisting with community impact work, overseeing the organization's research and program evaluation efforts, and assisting funded partners with data collection and program evaluation. Previously, she worked for 13 years as a trial consultant, conducting focus groups, mock trials, and community survey research across the county to assist legal teams with litigation strategies. Christina also worked in the Research Division of the Federal Judicial Center (in Washington, DC) and as a college professor. She taught undergraduate and graduate courses in social psychology, forensic/legal psychology, and research methods. Christina has a PhD in Social Psychology from Northwestern University (1996) and a Master of Legal Studies degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (1999). Over the course of her graduate studies and professional career, Christina has conducted experimental studies in the lab, quasi-experimental studies, focus groups and mock trial studies (designed to gather empirical data that informs litigation strategies), and community surveys. The survey work has addressed community attitudes and beliefs (e.g., related to pretrial publicity) and community needs (e.g., childcare needs during and after the COVID-19 pandemic).

(no photo available)

**Karin Swartz, MD**  
*Assistant Dean and Associate Professor*  
 Neurosurgery  
 Medical College of Wisconsin

Dr. Swartz is a board-certified neurosurgeon with fellowship training in spinal disorders. She has explored a wide variety of pathology and interventions, in both the research and patient care arenas. Dr. Swartz has pursued spinal cord injury and immune modulatory basic science research. She has been involved in spinal cord injury clinical research projects including stem cell applications. She has reviewed VA Merit Grants, NIH grants. Dr. Swartz is the VA Neurosurgical Section Chief at the Zablocki VA and an Associate Professor of Neurosurgery at MCW. She is the Neurosurgical Clerkship Director and also the Patient Safety and Quality Officer for the Department of Neurosurgery. Additionally, Dr. Swartz is the Assistant Dean for Continuing Professional Development for MCW. She has a vested interest in advancing the development of health care provision to the betterment of all patients, on all educational levels. Outside of MCW/VA, Dr. Swartz is also nationally involved in socioeconomic organizations involving spine care (NASS, AANS, CNS, CSNS), including coding and billing education, and serves as an advisor to AMA's RUC (relative value committee/RVUs). She serves as the Workforce Committee chair for CSNS (Neurosurg socioeconomic joint section).



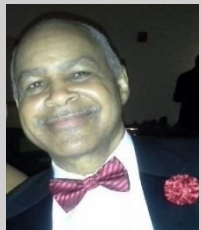
**Tony Thrasher, D.O, DFAPA**  
*Medical Director of Crisis Services*  
 Milwaukee County Department of  
 Health and Human Services -  
 Behavioral Health Division

Dr. Thrasher is a board-certified psychiatrist employed as the medical director for the Crisis Services branch of the Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division. He received his psychiatric training from Washington University in St. Louis / Barnes Jewish Hospital, and he is the current President of the American Association for Emergency Psychiatry (AAEP). He is a Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association (APA), and he currently serves as the President Elect for the Wisconsin Psychiatric Association (WPA). Additionally, he enjoys teaching as a Clinical Associate Professor with the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) and serving as the chair for the Wisconsin state task force combining leaders in emergency medicine in psychiatry on topics improving the patient experience! Most recently, he was inducted into the American College of Psychiatrists, elected to the NAMI Wisconsin Board of Directors, and is fortunate to work with Psychiatric Times on a series of Mental Health Minute webinars!



**Ashleigh VanDeurzen**  
*Business Operations Coordinator*  
 Office of Diversity and Inclusion  
 Medical College of Wisconsin

Ashleigh VanDeurzen serves as Business Operations Coordinator within the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and received her degree in Corporate Health Communications from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in May 2016. She has since been with the Medical College of Wisconsin, starting in June 2016. Having worked in Human Resources and the Center for Advancing Population Science (CAPS), she has gained knowledge in operations, financials, human resources, and grant management.





**Shelton Watkins**  
*Board Member*  
 Koinonia Family Development  
 Center

Shelton Watkins graduated from Lane College in Jackson, TN (1970). He obtained a BS Degree in Biology with a minor in Chemistry. He taught Biology and Science at Rufus King High School during the 1970s. Shelton accepted a position with the Miller Brewing Company where he held several positions in the Corporate Quality Services Department. He retired from MillerCoors as Transportation Manager for Domestic and International quality in 2010. Shelton serves on the Board of Directors for the Koinonia Family Development Center, a 501c3 community outreach ministry of St Matthew CME Church. He holds the position of Program Director responsible for program development. He also works with Come Alive Milwaukee sponsored by Dr. Leonard E. Egede, MD, MS. Director for the Center for Advancing Population Science (CAPS). This program funded COVID and Diabetes research assessments in low-income communities in Milwaukee. Shelton also co-sponsored COVID vaccine distribution in tandem with Wisconsin Health Services. He is a member of Pastor's United of Milwaukee, a faith based non-profit focused on promoting economic development in the central city and health and human resource expansion. Shelton resides in Germantown, WI with his wife, Brenda. He comes from a family of medical professionals, his son Dr. Shelton Watkins, Jr. is the Managing Pharmacist at Walgreens in Greenfield, WI. Shelton Jr's twin granddaughters, Jayda & Jayla, are recent graduates of MCW and first year residents.

(no photo available)

**Calvin B Williams, MD, PhD**  
*Chief and Professor*  
 Pediatrics  
 Medical College of Wisconsin

(no bio available)

<p>(no photo available)</p> <p><b>Aaron Winn, PhD</b>  <i>Assistant Professor</i>  School of Pharmacy  Medical College of Wisconsin</p>	<p>(no bio available)</p>
 <p><b>Dawn Wolfgram, MD</b>  <i>Associate Professor</i>  Medicine  Medical College of Wisconsin</p>	<p>Dr. Wolfgram is an Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Nephrology at the Medical College of Wisconsin and Section Chief of Nephrology at the Milwaukee VA Medical Center. She completed Medical School at UW School of Medicine and Public Health and residency in Internal Medicine at University of Michigan Hospital and Clinics and Nephrology fellowship at The University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics. Dr. Wolfgram has clinical and research interests in geriatric nephrology and focused on improving cognitive and functional outcomes in older adults with kidney disease.</p>
<p>(no photo available)</p> <p><b>Alice Yan, MD, PhD</b>  <i>Associate Professor</i>  Medicine  Medical College of Wisconsin</p>	<p>(no bio available)</p>
 <p><b>Kaija Zusevics, PhD, MPH</b>  <i>Associate Researcher</i>  Center for Urban Population Health</p>	<p>Dr. Zusevics received her Masters of Public Health in Community Health Education in 2008, followed by her PhD in Public and Community Health from MCW in 2012. After that, she completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Genomics and Ethics for two years, during which she wrote grants, published manuscripts, and conducted quantitative and qualitative research with a multidisciplinary team. She currently works as an Associate Researcher at the Center for Urban Population Health, serving as lead or co-evaluator/researcher on multiple state and federal grants focused on improving community health outcomes and determinants. In this role, she also supports grant applications, data analysis, report writing, and partnership development and sustainability. Furthermore, she has published numerous manuscripts based on quantitative and qualitative data analysis for the collaborative grants on which she has worked. She also teaches two graduate level public health courses: Epidemiology and Racial and Ethnic Health Inequalities.</p>