Michael E. Stadler, MD, FACS

Executive Director, Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment
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Michael E. Stadler, MD, FACS is a physician, healthcare leader, and lifelong Wisconsin champion whose career has been shaped by a conviction that every person in this great state—regardless of ZIP Code, background, or circumstance—should have access to the resources that support health and well-being. As Executive Director of the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment (AHW), Dr. Stadler leads one of the nation's most distinctive health philanthropies, stewarding funds entrusted to the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) to improve the health of the people of Wisconsin.

Born and raised in Greendale, Wisconsin, Dr. Stadler received his medical degree from the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, before completing an otolaryngology-head and neck surgery residency at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He went on to complete a head and neck oncologic and reconstructive fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis before returning to MCW, where he has built his entire medical career.

Dr. Stadler's clinical work has focused on the surgical and multidisciplinary care of patients with head and neck cancers. His experience as a care provider fuels his dedication to closing gaps to the timely, high-quality care that all Wisconsinites deserve, a passion that he carried with him as Chief Medical Officer of Froedtert Hospital and Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs at MCW. During the COVID-19 pandemic and its difficult aftermath, Dr. Stadler led clinical and operational transformation across this major, complex academic health system, guiding teams through unprecedented challenges while driving measurable quality gains.

Before becoming AHW's Executive Director, Dr. Stadler served as the Physician Lead for AHW's Health Workforce Well-being Landmark Initiative—a role that immersed him in AHW's culture, operations, and governance, all while demonstrating and strengthening AHW's statewide partnerships. In that capacity, he convened health systems, professional societies, state regulatory boards, and community organizations across Wisconsin to confront a crisis that threatens the entire health ecosystem: the burnout, demoralization, and attrition of the very workforce on which patients depend.

As AHW's leader, Dr. Stadler draws from a background that spans clinical care and research, academic medicine, health system leadership, and philanthropic stewardship. He has served veterans at the Zablocki VA Medical Center and mentored countless students in their pursuit of the amazing rewards of medical practice. He cherishes the opportunity to build upon AHW's long and respected history of serving the people of Wisconsin by supporting community-focused health initiatives, advancing biomedical research, and building the health workforce Wisconsin needs. Dr. Stadler believes that AHW will only succeed in its mission of creating a healthy Wisconsin through partnerships shaped by common goals and grounded in mutual trust.

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Dr. Stadler serves on the Mequon-Thiensville School District Board of Education, reflecting a commitment to civic engagement that extends well beyond medicine. He resides in Mequon, Wisconsin, where he enjoys spending time with his wife Neda Esmaili, MD, who is also an MCW faculty member, and two young boys, Ethan and Kian.
