



# Wisconsin Partnership Program

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

## **Improving Health and Advancing Health Equity Through Community Partnerships, Research and Education**

Annual Report  
July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021



**Wisconsin Partnership Program**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

The Wisconsin Partnership Program was established at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health in 2004 through a generous endowment gift from Blue Cross Blue Shield United of Wisconsin to a stock insurance corporation. The Wisconsin Partnership Program expresses its continued gratitude for this gift to benefit the people of Wisconsin.

## Our Mission

To bring about lasting improvements in health and well-being and advance health equity in Wisconsin through investments in community partnerships, education and research.

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## Key

ICTR	Institute for Clinical and Translational Research
OAC	Oversight and Advisory Committee
PERC	Partnership Education and Research Committee
SMPH	School of Medicine and Public Health
WFAA	Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association
WPP	Wisconsin Partnership Program

## Dean's Message

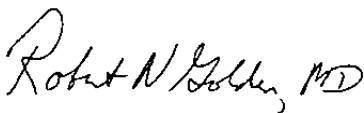
Preparation of this year's Annual Report evokes intense reflections on a truly unique year.

Last year at this time, the Wisconsin Partnership Program quickly mobilized to develop the *COVID-19 Response Grant Program*, a rapid response to a once-in-a-century pandemic. WPP also supported our partners as the country, state and communities grappled with a national reckoning of racism and its intersection with COVID-19. As these initial grants conclude, it is clear they promoted a deeper understanding of the virus, advanced evidence-based approaches to prevention and treatment, and strengthened the resilience of our most vulnerable communities. These investments provided vital support for coordinated and thoughtful responses to the pandemic.

WPP's response to COVID-19 expanded and evolved in several ways in 2021. While the new *COVID-19 Response Grant Program for Research and Education* addresses the ongoing health challenges and consequences of the pandemic, the *Adolescent Social and Emotional Health Grant Program* tackles the dramatic toll the pandemic has taken on the mental health of Wisconsin's youth. The success of our partnership with the UW–Madison School of Nursing and other UW System nursing schools, including those in Green Bay, Eau Claire, Oshkosh and Stevens Point, in providing vaccinations is striking. To date, more than 640 student nurses and 91 nurse faculty provided a total of more than 9000 hours of service, in partnership with 62 community or campus organizations, in communities across our state.

This past year demonstrated the need for all of us to embrace the vision of advancing health and health equity if we want to successfully address health crises like this pandemic. We must all work together to achieve the goal of eliminating the persistent conditions that contribute to poor health outcomes. WPP's investments are essential tools for building this shared vision. In partnership, we can advance the Wisconsin Idea in a way that allows everyone in our state to live full and healthy lives.

Sincerely,



Robert N. Golden, MD  
 Robert Turell Professor in Medical Leadership  
 Dean, UW School of Medicine and Public Health  
 Vice Chancellor of Medical Affairs  
 University of Wisconsin-Madison



# Wisconsin Partnership Program Advancing Health and Health Equity

The Wisconsin Partnership Program is a permanent endowment within the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) created to improve health and well-being in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Partnership Program invests in community partnerships, education and research to improve health and advance health equity.\* Our mission and work are strongly integrated with the SMPH’s mission to advance health and health equity through innovative research, outstanding education and service to communities.

To date, the Wisconsin Partnership Program has awarded 550 grants totaling \$262.9 million in investments in research, education and training, community partnerships and COVID-19 Response funding. These investments propel research and discovery, create partnerships and stimulate new ideas and initiatives to improve health and advance health equity, respond to unprecedented health challenges

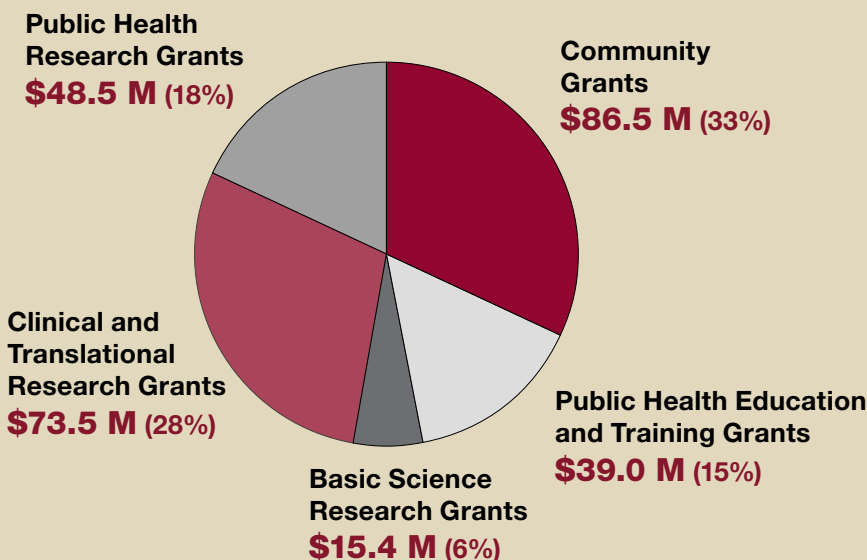
and help build a highly skilled medical and public health workforce. Through the endowment, these investments have provided the SMPH with the remarkable opportunity to extend the Wisconsin Idea throughout the state.

\* *The Wisconsin Partnership Program defines health equity as the attainment of the highest level of health for all people.<sup>1</sup> This requires addressing obstacles to health, such as poverty, discrimination and their consequences (including lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, safe environments and healthcare.)<sup>2</sup>*

1: From “The Secretary’s Advisory Committee on National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives for 2020: Phase I Report: Recommendations for the Framework and Format of Healthy People 2020,” 2008, by the Department of Health and Human Services, retrieved from [healthypeople.gov/sites/default/files/PhaseI\\_0.pdf](https://www.healthypeople.gov/sites/default/files/PhaseI_0.pdf); 2: From “What is Health Equity? and What Difference Does a Definition Make?” 2017, by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, retrieved from [nccd.hq.ca/resources/entry/what-is-health-equity-and-what-difference-does-a-definition-make](https://www.nccd.hq.ca/resources/entry/what-is-health-equity-and-what-difference-does-a-definition-make).

The Wisconsin Partnership Program is governed by two committees composed of faculty and community members. The Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC) directs and approves funds for public health initiatives. The Partnership Education and Research Committee (PERC) allocates funds for medical education and research initiatives to improve population health. Their combined expertise and backgrounds guide the Wisconsin Partnership Program’s processes for reviewing and awarding grants and evaluating outcomes.

## Grants Awarded by Type 2004 - June 30, 2021



**Grants Awarded  
2004–June 30, 2021**  
550 grants • \$262.9 Million

**Grants Awarded  
July 1, 2020 -  
June 30, 2021**  
11 grants • \$9.2 Million

**Return on Investment**  
Grantees have leveraged **\$643.6 million** from federal agencies and other organizations outside the UW System to sustain or expand their work.

## Highlights: Year in Review

In 2021, the Wisconsin Partnership Program supported 11 grants for a total of \$9.2 million. These investments support a range of projects that drive research and knowledge, reduce health disparities, support the education of future physicians, advance health equity and address the health impacts of COVID-19.

- Two new grant programs expand WPP's response to COVID-19:** The *COVID-19 Response Research and Education Grant Program* supports UW–Madison researchers in addressing the ongoing health challenges and consequences of COVID-19. Awards were recently made to faculty at the UW SMPH, School of Nursing, School of Education and College of Engineering for a range of diverse and innovative projects. WPP also launched the *COVID-19 Response Adolescent Social and Emotional Health Grant Program* to support community organizations as they address the pandemic's impact on the social and emotional health of our state's youth.
- New WPP Scholarship Recipients:** The four-year scholarship, created with the goal of increasing enrollment and retention of medical students from communities that are underrepresented in medicine, is awarded annually and provides up to \$40,000 per year to selected students. Two inaugural scholarships for full tuition were awarded in 2020–2021. Two additional scholarships were awarded for the 2021–2022 school year. Recipients have demonstrated a strong commitment to improving health and health outcomes in Native American, Black and Hmong communities.
- A statewide investment to reduce health disparities:** Together with its sister endowment, *Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment* at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW), WPP supported an expansive statewide collaboration to study, measure and recommend solutions for health inequities across the state, including rural and urban areas of Wisconsin. The joint three-year \$3 million grant supports a collaboration among researchers at the SMPH and MCW and partners at the Marshfield Clinic Research Institute, the Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality and the Wisconsin Health Information Organization, a consortium of 20 health insurers. The collaborators will research and recommend evidence-based solutions to inequities in accessing and delivering care in Wisconsin.
- A new maternal and child health funding opportunity:** *The Strengthening Community Solutions to Improve Black Maternal and Infant Health* funding opportunity provides funding to strengthen and expand successful efforts and approaches of community-based organizations and community models of care to help improve the health of Wisconsin's Black mothers and infants.
- Responding to dual health crises:** WPP continues to support work to reduce health disparities and advance health equity, including addressing the impact of racism on health and well-being. This year's Community Impact Grants provided \$6 million to six initiatives to advance health equity. Awards support the mental health of Black men, promote the health and well-being of Black women and reduce health inequities by addressing barriers to employment, housing and economic stability.
- Virtual health equity learning sessions and technical assistance trainings:** WPP's community grants team hosted 25 virtual trainings that were attended by more than 150 community grantees. These sessions support and strengthen the capacity of community organizations to advance health equity by addressing critical components of their work, including achieving sustainability, defining legacy, communicating effectively and addressing racism and discrimination.
- Return on investment:** During this fiscal year, grantees reported **\$23.3 million** in funds leveraged from external sources to sustain or expand their work.





## The Wisconsin Idea in Action: Advancing Health Equity

The Wisconsin Partnership Program invests in community partnerships as well as research and education initiatives that address a myriad of factors that contribute to poor health outcomes, including the impact of racism on health.

“Black people are suffering from the chronic stress that research has shown comes with daily ‘micro-aggressions’ — indirect, subtle or unintentional discrimination — and leads to illness and premature death,” says Rev. Alexander Gee, DMin, founder and president of the Nehemiah Center for Urban Leadership Development. Nehemiah is using a five-year, \$1 million Community Impact Grant to address these stark health disparities.

Awarded in 2019, the initiative *Reducing Health Inequity through Promotion of Social Connection* focuses on reducing health disparities among Black people by addressing the health impacts of racism.

The grant team has implemented several strategies, including education and training for white allies through its *Justified Anger: Black History for a New Day* course and through mentorship support and leadership training for Black professionals.

To date, more than 2,600 people have taken the *Justified Anger* course. An additional 1,000 people across multiple sectors have taken the class as part of a group including participants from American Family Insurance, First Business Bank, M3 Insurance, Madison 365, TDS, City of Fitchburg, as well as through school districts, other businesses and faith communities.

“WPP’s support has allowed us to develop and expand our efforts to address the culture and systems that exacerbate stress and poor health outcomes,” says Gee. “In doing so, we can actualize the *Wisconsin Idea* for our state’s Black and Brown communities.”

## Responding to COVID-19

The Wisconsin Partnership Program continues to respond to the pandemic through its *COVID-19 Response Grant Program* through investments in research initiatives, efforts to promote vaccine delivery, and by supporting communities disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

This year, a grant to UW–Madison School of Nursing brought together nursing students, faculty and volunteers from UW campuses in Madison, Eau Claire, Green Bay, Oshkosh and Stevens Point to support COVID-19 vaccination efforts across Wisconsin. Led by UW–Madison School of Nursing, the grant has supported the coordination, education and deployment of nursing students, faculty, staff and alumni volunteers to provide clinic support and vaccine administration and outreach on COVID-19 prevention.

To date, more than 640 student nurses and 91 nurse faculty have partnered with 62 community or campus organizations across the state to provide COVID-19 vaccinations.

In addition, 14 new COVID-19 Response awards of \$2.7 million, awarded in July 2021, build upon WPP’s initial



COVID-19 Response Grant Program, bringing its total investment to \$5.9 million in 40 grants to support pandemic research, response and recovery efforts.



Learn more about how WPP is responding to COVID-19 [here](#).

## Propelling Research and Discovery

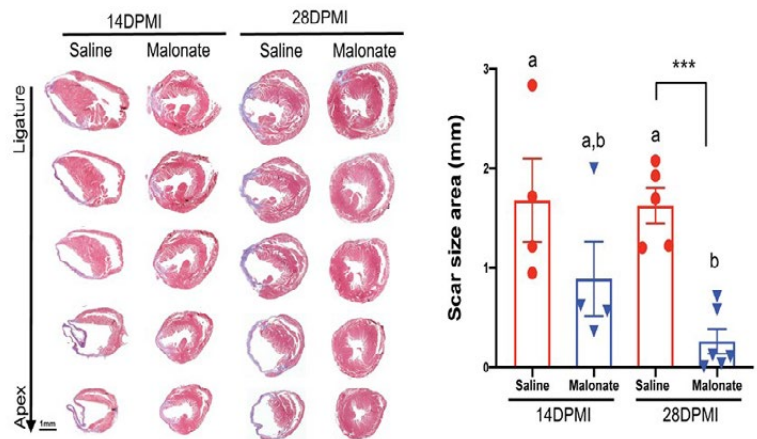
The Wisconsin Partnership Program invests in innovative ideas and projects to advance understanding of illness and disease and propel future research. One way it works toward this goal is through its New Investigator Program and grants to researchers, including Ahmed Mahmoud, PhD, an assistant professor in the SMPH’s Department of Cell and Regenerative Biology.

Dr. Mahmoud and his team are providing new insight into how the heart can heal itself at the molecular and cellular levels. In the study, *Identifying the Mechanisms of Nerve Regulation of Heart Regeneration*, the team found that newborn mice can regenerate cardiac tissue after injury. This simple intervention, the researchers say, could ultimately help restore cardiac function by regenerating the heart muscle after a heart attack.

According to the American Heart Association, more than 6 million American adults were affected by heart failure between 2015–18. “The team’s findings,” says Mahmoud, “are a positive step forward in helping millions of people facing heart failure.” The study was recently published in the journal *Circulation*.



[Read the story.](#)



*Histological heart sections from saline and malonate-injected mice at 14 and 28 days following adult myocardial infarction, showing restoration of cardiac structure and no fibrotic scarring by 28 days following infarction in malonate treated mice. (Right) Quantification of scar size demonstrating a significant reduction in fibrotic scar size in malonate-treated mice at 28 days post infarction.*

## Evaluation Program Updates

The Wisconsin Partnership Program works continually to enhance its evaluation program to better record and convey the impact of the work funded through its grant programs as well as to inform future action. During the past year, WPP introduced the following enhancements to its evaluation program:

### 1. Hiring a new evaluator, Lindsay Barone, PhD:

Dr. Barone oversees all WPP evaluation efforts.

### 2. Designing and implementing a major follow-up study of all past WPP grantees:

Strong impacts are often realized beyond the typical 2–3-year WPP funding award periods. To better gauge these long-term impacts, a major evaluation project is being designed, implemented and will be fully embedded within WPP operations in the 2021-2022 fiscal

year. This on-going evaluation will provide future annual updates on the detailed accomplishments and long-term impact of past grant recipients' WPP-funded work.

### 3. Engaging consultants with Mathematica/UBUNTU Research and Evaluation to develop a rigorous plan for reporting the short, medium and long-term impacts of the work done by recipients of Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC) grants:

Our consultants are building a comprehensive set of metrics that will be used to answer one overarching question: *How is the WPP having an impact on the health, well-being and health equity of the people of Wisconsin?* This tool will then be used to survey all OAC grantees past and present.

## 2020–2021 By the Numbers

WPP supports a wide range of projects and initiatives through grants on topics related to our overall mission to improve health and advance health equity. The impact of WPP's investments is evident in the accomplishments of our grantees. Below are highlights for projects active during the 2020-21 fiscal year.

### Education

**59,408**

community members trained or taught through courses, workshops, presentations and public events

**714**

future physicians received training through the ongoing Transforming Medical Education initiative

### Research

**\$23.3 million**

leveraged grant funds derived from WPP-funded projects

**64**

published and submitted articles reporting the findings of WPP projects

### Community Partnerships

**3,460**

families served through food banks, mental health services and culturally-focused health education opportunities through WPP funding to community organizations

**12,578**

grant-funded medical visits and interventions, screenings, and referrals at grantee organizations such as the Marshfield Clinic, Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation, Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program, Bread of Healing Clinic and others to address health needs in vulnerable communities

### Collaborations

**148**

unique collaborations funded by WPP grants

**110**

collaborating organizations participating in WPP-funded projects, including:

- 17 state and county public health departments
- 31 community-driven nonprofit organizations
- Medical facilities outside the UW Health system
- 2 UW System schools and a Wisconsin community college
- 10 UW–Madison schools and colleges



# Achieving Our Goals: Grant Highlights

## Promote Innovation

*Understanding Allergies: Integrated Metabolomics, Microbial Genomics and Immune Profiling in Early Infancy to Identify Biomarkers for Allergic Disease Prevention*

Although it is well-known that exposure to farm life during infancy protects against allergies, the mechanisms behind this phenomenon are poorly understood. With support from the Partnership Program, Dr. Christine Seroogy and her team began a comparative study to better understand the role of environmental exposures and immune signatures in protection against allergies.

The project relies on three cohorts of Wisconsin children born in 2018: Amish children; non-Amish farm-raised children; and non-Amish, non-farm-raised rural children. Samples were collected from 182 mother/child pairs over the first year of the infant's life, and data collection will conclude in 2021 with a collection at age 2. Analysis is ongoing, but already Seroogy's team has detected 72 differentially expressed genes between the groups. This work will have major implications for the early detection, prevention and treatment of allergic diseases. Learn more about the project [here](#).

## Advance Health Equity

*Improving Health for Black Men: Black Men's Wellness Sustainable Initiative (BMWSI)*

One of the goals of the Wisconsin Partnership Program is to help community organizations expand their efforts to improve health outcomes and decrease statewide health disparities in underserved communities. A grant to the Rebalanced-Life Wellness Association (RLWA) is working toward this goal. Originally a recipient of Community Collaboration Grant, RLWA and its partners were awarded a five-year, \$1 million Community Impact Grant in 2020 to continue their work to improve health outcomes and mental health for Black men in Wisconsin.

The COVID-19 pandemic created unanticipated barriers to the work of BMWSI, but even still they were able to work with the safer-at-home restrictions to continue providing services. BMWSI worked with three Dane County barbershops to connect with Black men and provide COVID-19 vaccines. Through virtual support groups as well as an array of other activities, they have also continued their work throughout the pandemic to decrease the stigma surrounding mental health and increase well-being among Black men. Watch the PBS NewsHour story [here](#).

## Catalyze System Change

*Improving Access to High Quality Surgical Care in Wisconsin Communities*

In 2021, the American Cancer Society estimated that approximately 5,210 cases of breast cancer and 2,620 cases of colorectal cancer would be newly diagnosed in the state of Wisconsin. Very often, patients require surgery to remove the cancer, yet the outcomes are not always positive and sometimes a second surgery is needed.

The Surgical Collaborative of Wisconsin (SCW) was established as a way to engage Wisconsin hospitals in a highly feasible surgical care improvement initiative for breast and colorectal cancer patients across the state. Eighty-five hospitals and 200 surgeons have joined the collaborative to date, and new partnerships were formed with the Wisconsin Hospital Association and Wisconsin Health Information Organization.

SCW-participating hospitals showed a marked decrease in the need for reoperations. The longitudinal study undertaken as a part of this project has enhanced understanding of what is necessary to improve surgical outcomes in the state of Wisconsin.

For more information on the work of the SCW, visit their website: [scwisconsin.org](http://scwisconsin.org)

## Build Capacity and Leadership

*Improving Dementia Care: Enabling Clinicians and Healthcare Trainees to Improve the Care of Wisconsin Residents Living with Dementia*


In 2020, an estimated 120,000 adults in Wisconsin were suffering from Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. However, not all medical practitioners are trained specifically to treat such dementias. Many may prescribe medications that could be harmful to persons with dementia.

A WPP-funded effort led by psychiatrist Dr. Art Walaszek of the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute is working to improve the care of persons with dementia. This project focuses on providing training opportunities for healthcare trainees and practicing physicians alike to improve prescribing patterns to ensure optimal medication use for all persons with dementia. Results of this project were presented at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference in July 2021. [Learn more about the project.](#)

**The Wisconsin Partnership Program's investments in research, education and community partnerships focus on four main goals which comprise the foundation of our five-year plan and address critical elements to improve health in Wisconsin. Each of the following presents examples of how we are reaching these goals through the work of WPP-funded projects active this past year.**

## Grants Awarded July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

The Wisconsin Partnership Program awarded 11 grants for a total of \$9.2 million for the period July 1, 2020–June 30, 2021. Full descriptions of these awards can be found on our Funded Projects web page at

 [med.wisc.edu/wisconsin-partnership-program/funded-projects](https://med.wisc.edu/wisconsin-partnership-program/funded-projects).

### COVID-19 Response Grant Program

#### Badger Nurses Collaborating on COVID-19 Vaccine Education and Delivery (BN-CoVED)

*Principal Investigator: Susan Zahner, DrPH, RN, FAAN, Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, UW–Madison School of Nursing*  
Amount: \$184,960

#### Genetic Epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2 in Hospitals and Care Facilities

*Principal Investigator: David O'Connor, PhD, Professor, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, UW School of Medicine and Public Health*  
Amount: \$63,000

### Community Grant Programs

The Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC) directs and approves funds for public health initiatives and public health education and training. Its grant programs are designed to support projects that improve community health and advance health equity in alignment with the mission and vision of the Wisconsin Partnership Program.

#### Community Impact Grants

Community Impact Grants provide up to \$1 million over five years and support large-scale, evidence-based, community-academic partnerships that have the potential to create sustainable changes to systems, policies and environments that impact health.

#### Accelerating Health Equity for Black Women in Wisconsin - Well Black Woman Institute

*The Foundation for Black Women's Wellness*  
*Academic Partner: Population Health Institute, UW School of Medicine and Public Health*

#### Addressing Stressors, Preventing Farmer Suicide: Social Connectedness and Health

*Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program*  
*Academic Partners: UW–Madison College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; UW–Madison Division of Extension; UW–Madison Center for Community and Nonprofit Studies*

#### Advancing Health Equity Through Legal Interventions for Low-Income Wisconsinites

*Economic Justice Institute, Inc.*  
*Academic Partners: The Center for Patient Partnerships; UW–Madison Institute for Research on Poverty*

#### Black Men's Mental Health and Well-Being

*Urban League of Greater Madison*  
*Academic Partners: UW–Madison School of Human Ecology; UW School of Medicine and Public Health; University of Wisconsin-Whitewater*

#### Building Tech Skills, Opportunities, Health and Wellness for Returning Citizens

*YWCA Madison, Inc.*  
*Academic Partner: UW–Madison Center for Community and Nonprofit Studies*

#### Supporting Social Emotional Health in K-12 African American Students

*McFarland School District*  
*Academic Partner: Wisconsin Center for Education Research*

## Research and Education Grants

The Partnership Education and Research Committee (PERC) addresses issues of health and healthcare across basic, clinical, translational and applied public health research as well as in education and training.

### Collaborative Health Sciences Program

The Collaborative Health Sciences Program (CHSP) recognizes that opportunities for success are greater through collaboration. The CHSP grants provide \$600,000 over three years to support established UW School of Medicine and Public Health investigators' efforts to initiate new programs of collaborative, interdisciplinary research and education aimed at addressing public health issues that have not yielded to traditional approaches.

PERC made the following Collaborative Health Sciences Program awards:

#### **Advancing Health Equity for Lupus Patients in Wisconsin: How a Care Continuum and Community Stakeholders Can Inform Interventions to Close Disparities Gaps**

*Principal Investigator: Christie Bartels, MD, MS, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine*

*Co-Principal Investigator: Felix Elwert, PhD, Professor, UW–Madison Departments of Sociology and Biostatistics*

*UW–Madison Collaborators: Amy Kind, MD, PhD, Department of Medicine; Andrea Gilmore-Bykovskiy, RN, PhD, School of Nursing; Edmond Ramly, PhD, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health; Shivani Garg, MD, MS, Department of Medicine*

*Medical College of Wisconsin Collaborators: Ann Rosenthal, MD, Department of Medicine; Dave Gazeley, MD, Department of Medicine*

#### **Prevention of HPV-Associated Anogenital Cancers Using HIV Protease Inhibitors**

*Principal Investigator: Nathan Sherer, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Oncology*

*Co-Principal Investigator: Evie Carchman, MD, FACS, Department of Surgery*

*UW–Madison Collaborators: Paul Lambert, PhD, Department of Oncology; Kristina Matkowskyj, MD, PhD, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine; Jens Eickhoff, PhD, Department of Biostatistics and Medical Informatics; Edmund Elder, PhD, School of Pharmacy.*

## Strategic Education and Research Grants

The Wisconsin Partnership Program's Strategic Education and Research Grant Program supports infrastructure vital to the SMPH's research and education programs, as well as initiatives that aim to improve population health and healthcare delivery, and target challenging public health issues.

The following strategic grant was awarded during this reporting period:

#### **Understanding and Addressing Health Disparities in Wisconsin through Statewide Partnerships**

*Principal Investigator: Maureen Smith, MD, PhD, MPH, Professor, Population Health Sciences*

*Amount: \$1,500,000 This grant is jointly funded by the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment at the Medical College of Wisconsin for a total of \$3 million from both programs over three years.*

## UW Institute for Clinical and Translational Research Grants

The Wisconsin Partnership Program provides funding to the UW Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR) to support community-academic partnerships aimed at improving health in Wisconsin. Projects focus on clinical, community and patient-centered outcomes and dissemination and implementation of evidence-based, community-driven interventions.

The Wisconsin Partnership Program supported the following ICTR awards during the period July 1, 2020–June 30, 2021:

### **A Patient-Centered Needs Assessment Tool for Adolescents and Young Adults (AYA) with Cancer**

*Principal Investigator: Amanda M. Parkes, MD, UW SMPH*

Amount: \$37,147

### **Addressing Disparities in the Primary Care of Chronic Conditions in the COVID-19 Era: A Tool for Clinics to Map Local Barriers to Known Strategies**

*Principal Investigator: Edmond Ramly, PhD, UW SMPH*

Amount: \$100,000

### **Assessing the Impact of Trust on an Individual's Willingness to Participate in Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Research**

*Principal Investigator: Carey E. Gleason, PhD, UW SMPH*

Amount: \$75,000

### **Assessing the Readiness of Dane County Healthcare Systems to Equitably Serve LGBTQ Patients**

*Principal Investigator: Madelyne Green, PhD, RN, UW–Madison School of Nursing*

Amount: \$100,000

### **Black Fathers, Equal Partners in Advancing Maternal and Infant Health**

*Principal Investigator: Tova B. Walsh, PhD, MSW, UW–Madison School of Social Work, Co-Principal Investigator: Alvin Thomas, PhD, UW–Madison School of Human Ecology*

Amount: \$75,000

### **Creating Infrastructure to Study the Immune Response to SARS-CoV-2 in Wisconsin**

*Principal Investigator: Miriam A. Shelef, MD, PhD, UW SMPH*

Amount: \$20,000

### **Developing and Evaluating the First Hmong Word List for Audiometric Testing**

*Principal Investigator: Maichou Lor, PhD, RN, UW–Madison School of Nursing*

Amount: \$75,000

### **Engaging Residents and Families as Quality Partners in Nursing Homes**

*Principal Investigator: Tonya Roberts, PhD, RN, UW–Madison School of Nursing*

Amount: \$100,000

### **Engaging Stakeholders in Integration of Assessing Medication Adherence and Tailoring Intervention in Clinic (A-MATIC) in SLE Visits**

*Principal Investigator: Shivani Garg, MD, MS, UW SMPH*

Amount: \$100,000

### **Engaging Stakeholders to Develop a Meditation Intervention for Incarcerated Individuals**

*Principal Investigator: Michael R. Koenigs, PhD, UW SMPH*

Amount: \$100,000



**Expanding Access to Naloxone: Developing a Person-Centered Naloxone Prescribing Intervention for People Living with Opioid-Use Disorder**

*Principal Investigator: Rachel Gicquelais, PhD, UW–Madison School of Nursing*

Amount: \$75,000

**Extending BP Connect: Implementing in Diverse Specialty Clinics and for Out-of-Network Follow-up**

*Principal Investigator: Christie Bartels, MD, UW SMPH*

Amount: \$150,000

**New to Public Health (N2PH): Dissemination of the Southeast Wisconsin Public Health Nurse Residency Model and Toolkit**

*Principal Investigator: Susan J. Zahner, DrPH, RN, FAAN, UW–Madison School of Nursing*

Amount: \$52,475

**Nothing About Us Without Us: Engaging Drug User Networks in Community-Based Hepatitis C Micro-Elimination Strategies**

*Principal Investigator: Ryan Westergaard, MD, PhD, MPH, UW SMPH*

Amount: \$100,000

**Optimizing the Capacity of Public Schools to Promote Youth Mental Health**

*Principal Investigator: Stanley Garbacz, PhD, UW–Madison School of Education*

Amount: \$99,982

**Promoting COVID-19 Vaccine Acceptance for Safety Net Providers and Patients in Wisconsin**

*Principal Investigator: Susan Passmore, PhD, UW SMPH*

Amount: \$74,904

**Telehealth Delivery of the Yoga for Seniors Program**

*Principal Investigator: Kristen A. Pickett, PhD, UW–Madison School of Education*

Amount: \$74,974

## Concluded Grants

Outcome reports for grants that concluded July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 are posted at [med.wisc.edu/wpp-funded-projects](https://med.wisc.edu/wpp-funded-projects).

## COVID-19 Response Grants

The following COVID-19 Response Grants supported by OAC concluded in this period:

**Bilingual (English/Spanish) Short- and Long-term Assistance to Vulnerable Populations**

*Catholic Multicultural Center*

**COVID-19 Prevention and Intervention Services for Hmong and Other Refugee Communities**

*The Hmong Institute*

**COVID-19 Response for Milwaukee’s Uninsured Adults**

*Bread of Healing Clinic, Inc.*

**Farms to Families/De Granjas a Familias Resilience Boxes**

*REAP Food Group*

**Leveraging Personalized Supports for Immediate COVID-19 Response for 4K-12 Students (LPS)**

*Madison Metropolitan School District*

**Lo Que Debes Saber: A COVID-19 Public Health Community Education Strategy for the Latino Community**

*Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers*

**Men's Emergency Shelter-Virtual Health Assessments**

*Porchlight, Inc.*

**Safeguarding Fresh Food Access at Farmers Markets to Address Food Insecurity of Vulnerable Populations**

*Wello, Greater Green Bay Chamber Foundation*

The following COVID-19 Response Grants supported by PERC concluded in this period:

**Alternative Means to Diagnose COVID-19 Pneumonia**

*Guang-Hong Chen, PhD, Department of Medical Physics, SMPH*

**Badger Nurses Collaborating on Covid-19 Vaccine Education and Delivery (BN-CoVED)**

*Principal Investigator: Susan Zahner, DrPH, RN, FAAN, Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, UW-Madison School of Nursing*

**COVID-19 and the Nasal Microbiome: Potential Marker of Disease Outcomes and Novel Antivirals**

*Cameron Currie, PhD, Department of Bacteriology, UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences*

**Genetic Epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2 in Hospitals and Care Facilities**

*David O'Connor, PhD, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, SMPH*

**Genetic Surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 Spread in Wisconsin to Inform Outbreak Control**

*Thomas Friedrich, PhD, UW-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine*

**Leveraging Social Networks and Trusted Community Influencers to Disseminate an Accurate and Up-to-Date Understanding of COVID-19 in Black, Latinx and American Indian Communities**

*Carey Gleason, PhD, Department of Medicine, SMPH*

**Teaching the General Public How to Test and Maintain Readily Available Face Masks**

*Scott Sanders, PhD, UW-Madison College of Engineering*

The following grants, funded by the Oversight and Advisory Committee, concluded in this period:

**Community Catalyst Grant Program**

**Building Beloved Community for Reproductive Justice Sustainability**

*Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health*

**Building Immigrant Leadership for Wisconsin**

*Racine Interfaith Coalition*

**Community Doula Initiative**

*African American Breastfeeding Network*

**Creating Pathways for Equitable Access for Spanish-Speaking Early Educators Through Technology-Assisted Professional Development Opportunities to Support the Understanding and Promotion of Social Emotional Development for Children 0-5**

*Wisconsin Alliance for Infant Mental Health*

**Farmer Suicide Prevention**

*Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program*

**Increasing Access to Quality Healthcare in Correctional Settings by Expanding Health Workforce Capacity**

*Nehemiah Community Development Corporation*

**Neighborhood Organizing Institute 2.0 (NOI 2.0)**

*Lussier Community Education Center*

**PATHS: Preventing Youth Homelessness for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care**

*Pathfinders Milwaukee, Inc.*

**Transformational Therapy for Children Experiencing Trauma**

*Zion City International Church Ministries*

## Collaborative Health Sciences Program

**Metabolic Priming Triple-Negative Breast Cancer to Proapoptotic Therapy**

*Vincent Cryns, MD, Department of Medicine, SMPH*

**Screening in Trauma for Opioid Misuse Prevention (STOMP)**

*Randall Brown, MD, PhD, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, SMPH*

## New Investigator Program

**Autologous Regeneration in Burn-Injured Patients**

*Angela Gibson, MD, PhD, FACS, Department of Surgery, SMPH*

**Identifying the Mechanisms of Nerve Regulation of Heart Regeneration**

*Ahmed Mahmoud, PhD, Department of Cell and Regenerative Biology, SMPH*

**Kinetochore Integrity and Cancer**

*Aussie Suzuki, PhD, Department of Oncology, SMPH*

**Mechano-Electrical Feedback in Pathophysiology of Atrial Fibrillation: Novel Strategy for Antiarrhythmic Therapy**

*Alexy Glukhov, PhD, Department of Medicine, SMPH*

## PERC Opportunity Grant

**Improving Access to High Quality Surgical Care in Wisconsin Communities**

*Caprice Greenberg, MD, MPH, FACS, Department of Surgery, SMPH*

## Strategic Grant Program

### **Measuring and Addressing Disparities in the Quality of Care Among Wisconsin Health Systems**

*Maureen Smith, MD, PhD, MPH, Population Health Sciences, SMPH*

## UW Institute for Clinical and Translational Research Grants

The following ICTR grants supported by the Wisconsin Partnership Program concluded during this period:

### **Improving Hospital Nutrition Through Evidence-Based Implementation of Behavioral Strategies**

*Alfonso Morales, College of Letters and Sciences, UW-Madison*

### **Partnering with a Wisconsin Health System to Optimize Opioid Stewardship Across the Care Continuum**

*Michelle Chui, PharmD, PhD, UW-Madison School of Pharmacy*

### **Partnering with Peers in the Community to Improve Diabetes Medication Adherence for African Americans**

*Olayinka Shiyabola, PhD, PharmB, UW-Madison School of Pharmacy*

### **UW-Health COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma Program**

*William Hartman, MD, PhD, Department of Anesthesiology, SMPH*



For more information on these projects, visit our Funded Projects page at

[med.wisc.edu/Wisconsin-partnership-program/funded-projects](https://med.wisc.edu/Wisconsin-partnership-program/funded-projects)



## Financial Overview

The financial resources that support the Wisconsin Partnership Program grants were provided by the conversion of Blue Cross/Blue Shield United of Wisconsin and include funds generated from investment earnings as well. All funds are in custody of and managed by the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association (WFAA). Every month, funds are transferred to the UW–School of Medicine and Public Health to reimburse expenditures in accordance with the Order of the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and the five-year expenditure plans.

### Investments

Current investments consist of participation in the WFAA Callable Pool. The primary investment objective of the Callable Pool is to preserve the capital and provide liquidity when dollars are called. The Callable Pool is invested in high-quality, short-term fixed income securities. Noncurrent investments consist of participation in the WFAA Endowment portfolio. The primary investment objective of the Endowment portfolio is to maximize long-term real returns commensurate with stated risk tolerance, thereby maximizing long-term purchasing power of the funds, net of distributions for current spending needs. Endowment fund distributions to the spendable funds are based on the WFAA spending policy, which is applied to the market value of the endowment funds.

### WFAA Institutional Advancement Fee

The WFAA assesses an Institutional Advancement Fee of 1 percent on all funds participating in its endowment pool, including Wisconsin Partnership Program funds, as a primary source of revenue for WFAA operations. This assessment, and its usage, is determined by the WFAA and is not controlled by the Wisconsin Partnership Program. The Institutional Advancement Fee for fiscal years 2021 and 2020 were \$3,841,245 and \$3,597,260, respectively, and are shown under expenses on the Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets on page 17.

The WFAA decreases the Institutional Advancement Fee to 0.7 percent on cumulative fund amounts above \$250 million per qualified relationship. Partnership Program funds exceed the established level, and savings from this fee reduction are fully allocated to the Oversight and Advisory Committee for public health initiatives. These savings were \$402,374 and \$329,178 for fiscal years ending June 30, 2021 and 2020, respectively.

### Grants Payable

Grants payable amounts are recorded as of the date of approval by the Oversight and Advisory committee or Partnership Education and Research Committee. The liability reflects the total amount of the grant award, less any payments made on or before June 30, 2021. Any subsequent modifications to grant awards are recorded as adjustments of grant expenses in the year the adjustment occurs.

### Net Assets

Temporarily Restricted: Funds consist of interest and investment income earned by the funds invested in the callable or endowment portfolios at the Foundation and the cumulative net gains or losses related to the permanently restricted funds that are invested within the endowment portfolio. These funds are available to support program expenditures.

Permanently Restricted: The portion of the gift proceeds originally allocated to permanently endow the Wisconsin Partnership Program. These funds have been invested in the endowment portfolio of the Foundation and the corpus is not available to support program expenditures.

### OAC Review and Assessment of the Allocated Percentage of Funds

As outlined in its founding documents, the Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC) reviews and assesses the allocation percentage for public health initiatives and for education and research initiatives. The OAC took up this matter on October 15, 2020. It was moved to retain the allocation of 35 percent for public health initiatives and 65 percent for education and research initiatives, and the motion was unanimously passed.

## **Distribution from Wisconsin United for Health Foundation**

In October 2018, the Wisconsin United for Health Foundation, Inc. passed a resolution to initiate a process to dissolve given that it had fulfilled its obligations as specified in the Commissioner of Insurance Order and the Agreement Between the Wisconsin United for Health Foundation, Inc., the UW Foundation, and the UW System Board of Regents. In August 2019, half of the remaining assets held by the Wisconsin United for Health Foundation, Inc., \$1,788,525, were distributed to the WFAA (UW Foundation) and added to Wisconsin Partnership Program endowment. A similar distribution was made to the Medical College of Wisconsin.

## **Supplanting Policy**

Based on the non-supplanting determination made by the Senior Associate Dean for Finance, the Dean of the School of Medicine and Public Health has attested to compliance with the supplanting prohibition in this Annual Report. The UW–Madison Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration has also attested that UW–Madison and the UW System have complied with the supplanting prohibition.

## **Financial Statements**

The following financial reports consolidate activities of the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association and the School of Medicine and Public Health for the fiscal year ending June 2021 and June 2020.

## Statement of Net Assets

	June 30, 2021	June 30, 2020
<b>Assets</b>		
UW SMPH Cash	\$ (1,427,585)	\$ (1,545,561)
Current Investments	18,454,334	18,292,328
Noncurrent Investments	432,483,727	353,858,662
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 449,510,476</b>	<b>\$ 370,605,429</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
OAC Grants Payable	\$ 20,814,940	\$ 21,534,527
PERC Grants Payable	16,065,329	22,160,043
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>36,880,269</b>	<b>43,694,570</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Temporarily Restricted	129,013,940	43,294,592
Permanently Restricted	283,616,267	283,616,267
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>412,630,207</b>	<b>326,910,859</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 449,510,476</b>	<b>\$ 370,605,429</b>

## Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets

	Year ended June 30, 2021	Year ended June 30, 2020
<b>Revenues</b>		
Gifts Received	\$ 2,325	\$ 1,788,525
Interest Income	23,990	166,932
Change in Fair Value of Endowed Funds	98,906,013	3,527,932
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>98,932,328</b>	<b>5,483,389</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
WFAA Institutional Advancement Fee	3,841,245	3,597,260
Less: WFAA IAF Rebate	(402,374)	(329,178)
OAC Initiatives		
Administrative Expenses	516,937	445,556
Grant Expenses	5,638,467	11,009,280
PERC Initiatives		
Administrative Expenses	960,026	827,462
Grant Expenses	2,658,679	11,167,077
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>13,212,980</b>	<b>26,717,457</b>
Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets	85,719,348	(21,234,068)
Net Assets - Beginning of year	326,910,859	348,144,927
Net Assets - End of year	<b>\$ 412,630,207</b>	<b>\$ 326,910,859</b>

## Grant Award Commitments for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

	Net Grant Awards(1)	Inception to date Disbursements	Outstanding Grant Commitments
<b>Public Health Initiatives</b>			
Grants awarded from Inception to FY2020	\$ 87,747,719	\$ 73,081,882	\$ 14,665,837
FY2021 Awards	6,259,264	110,161	6,149,103
Subtotal	\$ 94,006,983	\$ 73,192,043	\$ 20,814,940
<b>Medical Education and Research Initiatives</b>			
Grants awarded from Inception to FY2020	\$ 158,456,915	\$ 145,192,063	\$ 13,264,852
FY2021 Awards	2,948,061	147,584	2,800,477
Subtotal	\$ 161,404,976	\$ 145,339,647	\$ 16,065,329
Total	\$ 255,411,959	\$ 218,531,690	\$ 36,880,269

(1) Reflects grants awarded less any lapsed awards returned to the Wisconsin Partnership Program

## Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements (UW School of Medicine and Public Health)

	FY2021	FY2020
<b>Balance, July 1</b>	<b>\$ (1,545,561)</b>	<b>\$ (2,726,107)</b>
<b>Cash Receipts</b>		
Payments received from the UW Foundation	16,706,384	16,153,185
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>16,706,384</b>	<b>16,153,185</b>
<b>Cash Disbursements</b>		
Public Health Initiatives	6,358,053	5,369,210
Education and Research Initiatives	8,753,392	8,330,411
Program Administration		
Salaries	761,099	731,348
Fringe	273,547	257,152
Travel	139	11,763
Supplies and Services	125,145	53,156
Consultants and Contracts	305,033	195,599
Other Disbursements	12,000	24,000
Total Program Administration	1,476,963	1,273,018
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>16,588,408</b>	<b>14,972,639</b>
<b>Increase (Decrease) In Balance</b>	<b>117,976</b>	<b>1,180,546</b>
<b>Balance, June 30</b>	<b>(1,427,585)</b>	<b>(1,545,561)</b>



## Policies and Procedures

The Wisconsin Partnership Program, and its Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC) and Partnership Education and Research Committee (PERC), conduct their operations, grantmaking processes and stewardship responsibility in accordance with program requirements, the Insurance Commissioner's Order and Grant Agreement, as well as federal, state and local laws.

OAC and PERC follow standard Request for Proposal (RFP) guidelines, requirements, multistep review processes and selection criteria throughout the grantmaking process. In addition, the Wisconsin Partnership Program evaluates the progress and outcomes of funded grants using progress and final reports, financial status reports, presentations and site/virtual visits.

### Open Meetings and Public Records

As directed by the Order of the Commissioner of Insurance, the Wisconsin Partnership Program conducts its operations and processes in accordance with the state's Open Meetings and Public Records Laws. Meetings of the OAC and PERC and their subcommittees are open to the public. Agendas and minutes are posted at [med.wisc.edu/partnership](http://med.wisc.edu/partnership).

### Diversity Policy

The Wisconsin Partnership Program is subject to and complies with the diversity and equal opportunity policies of the UW System Board of Regents and UW–Madison. Furthermore, the Wisconsin Partnership Program has developed a diversity policy to ensure diversity within the Partnership Program's goals, objectives and processes.

### Learn More

The Wisconsin Partnership Program's website provides detailed information on the following policies and procedures. Visit [med.wisc.edu/partnership](http://med.wisc.edu/partnership) to learn more.

- Conflict of Interest Policies
- Diversity Policy
- How the Wisconsin Partnership Program Administers Grants
- Open Meetings and Public Records Policy
- Supplanting Policy
- Terms and Conditions for Applicants and Grantees

## Wisconsin Partnership Program Leadership

The Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC) and the Partnership Education and Research Committee (PERC) serve as the Wisconsin Partnership Program's governance committees.

### Oversight and Advisory Committee

The University of Wisconsin (UW) System Board of Regents appoints four representatives from the UW School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) and four public health advocates to the nine-member Oversight and Advisory Committee. The Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance also appoints one OAC member. Members serve four-year terms and may be reappointed. One member of the Board of Regents and a representative of the Chancellor also serve as liaisons to the OAC. The primary responsibilities of the OAC are to:

- Direct and approve available funds for public health initiatives and public health education and training
- Provide public representation through the OAC's four health advocates
- Offer comment and advice on the PERC's expenditures

### Health Advocate Appointees

Cedric Johnson, Vice Chair  
Community Services Manager, Madison Gas and Electric  
Category: Health of Children and Families

Sue Kunferman, RN, MSN, CPM, Secretary  
Director/Health Officer, Wood County Health Department  
Category: Statewide Healthcare

Katherine Marks, BA  
Outreach Specialist, City of Kenosha  
Category: Urban Health

Gregory Nycz  
Executive Director, Family Health Center of Marshfield, Inc.  
Category: Rural Health

### Insurance Commissioner's Appointee

Jennifer Stegall  
Executive Senior Policy Advisor,  
Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance

### School of Medicine and Public Health Appointees

Amy Kind, MD, PhD, Chair  
Professor, Department of Medicine  
Director, UW Center for Health Disparities Research

Megan Moreno, MD, MEd, MPH  
Professor, Academic Division Chief and Vice Chair of Digital Health, Department of Pediatrics

Richard L. Moss, PhD  
Senior Associate Dean for Basic Research, Biotechnology and Graduate Studies  
Professor, Department of Cell and Regenerative Biology

Manish Shah, MD, MPH  
Professor and the John and Tashia Morgridge Chair of Emergency Medicine Research, Department of Emergency Medicine

### Partnership Education and Research Committee

PERC broadly represents the faculty, staff and leadership at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health and includes representatives from the Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC). The PERC allocates and distributes funds designated for education and research initiatives that advance population health. The primary responsibilities of the PERC are to:

- Direct and approve available funds for education and research initiatives
- Maintain a balanced portfolio of investments in population health
- Strengthen collaborations with communities and health leaders statewide

### SMPH Leadership

Richard L. Moss, PhD, Chair\*  
Senior Associate Dean for Basic Research, Biotechnology and Graduate Studies  
Professor, Department of Cell and Regenerative Biology

Elizabeth Petty, MD\*  
Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs  
Professor, Department of Pediatrics

## Department Chairs

Kathleen Shannon, MD\*  
Detling Professor and Chair, Department of Neurology  
Representative: Clinical Chairs

Deneen Wellik, PhD  
Professor and Chair, Department of Cell and Regenerative  
Biology  
Representative: Basic Science Chairs

## Faculty Representatives

Elaine Alarid, PhD,\* Review Panel Chair  
Professor, Department of Oncology  
Representative: Basic Science Faculty

David Allen, MD  
Professor, Department of Pediatrics  
Representative: Clinical Faculty

Elizabeth Cox, MD, PhD  
Professor, Department of Pediatrics  
Representative: Clinical Faculty

Tracy Downs, MD  
Associate Professor, Department of Urology  
Assistant Dean for Diversity and Multicultural Affairs  
Representative: Clinical Faculty  
Resigned July 2020

Ron Gangnon, PhD  
Professor, Department of Population Health Sciences  
Representative: Population Health Faculty

Jason Stephenson, MD  
Associate Professor, Radiology  
Representative: Clinical Faculty  
Appointed August 2020

## Oversight and Advisory Committee Appointees

Amy Kind, MD, PhD  
Professor, Department of Medicine  
Director, UW Center for Health Disparities Research  
Chair, Oversight and Advisory Committee

Gregory Nycz\*  
Executive Director, Family Health Center of Marshfield, Inc.  
Health Advocate, Oversight and Advisory Committee

\*PERC Executive Committee Member

## Wisconsin Partnership Program Liaisons

### UW–Madison Office of the Chancellor

Norman Drinkwater, PhD

### UW System Board of Regents

Tracey Klein, JD  
Member, University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents

### Wisconsin Partnership Program Staff

Eileen M. Smith, Assistant Dean and Director

Lindsay Barone, PhD, Evaluator

Kylie Donovan, Graduate Student Project Assistant

Mai Nou Her, Administrative Assistant

Nathan Kersten, Financial Specialist

Tonya Mathison, Administrative Manager

Renuka Mayadev, JD, Program Advisor, Maternal and  
Child Health

Anne Pankratz, University Relations Specialist

David Sampoli, Systems Analyst

Jonathan Thomas, CPA, Assistant Director of Finance

Debbie Wu, Financial Lead



## Wisconsin Partnership Program

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