

AN INNOVATIVE COLLABORATION  
COORDINATED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY MEDICINE AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

# The Ben-Tzion Karsh Education and Research Fund

A nation's health is rooted in effective, efficient primary care. But, in the United States, an aging population and shorter hospital stays for sick patients mean increasing demands on primary care clinicians, to the point that over 40 percent are showing signs of burnout. This threatens both access to and quality of care.

**Radical change is needed to address the health needs of our nation.**

## A Collaboration for Change, Sparked by a Visionary Researcher

- The Institute of Medicine, the National Academy of Engineering, the National Research Council, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and the National Science Foundation all recommend that physicians and industrial and systems engineers **collaborate to improve primary health care quality and safety.**
- In 2000, we formed an international collaboration of experts to conduct transdisciplinary research that leverages industrial and systems engineering approaches and methods to improve care for patients and caregivers. **In short, we bring science to policy and practice.**
- **Our work was sparked by Ben-Tzion Karsh, PhD**, a University of Wisconsin professor who was passionate about how human interaction with technology can improve health care safety and quality. His **research is considered to be among the best in the world.** After Dr. Karsh's untimely death in 2012, we formalized our collaboration under the name I-PrACTISE to assure continuation of his vision and this important work.



**Ben-Tzion Karsh, PhD**

**Learn more about how you can help us honor Dr. Karsh's legacy.**

## I-PrACTISE Successes

I-PrACTISE has had a track record of successful collaboration since its formation. Our members have been awarded over \$4.5 million in grant funding and have over 60 publications in scientific journals.

Completed studies have:

- explored the factors contributing to professional satisfaction;
- defined information and workflow issues in the patient encounter;
- explored the way health information technology is used; and
- developed ways to improve information flow.

Current work is defining the need for cognitive support in primary care teams and will develop strategies to design and use health information technology more effectively.

Our work has made an impact beyond the academic setting. One paper<sup>1</sup> led to significant policy statements by our Wisconsin Medical Society to improve the use of health information technology. Our Medicare Quality Improvement Organization, Metastar, has been a major supporter.

<sup>1</sup> Sinsky CA, Beasley JW, Simmons GE, Baron RJ. Electronic health records: design, implementation, and policy for higher-value primary care. *Ann Intern Med.* 2014 May 20;160(10):727-8. PubMed PMID: 24842418.

## How Can You Help?

We now seek funding to create an endowed Karsh Professorship, through which we will create a robust research unit with effective leadership and staff support to obtain grant funding from federal agencies and other sources, including industry.

This will enable us to better understand the cognitive, social and technical support needs in primary care so that we can design, test and apply interventions to improve it on the front lines. It will also allow us to continue the I-PrACTISE collaboration and support learner participation in its activities.

By continuing our research, disseminating it to policy makers and industry, and teaching the physicians of the future, we will continue to improve primary care for patients and caregivers.

To contribute, please visit [www.supportuw.org/giveto/karshfund](http://www.supportuw.org/giveto/karshfund)



I-PrACTISE is a collaboration between the University of Wisconsin–Madison School of Medicine and Public Health (Departments of Family Medicine and Community Health, Medicine, and Pediatrics) and the University of Wisconsin–Madison College of Engineering (Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering).

Administrative coordination is provided by the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health:  
1100 Delaplaine Court • Madison, WI 53715 • [fammed.wisc.edu/i-practise](http://fammed.wisc.edu/i-practise)

## Faculty Leadership



**John W. Beasley, MD**  
Emeritus Professor,  
UW Department of Family  
Medicine and Community Health  
Honorary Associate,  
UW Department of Industrial and  
Systems Engineering  
(608) 263-4550  
[jbeasley@wisc.edu](mailto:jbeasley@wisc.edu)



**Tosha Wetterneck, MD, MS**  
Associate Professor, UW Department  
of Medicine  
(608) 890-2110  
[tbw@medicine.wisc.edu](mailto:tbw@medicine.wisc.edu)

## Please support our work. Contact:

**Jerome Garrett, Jr., MBA, FACH**  
Director, Business Services,  
UW Department of Family  
Medicine and Community Health  
[jerome.garrett@fammed.wisc.edu](mailto:jerome.garrett@fammed.wisc.edu)