

# in our family



The alumni newsletter of the University of Wisconsin Department of Family Medicine and Community Health | SPRING 2017

## Dennis Breen Retires



The 16-year medical director of our Eau Claire and Augusta clinics reflects on his experiences and shares his new plans on page 7.

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## A New Rural Rotation

Madison alum teaches residents at independent clinic

**W**hen John Basarich, MD, (Madison '04) was a resident at the Wingra clinic, he was impressed by how faculty there managed outpatient care, inpatient medicine, research and even obstetrics.

After graduation, he wanted a job with a similar breadth of practice. A colleague suggested he apply at a small clinic in Lake Mills, Wisconsin, where she recently completed a rural rotation. It was a great match, and he practiced there for eight years.

After a two-year stint overseas, Dr. Basarich returned to Wisconsin in 2015. He now practices at the independent Watertown Family Practice, and has created a rural rotation there for Madison residents who might seek a similar practice someday.

### Unique Aspects of Practice

Located in Watertown, Wisconsin—a city of 23,000 midway between Madison and Milwaukee—Watertown Family Practice has six family physicians, three physician assistants and one nurse practitioner.



*Above: John Basarich, MD (on left) and Madison resident Matthew Brown, MD*

Dr. Basarich and his colleagues welcomed their first resident, Madison PGY-2 Matthew Brown, MD, to the clinic in January. Residents on the rotation have the opportunity to do more care coordination, because

*Continues on page 3*





Dear Friends,

It's spring in Wisconsin, which means longer days, blooming trees—and more good news to share in this issue of our alumni newsletter.

You'll read about a Madison alumnus who recently established a new rural rotation for our residents at his clinic. Thank you, Dr. Basarich, for giving back!

As part of the UW School of Medicine and Public Health's curriculum transformation, Christa Pittner-Smith, MD, is helping develop a course that prepares medical students for family medicine residency.

Our Statewide Updates pages fill you in on all of our educational programs, and we pay tribute to Dr. Dennis Breen, the former medical director at our Eau Claire and Augusta clinics, who retired in January.

Finally, enjoy hearing from some of our 30-year alumni, and as always, please keep in touch!

**Valerie Gilchrist, MD**

*Millard Professor in Community Health Chair, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health*

**News Briefs**

**Integrative Health Program Changes Name, Welcomes VHA Visitors**

On January 1, 2017, UW Health Integrative Medicine changed its name to Integrative Health (IH).

**Adam Rindfleisch, MD**, an associate professor in the UW Department of Family Medicine and Community Health (DFMCH) and the program's medical director, says the renaming aligns with name changes nationally.



In October 2016, the program welcomed leaders from the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE), its two collaborating organizations for the "Whole Health" initiative.

Through the initiative—a national effort to change the VHA at a system-wide level—IH faculty and staff teach VHA clinicians and Veterans a "whole person" model of care. This model encourages people to reflect on what matters most to them and how it relates to their health.

Learn more: [go.wisc.edu/34wk13](http://go.wisc.edu/34wk13) and [go.wisc.edu/yg1lrg](http://go.wisc.edu/yg1lrg)

**DFMCH Scientist Co-authors New CAHPS Protocol**

DFMCH Senior Scientist **Rachel Grob, MA, PhD**, helped develop a new patient narrative elicitation protocol that supplements the CAHPS® Clinician & Group Survey.



The protocol asks open-ended questions that may more robustly capture patients' experiences with their health care providers.

A beta version is available on the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality website.

Learn more: [ahrq.gov/cahps/surveys-guidance/item-sets/elicitation/](http://ahrq.gov/cahps/surveys-guidance/item-sets/elicitation/)

**Stay in Touch!**

Address changed? News or accomplishments to share?

Update us at [fammed.wisc.edu/alumni/alumni-form](http://fammed.wisc.edu/alumni/alumni-form)

We want to hear from you!



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Editor: Andrea Schmick

# Preparing Future Interns

**C**hrista Pittner-Smith, MD (Madison '15), is helping medical students get the skills needed to transition smoothly to family medicine residency.

She's developing the family medicine portion of the UW School of Medicine and Public Health's internship prep course, a new two-week required course for fourth-year medical students.

## Essential Content for the First Year

The course provides high-level, specialty-specific skill preparation, with a focus on topics that are critical in the first months of residency.

The family medicine portion includes such topics as patient-phy-

sician communication, integrative health, pain management, point-of-care ultrasound and obstetrics life support.

UW Department of Family Medicine and Community Health residents will help teach the course, thanks to an elective Dr. Pittner-Smith created with the Madison residency program.

Dr. Pittner-Smith says that being a recent resident herself is an asset as she develops the course.

"I can remember and choose topics that are applicable, and having residents involved helps further with that," she notes. "They are close to their internship year and can focus on what medical students need to know as they transition into residency."



*Above: Christa Pittner-Smith, MD*



Adapted from our e-newsletter:  
[go.wisc.edu/1sviwf](http://go.wisc.edu/1sviwf)

## WATERTOWN (continued)

many of the clinic's patients prefer to receive care in one place and specialists are less likely to be available.

Residents also experience the feeling of community that exists at a clinic where generations of patients and families have gotten care.

They'll even attend business meetings to learn how an independent clinic operates. "It's a different approach when you're the business owner as well as the doctor," explains Dr. Basarich. "The connection with the patients is the same, but how you shape your routine and create processes is a little different."

## A Resident's Observations

Dr. Brown echoed similar sentiments, noting how "hands on" the partners were in regard to managing clinic staff, facilities and budgets.

"It was also unique to see a difference in the way care was managed... [when] many members of the health care team were not directly integrated within a single health care system," he says. "It gives providers flexibility...but it also put more responsibility on patients to make transitions of care smooth."

## Shaping Future Careers

For Dr. Basarich, educating future family physicians is just part of the job. He enjoys connecting with residents, saying that their great questions keep him on his toes.

He also believes that because this rotation focuses on a different



type of practice than residents might otherwise experience, it might help them clarify their future career goals.

Much like when he graduated, he says rural rotations are "worth it from the education standpoint, but also might help someone find a great match for a job."

# Statewide Program Updates

## Baraboo Rural Training Track

The Baraboo program is proud of 2015 alumni **Rachel Hartline, MD**, and **Rebecca Pfaff, MD**. Although neither grew up nor attended medical school in Wisconsin, they have put down roots and are practicing in Spring Green and La Farge, respectively. They exemplify our success in recruiting nationally and retaining locally!

*At right: Drs. Hartline and Pfaff*



## La Crosse Residency Program

The La Crosse program welcomed its first class of residents: **Wesley Fox, MD**, **Katya Voelker, MD**, **Victoria Bodendorfer, MD**, and **Elizabeth White, MD**. Their interests include full-spectrum family medicine, sports medicine and preventive care. **Meet them: [go.wisc.edu/8i90u0](http://go.wisc.edu/8i90u0)**

*At right: The new class with program director Paul Klas, MD*

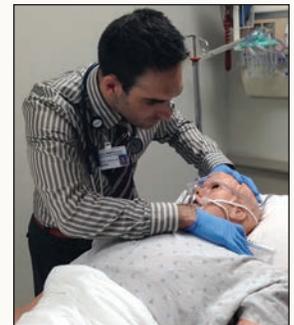


## Eau Claire Residency Program

The Eau Claire program increased the number of human patient simulator scenarios offered during its education conference. So far this program year, it's offered four simulations on cardiology, pediatrics, gastrointestinal bleeding and sepsis.

As of July 1, 2017, Prevea Health will manage the program's clinical operations. The UW SMPH will continue to be the program's institutional sponsor.

*At right: Resident Matthew Gordon, MD, during a simulation*



## Madison Residency Program

The Madison program received a Wisconsin Department of Health Services grant that, starting in FY18, will support two new residents per year focused on rural health at the UW Health Belleville clinic. Those residents will learn skills to address health disparities that impact people living in rural areas. **Learn more: [go.wisc.edu/hisr5w](http://go.wisc.edu/hisr5w)**

*At right: Madison residency program director Ildi Martonffy, MD*



## Milwaukee Residency Program

The Milwaukee program welcomed four new faculty: **Denise Elizondo, MD**, **Steven Murphy, MD**, **Jessica O'Brien, MD**, and **Kara Stoll, DO**. They practice at locations around Milwaukee, and have interests in urgent care, transgender populations, cross-cultural health care, integrative health, wellness and nutrition, diabetes, HIV and mental health.

**Meet them:** [go.wisc.edu/07cs05](https://go.wisc.edu/07cs05)

*At right, clockwise from top left:  
Drs. Elizondo, Murphy, O'Brien and Stoll*



## Wausau Residency Program

Wausau faculty **Kevin Thao, MD**, completed data collection on his research project, "The Survey of the Health of the Wausau Area Among Population." With help from resident **Rose Griffin, MD**, his team completed over 100 door-to-door health surveys and numerous follow-up interviews.

*At right: Drs. Thao and Griffin*



## Statewide Osteopathic Program

Statewide osteopathic program faculty and residents created a new elective to teach allopathic residents, fellows and faculty basic skills in osteopathic manipulative treatment (OMT). The course consists of required readings, online lectures and monthly hands-on labs that focus on different areas of the body. **Learn more:** [go.wisc.edu/u28uu4](https://go.wisc.edu/u28uu4)

*At right: DFMCH Assistant Professor Tom Hahn, MD, practices an OMT technique with family physician Suhani Bora, MD*



## Fellowships

Complementary and Integrative Health Research fellow **Maggie Grabow, PhD, MPH**, is conducting FAVORx, a feasibility study to determine whether a "social prescription" for healthy eating and increased exercise can help improve the health of overweight and obese college students.

**Learn more:** [go.wisc.edu/965727](https://go.wisc.edu/965727)

*At right: Dr. Grabow*



# Catching Up With the Class of 1987

We asked alumni from the class of 1987 to tell us about their practice and their most important mentor during residency. Here's what a few of them had to say!

## Fox Valley

**Douglas Moard, MD**, practices at ThedaCare in Appleton, Wisconsin, where he has interests in adult and pediatric mental health. Outside of work, he enjoys hunting and raises golden retrievers.



**Beth Haynes, MD**, is the executive director of the Benjamin Rush Institute, a nonprofit organization that works to protect the doctor-patient relationship and preserve health care freedom.



## Milwaukee

**Philip Goldfarb, MD**, lives and works near Phoenix, where he is the medical director of Dignity Health Gilbert Urgent Care in Gilbert, Arizona. *(No photo available.)*

## Madison

**Cindy Haq, MD**, leads the UW SMPH's Training in Urban Medicine and Public Health (TRIUMPH) program, which trains medical students to care for urban medically underserved populations. She also teaches in the Aurora St. Luke's family medicine residency program in Milwaukee, and will be returning to Uganda to teach a field course for UW students.

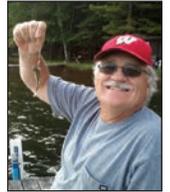


**Richard Martin, MD**, recently returned from a year in New Zealand, and is now launching a locum tenens practice serving rural emergency departments in North Dakota and Minnesota.



## Wausau

**Jerome (Jake) Andres, MD**, retired from family practice in October 2015. He works part-time at the Aspirus Rhinelander walk-in clinic in Rhinelander, Wisconsin, while he and his wife build their retirement home on Lake Micocqua.



*Drs. Jim Davis and Pat McBride were both energetic, inquisitive, caring physicians whose teaching and work still inspire me.*

—John Walter, MD, MPH

**Wendy Hanneman, MD**, is nearing 30 years at Aspirus Family Health Specialists in Wausau, Wisconsin, where obstetrics continues to be a favorite part of her practice. She has also served on the Aspirus Board of Directors for seven years, and has led its Clinics Board for 10 years.



*Drs. Gene Farley and Marc Hansen both encouraged and supported me to follow my dreams [and] my passions. I'm [also] grateful for the support from my fabulous colleagues at DFMCH.*

—Cindy Haq, MD

**John Walter, MD, MPH**, is the sole physician at the Winchester office of Dartmouth Hitchcock Clinic in rural New Hampshire—where he has practiced for 27 years.



*Dr. Tom Peterson was a compassionate family doctor and community activist. After founding the Wausau residency program, he continued to inspire us with his great vision for the future of family medicine.*

—Wendy Hanneman, MD

**Alumni: We want to feature you in our next issue!**

Share your news or updates at: [fammed.wisc.edu/alumni/alumni-form/](http://fammed.wisc.edu/alumni/alumni-form/)

# Dennis Breen Retires

Eau Claire residency faculty member, clinic medical director served for over 15 years

The Eau Claire residency program celebrates the retirement of Dennis Breen, MD, who served as a faculty member and medical director of its Eau Claire and Augusta clinics since July 2000.

Eau Claire alumni from the past 15 years were invited to attend or send greetings to Dr. Breen at the celebration on December 15, 2016. Co-workers presented him with a quilt in University of Wisconsin colors, and faculty, staff and residents sent him off with skits and musical numbers—including a poignant piece on the bagpipes.

## Respected for Technology Expertise

Dr. Breen was well respected for his expertise in medical coding and technology, and his advocacy for the use of evidence-based medicine.

He recalls the program's move from its original location on Farwell Street to its current space adjacent to the Chippewa Valley Technical College Health Education Center.

"There weren't any models for this collaboration," he reflects. "It was

an experiment that worked out very well... and the clinic has a unique place in the community because of it."

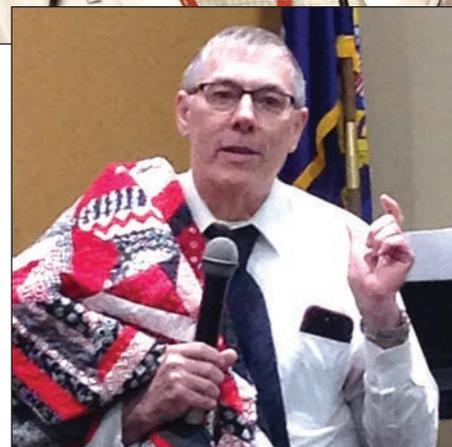
## A New Advisory Role

Dr. Breen is now working part-time with Eau Claire's HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital on physician education around utilization review and inpatient and outpatient observation status.

He's also on a committee that advises clinics in Wisconsin with medical student and residency education programs on how to transition to electronic medical record use.

But he will miss watching residents grow and caring for patients every day. "You develop a relationship with patients over the years," he says. "They know you as well as you know them."

Thank you, Dr. Breen, for your years of service. Stay in touch!



*Above, from top: Dr. Breen in the clinic in 2009; receiving a UW quilt at his retirement celebration.*

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