

in our family



The alumni newsletter of the University of Wisconsin Department of Family Medicine and Community Health | **Spring/Summer 2024**

Renner-Hansen Awards

Annual ceremony honors contributions to family medicine.

Attending the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health (DFMCH) Renner-Hansen Awards is an opportunity to honor the heroes of family medicine. Faculty, staff, students, and friends of DFMCH gather annually to learn more about the work of early career faculty and the citizens of Wisconsin who strive to improve health care for all.

MARC HANSEN LECTURESHIP AWARD

Named for DFMCH founder **Marc Hansen, MD**, this award honors a DFMCH junior faculty member who has contributed to the education of students and residents or made a scholarly contribution to the academic discipline of family medicine. Hansen created a team practice model in the UW Department of Pediatrics that became the depart-

ment's first primary care teaching program, University Family Health Service. This program was a model for the Department of Family Medicine when it was created in 1970.

PAST HONOREES

Vice Chair for Education **Ildi Martonffy, MD**, received the award as

junior faculty in 2015; and **Jonas Lee, MD**, who now practices at Access Community Health Center/Wingra Family Medical Center, took the honor in 2016. Both also completed their residencies at DFMCH.



Faculty Excellence Award recipients. From left: Sreevalli Atluru, MD, Jamie Kling, DO, FAAFP, and Vincent Minichiello, MD.

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Department of Family Medicine
and Community Health
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the latest issue of In Our Family. Our lead story offers a glimpse into the history of one of our most beloved

annual events, the Renner-Hansen Awards. This event offers an opportunity to honor dedication and service to the people of Wisconsin.

In this issue, you'll also read about some of our statewide program highlights including updates from our DFMCH sponsored and academic partner programs.

Finally, learn more about alum Dr. Nicole Bonk who received this year's Marc Hansen Lectureship Award and catch up with Dr. Bill Schwab, recipient of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Leadership.

As always, please stay in touch. We want to hear from you too!

David Rakel, MD

Chair, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health



More news at: fammed.wisc.edu/

News Briefs

Dr. Melissa Ricker Inducted into Medical Honor Society

Melissa Ricker, MD, was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Medical Honor Society on April 2, 2024. Ricker completed her residency with the UW DFMCH and is currently pursuing a geriatric medicine clinical fellowship with the UW Department of Medicine. Founded in 1902, AOA is the only national honor medical society. The mission of the AOA is to recognize and enhance professionalism, academic excellence, service, and leadership within the profession of medicine.



Osher Center for Integrative Health at UW Awarded 2024 Weil Foundation Grant

The Osher Center for Integrative Health at UW received a 2024 Weil Foundation grant. Led by Vincent Minichiello, MD, ABOIM as principal investigator, the grant project will develop and assess integrative health-specific anti-racism training modules and resources for faculty members. The novel Integrative Health Equity and Anti-Racism Tool (IHEART) will be used with an ultimate goal of facilitating the application of an equity lens broadly across integrative health education.



Dr. Allison Couture Selected as STFM New Faculty Scholar

Allison Couture, DO, MPA, was selected as a 2024 Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM) New Faculty Scholar. The program is highly competitive and recognizes outstanding leadership potential and a commitment to academic family medicine. Couture is one of only fourteen individuals selected in 2024. She presented a "Brief Therapeutic Techniques for Family Medicine Physicians and Nutrition-Based Health Communications to Affect Behavior Changes in Children Works-in-Progress" poster at the 2024 STFM Annual Spring Conference in May 2024.



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Published by the University of Wisconsin
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JOHN H. RENNER WISCONSIN IDEA AWARD

The John H. Renner Wisconsin Idea Award was established in 2001 to honor **Dr. John Renner**, the first chair of the DFMCH. Hired in 1970 from his practice in Virginia, Renner possessed the vision and entrepreneurial spirit needed to run the newly established family medicine training program. Each year, a Wisconsin citizen or organization who exemplifies a commitment to family medicine and the health needs of Wisconsin receives the award.

PAST HONOREES

The first recipient was former Wisconsin Governor **Tommy Thompson** who was instrumental in passing a bill as a state assembly member to provide funding to expand primary care teaching programs and initiate family medicine training. Subsequent honorees include **Sister Rebecca Wright**, chief executive officer of St. Mary's Hospital from 1967-1985, who offered space and additional funding for the new department; **Susan Skochelak, MD, MPH**, senior associate dean for academic affairs at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health from 1997-2009, developed the DFMCH's first required medical student education programs, the Primary Care Clerkship and the Generalist

Partners Program; and **Dr. Dennis Baumgardner**, a dedicated teacher and nationally recognized researcher, who served as director of the Aurora St. Lukes Family Medicine Residency Program from 1994-2001 and medical director for research for the Aurora-UW Medical Group.

2024 CELEBRATION

This year's Renner Wisconsin Idea Award recipient was **Dr. Ken Loving**, chief executive officer of Access Community Health Centers, a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in Madison. Loving began working as a full-time physician at what was then the Madison Community Health Center in 1996. A collaboration with the DFMCH led to the opening of the South Madison Health and Family Center, also known as Harambee, Swahili for "Pulling Together."

Taking home the Marc Hansen Lectureship Award was DFMCH alum **Nicole Bonk, MD**. You can learn more about her career and impact on the people of Wisconsin on page six.

ADDITIONAL AWARDS

The ceremony includes several other awards for excellence in service, quality improvement and research. The **Robert Drachenberg Staff Excellence Award** is named for the longstanding department administrator responsible for leading the DFMCH through many successful years and is given to DFMCH staff who exemplify his work. The **Faculty Excellence Award** honors faculty for excellent performance and service to the



Alison Miller, DO, accepts the Clinical Excellence Award from Vice Chair for Clinical Care Russ Lemmon, DO.

mission of the DFMCH. The **James Davis, MD, MS, Quality Improvement Awards** recognize and honor outstanding quality improvement projects. The **Richard Roberts, MD, JD, Clinical Excellence Award** honors the contributions of Roberts to family medicine leadership at the state, national, and international levels and celebrates his dedication to patients and his commitment to excellence in patient care. The **William Scheckler, MD, Research Awards** honor Dr. Scheckler's contributions to the promotion of scholarly activity in the department. This award is given to a faculty or staff member whose paper published in a peer-reviewed journal over the previous calendar year is considered the best by a committee of peers. An additional award is given to a resident, fellow, or medical student for an outstanding research project completed during the year. The final award of the evening is the **Chair's Award for Exemplary Service** recognizing staff and faculty for leadership and innovation.



William Scheckler, MD, Research Award Recipients. From left: Jonathan Temte, MD, PhD, MS, Asma Ali, PharmD, PhD, David Mallinson, PhD.

STATEWIDE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Baraboo Rural Training Track (RTT)



The Rural Training Track Collaborative (RTT-C)—a national non-profit coalition of rural medical educators, medical schools, residency programs, researchers, and policymakers—recognized the

Madison and Baraboo Residency Programs for their strong track records of training and placing physicians in rural practices. The Baraboo Rural Training Track (RTT) is a 1-2 model meaning residents experience one year of training in an urban setting through the Madison Residency Program and two years of training in rural settings.

Madison Residency Program

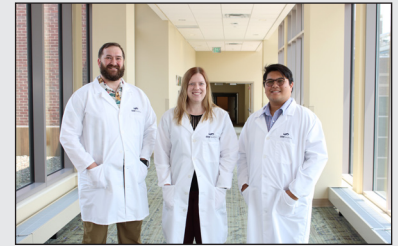
Over the past two years, the Madison family medicine residency program has developed a learning support team called the SPIRiT team. The SPIRiT team aims to provide a supportive approach to resident learner growth, and SPIRiT stands for Support, Processing Emotions, Individualized Plan, Reducing stigma and scrutiny, small “i” ego, and Transparency. The SPIRiT team consists of the residency program director, associate program directors, behavioral health faculty, faculty learning specialist/coach, and residency program manager. Residents can work with the SPIRiT team for any type of learning support, and some common examples including improving clinical efficiency, organization, clinical reasoning, and communication.



SPIRiT team. Bottom from left: Billy Michael, Lashika Yogendran, Tom Hahn. Middle from left: Julia Yates, Kacia Stevenson. Top: Karina Atwell

SSM Health Monroe Residency Program

Class of 2026 residents completed their first full year of training in the program since it became a DFMCH-sponsored program in 2023. Residents benefit from the support and resources provided by UW School of Medicine and Public Health and DFMCH in its commitment to providing compassionate and comprehensive rural osteopathic primary care training.



Class of 2026 (from left): Richard Nye, DO, Sara Kaczmarek, DO, and John Manuel, DO.

Statwide Osteopathic Collaborative

The Statewide Osteopathic Collaborative continues to provide hands-on learning for residents at conferences four

times a year. **Anna Veach, DO**, and **Jake Halvorsen, DO**, were guest presenters

at two of the conferences. The Collaborative has also continued to host an annual Fascial Distortion Model course that is attended by providers across the country. The osteopathic study group for faculty, residents, and community physicians, held alternating monthly between virtual meetings and in-person in Madison, has been a great way to network and connect. **Sarah James, DO**, director of Osteopathic Education, is currently serving as the vice chair of the ACGME Osteopathic Recognition Committee. She continues to present nationally for AAFP, ACGME, ACOFP on osteopathic medical education and evaluation. Next academic year's osteopathic chiefs will be **Saba Khan, DO** (Aspirus-Wausau) and **Kyle Sherwin, DO** (UW-Madison).



Yusuf Abullah, DO, (left) treats a patient with the assistance **Sarah James, DO**, director of osteopathic education.

Fellowships

Three new fellows, **Miena Hall, MD**, **Laura Prieto, PhD**, and **Sydney Tan, MD**, joined the Primary Care Research Fellowship on the T32 research training grant funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration. **Taylor Watterson, PharmD, PhD**, took a faculty position in summer 2023. **David Mallinson, PhD**, completed his second year in fall 2024 and will continue for a third year. **Asma Ali, PharmD, PhD**, will complete her third year of the fellowship in fall 2024 and is actively seeking faculty positions.



From left: Laura Prieto, PhD, David Mallinson, PhD, Asma Ali, PharmD, PhD, Sydney Tan, MD, and Miena Hall, MD.

Waukesha Residency Program

Dr. Jennifer Zeman, residency program faculty, attended Doctor Day at the Wisconsin State Capitol with residents Jared Dobbs, MD, and Karolina Bulak, MD.



From left: Jennifer Zeman, Jared Dobbs, and Karolina Bulak.

Milwaukee Residency Program

UW TRIUMPH Program Alumni continue to shine as faculty in Milwaukee with the Aurora Family Medicine Residency. In addition to his 2024 Brillman Mentorship in Family



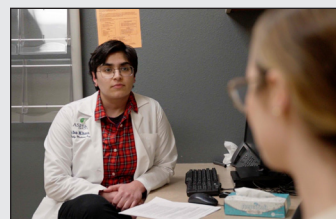
From left: DFMCH Chair David Rake! presents Dr. Alonzo Jalan with the Brillman Mentorship in Family Medicine Award.

Medicine Award, **Dr. Alonzo Jalan** was also recognized by the AAH system for development of the "Smarter Pre-Op Note", which reduces the risk of medication errors around patient procedures. **Drs. Anne Getzin** and **Kjersti Knox** have developed multiple curricular interventions around

Climate and Health, including a national webinar, an ABFM Part IV MOC module, and a recent STFM presentation on incorporating climate education into residency teaching sessions. **Dr. Lawrence Moore** was recently appointed as Associate Program Director of the TRIUMPH Program. Finally, our residency is happy to announce the hiring of **Dr. Devin Walsh-Felz** as a family medicine with obstetrics faculty member.

Wausau Residency Program

In June 2023, Wausau Family Medicine Residents began working with Aspirus to record videos for Thank a Resident



Day. The videos featured timely health topics like Men's Health Month, World Pneumonia Week, Flu Shots, Cervical Cancer Awareness Month, Drug & Alcohol Facts Week, Every Kid Health, and

LGBTQA+ Health. These recordings are played in waiting rooms throughout the Aspirus system and shared with local news stations and on social media.

Nicole Bonk, MD

This year's Marc Hansen lecturer advances hospitalist medicine.

Dr. Nicole Bonk's excellence in medical education earned her the honor of delivering this year's Marc Hansen Lecture at the 2024 Renner-Hansen Awards. In her introduction, former Vice Chair Jennifer Edgoose, MD, MPH, praised Bonk's leadership roles throughout UW Health and her efforts to advance hospitalist medicine through scholarship.

Comparing her career to the Alice in Wonderland quote, "Would you tell me please, which way I ought to go from here?", Bonk acknowledged her circuitous career path as she discussed what led her to hospital medicine.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

After completing her residency at DFMCH in 2012, Bonk worked in urgent care and eventually became an attending physician on the inpatient family medicine teaching service at UW Hospital. She took over the inpatient medical directorship at East Madison Hospital and is currently the vice chief for clinical operations for hospital medicine.

Bonk is most proud of the opportunities she's had to build relationships between the DFMCH and hospital medicine including options for residents and fellows to pick up inpatient work.

"I'm proud to say that we now have six of our family docs in hybrid roles with three doing primarily hospital medicine," shared Bonk.

Raised by a small business owner and teacher, Bonk appreciated the way her father cared about the people who worked for him and found jobs where they could thrive. This people-centered approach had an impact on Bonk, and she has always tried to build strong relationships throughout her career. The importance of this type of collaboration was highlighted during the pandemic.

"This department stepped up in an incredible way during the pandemic. Our hospitals experienced significant fluctuations in patients, and I never felt like we were staffed in an unsafe way, and I think this department is to thank for that," Bonk added.

As her curvy path continues, Bonk is thrilled that the latest turn includes a new Home-Based Hospital Care Program launched in July 2023. Eligible patients receive a physician visit at home at least once a day, nurse visits at least twice a day while there is always a physician and nurse on call. Bonk shared that the program



Dr. Nicole Bonk with the Marc Hansen Lectureship Award.

recently accepted its first uninsured patient to advance equity.

"I really think all of this, especially that time during the pandemic, comes back to relationships. The people in this department are just so incredible," she concluded.

“Would you tell me please, which way I ought to go from here?”

—Alice in Wonderland

STAY IN TOUCH!

Got news or updates? Share them at: fammed.wisc.edu/alumni/alumni-form

Bill Schwab, MD

Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Leadership

Dr. Bill Schwab received the University of Wisconsin-Madison Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Leadership during a special celebration at the Fluno Center in April. The award is one of many Schwab has earned and a complement to his career at DFMCH as he prepares to retire later this year.

Schwab was born and raised in Madison where his strong connection to the community grew as an undergraduate at UW. He continued his education at the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and later moved to Charlottesville to complete his residency at the University of Virginia. A family physician in southern West Virginia, he provided essential care to those in need. His commitment to patient-centered medicine and family well-being blossomed during this period, and he realized it was time to go home. Schwab joined the faculty of the DFMCH in 1985. Since then, he has been a beacon of excellence in leadership and medical education. As a past director of the Madison Residency Program, he nurtured the next generation of physicians and continues to support faculty, staff, and learners across multiple fellowship and residency programs within the DFMCH.

A nationally recognized advocate for patient- and family-centered care, Schwab believes in forging partnerships with patients, families, and communities to create welcoming healthcare environments.

In addition to the residency program, Schwab shared his leadership

skills in several roles including director of the Wisconsin Rural Physician Residency Assistance Program, vice chair for Education for DFMCH, chair of the State Graduate Medical Education Committee, and assistant dean for Graduate Medical Education. As interim chair of the DFMCH from 2020-2021, his compassion and guidance helped faculty and staff navigate challenges during the initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This award seeks to honor those who have demonstrated exceptional leadership in our institution. I have been privileged to witness Bill's impact personally as well as to benefit from how he has shaped and expanded our department and our specialty," shares DFMCH Vice Chair for Education Ildi Martonffy, MD.

Among his many accolades, Schwab received the Humanism in Medicine Award from the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine, jointly with the Arnold P. Gold Foundation; the Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians Educator of the Year Award; and was named the DFMCH Baldwin E. Lloyd, MD, Clinical Teacher of the Year.

Schwab continues to shape medical education. His commitment to learner-centered programs and compassionate care underscores his vision for a more inclusive and equitable healthcare system. His legacy extends far beyond the walls of the clinic and his impact on medical education, patient advocacy, and community health serves as an inspiration to all aspiring healthcare professionals.



Bill Schwab, MD

"I have had the privilege of serving in a number of leadership positions in the DFMCH over the past four decades. In my view, this chancellor's award for leadership is actually recognition of our entire department for intensely leaning into our missions during the period that I was interim chair, a time when we were collectively experiencing unprecedented upheaval and distress," shares Schwab.

"With dedication and innovation, we maintained our commitments to clinical care, education, research, and community health in amazing ways. My role was to encourage, connect, support, and communicate. I am truly grateful to the many outstanding people throughout our department who were partners in those efforts. I am accepting this award on behalf of all of us."



Department of Family Medicine and Community Health

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