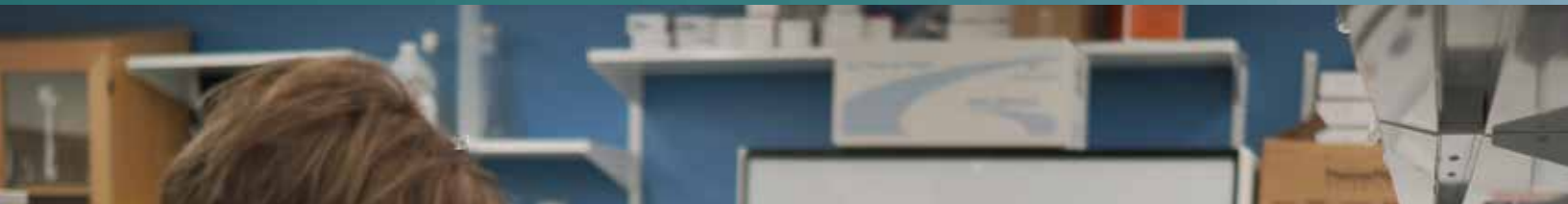




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# STRATEGIC GROWTH IN HEALTH SCIENCES EDUCATION: INSPIRING LEARNERS IN NEW WAYS

The Medical College of Wisconsin's education mission is dedicated to cultivating a learning environment that supports the academic success and personal wellbeing of every student. Our continued quest for knowledge, together with our innovative approach to academic medicine, has successfully resulted in strategic growth across all schools and programs during the 2022-2023 academic year. As MCW grows as an institution, its faculty, staff and students continue to demonstrate inspiring new approaches to learning and fostering meaningful connections with each other and the communities we serve.

MCW's School of Graduate Studies recorded its third-straight year of record-setting application numbers, with Fall applications still ongoing. Student-led connection groups, created during the pandemic, continue to inspire the school's growing number of international students as they navigate their studies. In Spring 2023, MCW's School of Pharmacy graduated its first class with academic concentrations in research, population health, specialized pharmacy practice and entrepreneurship and leadership.

These concentrations allow students to customize their education, an offering that has grown more popular with current and future students. In July 2023, the School of Medicine successfully launched the new MCWfusion™ Curriculum after years of planning and hard work put forth by countless faculty, staff and students. In Spring 2024, MCW will celebrate our M4 students, who have inspired us all by bravely and successfully navigating medical school during a global pandemic; they will soon graduate and carry all of the training and lessons learned at MCW into the next stage of their medical careers. MCW's new Physician Associate program continues its planning and development, with the first class matriculating in Spring 2025.

MCW remains a distinguished leader and innovator in the education and development of the next generation of physicians, scientists, pharmacists and health professionals. We look forward to continued growth to ensure all MCW learners are equipped with the skills to adapt to the everchanging landscape of medical discovery and patient care.

## Inspiring Student Wellness Through Movement and Meaningful Connections

The Offices of Student Health and Wellness and Student Inclusion and Diversity hosted local community fitness instructors Tasha Seals and Nicole Towns for a 12-week fitness series called "Hypefusion." The classes, which took place on Monday evenings from March until the end of June, were a hit amongst MCW learners, with attendees representing all schools and programs. Due to its success, Hypefusion classes will continue to be offered during the 2023-2024 academic year, with over 70 students already enrolled in the fall series.

Additionally, MCW's Student Health and Wellness Counselor Intern Program, which partners with Marquette University's Master of Science Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program, is now in its second year, and continues to provide students with compassionate, practical and timely support

and resources throughout their MCW educational journey. Students shared their gratitude for last year's MCW counselor intern, Callie Koziol, stating, "Callie is fantastic! She does a great job of taking the stigma away from therapy, and she always gives me a safe space to share my feelings," and, "Callie has been absolutely amazing. I've had two sessions with her so far. She was the perfect fit I needed, and I so appreciate her time! Thank you!"

Inaugurated in 2022, the annual MCW Summit on Advancing Equity in the Learning Environment is an engaging, impactful event developed in partnership between the Kern Institute and the MCW Office of Student Inclusion and Diversity.

In our second year, the summit focused on “Utilizing Data to Advance Equity in the Learning Environment.” This half-day event brought together individuals from diverse backgrounds, including students, faculty, staff and residents engaged in equity work as a request for action to ensure a learning environment where all students flourish and thrive.

The summit created opportunities for attendees to share and examine important topics they are facing, and fostered deeper discussions, collaboration and a

strong resolve to create a more inclusive and equitable learning environment. [READ MORE ABOUT SOME OF THE NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SUMMIT>>](#)

The 2024 Advancing Equity in the Learning Environment Summit, [\[Image\]](#), will take place on Thursday, March 7, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The Department of Academic Affairs hosted its 10th annual Innovations in Healthcare Education Research (IHER) Conference Sept. 19-21. The 2023 Conference, which took place in a hybrid format with in-person and virtual participation options, brought together participants from 20 states and seven countries, and featured faculty, staff and students who are passionate about discovering new approaches to assessing learning, faculty development, curricular design and teaching delivery methods that enhance the student learning experience and prepare students

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## SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

MCW's School of Graduate Studies is in the midst of its third-straight year of continued growth, once again receiving record-high applications to its various programs. During the 2022-2023 academic year, the School of Graduate Studies received 637 applications, a 13.75% increase from the 2021-2022 academic year; the current number of Fall 2023 applications has risen to 711, with admissions still ongoing. Fall 2023 doctoral application numbers also are the highest in the school's history, with 476 currently received. In addition to its record-setting numbers, the School of



## SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Students in the Class of 2023 were the first in the MCW School of Pharmacy to graduate with an academic concentration in research, population health, specialized pharmacy practice or entrepreneurship and leadership. These four academic concentrations were added to the PharmD curriculum during the 2020-2021 academic year with the following goals in mind: enhance student knowledge, satisfy intellectual interests and increase experience in a specialized pharmacy field.

“With the addition of academic concentrations into the curriculum, students can now elect to customize their education with us,” says founding dean George E. MacKinnon III, PhD, MS, RPh. “These focused concentrations enhance a Doctor of Pharmacy program graduate’s competitiveness in the job market and in postgraduate residency training.”

Kari Smaga, PharmD  
Class of 2023, 3+3  
Dual Degree Program  
Participant.

“We have noticed that awareness of academic concentrations is gaining traction and garnering more interest among our latest cohorts,” says Ehab Abourashed, PhD, MS, BPharm, assistant dean for academic and curricular affairs. “This will provide more incentive to extend our offerings to include more than the four currently available areas.”



3+3

The Class of 2023 achieved a 92% Post-Graduate Training Match Rate in Post-Graduate Year 1 residencies and fellowships. 70% of MCW’s graduating SOP students who are pursuing a PGY1 residency program will continue their training in Wisconsin.

Total Presentations: **74**

Total Publications: **32**

**7** involved students

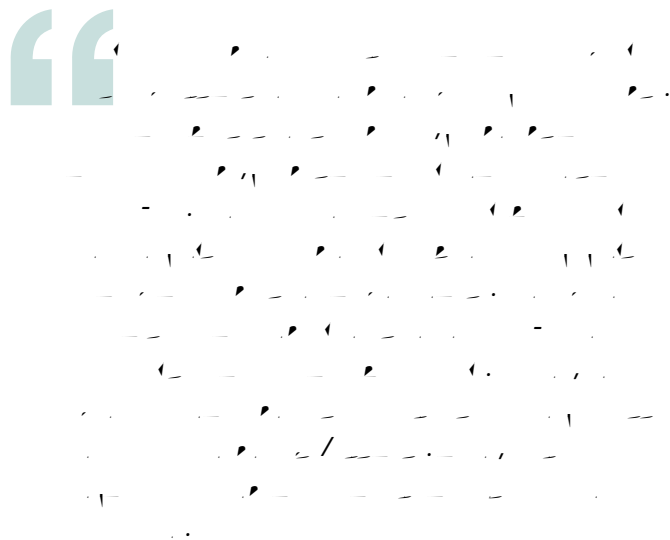
Posters: **19**

Awards and Honors: **16**



## SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

MCW-Central Wisconsin is thriving in its mission to meet the healthcare needs of Central Wisconsin and the surrounding regions.



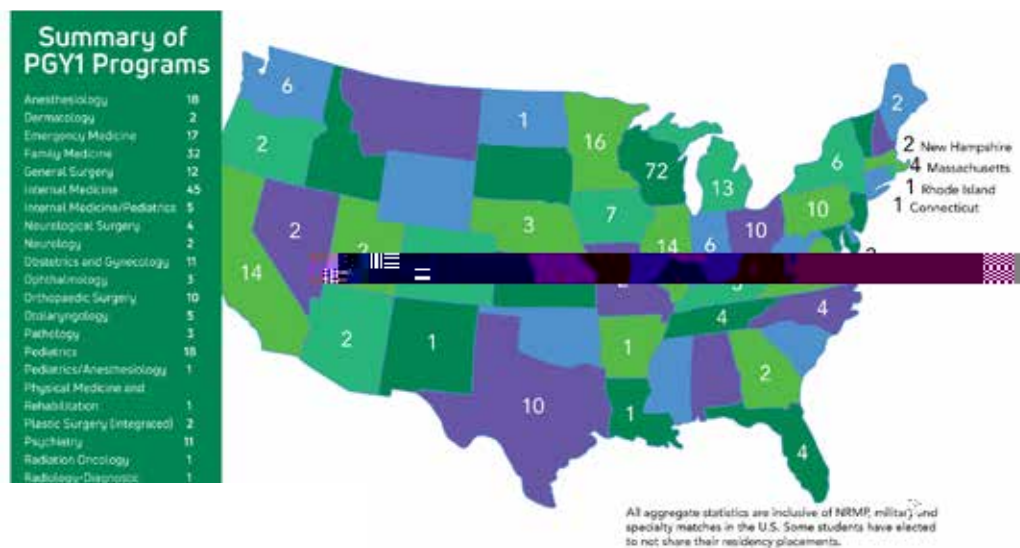
– Grace Wittenberg,  
MCW-CW Class of 2025



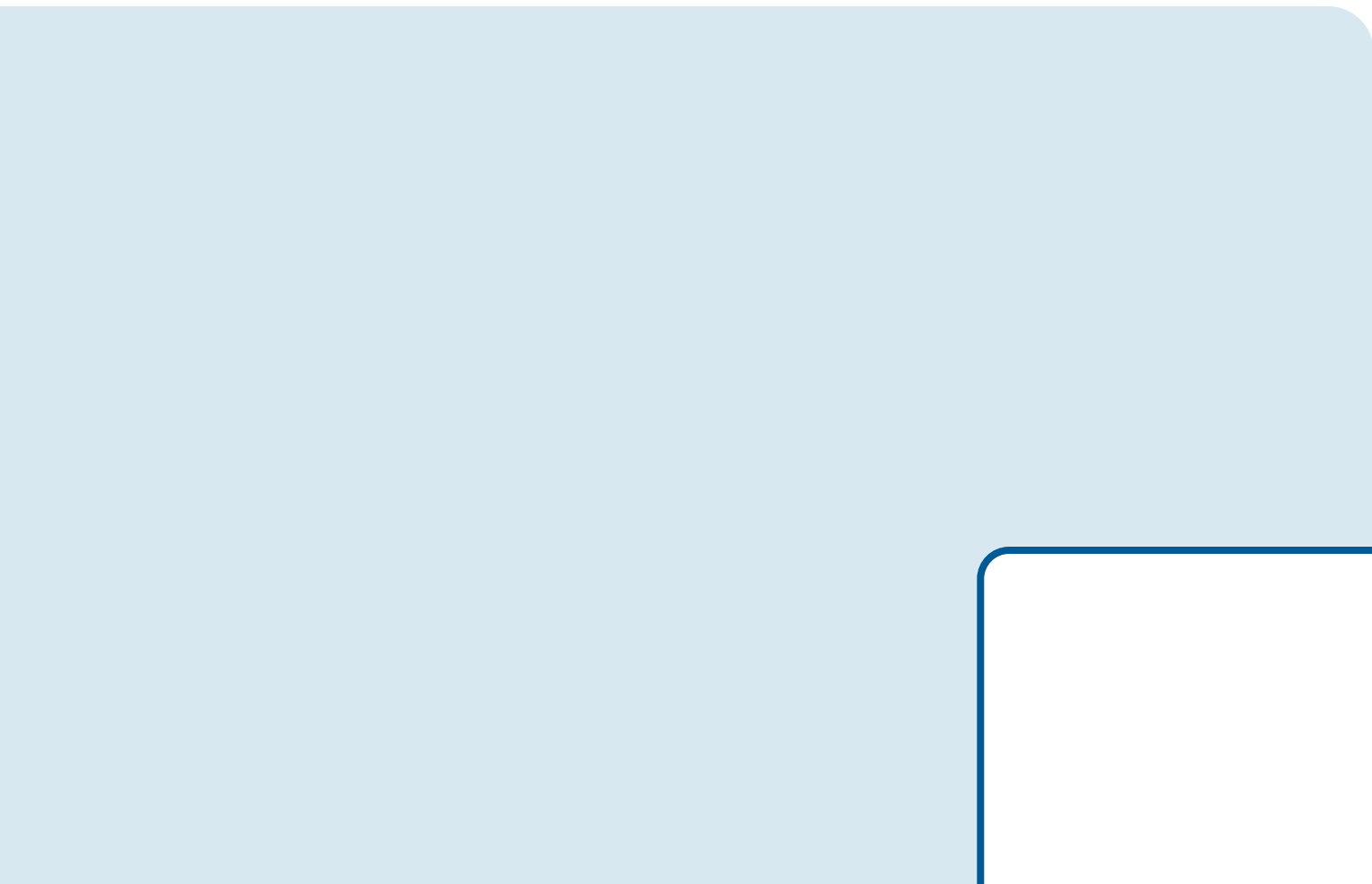
2023

## 2023 MATCH DAY CELEBRATION

Friday, March 17, 2023, marked the culmination of a year's work for MCW students applying to residency programs in the specialty of their choice, traveling for interviews and







## TRANSFORMING INNOVATIVE HEALTH SCIENCES EDUCATION INTO INSPIRING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

### MCW Student Dedicated to Improving Care for Diverse Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Populations

**J**oyce Lee, a fourth-year medical student at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW), thinks it would be helpful for the public to learn about the extreme diversity of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) populations, particularly within the scope of healthcare and public health.

“We speak over 100 languages and come from more than 100 countries,” she says. Something else that’s not well understood by the public, according to Lee, is the health disparities that exist within these populations, each as diverse as the countries themselves. Lee says the narratives about these populations tend to focus on groups that have a higher socioeconomic status, a result of immigration policies that welcomed those who were more than 100 years old when they arrived in the United States. “It’s not being home with your family and friends, it’s being in a new country with a different language and culture.”

**A**na Mia Corujo Ramirez moved to the Midwest from Puerto Rico as an undergrad to pursue her passion for research at Iowa State University. Now, at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW), rising third-year medical student Corujo Ramirez is using those research skills to contribute to decreasing health disparities at home.

In 2018, Corujo Ramirez was a participant in the Mayo Clinic’s prestigious Post-Baccalaureate Research Education Program.

Just one year prior, in 2017, Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico, a Caribbean Island of 3.2 million people. Long-lasting impacts from that hurricane still continue to affect the island to this day.

“Not being home was really difficult,” she recalls. “I always wanted to do a little bit more to help.”

Corujo Ramirez learned about a primary investigator who was working to implement a mental health curriculum in marginalized communities in Puerto Rico and jumped at the opportunity to support this effort. Her job was to help pick experiments that would allow students to see the effects of stress. The study furthered her passion for helping others.

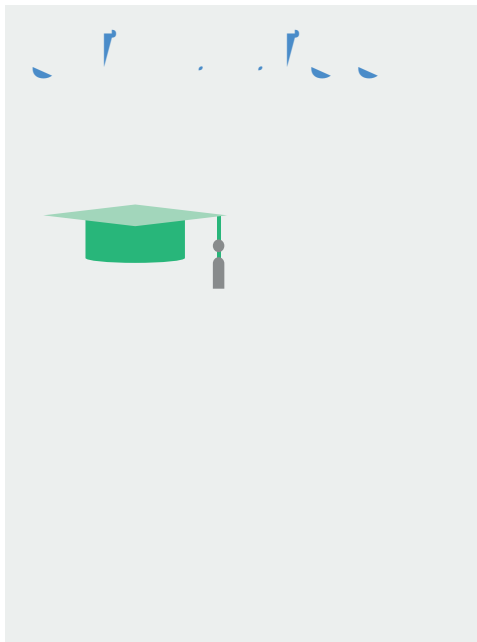
“I realized that I love working with communities and like connecting the benchwork experience that I have with kids in communities,” Corujo Ramirez says. [READ MORE >>](#)

### MCW Student Explores Native American Heritage During Her Path in Medicine

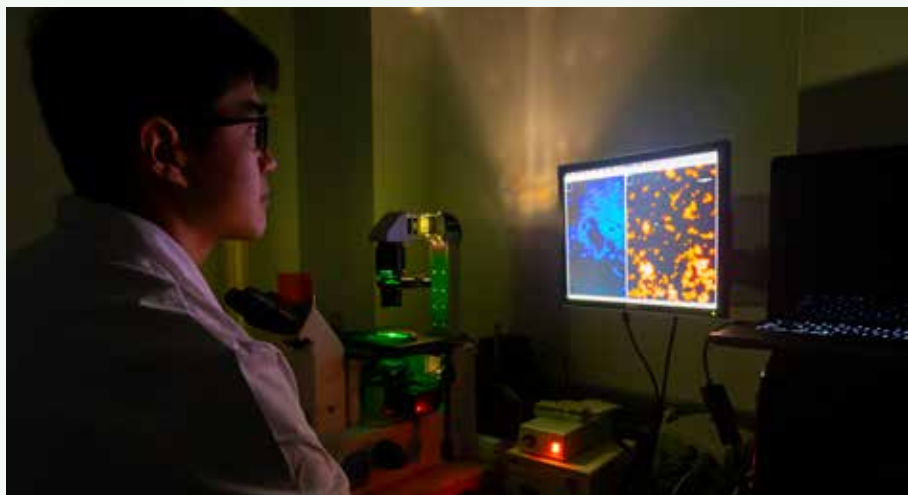
**M**organ Lockhart, like thousands of medical students across the country and world, is anxiously awaiting Match Day on March 17. That day, she and other graduating medical students will receive a communication from the National Residency Matching Program (NRMP) that will reveal where the next leg of their journey in medicine will take place.

Wherever she ends up, Lockhart says, she hopes to continue the journey that took root during her time at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW).

“I hope to continue to do mentorship



## Students Cultivating Growth and Success Through Peer Connections and Support





Students Cultivating Growth and Success Through  
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