



Robert N. Golden, MD

Advancing the Wisconsin Idea

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It is a great honor and privilege to serve as the ninth dean of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH), 1 of the state's 2 outstanding medical schools. I welcome this opportunity to initiate on-going communication with members of the Wisconsin Medical Society through the *Wisconsin Medical Journal*. Congratulations to the new editor, John Frey, MD, former chair of the SMPH Department of Family Medicine. I first met John years ago at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH), where I spent the last 2 decades, and I'm proud to have followed in his footsteps to Wisconsin.

In making the decision to relocate here, I was heavily influenced by the tradition of excellence at the SMPH and at UW-Madison. I was very impressed that, in addition to its commitment to academic excellence, the university community is equally committed to serving the residents of the state through the Wisconsin Idea, a 100-year-old belief that the University should have a positive impact on the entire state.

I believe strongly in the philosophy of the Wisconsin Idea. My entire academic faculty career has taken place at public universities. Institutions such as UW-Madison and UNC-CH have special relationships with the people, and a commitment to public service is an integral component of the SMPH's identity.

I am very excited about several unique opportunities that will greatly enhance the school's ability to serve the public. The Wisconsin Partnership Program, which resulted from the Blue Cross conversion, follows the ideals and traditions of community outreach and partnership. I look forward to working closely with the Medical College of Wisconsin, which also received resources following the conversion, to improve the health of all Wisconsinites.

The SMPH's recent initiation of a dramatic transformation into an integrated school of medicine and public health also represents an enormous opportunity. This change will bring together traditional medicine, which generally focuses on individual patients from molecular, cellular and organ-system perspectives, with public health, which focuses on populations ranging from neighborhoods to towns, states, countries, and even the "global village."

At UNC-CH, the School of Public Health is located directly across the street from the School of Medicine and during my entire time there, I saw the wonderful synergies that can arise from such closeness. Here at Wisconsin, where medicine and public health are united under 1 roof, the results will be even more impressive.

The theme of this edition of the *Journal*—public health issues—fits in perfectly with the school's new expanded mission and vision. The thoughtful scientific articles published here will point to the directions that will be most critical for us to consider as we move forward.

I know that the Wisconsin Medical Society plays a crucial role in identifying and addressing the health care needs of the Badger State. And I recognized immediately that the Society is committed to supporting Wisconsin physicians and the patients we serve. One of the very first things I did upon arriving was to join this organization—even before I applied for my driver's license! Soon I will begin traveling across the state to meet as many medical colleagues as possible. I am eager for the SMPH to partner with the Society to further advance the Wisconsin Idea, ensuring that the field of medicine extends to every nook and cranny in the state.

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Wisconsin Medical Journal

The mission of the *Wisconsin Medical Journal* is to provide a vehicle for professional communication and continuing education of Wisconsin physicians.

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