



Robert N. Golden, MD

Dean's Corner

Academic campuses extend the school's reach to all corners of the state

Robert N. Golden, MD

Dean, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health
Vice Chancellor for Medical Affairs, University of Wisconsin-Madison

The University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health and the Marshfield Clinic recently announced the signing of an official affiliation agreement that formalizes a very productive, decades-long relationship primarily involving educational initiatives. The newly designated “Marshfield Academic Campus” becomes the school’s third statewide partner, joining Aurora Healthcare Corporation—our “Milwaukee Academic Campus”—and Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center in La Crosse—our “Western Academic Campus.”

All 3 of these academic campuses are valuable partners in helping us in our mission. We feel it is essential that our medical students receive a substantial portion of their clinical training at sites away from the large, tertiary-care academic medical center in Madison so they obtain the full spectrum of clinical experiences needed to care for the diverse patients that are typical of today’s medical practices.

In addition, as the state’s *public* school of medicine and public health, we are deeply committed to doing all we can to increase the pipeline of doctors who will be available to care for the underserved. Here in Wisconsin, these physician workforce demands are greatest in both rural areas of the state and in central-city Milwaukee. We are delighted that our partnerships with the Western and Marshfield Academic Campuses are providing our students with top-quality clinical

experiences in rural sites, while our partnership with the Milwaukee Academic Campus is offering outstanding training in a highly urbanized setting. As research has shown, students often find these unique clinical experiences can play a pivotal role in their future career decisions.

As part of our commitment to addressing the needs of the underserved rural segments of the population, we recently created the Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine, or WARM, which my predecessor described in this column 2 years ago. WARM is a new medical training track that accepts students who have a strong desire and commitment to practice medicine in rural Wisconsin.

Starting with our incoming class, Marshfield will be the first site to host the clinical portion of the WARM program. Once students finish their first 2 years on campus in Madison, they will spend the majority of their next 2 years receiving most of their clinical training at Marshfield and other network clinics. The Western Academic Campus will also soon play a significant role in this program.

Using the WARM program as a model, we also hope to address Wisconsin’s urban populations’ needs soon. We are working to develop plans for a similar program in central-city Milwaukee, where the needs of the urban underserved are just as great as those in rural Wisconsin.

In addition to its participation in WARM, and to the training it has

traditionally provided our third- and fourth-year students, Marshfield will also substantially increase our collaboration in the research arena. We were honored and pleased to include the Marshfield Clinic as a partner in our application to become one of the new Institutes for Clinical and Translational Research funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Marshfield has one of the very best DNA repositories in the country, as well as electronic medical records that are far ahead of most others. Their research resources and scientists—coupled with our complementary cadre of basic and clinical scientists—will be a strong and winning combination. Although the official NIH announcement has not been made yet, we look forward to sharing with you the anticipated successful outcome of our application.

The 3 academic campuses that are affiliated with the UW School of Medicine and Public Health are among the best embodiments of the Wisconsin Idea, extending the boundaries of our campus to the borders of the state. The academic campuses help us immeasurably in reaching every corner of this large and glorious state. They collectively expand the breadth and depth of our formal sites of instruction and research. And through their own affiliated clinics and outreach efforts, they help us insure that the power of academic medicine is made available to every Wisconsin resident.

Wisconsin Medical Journal

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

The *Wisconsin Medical Journal* (ISSN 1098-1861) is the official publication of the Wisconsin Medical Society and is devoted to the interests of the medical profession and health care in Wisconsin. The managing editor is responsible for overseeing the production, business operation and contents of the *Wisconsin Medical Journal*. The editorial board, chaired by the medical editor, solicits and peer reviews all scientific articles; it does not screen public health, socioeconomic or organizational articles. Although letters to the editor are reviewed by the medical editor, all signed expressions of opinion belong to the author(s) for which neither the *Wisconsin Medical Journal* nor the Society take responsibility. The *Wisconsin Medical Journal* is indexed in Index Medicus, Hospital Literature Index and Cambridge Scientific Abstracts.

For reprints of this article, contact the *Wisconsin Medical Journal* at 866.442.3800 or e-mail wmj@wismed.org.

© 2007 Wisconsin Medical Society