

2009 Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation Report: A gift of health, a gift of life throughout Wisconsin

OUR MISSION:

To advance the health of the people of Wisconsin by supporting medical and health education.

STRATEGIC GOALS:

- Support the education and retention of physicians in Wisconsin
- Promote physician-led statewide or community initiatives to improve the health of Wisconsin citizens

2009 HIGHLIGHTS – HOW WE IMPROVE HEALTH IN WISCONSIN:

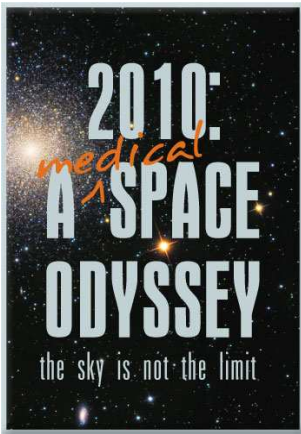
Despite a challenging economic climate, the Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation continued to provide significant support to improve the health of Wisconsin. Here are some highlights:

Advancing Wisconsin Healthcare Through Medical Education –

- **Scholarships** - The Foundation encouraged and assisted 37 students with \$68,800 in scholarships and awards. We were honored to award the first Catherine M. Slota-Varma, MD Memorial Scholarship this year to Nicholas Kuehnel, a student pursuing pediatrics, who has demonstrated the type of leadership, involvement and passion for helping children that Dr. Slota-Varma displayed throughout her career.
- **Student Loans** - To further assist medical students, the Foundation provided \$295,000 in loans to 59 students. These loans are interest-free while in medical school and may be deferred during further training.
- **White Coat Campaign** - More than 220 Society members like you donated to sponsor the cost of 375 white coats—one for each first-year medical student attending school in Wisconsin—along with a personal note of encouragement for each student. What a wonderful way to welcome our future generation and foster their voice and participation within the profession.
- **Operation: Education** - In partnership with the alumni association at both Wisconsin medical schools, the Foundation brought together more than 200 students and 73 physician volunteers representing a wide range of specialty and primary care practices to provide a social opportunity to answer practical questions about their chosen field of medicine.

Advancing Wisconsin Healthcare Through Public Health Initiatives –

- **Grants** - The Foundation supported several health research and education initiatives this year with grants totaling nearly \$45,000. Projects included: Metabolic Syndrome awareness and prevention; symposium for educators and the public on integrating public health in the classroom; nutrition education and gardening project; health fair for the underserved; dialogue on health between physicians and Wisconsin citizens; and domestic violence screening tool for physicians.
- **Summer Fellowships** - The Foundation's Summer Fellowship Program provided \$21,000 for six medical students to work on public health or health-related community service projects. Through the guidance of physician mentors, students explore Wisconsin communities and their related public health issues. Below is a listing of the 2009 fellows, their mentors and projects.
 - Alisha Fahley with mentor Janette Strasburger, MD, *Assessing barriers to rural research*
 - Michelle Clark-Forsting with mentor Michael Mahan, MD, *Improving the rate of HPV vaccination*
 - Kari Beth Haley with mentor Ronald Pirrallo, MD, MHSA, *Evaluating the safety of CPR performed by bystanders*
 - Chad Pendley with mentors John Fangman, MD and Andrew Petroll, MD, MS, *Understanding barriers to care for HIV-infected individuals*
 - Ebony Richards with mentor Suzanne Brixey, MD, *Validating data on infant safe sleep environments*
 - Michelle Yang with mentor John Meurer, MD, MBA, *CHILD: Connecting health insurance with lunch data*



Annual Fundraising Event: Please join us!

2010: A Medical Space Odyssey

On Thursday, April 15, 2010, physicians, business leaders, medical students and their guests will come together from throughout the state to connect and support the Foundation in celebration of ways that our collective efforts impact healthcare in Wisconsin. The evening will feature Scott Parazynski, MD, physician and former NASA astronaut, who will share his unique expertise in human adaptation to extreme environments. Dr. Parazynski has participated on 5 space flights and 7 spacewalks including a risky repair to the solar array on the International Space Station. He will also share his experience in reaching the summit of Mt. Everest last spring. From Dr. Parazynski we will learn that the sky is not the limit!

For tickets to the event or information on any of our programs, contact Rebecca Thompson, Executive Director at 608-442-3720 or visit www.wisconsinmedicalsociety.org/foundation.

Investing in the Foundation: Advancing health care every day

The Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation has a long and rich history of supporting medical education and public health in the state. Our close connection with both medical schools and with the leadership of the Wisconsin Medical Society makes us a trusted home for gifts to impact health issues and medical education. Our physician-led Board of Trustees and selection committees seek out the best candidates for awards and most effective use of resources to improve healthcare in Wisconsin. Listed are examples of stories noting the inspiration behind some of the donations that are making a difference today.

Annual donations from Wisconsin physicians and others who support our mission are critical to these and other health education programs.

Please join your colleagues in support of the foundation of your profession—the Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation.

Robert “Jason” Gore Scholarship – Dr. Donald and Jacqueline Gore established a scholarship fund in memory of their grandson who was killed in Iraq. Jason hoped to pursue education in a medically related field after completing his duty. Dr. and Mrs. Gore are keeping Jason’s spirit alive by assisting medical students who share Jason’s character and ideals.

Catherine Slota-Varma, MD Scholarship – Dr. Slota-Varma was passionate about providing the best possible care for children. She continued to be involved in advocacy and educational programs even while fighting Cancer. Shortly before losing that battle, she established a scholarship fund to encourage and assist medical students who share her passion.

Charles Landis, MD Memorial Fund – Mrs. Mary Landis established this fund in memory of her husband, Charles Landis, MD, a psychiatrist and director of Mental Health for Milwaukee County for many years. His passion was for improving the teaching and practice of psychiatry and improving public perception of mental health. This fund continues his work by supporting educational lectures or programs on current psychiatry and mental health topics.

John D. and Virginia Riesch Scholarship – By taking advantage of the IRA distribution provision available until December 31, 2009, Dr. Riesch and his wife Virginia, a registered nurse, demonstrated their generosity of spirit. Their fund will provide scholarships to students pursuing medicine and nursing who share their commitment to life-long learning and quality patient care.

For more donor stories, visit

<http://www.wisconsinmedicalsociety.org/foundation/donations/legacies>.

Foundation Future:

Engage Conversation, Ignite Change, Improve Health

In February of 2010, the Foundation Board of Trustees launched a new strategic planning initiative to help maintain the strength of its existing programs and position the organization for future opportunities and growth. The results of the first session revealed an interest to further pursue community health initiatives. In partnership with the Wisconsin Medical Society, medical students, government, health care organizations, businesses and others the Foundation will seek to engage conversation, ignite change and improve community health. Through convening interested members in health,

collaborating with other organizations in health and directing health service, the organization strives to be recognized as Wisconsin's premier resource and force for creative, grass roots community health improvement.

- **Engage Conversation** -via new Foundation regional and/or county **CHAMP teams** - Community Health Action via Medical Partnerships - linking physicians, public health, hospital foundations and others together to improve community health and identify areas for health care reform
 - via new Foundation County ambassadors - local medical leaders who serve as Foundation volunteers by helping to identify community health challenges and opportunities
 - via developed relationships with medical students - becoming a trusted resource and voice for Wisconsin's future workforce
- **Ignite Change** - Identifying, developing and activating Wisconsin physician leaders
 - Keeping physicians in Wisconsin - via scholarship, loan and mentoring support
 - Educating Wisconsin communities about the importance of community health
 - Supporting relevant health research efforts that impact community health
- **Improve Community Health** -In partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, we assist in implementing statewide health initiatives
 - Support and implement community grass roots health improvement efforts - including summer fellowship program

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