

Foundation Focus

WISCONSIN MEDICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION NEWS • SPRING 2008

The mission of the Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation is to advance the health of the people of Wisconsin by supporting medical and health education.

Committed to rural medicine

Brenda Cary, MD, a young physician with Peter Christensen Health Center in Lac du Flambeau and member of the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin, is committed to rural family medicine and Indian health in Wisconsin.

"I was drawn to health care early on, and worked in other health care positions, before deciding to return to college to pursue a medical degree," said Dr. Cary.

Her goal of becoming a physician may not have been realized without the support she received from the Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation. Doctor Cary received scholarship awards from the Foundation over three years of medical school totaling \$8200.

"Without scholarships I could not have afforded to attend college or medical school. I would have had to quit and give up my dream of becoming a physician," Dr. Cary said.

Doctor Cary exemplifies the type of student that Amy Hunter-Wilson, MD, had in mind when she



Brenda Cary, MD

established the Amy Hunter-Wilson, MD, Fund through a bequest to the Foundation. Her purpose was to assist American Indians in their pursuit of training or advanced education as doctors, nurses, technicians or in related health fields. Her hope was that these professionals would practice in tribal communities and serve as role models for others.

Doctor Cary continues to fulfill Dr. Hunter-Wilson's legacy. Following her rural family medicine residency in North Dakota, she returned to practice in Wisconsin.

"I chose a practice close to my family and fiancée that offered opportunities to impact Indian health care," said Dr. Cary. In addition to working with the native community through patient care, Dr. Cary has "paid it forward" through her work with programs at the University of Minnesota-Duluth to encourage minority students to pursue health careers.

See page 3 for this year's Amy Hunter-Wilson, MD Scholarship recipients.

Jagodzinski named 2008 Presidential Scholar



Jason Jagodzinski

"This year's recipient of the Presidential Scholar Award, Jason E. Jagodzinski, is an outstanding example of the type of medical student this fund was created to recognize and assist," said Ayaz Samadani, MD, Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation President. Jagodzinski is very active in several school leadership positions, as well as with organized medicine at the county, state and national level.

"My involvement with the Wisconsin Medical Society, the Foundation and Dane County Medical Society has shown me the potential for organized medicine to enact change and provide support for the community," Jagodzinski noted in his application. "I am excited to continue with organized medicine in the future and, more importantly, to eventually provide assistance for future physicians as so many physicians have done for me."

Jagodzinski will begin his fourth year at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health this fall and is currently considering a career in pediatrics, specializing in sports medicine. Congratulations Jason!



Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation

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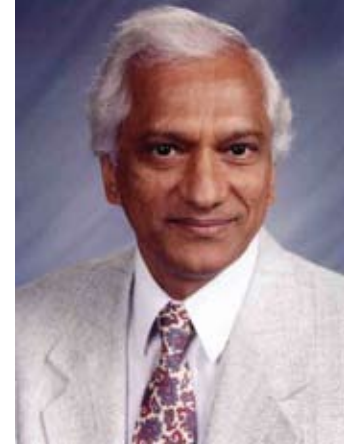
Contact Us

Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation
330 East Lakeside St.
Madison, WI 53715
608.442.3800 or
toll free 866.442.3800
E-mail: renee@wismed.org
[www.wisconsinmedicalsociety.org/
foundation](http://www.wisconsinmedicalsociety.org/foundation)

From the President...

This is my last letter as President of the Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation Board of Trustees. My service as a Foundation Trustee since 2000 has been very rewarding as the Foundation has achieved the following:

- Launched the White Coat Campaign in 2001 and Operation: Education in 2003. Both continue to be successful and popular with physicians and medical students.
- Funded one summer preceptor in 2001 with a \$1500 stipend. Since then, we have expanded the depth of summer experiences for medical students through our Summer Fellowships in Government and Community Service. We approved 10 summer fellowships this year with a \$3500 stipend each.
- Expanded our Grants Program from awarding \$5000 in 2001 to just over \$200,000 since 2005.
- Tripled the Scholarship Budget since 2001 with \$76,000 available this year for medical students, nurses and those pursuing other health careers.



Ayaz M. Samadani, MD
Foundation President

Perhaps the most rewarding of all has been my work with other past presidents to establish the Presidential Scholar Award Fund to provide support and recognition for the medical leaders of the future like Jason (see cover article).

Thank you to all generous donors who have made this an exciting time for me to serve. I hope you will continue to support the Foundation. *I know I will.*

Fond du Lac physician chosen for Viste Award

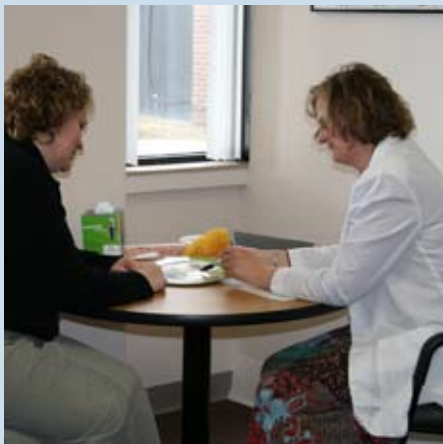
The Kenneth M. Viste, Jr., MD, Young Physician Leadership Award honors commitment to patients, community and the profession of medicine. The Foundation is pleased to announce Karen L. Meyer, MD, as this year's recipient.

As Stephen Massick, MD, noted in his nomination, Dr. Meyer developed the Prenatal Care Intake Program for the non-English speaking community in Fond du Lac. In addition to patient care, she provides community education lectures, speaks at the Girls in Science program at MATC, serves as president of the Fond du Lac County Medical Society and participates in patient advocacy as a member of the Wisconsin Medical Society House of Delegates. Doctor Meyer will be presented with the award during the 2008 annual meeting of the Wisconsin Medical Society on April 11.

2008 grants awarded



2008 grant recipient: Falls Prevention Safe Communities, Dane County



2008 grant recipient: Metabolic Syndrome, Community Memorial Hospital, Oconto Falls

We are pleased to support the following projects through our grants program this year. Watch for reports on these activities in future articles or on our Web site.

Allied Wellness Center, Madison
Community Cookbook Project, \$2200

Ashland County Health Department, Ashland
Reducing Childhood Obesity Toolkit, \$2500

St. Adalbert School, Milwaukee
Every Child and Every Year Preventive Care Project, \$2000

Community Memorial Hospital, Oconto Falls
Metabolic Syndrome Awareness and Prevention Program, \$9065

Safe Communities, Dane County
Reducing Falls in Dane County Through Community/Medical Partnerships – Year 2, \$15,000

St. Clare Health Mission, La Crosse
Preventive Care Clinic, \$2500

UW School of Medicine and Public Health, Madison
Medical Students for Minority Concerns, 21st Annual Health Fair, \$2500

Wisconsin Medical Society Alliance, Statewide
Underage Drinking Public Service Announcements (PSAs), \$2500

Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation, Statewide
Spanish Women's Health Guide, \$10,000

2008 Scholarships and Fellowships

AWARDS

Karen Meyer, MD, Fond du Lac, Kenneth M. Viste, Jr., MD Young Physician Leadership Award
Derrick Siebert, Houghton Award
Kyle Swanson, Houghton Award
Jason Jagodzinski, Presidential Scholar Award

SCHOLARSHIPS

Several scholarships are yet to be awarded. Visit our Web site after June 1 for a complete list of 2008 scholarship awards.

Amy Hunter-Wilson, MD Scholarships

Whitney Cadotte, Nursing
Jennifer Fizell, Clinical Lab. Science
Michelle Johnson-Jennings, Counseling Psychology PhD
Jayci Malone, Nursing
Adam Sturdevant, Neuropsychology Training Certificate
Daniel Two Crow, Nursing

Victor A. Baylon, MD Scholarships

Nyama Sillah, Medicine
Anna Christou, Clinical Lab. Science

FELLOWSHIPS

Diane Anderson, UW School of Medicine & Public Health, LaPointe Community Clinic, Madeline Island
Mentor: Margie Frederickson, MD

Brittany Bettendorf, Medical College of Wisconsin, Downtown Health Center, Milwaukee
Mentors: Suzanne Brixey, MD, & John Meurer, MD, MBA

Laura Copeland, Medical College of Wisconsin, Cumberland
Mentor: Jane Kotchen, MD, MPH

Jessica Hawley, UW School of Medicine & Public Health, Dane County
Mentor: Thomas Schlenker, MD, MPH

Stephen Humphrey, Medical College of Wisconsin, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
Mentor: Marlene Melzer-Lange, MD

Kristin La Fortune, UW School of Medicine & Public Health, Odana Atrium Primary Care Clinic, Madison
Mentor: David Rakel, MD

Berthrand Onuoha, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
Mentor: Jim Sanders, MD, MPH

Brian Roach, UW School of Medicine & Public Health, Injury Research Center, Medical College of Wisconsin
Mentor: Stephen W. Hargarten, MD, MPH

Nathan Vakharia, UW School of Medicine & Public Health, Rural Wisconsin
Mentor: Brad Garber, MD

Brendan Wanta, Medical College of Wisconsin, Injury Research Center, Medical College of Wisconsin
Physician Mentor: Stephen W. Hargarten, MD, MPH

How you can support our mission

Through Random Acts of Kindness...
Remember a loved one, a mentor, a former colleague this Memorial Day with a gift through the Foundation's Tribute Program. We will send a card to notify the person or their family of your kindness. The tribute form is available on-line at www.wisconsinmedicalsociety.org/foundation/make_a_donation.

Through the White Coat Campaign...
Provide a medical student with his or her first white coat and a personal note of encouragement through the Foundation's annual White Coat Campaign beginning soon.

Each and every gift is appreciated and acknowledged through our annual list of donors in the *Wisconsin Medical Journal* and on-line. All donations are fully tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Through a Scholarship...
Support the education of the next generation of medical professionals and help ease their burden of staggering medical school debt by contributing to the Foundation's scholarship fund.

Through a Fellowship...
Provide medical students with valuable hands-on learning experiences that also assist communities with health education and research projects by sponsoring a fellowship.

Scholarship Fund continues legacy

“It felt as if my children were her only patients.”

That’s how Sandra Whitehead summed up Dr. Slota-Varma’s care as her children’s pediatrician in a tribute to this exceptional doctor. Catherine Slota-Varma, MD, “Kitty” to her many, many friends and colleagues, dedicated her professional life to caring for children. She combined her warmth and compassion with her incredible sense of optimism and faith to ease the pain and fears of those who entered her examining room.

Doctor Slota-Varma was also passionate in her support of medical students. As a physician member of the Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation Board of Trustees, she participated in the



Doctor Catherine Slota-Varma interacts with students at Operation: Education 2005 at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

tion on February 7, 2007. The first award from the Fund will be made in spring 2009 to a medical student who exemplifies Dr. Slota-Varma’s passion and commitment to caring for patients and their families.

wide range of programs the Foundation offers including speaking with students at Operation: Education, purchasing white coats for medical students and supporting the Foundation’s endowment to increase scholarship awards.

On January 29, 2007, Dr. Slota-Varma called the Foundation’s Executive Director to ask for help in establishing a scholarship fund for medical students. She passed away on February 6, 2007, at the age of 55 after a nine-year battle against breast cancer. Her signed agreement and bequest to establish the Catherine Slota-Varma, MD, Scholarship Fund was received by the Founda-

To discuss options for establishing a named fund within the Foundation contact Renée Reback at 866.442.3800, ext. 3720.

Summer Fellowships Announced
The Foundation’s Summer Fellowship in Government and Community Service program provides medical students the opportunity to increase their knowledge of how community organizations and/or government works with the medical profession to address health issues in Wisconsin. See page 3 for a list of the 10 fellowships awarded this year.

330 East Lakeside Street
Madison, WI 53715

Wisconsin Medical Society
Foundation



PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 1242
MADISON, WI