

2008 Pilot Grant Awardees



**Ames-Castro,
Mary MD**
*Medical College
of Wisconsin*

Mary Ames-Castro, MD is an Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the **Medical College of Wisconsin**. Her patient care emphases include: congenital anomalies, high risk obstetrics, maternal fetal medicine, prenatal diagnosis, ultrasonography, liver disease in pregnancy, and critical care obstetrics. She believes in empowering patients with knowledge and a true understanding of the benefits and limitations of their care.



**Antuono, Piero
MD**
*Medical College
of Wisconsin*

Piero Antuono, MD is a Professor of Neurology and Pharmacology at the **Medical College of Wisconsin**. He directs the Dementia Research Center dedicated to the study of Alzheimer Disease. He is actively involved in the newly established NIH Wisconsin Alzheimer Center with the University of Wisconsin and conducts fMRI studies in Alzheimer subjects and their children with the Department of Biophysics. The multidisciplinary team established for the care of people with dementia is the largest in the state and site for testing of new promising drugs for Alzheimer disease including a vaccine. Dr Antuono is the Chair of the Dementia Research Group of the World Federation of Neurology and scientific advisor to the International Alzheimer Association.



**Csuka, Mary
Ellen MD**
*Medical College
of Wisconsin*

Mary Ellen Csuka, MD is a Professor of Medicine at the **Medical College of Wisconsin**. Dr. Csuka earned her Doctor of Medicine from the New York Medical College. She specializes in Osteoporosis, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Scleroderma, Geriatrics and Gerontology.



**Foley, William
MD**
*Medical College
of Wisconsin*

William D. Foley, MD, FACR is Chief of Digital Imaging and Professor of Radiology and Medicine at the **Medical College of Wisconsin**. Dr. Foley's patient care emphasis includes: computed tomography, diagnostic radiology, digital imaging, and ultrasonography.



Gervasi, Vito
Milwaukee
School of
Engineering

Vito Gervasi is Manager of Research and Development in the Rapid Prototyping Center at the **Milwaukee School of Engineering**. Vito has been a primary force behind the development of the research arm of the Rapid Prototyping Center. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Manufacturing Engineering Technology and Master's in Engineering at Milwaukee School Of Engineering. He has written and presented many papers on composites, rapid tooling and rapid prototyping on a regional and national level. Vito was awarded the 1998 Karl O. Werwath Research Award, MSOE's highest research award.



Ghosh, Soumitra MD
Medical College
of Wisconsin

Soumitra Ghosh, MD is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the **Medical College of Wisconsin**. Dr. Ghosh is working on identifying human intermediate traits/biomarkers, performing high resolution genetic mapping, and studying the control of key transcription factors that regulate onset of Type 1 Diabetes. A clinician by training, Dr. Ghosh earned his medical degree at the University of London, following an intercalated BSc degree in Biochemistry. He won a competitive Wellcome Scholarship to study Molecular and Statistical Genetics at the University of Oxford followed by postdoctoral stints at the University of Michigan and the National Human Genome Research Institute.



Gottschall, Jerome MD
Medical College
of Wisconsin
BloodCenter of
Wisconsin

Jerome Gottschall, MD is Senior Medical Director, **BloodCenter of Wisconsin** and Professor of Pathology, Department of Pathology, **Medical College of Wisconsin**. His research interests are in immunohematology and associated hemolytic anemia evaluations and diagnosis, thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura, blood donor availability, donor safety, and transfusion safety issues.



Hunter, Sandra PhD
Marquette
University

Sandra Hunter, PhD is an Associate Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy (Exercise Science Program) at **Marquette University**. Dr. Hunter is the director of the Neuromuscular Physiology of Movement Laboratory and mentors a postdoctoral research associate, graduate and undergraduate research students. Her current research program focuses on understanding the sex differences in muscle fatigue, how stress (acute and chronic) can impact neuromuscular function, the causes of neuromuscular fatigue and impairment in neuromuscular function among aged and clinical populations and the effects of exercise and training on brain and muscle function.



**Jain, Hemant
PhD**
*University of
Wisconsin -
Milwaukee*

Hemant Jain, PhD is Professor of Management Information Systems at the **University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee**. Dr. Jain specializes in information system agility through web services, service oriented architecture, and component based development. His current interests include development of systems to support real time enterprises which have situational awareness, can quickly sense-and-respond to opportunities and threats, and can track-and-trace important items.



**Jogal, Sachin
MD**
*Medical College
of Wisconsin*

Sachin Jogal, MD is an Assistant Professor, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology/BMT at the **Medical College of Wisconsin**, with a specific interest in Pediatric Neuro-oncology. His research focus is on translational and clinical applications of novel therapeutic and toxicity mitigation interventions in the management of children with brain tumors.



**Keller, Manda
DPT**
*Marquette
University*

Manda Keller, DPT is Doctoral Student, PhD Candidate in Physical Therapy at **Marquette University**. Her research interests are to investigate the influence of acute and chronic stress on muscle fatigue and potential neuromuscular mechanisms that lead to impairments in motor performance in young healthy individuals and in clinical populations. The current study funded by the CTSI is directly investigating the influence of a chronic stress (posttraumatic stress disorder, PTSD) on motor performance in a controlled laboratory setting and when exposed to an acute cognitive stress.



**Klemer, David
MD, PhD**
*University of
Wisconsin -
Milwaukee*

David Klemer, MD, PhD is an Associate Professor in the College of Engineering and Applied Science at the **University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee**. His training includes a PhD in Electrical Engineering from the University of Michigan, and an MD degree from Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York. He is board-certified in Internal Medicine, and his present research interests include applications of solid-state microelectronics for *in-vitro* diagnostics.



**LaDisa, John
PhD**

*Marquette
University
Medical College
of Wisconsin
Children's
Hospital of
Wisconsin*

John LaDisa, PhD is an Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering at **Marquette University** and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Pediatrics at the **Medical College of Wisconsin** and **Children's Hospital of Wisconsin**. His research interests focus on quantifying hemodynamic and physiologic alterations as indices of morbidity; characterizing interactions between altered hemodynamics associated with stent implantation, diabetes or atherogenesis and the development of neointimal hyperplasia; and designing and implementing novel engineering devices and interventions for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases. Develop tools for predictive surgical or interventional treatment planning.



**Larson, Gunnar
MD**

*Medical College
of Wisconsin
Milwaukee
Veterans Affairs
Medical Center*

Gunnar Larson, MD is Associate Professor and M3 Psychiatry Clerkship Director in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine at the **Medical College of Wisconsin**. At the **Milwaukee Veterans Affairs Medical Center**, he is the Outpatient Mental Health Program Manager. Dr. Gunnar's academic interests include electronic educational methodology, clerkship rotation improvement and development, and developing an integrated curriculum at MCW.



**Marks, David
Scott MD**

*Medical College
of Wisconsin*





David Scott Marks, MD is an Associate Professor in Cardiology at the **Medical College of Wisconsin**. He attended medical school at the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Marks' clinical interests include complex coronary artery disease interventions, structural heart interventions and percutaneous mitral valve repair. His research interests include the validation and utility of novel imaging techniques in coronary and structural heart disease as well as percutaneous mitral valve repair. Dr. Marks directs the Clinical Trials Program in Cardiovascular Medicine, which provides a broad range of support for clinical trials ranging from structural heart disease, coronary artery disease and electrophysiology.



**Mitchell, Aoy
Tomita PhD**

*Medical College
of Wisconsin
Children's*

Aoy Tomita-Mitchell, PhD is an Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery, Biotechnology and Bioengineering Center, Human and Molecular Genetics Center at the **Medical College of Wisconsin** and at the **Children's Research Institute**. Dr. Mitchell holds both a doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the Division of Bioengineering and Environmental Health as well as a B.S. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Mechanical Engineering. Her research interests are in understanding the genetic and molecular etiology of congenital heart disease. She is the PI of an R21 grant to develop a newborn screening assay for 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome. She is an associate editor of the journal *Physiological Genomics*.

<p>Research Institute</p>	
 <p>Mitchell, Michael MD Medical College of Wisconsin</p>	<p><u>Michael Mitchell, MD</u> is an Associate Professor of Surgery, Division of Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery, Herma Heart Center, Human and Molecular Genetics Center at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Mitchell performs neonatal and pediatric cardiac surgery, as well as pediatric and adult heart and lung transplantation at the Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin. He is a graduate of Harvard Medical School and Princeton University. Through an IRB approved protocol, he and his team have established the Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) Tissue Bank, an organized system for the procurement of blood for DNA testing and the preservation and anatomic characterization of surgical tissue discards from patients undergoing surgery for congenital heart disease at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin, including neonatal and transplant CHD patients. Dr. Mitchell’s interest are to understand the genetic and molecular etiology of congenital heart disease.</p>
 <p>North, Paula MD Medical College of Wisconsin Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin</p>	<p><u>Paula North, MD</u> serves as Chief of Pediatric Pathology at the Medical College of Wisconsin and Medical Director of Pathology and Laboratory Services at the Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin. She is active in research as well as clinical practice, and directs the collaborative research activities of the Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin Birthmark and Vascular Anomalies Center. Dr. North is an internationally recognized authority in the histopathological diagnosis of vascular tumors and malformations. Contributions of her research program include recent discovery of the fundamental relationship between the vessels of infantile hemangioma and those of the placenta.</p>
 <p>Orr, Merle MD Medical College of Wisconsin</p>	<p><u>Merle Orr, MD</u> is a Physiatrist at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He received his MD at the University of Wisconsin and his specialty training in PM&R at Virginia Commonwealth University and fellowship training in Spinal Cord Injury at McGuire VA Medical Center. An Assistant Professor at MCW, Dr. Orr has been passionately involved in providing care for individuals with spinal cord injuries. In addition, he has been providing and coordinating valuable care for OIF/OEF returning veterans with a wide range of diagnoses such as PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury in the Poly Trauma Clinic at Milwaukee’s Zablocki VA Medical Center.</p>
 <p>Pietz, Brad MS BloodCenter of Wisconsin</p>	<p><u>Brad Pietz, MS</u> is the Director of the Product Development Laboratory, BloodCenter of Wisconsin Diagnostic Laboratories. He received his MS degree in Microbiology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. His research interests include: new clinical assay development, technology evaluation and development (primarily molecular diagnostics), innovation pipeline management, and commercial co-development partnerships.</p>



**Pritchard,
Kirkwood PhD**
*Medical College
of Wisconsin*

Kirkwood Pritchard, PhD is a Professor of Pediatric Surgery at the **Medical College of Wisconsin**. His laboratory research focuses on determining mechanisms of inflammation in a variety of disease states and development of novel anti-inflammatory agents to treat vascular disease.



**Shaker, Reza
MD**
*Medical College
of Wisconsin*

Reza Shaker, MD is Joseph E Geenen Professor and Chief, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Director of the Digestive Disease Center, and Senior Associate Dean for Clinical and Translational Research at the **Medical College of Wisconsin**. His research career includes both T1 and T2 clinical and translational research, NIH and industry sponsored clinical trials, and the development and clinical use of medical devices and endoscopic techniques. He is internationally recognized for his studies of deglutition and deglutition disorders, gastroesophageal reflux disease and cerebral cortical control of gastrointestinal sensory motor function.



**Sieber, Fritz
PhD**
*Medical College
of Wisconsin*

Fritz Sieber, PhD is a Professor of Pediatrics & Medicine with Tenure at the **Medical College of Wisconsin**. Dr. Sieber's research interests include the development of novel anti-cancer agents, photodynamic therapy (light-activated drugs), and mitigation of radiation injury to normal tissue. Dr. Sieber earned his PhD in Cell Biology/Biochemistry from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich.






**Smith, J.
Carson PhD**
*University of
Wisconsin -
Milwaukee*

J. Carson Smith, PhD is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Human Movement Sciences, **University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee**. He earned his PhD in Exercise Science at the University of Georgia. Dr. Smith is focused on understanding how exercise and physical activity affect human brain function and exert effects on cognitive function and mental health. In addition, Dr. Smith is interested in how regular exercise and physical activity may alter emotional reactivity among patients diagnosed with anxiety and depressive mood disorders.



Craig A. Struble, PhD is an Associate Professor of Computer Science in the Department of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science at **Marquette University**. His current research interests include bioinformatics, data mining, text mining, and machine learning. Dr. Struble is a graduate of Virginia Tech, where he received his PhD in Computer Science in 2000, an M.S. degree in Computer Science in 1996, and B.S. degrees in Mathematics and Computer Science in 1993.

<p>Struble, Craig PhD <i>Marquette University</i></p>	
 <p>Walia, Nitin MS <i>University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee</i></p>	<p><i>Nitin Walia, MS</i> is PhD candidate (Management Information Systems) at the Sheldon B. Lubar School of Business, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He has also received M.S. degrees from Oakland University, MI and CMRD, India. His research interests are IS contributions to healthcare delivery systems, virtual worlds, online auction marketplaces, e-commerce dynamics, web-design interface issues, and open source software adoption and development.</p>
 <p>Zahedi, Mariam DBA <i>University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee Medical College of Wisconsin</i></p>	<p><i>Mariam Zahedi, DBA</i> is the Trisept Solutions Professor in Management Information Systems at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and an adjunct Professor at the Medical College of Wisconsin at CTSI. She received her Doctor in Business Administration (DBA) from Indiana University. Her current areas of research interest includes web-design/human-computer interface issues related to beliefs, satisfaction, cultural factors, trust and intelligent personalization, web-design issues in health and disaster-preparedness, new approaches in data mining and visualization, intelligent decision support systems and decision policies for the design of software components and web services.</p>
 <p>Zwienenberg-Lee, Marika MD <i>Medical College of Wisconsin</i></p>	<p><i>Marika Zwienenberg-Lee, MD</i> is an Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Her patient care emphasis includes: craniofacial abnormalities, epilepsy surgery, dysarthria, hydrocephalus, brain and spine trauma, and brain and spinal cord tumors.</p>