BEAM Programming and Curriculum

Tracy Downs, MD, FACS
Anne Stahr, MS
Carrie Brinkmeier
Angela Byars-Winston, PhD
Christine Sorkness, RPh, PharmD

BEAM Mentors

Ticiana A. Leal, MD
Makeba Williams, MD
Sheri Johnson, PhD
Patricia Téllez-Girón, MD
Dawd Siraj, MD, MPH

Jason Stephenson, MD
Pablo Gómez, MD, PhD
Lisa Barroilhet, MD
Miguel Leal, MD
Maria Daniela Martin, MD

Erick Tarula, MD
Shaneda Warren Andersen, MS, PhD
Marcus Chacon, MD
Héctor Valdivia, MD, PhD
Sheryl Henderson, MD, PhD

School of Medicine
and Public Health
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

BEAM
Building Equitable Access to Mentorship
Tracy Downs, MD, FACS
downs@urology.wisc.edu

Department: Urology

Specialty: Minimally-invasive urologic surgery and urologic oncology

Dr. Downs is a Professor of Urology at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health in Madison, Wisconsin. He is also a board-certified urologist, specializing in the surgical treatment of urologic cancers. He has a special interest in the treatment of bladder cancer and prostate cancer. Surgically he has extensive experience in performing complex urinary reconstruction to make a new internalized bladder from a patient’s intestinal tissue (orthotopic neobladder). Dr. Downs’ clinical care philosophy is to provide compassionate, cutting-edge urologic cancer care to his patients. He has a joint appointment with the UW Carbone Cancer Center, and his clinical research emphasizes developing new therapies for genitourinary cancers. Dr. Downs completed his medical training at the University of California-San Diego (UCSD) School of Medicine, his urologic surgery residency at Harvard, and a two-year urologic oncology fellowship at the University of California-San Francisco (UCSF). Dr. Downs was a Faculty member in the Division of Urology at UC San Diego from 2003-2010; Dr. Downs then joined the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) faculty in 2010, and for the past four years has been a senior leader in the school’s diversity, equity and inclusion efforts. As the Associate Dean for Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, Dr. Downs plays an instrumental role overseeing the recruitment and support programs for individuals who are from racial/ethnic diverse backgrounds underrepresented in medicine (URM) as they pursue research careers. Dr. Downs also serves as the director of the Centennial Scholars program, an institutionally funded program to support the recruitment and career development of URM faculty from Racially/ethnically diverse backgrounds. At the heart of his Diversity work, Dr. Downs realizes the importance of building a more diverse health care workforce.

Anne Stahr, MS

Department: Office for Faculty Affairs and Development

Anne is the Director of Faculty Development Programming at the School of Medicine and Public Health at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her qualifications and experience are primarily within higher education, adult education, educational leadership and technology. She completed her undergraduate degrees in Australia and her master’s degree in Education Leadership and Policy Analysis after moving to the United States. She is currently a doctoral student in Education Leadership and Policy Analysis Program at the UW-Madison. Anne embarked on her education career in K-12 schools in Australia where she quickly transitioned to faculty development and supporting technology in the school and classroom. Anne has been working in medical education for the past 6 years. Her research interests and activities revolve around educational interventions, unconscious bias, mentoring and evaluation.

Carrie Brinkmeier
cbrinkmeier@wisc.edu

Carrie Brinkmeier, Executive Assistant the SMPH Chief of Staff, is responsible for administrative and programmatic support of the Dean’s administrative office and its teams, including calendar management, meeting logistics, staffing committees, conducting research projects and triaging inquiries. She supports various Councils and Committees, including the SMPH Dean’s Leadership Team, the Academic Planning Council, the Administrative Policy Development and Review Committee, Basic Science and Clinical Science Department Chairs Meetings, SMPH Combined Chairs Meetings, SMPH Faculty and Staff Meetings as well as the Building Community Communications Working Group. She also provides administrative and programmatic support of the Centennial Scholars and BEAM Programs, which are overseen by Associate Dean for Multicultural Affairs, Tracy Downs, MD. She has served on the staff of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health since December of 2018. An alumni of Bradley University, American University and DIS Copenhagen, she holds a Bachelor’s degree in International Studies and Criminal Justice and is pursuing a Master’s degree in Criminal Justice Studies.
Angela Byars-Winston, PhD

**Department:** Medicine

**Specialty:** Counseling Psychology

Angela Byars-Winston is a Professor in the University of Wisconsin Department of Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine. She is also the Director of Research and Evaluation in the UW Center for Women’s Health Research and Faculty Affiliate of the Center for the Improvement of Mentored Experiences in Research. Her research examines cultural influences on academic and career development, especially for racial and ethnic minorities and women in the sciences, engineering, and medicine with the aim of broadening their participation in STEM fields. Dr. Byars-Winston was Principal Investigator on an NIH R01 grant to measure and test critical factors in research training interventions for mentors of ethnically diverse mentees in biological science. She is currently co-leading a renewal of that R01 grant to investigate and intervene on research mentors’ cultural diversity awareness. She is co-investigator on the National Research Mentoring Network (NRMN) grant from the NIH in the Mentor Training Core through which she is leading the Culturally Aware Mentorship initiative. In 2011, Dr. Byars-Winston was selected as a Champion of Change by the White House through President Obama’s Winning the Future initiative for her research efforts to diversify science fields. She received the University of Wisconsin-Madison’s 2014 Outstanding Woman of Color Award and is an elected Fellow in the American Psychological Association. Dr. Byars-Winston is a member of the National Academy of Sciences’ Board of Higher Education and Workforce (BHEW) and the STEM Equity Pipeline National Advisory Board.

She is a graduate of San Diego State University (bachelor’s and master’s degrees) and Arizona State University (doctoral degree).

Christine Sorkness, RPh, PharmD

**Department:** Pharmacy

Christine Sorkness, RPh, PharmD, is a Distinguished Professor of Pharmacy at the UW School of Pharmacy and Professor of Medicine at the School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH). Dr. Sorkness serves as the UW Institute of Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR) Senior Associate Executive Director and oversees many of the workforce development initiatives. She also serves as co-director of the ICTR Collaborative Center for Health Equity which administers the annual Health Equity Leadership Institute. She has a special interest in health disparities in asthma, in which she has conducted both clinical efficacy and comparative effectiveness trials. Dr. Sorkness is affiliated with the UW SMPH Allergy, Pulmonary, and Critical Care Division, with more than 25 years of NHLBI-funding as a principal investigator for the asthma clinical research network trials. She has been a co-investigator with the NIAID Inner City Asthma Consortium since 2002. A long-standing member of the UW Health Sciences IRB, she has also served on several NHLBI-appointed Data and Safety Monitoring Boards for multi-center national trials. As part of her clinical investigator role, she has been committed to the career development of diverse post-doctoral fellows and junior faculty from varied biomedical backgrounds, focusing on pediatric and adult asthma, team science, and the responsible conduct of research. She serves on mentor teams for CTSA KL2 scholars, TL1 trainees, and students in the certificate/graduate programs in clinical investigation. Dr. Sorkness has provided instrumental leadership in support of ICTR’s mentorship training initiatives, and for the development of extensive curricular and mentoring resources for CTSA hubs. Dr. Sorkness has served as a Lead Team Member with the CTSA Workforce Domain Task Force. She is an investigator with the NIH Diversity Program Consortium National Research Mentoring Network (NRMN) and is a Master Facilitator for research mentor training programs.
Dr. Ticiana A. Leal is a faculty member in the Division of Hematology, Medical Oncology and Palliative Care. She is a medical oncologist specializing in lung cancer. She is board certified in medical oncology and palliative care medicine. She serves as team leader of the UW Carbone Cancer Center Thoracic Malignancies Disease Oriented Team. She is member of the NCCN (National Comprehensive Cancer Network) NSCLC and mesothelioma/thymic malignancies panels, Associate Editor of The Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (JNCCN), and member of Executive Editorial Board for JNCCN. She is Co-Chair of the Big Ten Cancer Research Consortium (CRC) Thoracic Clinical Trial Working Group. Dr. Leal is a member of the Wisconsin Association of Hematology and Oncology (WAHO), American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG), European Society of Medical Oncology (ESMO), and International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC). Dr. Leal has authored or coauthored numerous peer-reviewed original research articles, book chapters, and posters. She has provided clinical and classroom instruction to medical students, residents, and fellows.

Makeba Williams, MD, is a clinical assistant professor and co-director of general obstetrics and gynecology in the UW Department of Ob-Gyn. Dr. Williams attended medical school at Meharry Medical College, Nashville, TN, and completed her residency at Virginia Commonwealth University Health System in Richmond, VA. She is certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. In addition to her general practice, Dr. Williams has a specialty focus in menopausal medicine and has earned the designation of Certified Menopause Practitioner from the North American Menopause Society. Passionate about resident and medical student education, she recently established the UW Health Menopause Clinic, which is staffed by resident physicians under Dr. Williams’ supervision. Her other clinical areas of interest include abnormal uterine bleeding, uterine fibroids, and gynecologic surgery.

Sheri Johnson, Ph.D. has dedicated her 25+ year career to partnering with children, families, community organizations and systems to advance health and well-being. Awed by the resilience of individuals and communities, she is motivated to remove unfair obstacles and conditions that create and perpetuate health inequities. Dr. Johnson completed undergraduate studies at Brown University; earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in clinical psychology at Boston University and served as a Clinical Fellow in Psychology at Harvard Medical School. She was previously Director of Behavioral Health at Milwaukee Health Services, Inc., a federally qualified health center and served as the Administrator and State Health Officer for the Wisconsin Division of Public Health. Immediately prior to joining the PHI, she was Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the Medical College of Wisconsin Center for Advancement of Underserved Children where she collaborated with diverse stakeholders to address a broad range of real-world problems.
Patricia Téllez-Girón, MD

**Department:** Family Medicine and Community Health

**Specialty:** Family Medicine w/ OB

Raised in Mexico City, Dr. Téllez-Girón received her medical degree, with honors, at the National University of Mexico (UNAM). She completed the University of Wisconsin Family Medicine Residency program and soon after graduation joined the Faculty of same program and is now an associate professor. Her clinical practice is at the Wingra Clinic where more than 90% of her patients speak only Spanish. She is the chair of the Latino Health Council in Madison and under her leadership several annual community initiatives have been started including the Latino Health Fair, Latino Chronic Disease Summit, Latino Mental Health summit and a Latino health teen bash. She is also the medical director and main presenter of a monthly health education Spanish radio program in the local Spanish radio station.

Dawd Siraj, MD, MPH

**Department:** Medicine

**Division:** Infectious Disease

**Specialty:** HIV/AIDS, international travel medicine, Hepatitis, HIV, global health and medical care in resource-limited countries

Dr. Dawd Siraj is a faculty member in the Division of Infectious Disease. He is the Director of the UW Health Travel Clinic, Director of the Global Health Pathway in the Department of Medicine and serves as Associate Program Director for the Infectious Disease Fellowship Program. Dr. Siraj completed his fellowship training in Infectious Diseases as well as a Master’s in Public Health and Tropical Medicine in 2002 at Tulane University of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. Dr. Siraj leads a global health partnership between the University of Wisconsin and Jimma University in Jimma, Ethiopia centered on research and clinical education. Dr. Siraj runs an HIV Inmate Clinic and provides clinical training to fellows in Infectious Disease at UW-Madison. He also runs an HIV Inmate Clinic. Honors awarded to Dr. Siraj include being named as a Regional Top Doctor by Castle Connolly and US News and World Report while practicing in North Carolina prior to joining the faculty at UW-Madison. He has also received a Best Exemplary Alumni Award from Jimma University and a Certificate of Recognition in 2009, 2010, and 2013 from the President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for his voluntary service to the people of Ethiopia.

Jason Stephenson, MD

**Department:** Radiology

**Specialty:** Computerized Tomography (CT) Scan, Fluoroscopic Studies, Image-guided Biopsy, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Scan, Musculoskeletal Imaging and Intervention, PET/MRI Scan, Ultrasound, X-ray

Dr. Jason W. Stephenson is an assistant professor of Radiology in the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health Department of Radiology. Dr. Stephenson joined the department in August 2012 and is the director of the UWSMPH Radiology Clerkship. Dr. Stephenson's clinical interests include soft tissue and bone biopsy, spine and joint injection, vertebroplasty, small-part musculoskeletal MRI, imaging of acquired foot alignment abnormalities, and radiology resident and medical student education. He is board certified in diagnostic radiology.
Pablo Gómez, MD, PhD
Department: Medical History and Bioethics
Before becoming a historian (PhD, Vanderbilt University), I earned an MD at the Universidad CES and did my residency in Orthopaedic Surgery at the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana. My work examines the history of health and corporeality in the early modern world with a focus on Latin America, the Caribbean, the African diaspora and, more generally, the Iberian and Black Atlantic Worlds. My book, The Experiential Caribbean: Creating Knowledge and Healing in the Early Modern Atlantic (winner of the Albert J. Raboteau Book Prize and Honorable Mention Bolton-Johnson Book Prize for best book in Latin American History), explores belief making and the creation of evidence around the human body and the natural world in the early modern Caribbean. I am currently working on a history of the quantifiable body and the development of novel ideas about risk, labor, and disease that appeared in Atlantic slave markets during the seventeenth century. I am also actively involved in projects of digital archival preservation in Colombia, Cuba, and Brazil.

Lisa Barroilhet, MD
Department: Obstetrics and Gynecology
Specialty: Gynecologic Cancer (Cervical, Ovarian, Uterine, Vulvar)
Dr. Barroilhet is the Dolores A. Buchler, MD, Faculty Fellow in Gynecologic Oncology and an Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. She completed her four-year residency in obstetrics and gynecology at University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. After finishing her residency in 2009, she began her three-year clinical and research fellowship in gynecologic oncology at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. She holds board certification in Obstetrics and Gynecology. Dr. Barroilhet joined the UW Carbone Cancer Center in 2012, her interests include minimally invasive surgery, healthy lifestyle modification and survivorship. Her primary research interest is drug development. She is the leader of Gynecology Disease Oriented Treatment Group for Gynecologic Malignancies, which reviews and prioritizes clinical research activity, and provides ongoing planning for new investigator-initiated studies. Dr. Barroilhet has published in numerous peer-reviewed journals and has been active in presenting research at national conferences. She has been recognized with multiple awards by her peers for exemplary teaching of residents and staff as well as patient care.

Miguel Leal, MD
Department: Medicine
Division: Cardiovascular Medicine
Specialty: Atrial Fibrillation, Atrial Flutter, Cardiac Arrest, Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy, Catheter Ablation, Cardiac Implantable Electronic Devices (Pacemakers, Defibrillators, etc.), Electrophysiology, Laser Lead Extraction, Loop Recorder Implantation, Supraventricular and Ventricular Arrhythmias
Dr. Leal is the Director of the Electrophysiology & Arrhythmia service at the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics. He also serves as Program Director of both Cardiovascular Medicine and Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology Fellowship Programs at the University of Wisconsin. In 2011, he founded the University of Wisconsin Lead Management Program, which has allowed hundreds of patients with cardiac electronic implantable devices, such as pacemakers and implantable cardioverter-defibrillators (ICDs), to undergo minimally-invasive, laser-assisted extraction of infected or non-functional hardware. Dr. Leal has been involved in numerous peer-reviewed research publications, book chapters and abstract presentations. He teaches electrocardiography and clinical electrophysiology to medical students, residents, and fellows. He is ABIM board-certified in Cardiovascular Disease and Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology.
Maria Daniela Martin, MD

**Department:** Radiology

**Specialty:** Computerized Tomography (CT) Scan, Fluoroscopic Studies, Image-guided Biopsy, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Scan, PET/MRI Scan, Thoracic Imaging, Ultrasound, X-ray

Dr. Maria Daniela Martin is an Assistant Professor of Radiology at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. She joined the Radiology Department in 2016 after completing her residency at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago and fellowship in Thoracic Imaging at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Dr. Martin earned her medical degree from the Universidad Central de Venezuela in Caracas, where she was born. Her areas of clinical expertise and interest include interstitial lung diseases, lung cancer screening and education at all levels of the health care system. She serves on the Society of Thoracic Radiology’s Education Committee and as a reviewer for the Journal of Thoracic Imaging. At the University of Wisconsin, Dr. Martin also serves on the Radiology Resident Education, Selection and Curriculum Oversight Committees. She is actively involved in medical student education and in the design of radiology electives for the new Forward medical student curriculum. Dr. Martin enjoys lecturing at national and international meetings, and she also volunteers in education and mentoring activities for underrepresented students and communities. Her personal interests include traveling, photography, music, running and yoga.

Erick Tarula, MD

**Department:** Neurology

**Specialty:** Stroke

Dr. Tarula is an Assistant Professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. He is one board certified in neurocritical care and has special interest and expertise in stroke, subarachnoid hemorrhage, status epilepticus and traumatic brain injury. Dr. Tarula is associate program director for the UWSMPH Neurology residency and is an assistant block leader for the SMPH Phase 1 Mind and Motion Block. Teaching interests include resident and medical student acute care neurology for the intensive care unit (ICU) and the emergency department (ED).

Shaneda Warren Andersen, MS, PhD

**Department:** Population Health Sciences

Dr. Warren Andersen is an Assistant Professor of Population Health Sciences in the School of Medicine and Public Health at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. As a cancer epidemiologist, she is interested in how social determinants, modifiable risk factors, and genetic variants work in concert to influence cancer risk. Dr. Warren Andersen’s research interests build upon her previous training. She received her B.S. in Genetics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and later earned a M.S. and Ph.D. in Population Health from the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. She completed her postdoctoral fellowship in the Vanderbilt University Medical Center R25 Molecular and Genetic Epidemiology of Cancer (MAGEC) training program. Dr. Warren Andersen’s research program uses molecular and genetic epidemiologic methods to identify risk factors for cancer. She is currently funded by a R00 Pathway to Independence Career Development Award to determine the relations between circulating vitamin D biomarkers, genetic variants, and colorectal cancer tumor characteristics using a trans-ethnic approach. In addition, Dr. Warren Andersen’s research program investigates how the associations between modifiable risk factors and colorectal cancer vary across populations, and how to best apply precision medicine to reduce cancer risk.
**Marcus Chacon, MD**

**Department:** Neurology

**Specialty:** Stroke, Carotid Stenosis and Intracranial Stenosis

Marcus R. Chacon, MD, is a neurologist whose special interests include neurocritical care, medical informatics, acute stroke therapy and expanding stroke specialty care to underserved communities.

**Héctor Valdivia, MD, PhD**

**Department:** Medicine

**Division:** Cardiovascular Medicine

Dr. Héctor H. Valdivia is Professor of Medicine and Director of the Cardiovascular Research Center of the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Valdivia is an Editorial Board Member of Frontiers in Bioscience, Circulation Research and Journal of Molecular & Cellular Cardiology and has more than 25 years of experience in the field of ion channels and calcium signaling in the heart. Dr. Valdivia’s research interests are centered in the field of Cardiovascular Electrophysiology and Pharmacology. The long-term goal of his laboratory is to elucidate the molecular and cellular mechanisms that control the heart beat in normal and pathological settings. His lab has focused efforts on cardiac excitation-contraction coupling, intracellular Ca²⁺ homeostasis and ryanodine receptors. He uses multidisciplinary approaches at the molecular, cellular and intact animal level for an integral study of physiological and pathophysiological Ca²⁺ signaling in the heart. His work in general has been cited over 8,500 times!

**Sheryl Henderson, MD, PhD**

**Department:** Pediatrics

**Specialty:** Pediatric Infectious Diseases and HIV

Dr. Henderson earned her medical degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and completed her internship and residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital. She completed her fellowship in pediatric infectious disease at Emory University and is board certified in pediatrics and pediatric infectious diseases.