BEAM Programming and Curriculum

Tracy Downs, MD, FACS

Manuel Santiago, MS.Ed.

Tiajuana Rice

Angela Byars-Winston, PhD

Christine Sorkness, RPh, PharmD

Carrie Brinkmeier
2021 BEAM Mentors

Ticiana A. Leal, MD
Makeba Williams, MD, NCMP, FACOG
Patricia Téllez-Girón, MD
Dawd Siraj, MD, MPH
Miguel Leal, MD, FACC, FHRS

Jason Stephenson, MD
Pablo Gómez, MD, PhD
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Erick Tarula, MD
Maria Daniela Martin, MD

Shaneda Warren Andersen, MS, PhD
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Sheryl Henderson, MD, PhD
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Thalia Marie Williams, MA, MS, CLA-Cert., PhD
Lisa Jones, MD, MPH, MMCi
Elizabeth Felton, MD, PhD
Freddy Caldera, DO, MS
Tiffany Green, PhD

Reinier Hernandez, PhD
Tracy Downs, MD, FACS
Tracy Downs, MD, FACS

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. At the heart of his Diversity work, Dr. Downs realizes the importance of building a more diverse health care workforce.

Manuel Santiago

Department: Academic Affairs, Office of Multicultural Affairs

Manuel Santiago, MS.Ed., was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin but raised in Arecibo, Puerto Rico. He attended the University of Puerto Rico – Rio Piedras where he obtained a degree on Public Communications (BS) and become the first member of his family to receive a college degree. After college completion moved to Milwaukee and worked at various community-based organizations supporting the Hispanic community within the Milwaukee area. In 1992 was offered a job at Marquette University developing pipeline programs to increase the enrollment of first generation and low-income students into various health academic offerings at the university. During his tenure at Marquette University he also worked as the Coordinator of Multicultural Programs where he developed and implemented programs addressing the social and cultural needs of the minority students at the institution. While working at Marquette University he obtained his Master of Education degree with a focus on higher education and student personnel track. On 2014 he accepted the role of Director of Multicultural Affairs to support the recruitment and retention efforts of URM students at SMPH.
Tiajuana Rice, BS  
Department: Academic Affairs, Office of Multicultural Affairs  

As Program Assistant to the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Tia Rice assists in the planning and implementation of events and initiatives to promote recruitment and retention of underrepresented minorities to the School of Medicine and Public Health. Originally from Virginia, Tia received a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance. She has lived in Michigan, California, New York, and North Carolina. Now residing in Wisconsin, Tia is married with children, a grandson, and another on the way! She loves books, smooth jazz, rainy days, and autumn.

Angela Byars-Winston, PhD  
Department: Medicine  
Division: General Internal Medicine  

Specialty: Counseling Psychology  

Angela Byars-Winston is a Full Professor (tenured) in the UW-Madison Department of Medicine. She is Director of Research and Evaluation in the Center for Women’s Health Research, Associate Director of the Collaborative Center for Health Equity, and a Faculty Leader in the Center for the Improvement of Mentored Experiences in Research all at the UW. She studies cultural influences on academic and career development and in research mentoring relationships, largely in the sciences, medicine, and engineering. Dr. Byars-Winston is Principal Investigator in the National Research Mentoring Network leading the Culturally Aware Mentoring initiative through the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Byars-Winston’s work has been recognized nationally by the White House and as an elected Fellow of the American Psychological Association. She is an appointed member of the National Academy of Sciences’ Board on Higher Education and Workforce through which she served as chair of the 2019 commissioned study, The Science of Effective Mentorship in STEMM.
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 associate 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 is a Faculty Affiliate of the UW Center for the Improvement of Mentored Experiences in Research (CIMER). 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.

Carrie Brinkmeier

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 SMPH BEAM Program, which is 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 alumnus 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.
Ticiana A. Leal, MD  
tbleal@medicine.wisc.edu  

**Department:** Medicine  
**Division:** Hematology/Oncology/Palliative Care  
**Specialty:** Medical oncology with emphasis on lung cancer, mesothelioma and thymic malignancies and clinical trials in lung cancer.

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, NCMP, FACOG  
mwilliams28@wisc.edu  

**Department:** Obstetrics and Gynecology  
**Specialty:** Contraceptive management, high-risk pregnancy and menopause.

Makeba Williams, MD, NCMP, FACOG is a clinical associate professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She is the division director of the Division of Academic Specialists in General Obstetrics and Gynecology. Dr. Williams has a clinical focus on treating midlife menopausal women. and has earned the designation of Certified Menopause Practitioner from the North American Menopause Society. Passionate about resident and medical student education, she established the UW Health Menopause Clinic in 2016 to train the next generation of physicians to meet the healthcare needs of midlife and menopausal women. She has been honored with several national and local teaching awards, including the CREOG Faculty Award; the Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award; the SASGOG Faculty Award; the Sabine Droste Award for Resident Teaching and Mentorship, 2016; and the Karl A. Rudat Award for Surgical Teaching.
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 for Infectious Diseases fellows to deliver specialized continuity care for long-term HIV patients. Dr. Siraj is the Vice President of Ethio-American Doctors Group (EADG) and a board member for People to People (P2P), two organizations seeking to improve healthcare in Ethiopia by improving medical education/care and strengthening health systems. He has received the Best Exemplary Alumni Award from Jimma University as well as a Certificate of Recognition from the President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for his voluntary service to the people of Ethiopia.
Miguel Leal, MD, FACC, FHRS

**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 and Arrhythmia Service at the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics. He also serves as Program Director for both the Cardiovascular Medicine and Electrophysiology Fellowship Programs at UW. His clinical interests include cardiac implantable electronic devices (CIEDs, such as pacemakers and defibrillators), cardiac resynchronization therapy, lead management, laser-assisted lead extraction, leadless cardiac pacing and novel technologies in the field of cardiac pacing and defibrillation. Dr. Leal presents lectures and seminars to medical students, residents, fellows, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, paramedics and population health students on a variety of cardiovascular topics. He is a member of the American Heart Association (AHA) Council on Clinical Cardiology - Electrocardiography and Arrhythmias Committee. Dr. Leal also serves as a reviewer for multiple medical journals and high-impact publications, including Heart Rhythm, Journal of Cardiovascular Electrophysiology and Annals of Internal Medicine. Dr. Leal has received several awards recognizing the excellence of his work in all academic areas (clinical care, education and research), including the UW Health Patient Experience Physician Champion Award, the UW Department of Medicine Evans-Glassroth Teaching Award, the Cardiovascular Medicine Fellowship Program Teaching Award, the UW Housestaff Association Excellence Award and the Dr. Benjamin and Marian Schuster Award (established for the purpose of advancing the study of Cardiology and Physiology).

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 Welch Medal for best book on medical history, 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 teach courses on social medicine, health and race, and health and immigration, and the history of medicine more broadly and 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.

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 heartbeat in normal and pathological settings. His lab has focused efforts on cardiac excitation-contraction coupling, intracellular Ca^{2+} homeostasis and ryanodine receptors. He uses multidisciplinary approaches at the molecular, cellular and intact animal level for an integral study of physiological and pathophysiological Ca^{2+} signaling in the heart. His work in general has been cited over 9,000 times!

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).
Dr. Maria Daniela Martin is an Assistant Professor and Director of Diversity and Inclusion for the radiology department at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. She joined 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, Venezuela. Her areas of clinical expertise and interest include interstitial lung diseases, thoracic malignancies, lung cancer screening, and education at all levels of the health care system. She is a member of the American College of Radiology’s Appropriateness Criteria Expert Panel on Thoracic Imaging and 2.0 Lung Cancer Screening Committee. She also serves nationally on the Society of Thoracic Radiology’s Education and Translation Committees, Association of University Radiologists’ Ad Hoc Diversity and International Relations Committees, Radiological Society of North America’s Chest Educational Exhibits Awards Committee, and as a reviewer for the Journal of Thoracic Imaging. At the University of Wisconsin, Dr. Martin serves on the Radiology Resident Education, Selection, and Curriculum Oversight Committees and as a Radiology Interest Group Faculty Advisor. She also teaches in the medical school. Dr. Martin is part of the first cohort of BEAM and regularly collaborates with UW’s Office of Multicultural Affairs. She enjoys lecturing locally, at national and international meetings, and mentoring future healthcare professionals. Her personal interests include traveling, photography, music, and running.

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.

Sheryl Henderson, MD, PhD

Department: Pediatrics

Specialty: Pediatric Infectious Diseases and HIV

Dr. Henderson is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. She received her PhD in Molecular Biology and her MD from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. This was followed by a residency in Pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. Her fellowship was in Pediatric Infectious Disease at Emory University in Atlanta, GA. She has been a faculty member at the UW since 2011 and currently serves as Medical Director for the Pediatric, Adolescent and Young Adult (PAYA) Clinic of the UW HIV Comprehensive Care Clinic. She is also the Medical Director of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program at American Family Children’s Hospital. Her longstanding clinical interest has been to provide quality cutting-edge medical care to pregnant women, children and adolescents living with HIV. Her current goals are to develop clinical and educational tools for PAYA living with HIV, their families and pediatricians that will assist in a successful transition from pediatric to adult health care. Dr. Henderson is currently working with others at UW Health to develop the most appropriate medical response to the SARS CoV2 virus within the hospital and the Madison community.

Christine Sharkey, MD

Department: Medicine

Specialty: Rheumatology

Dr. Sharkey is an Associate Clinical Professor of Rheumatology at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health in Madison, Wisconsin. She is also a board-certified Rheumatologist. She has special interest in autoimmune interstitial lung disease and lupus. Dr. Sharkey's clinical care is focus on building relationships with patients to come up with the best course of treatment for the patient. Dr. Sharkey completed her medical training at Brooke Army Medical Center, Ft. Sam Houston, TX. Dr. Sharkey was a Faculty member in the Division of Medicine at William Beaumont Army Medical Center from 2007-2012; During her military career she deployed overseas to Iraq in 2009. She also had leadership position as Associate Program Director for the Medicine residency. Dr. Sharkey then joined the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) faculty in 2012, as a Rheumatology Fellow from 2012-2014. She then settled in Madison, WI and started her rheumatology practice at Meriter Hospital for 5 years. She recently rejoined University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health in 2019 as faculty in the Department of Rheumatology. Her interest is in community care with focus on being a part of community organizations like the Arthritis Foundation and Lupus Foundation. Dr. Sharkey stresses the importance of community care with collaboration to treat patients with dignity. realizes the importance of building a more diverse health care workforce.
Thalia Marie Williams, MA, MS, CLA-Cert., PhD  
Department: Division of Public Health and Community Engagement  

Thalia M. Williams, PhD is a doctoral-level trained Epidemiologist and specializes in clinical research administration, field epidemiological research, minority health disparities, program evaluation knowledge, skills and techniques, statistical software and teaching research methodologies. She has a special interest in economic security and equity and is currently working on such a project with the City of Milwaukee Health Department’s MKE Elevate Steering Committee. Dr. Williams is an active member of Striving to Improve Health for All (SIHA). As a cross-sector collaboration of Muslim professionals, SIHA strives to create long-lasting programs addressing mental health through advocacy, community empowerment, education and resource sharing. Dr. Williams serves as the Senior Outreach Specialist-Academic Assessment Analyst at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) for the Wisconsin Area Health Education Center (AHEC). In this role, she provides instrumental leadership in the design and implementation of the WI-AHEC, Joint Statewide Evaluation Program. During any given program year, she analyzes and interprets ≥10,000 pieces of data to “quantify the impact of the award investment” in collaboration with seven AHEC Regional Centers. Dr. Williams is an Affiliate Faculty member of Social Science Research at the UW-Milwaukee Helen Bader School of Social Welfare and Population Health Sciences at UW-Madison. She is a graduate of UW-Milwaukee (bachelor’s degree), Marquette University (master’s degree) and Walden University (master’s, clinical research doctoral and degrees). In 2019, Dr. Williams was nominated for the UW-Milwaukee, “Adjunct Teaching Excellence” Award and listed as the “Actual Living Scientist” by the Milwaukee Area Science Advocates (MASA) in 2019 and 2017, respectively.

Lisa Jones, MD, MPH, MMCi  
Department: Medicine  

Specialty: Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Pelvic Floor and Anorectal Disorders  

Dr. Lisa Jones is an Assistant Professor of Medicine faculty member of the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology within the Department of Medicine. She serves as the medical director of pelvic floor and anorectal disorders. She is also an affiliate faculty within the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Dr. Jones graduated from Duke University School of Medicine, completed her internal medicine training at the University of Pennsylvania and returned to Duke to complete Gastroenterology fellowship in 2013. Dr. Jones’ clinical interests include the treatment of fecal incontinence, rectal pain, refractory constipation, and other related conditions. She sees patients in a dedicated pelvic floor clinic and a multidisciplinary Women’s Pelvic Floor Clinic where she collaborates with urogynecology, pelvic floor physical therapy, colorectal and urology colleagues. Dr. Jones also performs clinical procedures such as upper endoscopy, colonoscopy with associated interventions, High Resolution Anorectal Manometry, CRH O’Regan Hemorrhoid Band Ligation, and Interstim Peripheral Nerve Evaluation (Sacral Neuromodulation). Dr. Jones research interests are in utilizing technology to enhance medical education. She is supported by the Centennial Scholar Program. She is currently developing a blended technology-based and clinical curriculum for gastroenterology and non-gastroenterology trainees. Her future work will focus on deploying a technology-supported educational platform for providers to use at the point of care. She also aims to improve patient outcomes by improving provider knowledge and confidence around digital rectal examination (DRE). The DRE is critical for assessing anorectal conditions but is often underutilized in the clinical evaluation.
Sancia Ferguson, MD, MPH

Department: Medicine

Specialty: Rheumatology

Dr. Sancia Ferguson is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Rheumatology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is the Medical Director for the division. She received her Master’s in Public Health in Epidemiology, and Medical Degree from the University of Minnesota. She completed her residency at Tulane University Medical Center, and her fellowship in Rheumatology at the University of California, San Francisco. She holds board certification in Internal Medicine and Rheumatology. Dr. Ferguson’s research focuses on designing, implementing, and improving rheumatology clinical care delivery. She uses the lenses of implementation science, human centered design, and improvement science to design and improve processes.

Elizabeth Felton, MD, PhD

Department: Neurology

Specialty: Epilepsy

Dr. Felton is an Assistant Professor of Neurology at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. She did a neurology residency and epilepsy fellowship at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD and is board-certified in neurology and epilepsy. She was a UW SMPH Centennial Scholar from 2016-2019. Her clinical interests include ketogenic therapy for adults with epilepsy, special issues affecting women with epilepsy, neurostimulation for the treatment of epilepsy, and pediatric to adult transitions. She is the UW Health Ketogenic Diet Program Director and Women’s Epilepsy Clinic Co-Director. She established the UW Health Adult Epilepsy Dietary Therapy Clinic, which is one of about 10 clinics in the United States that offer this as a treatment option for people living with epilepsy. Dr. Felton also established a clinical research program focusing on dietary therapies for adults with epilepsy. Dr. Felton is passionate about improving diversity and representation in the sciences. She has been involved in outreach efforts and mentoring to learners at every level ranging from pre-college to junior faculty, including mentoring many learners at UW-Madison. She is chair of the Medical Scientist Training Program Diversity & Outreach committee. She also is very involved in diversity efforts within the American Epilepsy Society, including serving on the Gender Diversity Task Force and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force.

Freddy Caldera, DO, MS

Department: Medicine

Specialty: Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Celiac Disease, Chromoendoscopy, Chron’s Disease, Ileoscopy, Inflammatory Bowel Disease, and Pouchitis

Dr. Freddy Caldera is an associate professor in the Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology at University of Wisconsin. He is a formally trained clinical investigator, gastroenterologist, and physician scientist who specializes in inflammatory bowel disease. His clinical expertise is treating patients with ulcerative colitis and Crohn’s disease. His primary research interests include determining the risk of infections and evaluating immune response to vaccines in immunosuppressed patients with inflammatory bowel disease.
Tiffany Green, PhD

tlgreen2@wisc.edu

Department: Population Health Sciences / Obstetrics and Gynecology

Dr. Tiffany Green is an economist and population health scientist and a nationally recognized expert in racial/ethnic and nativity disparities in reproductive health. She is currently Assistant Professor of Population Health Sciences and Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Green earned her Ph.D. in economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her B.A. in economics from Florida A&M University. Her research focuses primarily on understanding the individual-, family-, and structural-level determinants of racial disparities in women’s health and birth outcomes. Dr. Green’s mission is to shed light on how and why Black women, regardless of socioeconomic status experience the worst maternal and child health outcomes of any racial/ethnic group—and what evidence-based solutions might ameliorate these persistent inequalities in health and wellbeing. She is also currently investigating the contributions of racial/ethnic bias to health-related disparities in childbearing and other populations. Most recently, she was selected as a member of the inaugural cohort of the Society of Family Planning’s Changemakers in Family Planning Grant Program, is a Temple Center for Public Health Law Research Fellow and is a University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health Centennial Scholar. Finally, Dr. Green serves as the co-chair of the Black Maternal & Child Health Alliance of Dane County, a coalition committed to centering the voices of Black mothers and ensuring that Black children are free to reach their highest potential.

Reinier Hernandez, PhD

hernandez6@wisc.edu

Department: Medical Physics / Radiology

Specialty: Radiochemistry and Cancer Theranostics

Dr. Hernandez is an Assistant Professor of Medical Physics and Radiology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he leads the newly formed Applied Radiochemistry Laboratory (ARL). Dr. Hernandez earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from Florida International University in Miami and a doctoral degree in Medical Physics from UW-Madison. As a trainee, he received several prestigious fellowships, including the NSF Graduate Research Program Fellowship (GRPF), NIH Biotechnology Training Program (BTP), and an Early Investigator Award from the Department of Defense. Dr. Hernandez's research focuses on radiochemistry, molecular imaging, and cancer theranostics. His contributions to cancer theranostics have been critical to securing several interdisciplinary grants from the NIH and DoD, including a PO1 award in radiopharmaceutical therapy, in which he serves as the leader of radiochemistry. Dr. Hernandez's scientific accomplishments include more than 50 peer-reviewed publications, several international patents, and two book chapters. He has also received numerous awards from the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging, the European Association of Nuclear Medicine, and the Radiological Society of North America. Due to his scholarly achievements, Dr. Hernandez was recognized as one of the "Ones to Watch" for 2020 by the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging, a campaign recognizing young leaders with the potential to shape the future of precision medicine. Dr. Hernandez is a member of the University of Wisconsin Target of Opportunity (TOP) and the Centennial Scholars programs.