School of Medicine and Public Health
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

State of the School

Fall Dean's Town Hall
Oct. 26, 2026

Nita Ahuja, MD, MBA

Dean, School of Medicine and Public Health
Vice Chancellor for Medical Affairs

My inspiration this year:
The Pebble and the Ripple



Unwavering in our vision

A century of excellence

Healthy People, Healthy Communities

- World-class, personalized care
- Educate the next generation
- Research to change the world



ALL TO SUPPORT THE HEALTH OF OUR WISCONSIN COMMUNITIES & BEYOND

Honor our past, Accelerate our future

1848

- University of Wisconsin founded
- Medical school proposed

1907

- College of medicine established (2-year)

1925

- Become a 4-year institution

2005

- Nation's first integrated School of Medicine and Public Health

2025

- 100th anniversary as a 4-year, MD granting school

Going big and going bold: A tradition of innovation

- Mohs Surgery
- Apgar score
- 5-Fluorouracil
- Bone marrow transplant
- Reverse transcriptase
- Nationwide CLARiTI Alzheimer's Disease Initiative
- SPF ratings
- Tamoxifen
- UW Solution
- Human embryonic stem cell lines
- Tomotherapy
- Neighborhood Atlas
- Rural OB-GYN Residency

and more!

Who we are

A vibrant community of faculty, staff, and learners

Approximate headcounts

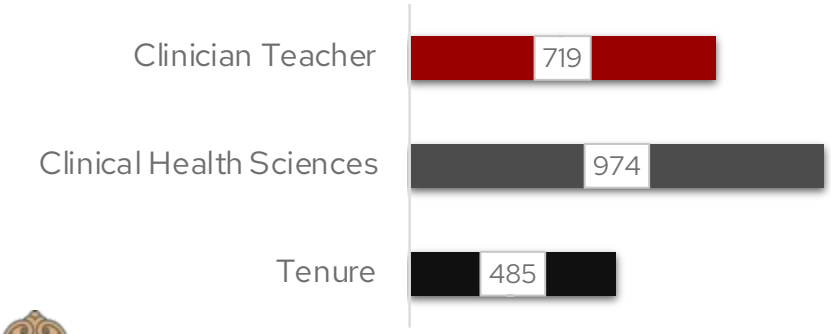
SCHOOL BREAKDOWN

2,200
Faculty ↑ ~100

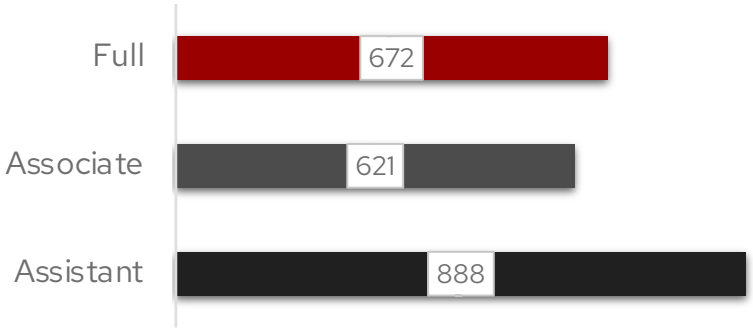
4,000
Staff ↑ ~100

2,550
Learners

FACULTY BY TRACK



FACULTY BY RANK



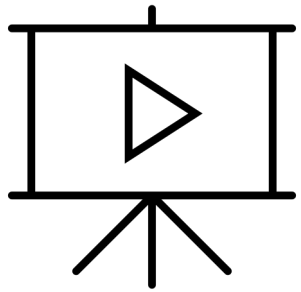
DEPARTMENTS

- 18 Clinical
- 10 Basic Science

STATEWIDE CAMPUS AND MADISON PARTNERS

What an amazing year it was

Click below to view video montage




Reflecting back



Research

Research leadership



Anjon Audhya, PhD
Vice Dean
for Research

Comings and goings



Brian Patterson, MD, MPH
Director of Health
Artificial Intelligence



Nick Langhals, PhD
Senior Director of
Research Operations



Manish Patankar, PhD
Director of Shared Resources

Basic science chairs

Ongoing searches:
Medical Physics



Francisco Pelegri, PhD
Chair,
Laboratory of Genetics
July



Bret Payseur, PhD
Interim Chair,
Laboratory of Genetics

Trending increases in extramural awards for 2026

RESEARCH EXPENDITURES

$694M

FY25 HERD data

EXTRAMURAL GRANTS

$508M

FY26

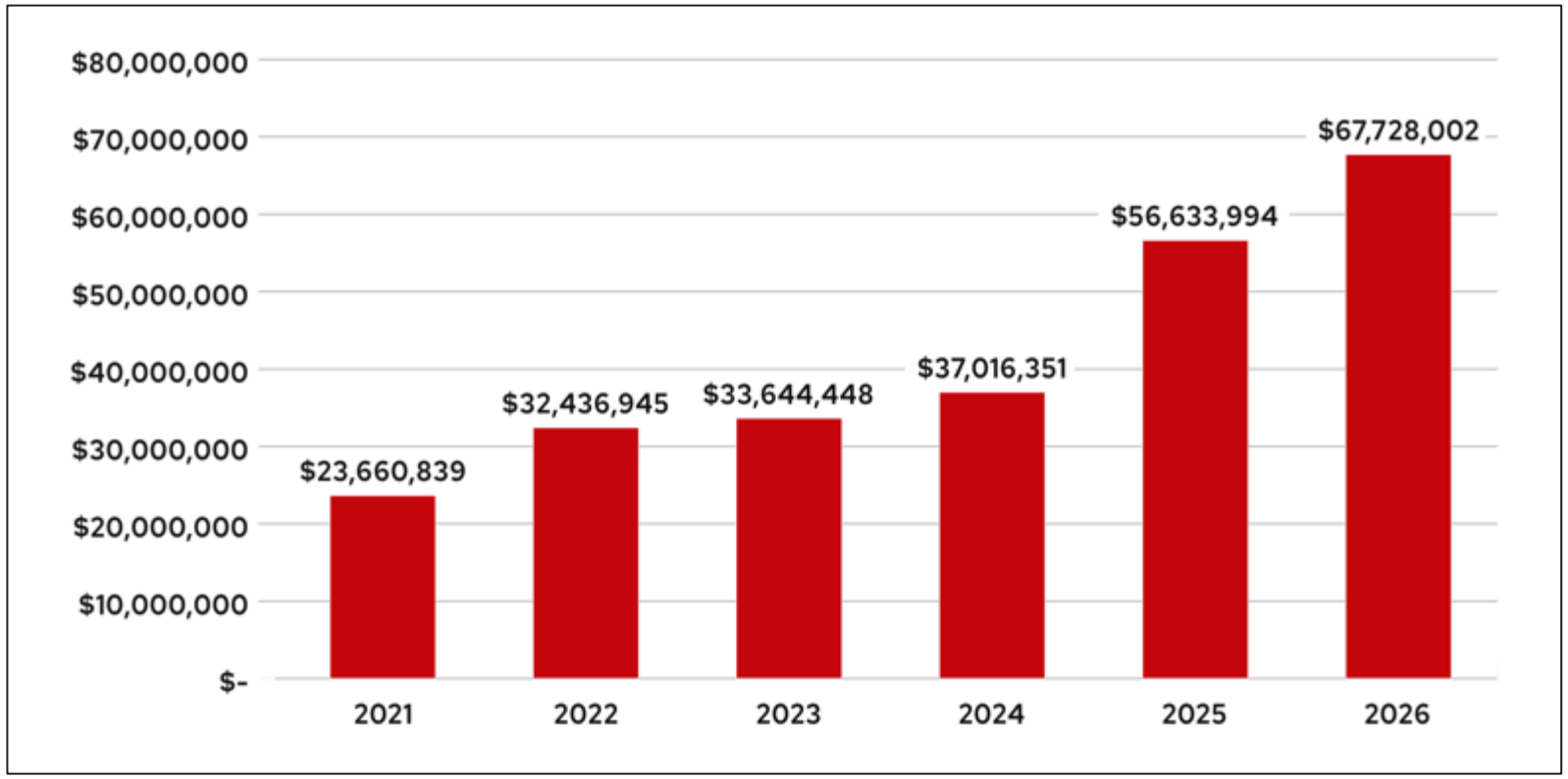
FEDERAL

$392M ⬆ 10%

NON-FEDERAL

$116M ⬆ 27.5%

Industry sponsored awards growth



Nearly 3X
increase since 2021

Strong biotechnology industry engagement

WISCONSIN Biohealth !TechHub

Supported by BioForward



Kurt Zimmerman

Senior Director, Office of Biohealth Industry Partnerships

National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology panel with Senator Baldwin and UW and biotech leaders





Education

Education leadership



Elizabeth Petty, MD
Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Nov. 13



Laura Knoll, PhD
Associate Dean for Basic Research Training

Comings and goings



Gwen McIntosh, MD, MPH
Acting Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs



Sam Lubner, MD
Assistant Dean for Students taking on additional Student Services responsibilities



Shobhina Chheda, MD, MPH
Associate Dean for Medical Education and Senior Advisor to the Dean with a focus on medical education and accreditation



Christine Seibert, MD
Associate Dean for Medical Student Education and Services
Sept. 1



Daniel Jurczyk, MD
Interim Associate Dean for the Marshfield Clinic/Northern Academic Campus



Ryan Spencer, MD, MS
Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education

Update on research education

DOCTORAL PROGRAMS

1st

Interdisciplinary Biological and Health Sciences Consortium (IBHSC) cohort started Fall 2025

80

Began their doctoral studies in the IBHSC in Fall 2026

<6 years

Time to PhD (2020–2025)

~3–4

Number of first-author papers by students in the Medical Scientist Training Program

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

4th

Institution in the nation for producing faculty (UW–Madison)

~200

Postdocs in SMPH

227

MS in Biotechnology graduates over the last 10 years

Health Professions Education

MD

7,968
Record number of MD applicants for 2025-26 cycle

95%
MD students on AAMC GQ are satisfied with quality of education

99%
Matched into residencies (post-SOAP)

US News and World Report Rankings

Tier 1
Primary care
medical school

Tier 2
Research
medical school

Health Professions Education

DPT, MCGS, MPAS, MPH

100%
Graduation and employment rate for DPT students

1st
MGCS students to complete MPH dual degree & GH certificate programs

50%
MPAS faculty delivered one or more scholarly presentations

9
Existing MPH dual-degree program options with 6 different UW-Madison schools

Continuing Education

> 800
Learning Activities

> 94,400
Leaner Enrollments

Global Health

67
Grad/Prof Capstone/Certificate

87
Students on faculty led GH experiences

Other education highlights

LCME Re-Accreditation

April 2026
LCME Survey Visit

Oct. 2026
Notification from LCME on reaccreditation status

Grants to support learners



Bret Benally Thompson, MD | Danielle Yancey, MS | Ryan Tsuchida, MD | Elizabeth Bush, MS

Strengthening Good Medicine Pathways:
Advancing Indigenous Health in Medical Education ($350K) (Benally Thompson and Yancey)

MD Pathways Scholarship Program
from HRSA ($3.25M) (Tsuchida and Bush)



Clinical care

Clinical affairs leadership



Brian Rank, MD

Acting Vice Dean for
Clinical Affairs

Comings and goings



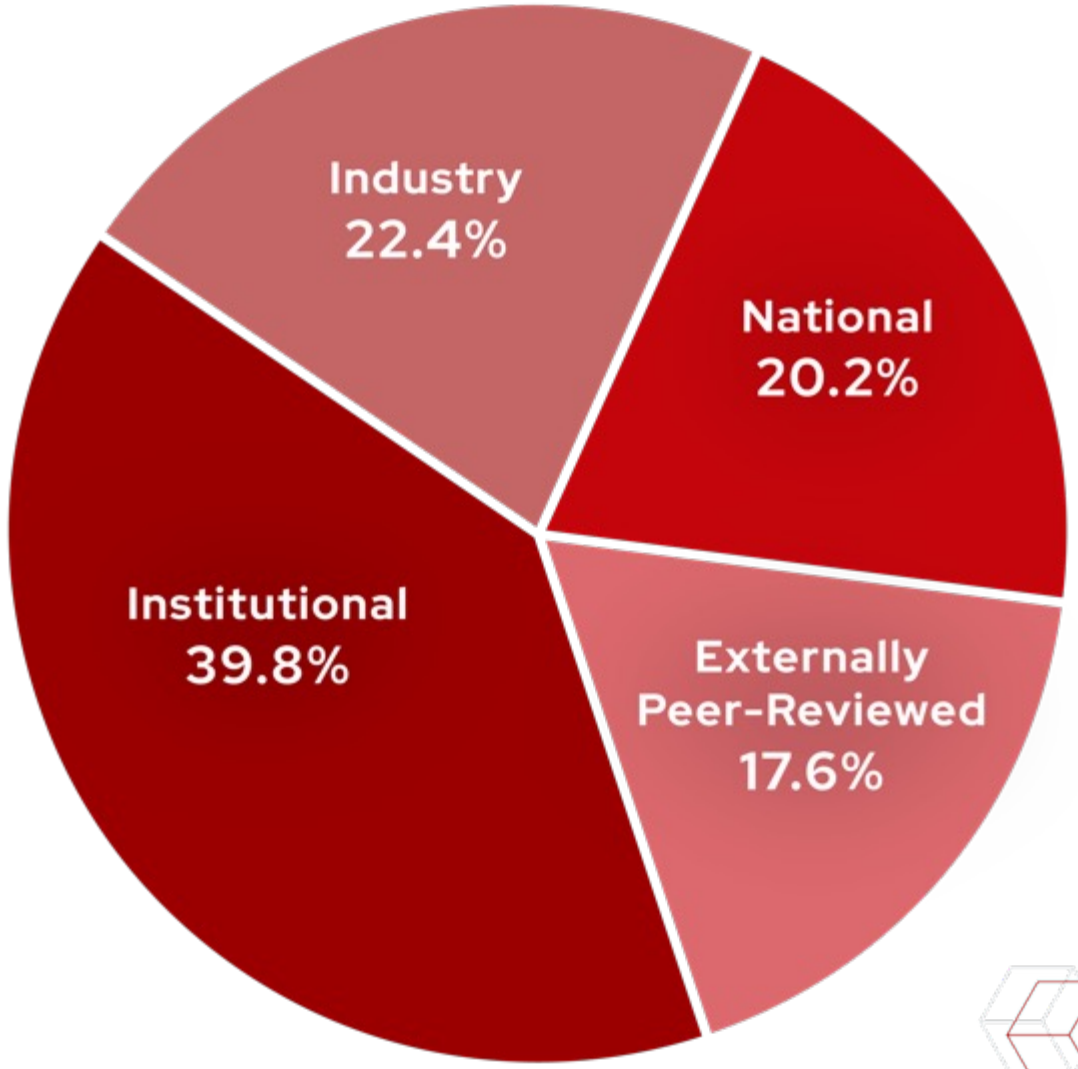
Christian Capitini, MD

Director of Carbone Cancer Center & Director of UW Health Cancer Services

Clinical trials portfolio – FY 2026

- Over 1,200 trials based on our Clinical Trials Management System
  - Interventional: 822
  - Non-interventional: 403
- Over 42,000 enrollments at a UW Site
  - Oncology: 33,582
  - Non-Oncology: 9,396
- 8,600 New enrollments at a UW Site for FY 2026

  (an increase of 5.1% from FY25)
- Over 36,000 Unique UW Health Patient Participants



Together we will be the Wisconsin Idea in action and a top destination

The School of Medicine and Public Health, UW Health, and the UW–Madison are united in our **pursuit of excellence in the missions of academic medicine** to chart a better future for people across our **state and beyond**.



Clinical excellence and integration

US News and World Report clinical rankings

- UW Health continues to be ranked **#1 in Wisconsin** for the **15th** consecutive year
- Nationally ranked in **9 adult specialties** ⬆ 1
- High performing in **20 procedures and conditions** ⬆ 2
    - Cancer: #40
    - Diabetes & Endocrinology: #10
    - Obstetrics & Gynecology: #12

Dual roles strengthen both school and health system



Christian Capitini, MD

Director of Carbone Cancer Center & Director of UW Health Cancer Services



Brian Patterson, MD, MPH

SMPH Director of Health AI & UW Health Senior Director, Health AI



Public health

Innovating for the next 20 years of public health

SMPH Public Health Taskforce

- Explored opportunities for the next chapter of public health at SMPH in alignment with strategic plan
- Submitted report with recommendations to Dean this month

Thank you to entire taskforce!

Lisa Cadmus-Bertram - Department of Kinesiology

Jill Denson - Prevention Research Center

John Denu - Department of Biomolecular Chemistry

Maureen Durkin - Department of Population Health Sciences

Michael Fiore - Center for Tobacco Research and Intervention

Rudy Johnson - Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (co-chair)

Sheri Johnson - Population Health Institute (co-chair)

Amy Kind – Office of Social Health Sciences and Programs

Noelle LoConte - Department of Medicine

Anoop Mayampurath - Department of Biostatistics and Medical Informatics

Ryan McAdams - Department of Pediatrics

Muhammed Murtaza - Center for Precision Medicine

Parvathy Pillai - Department of Population Health Sciences

Dejun Su - Department of Family Medicine and Community Health

Jon Temte – Office of Public Health and Community Engagement

Jon Audhya – Office of Basic Research, Biotech and Grad Studies (ex-officio)

Robyn Perrin – Office of Strategic Communications (ex-officio)

Maximizing impact



25+ public health programs across missions and across departments, centers/institutes, and programs

Public health throughout our school



Community

Orion Initiative: Rural Health
- 20 New Rural Sites
- 2,525 Patients Served

Wisconsin Partnership Program
- $34.7 million awarded in FY 26
- 114 Funded grants across Wisconsin

Office of Rural Health
- Supporting WI DHS in Rural Health Transformation Program

Research

Center for Health Disparities Research
- 3rd Largest NIH award at UW-Madison
- Supporting lead water line replacement in Milwaukee

Across missions

Osher Center for Integrative Health
- 25th anniversary of integrative health program at UW–Madison

Education

Area Health Education Centers
- 355 Training Sites
- 2,800 High school to practicing professional learners across Wisconsin

Team science for public health

- Center for Tobacco Research and Intervention P01: improve tobacco use treatments for adult patients ($11.1M)
- The Neighborhoods Study: Adverse Social Exposome and Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias R01 ($30.9M renewal)
- Cancer Center Support Grant P30 Merit extension




MPIs: Danielle McCarthy, PhD & Hasmeena Kathuria, MD



PI: Amy Kind, MD, PhD



PI: Christian Capitini, MD



Developing our community of staff and faculty

Act 15: Minimum Teaching Expectations



Art Walaszek, MD

Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Development

Timeline

July 2025	Act 15 passed
Nov 2025	Board of Regents policy
Dec 2025	State legislature approves policy
Jan 2026	UW System policy
April 2026	UW–Madison policy
May-July 2026	SMPH work group, listening sessions & implementation plan
Aug 2026	SMPH implementation plan to Provost; APC review
Sept 2026	Implementation
Spring - Summer 2027	Reporting of 2026-27 data begins

112

Total participants across four Act 15 listening sessions

2407

Total number of SMPH employees subject to Act 15

1800+

Total number who are exempt due to a clinical appointment

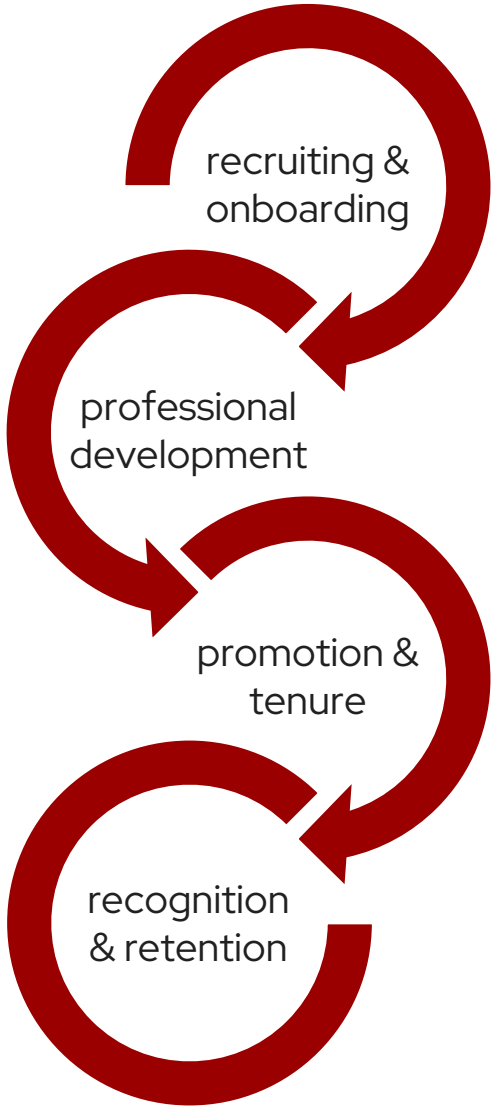
Scan to see the new SMPH Act 15 Webpage

Faculty affairs and development



Art Walaszek, MD

Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Development



1786

Total registrations for 30 faculty development events in 2026

9

Education Essentials web-based training modules developed

Visit the OFAD event page

https://tinyurl.com/54xvpe83

127

Registrations for 2026 New Faculty Orientation

57

Registered participants for 2026 Educational Scholarship Retreat

256

Total participants registered for all 2026 Pathways to Promotion workshops

Human resources



Hope Broadus, JD
Chief Human Resources Officer



FY26 HR recap

7,805 **employees** supported across the employee lifecycle

1,644 employees **hired** and **onboarded**

Newly launched **SMPH Supervisor Toolkit** visited **3,138x**

Distributed **$20M+** to **faculty and staff** through six **pay programs**

Social impact and belonging



Shiva Bidar-Sielaff, MA, CDM
Associate Dean for Social Impact and Belonging

2026 by the numbers

475+
SMPH Consultations

94
SMPH Presentations

25
Committee meetings facilitated

3
Communities of Practice

- Basic Sciences
- Clinical
- Employee Experience and Belonging

01 Culture and Experience

Strengthen faculty and staff experience through consultation, learning, and practical tools

02 Institutional Strategy and Systems

Integrate social impact and belonging into institutional priorities, policies, and operations

03 Academic Mission Partnerships

Partner with departments, centers, and institutes to strengthen belonging and advance the academic mission

Wisconsin Medicine

2026 Fiscal Year Development Update



Alli Ingman, MPP

WFAA VP and Wisconsin Medicine Managing Group Leader

Launched advisory board

2026 Fiscal Year - $100M

25 $1M+ gifts in 2026

28% Increase YOY

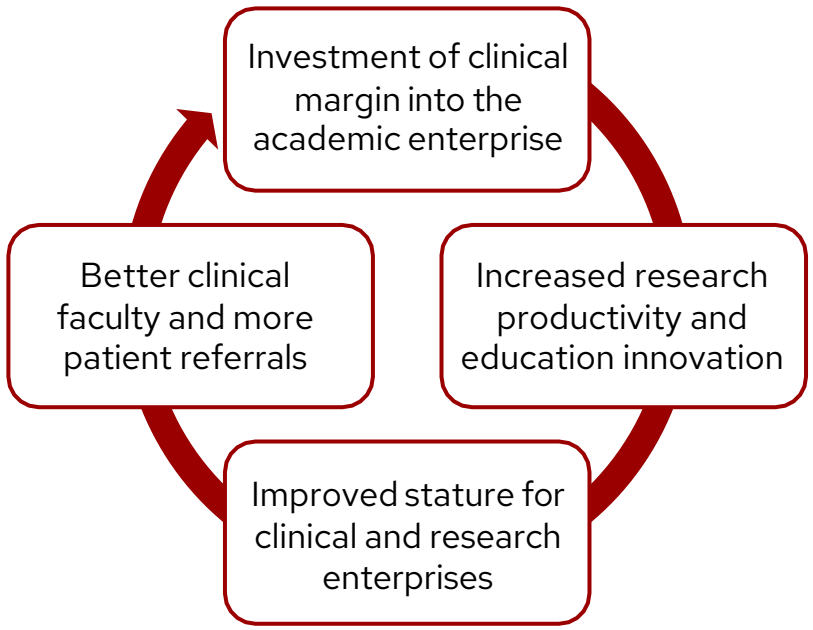
- 2025 - $75M
- 3-Year Rolling Average: $96M (2024-2026) up from $73M (2021-2023)

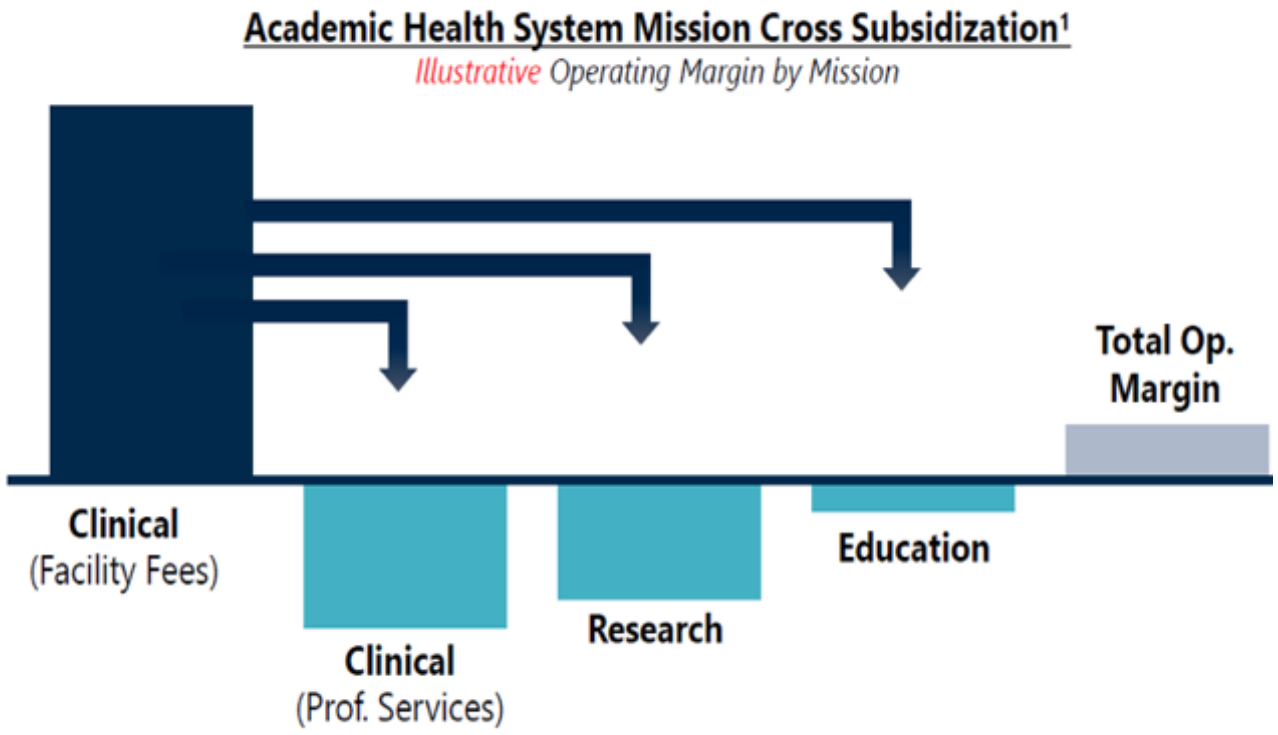
Financial support for the tripartite mission



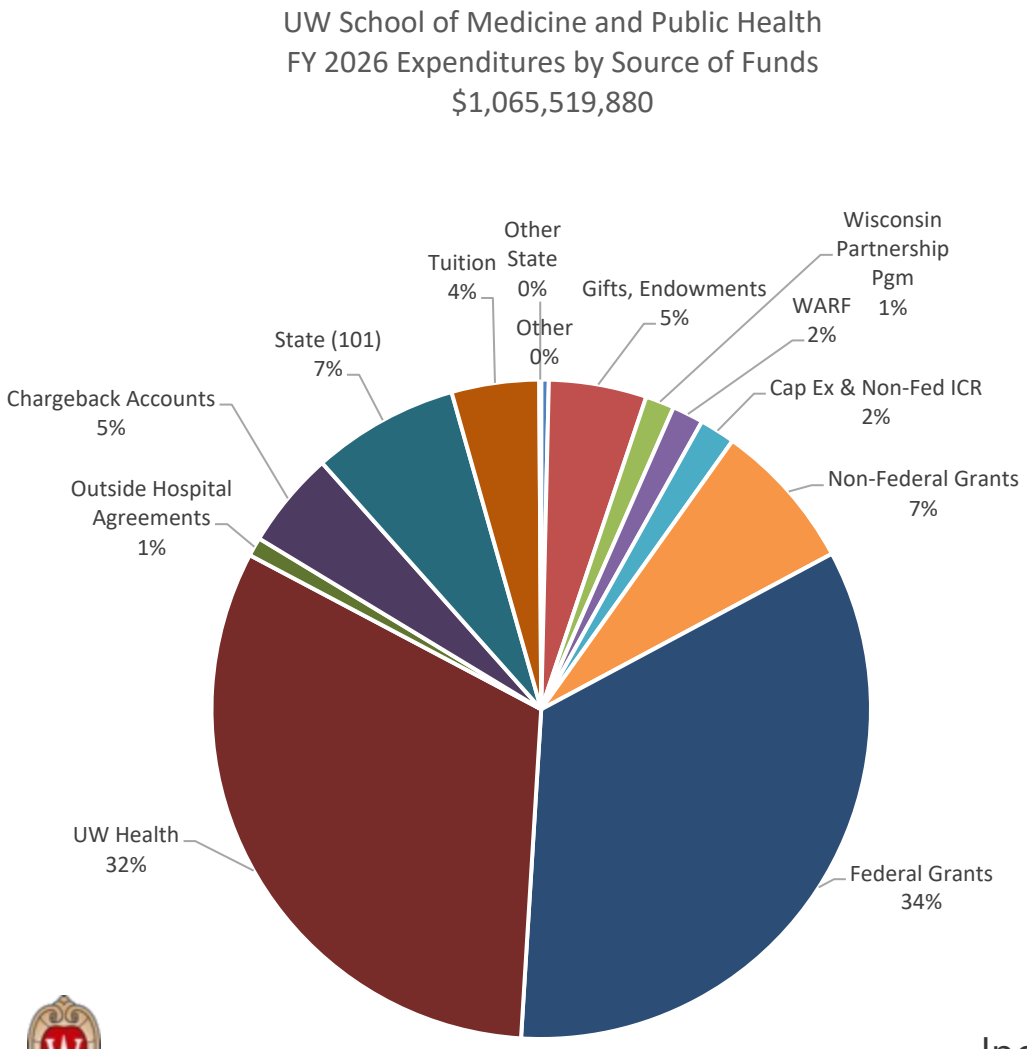
Heidi Conrad, MBA
Chief Financial Officer

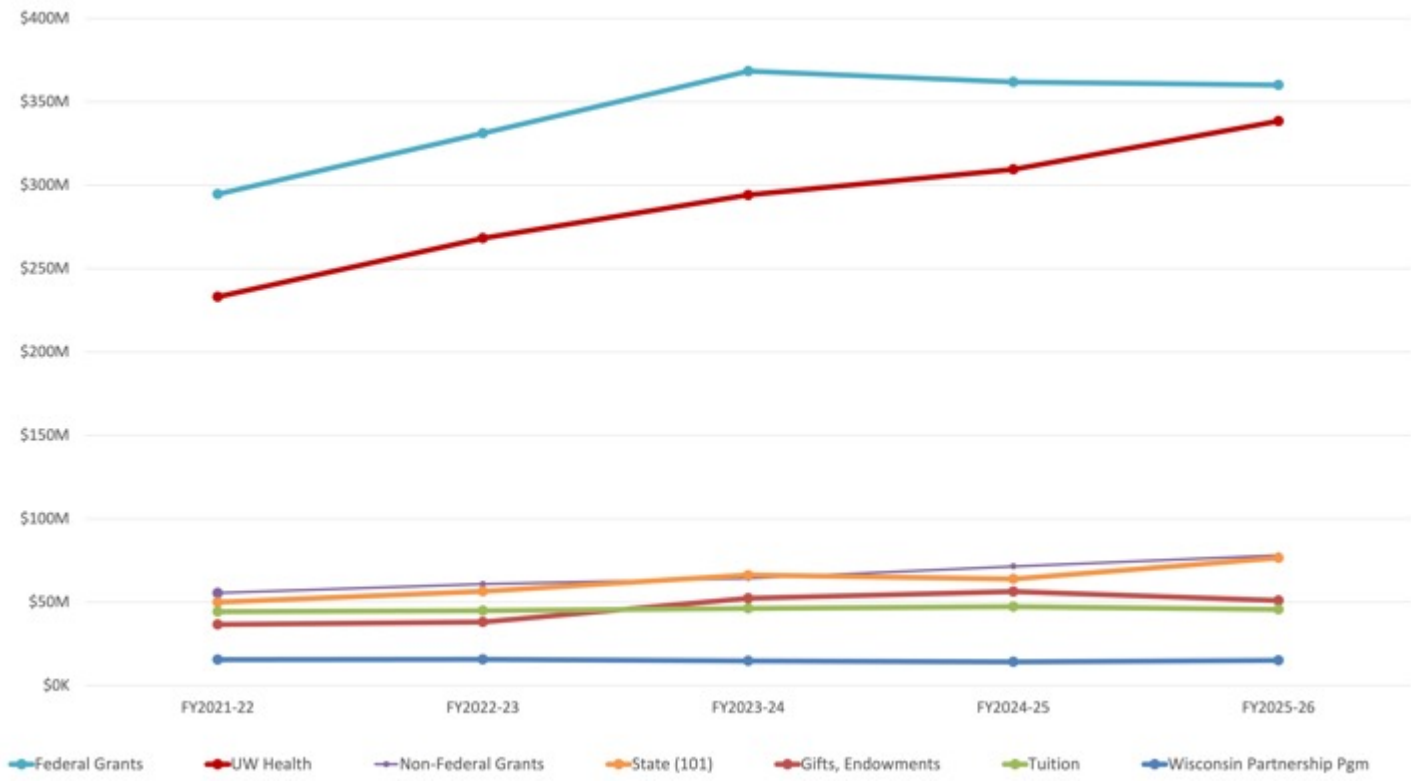
Academic Medicine's Virtuous Cycle





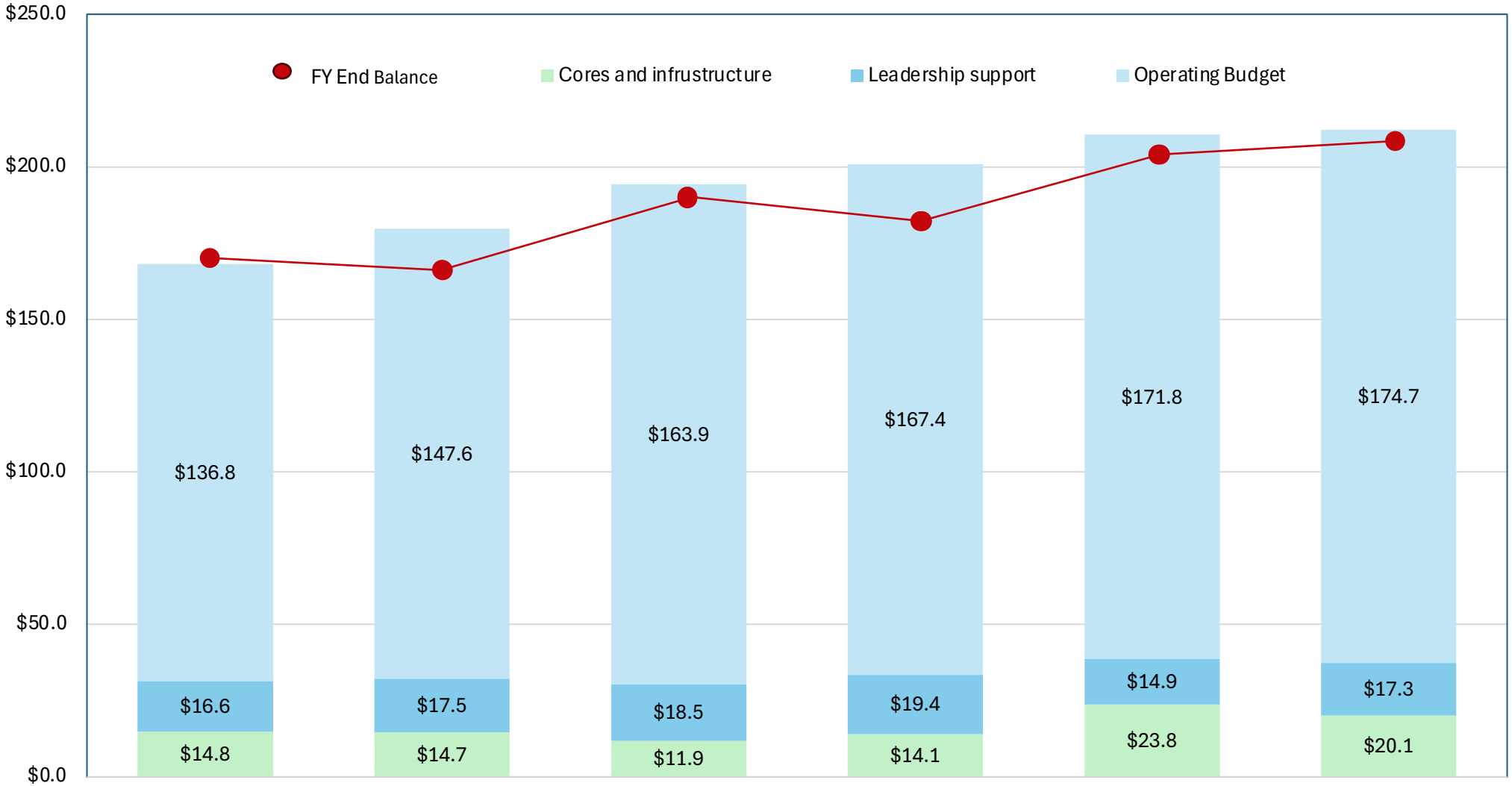
SMPH expenditures by source of fund (excludes clinical)
FY26 $1,065,519,880





Includes Capital and Operating

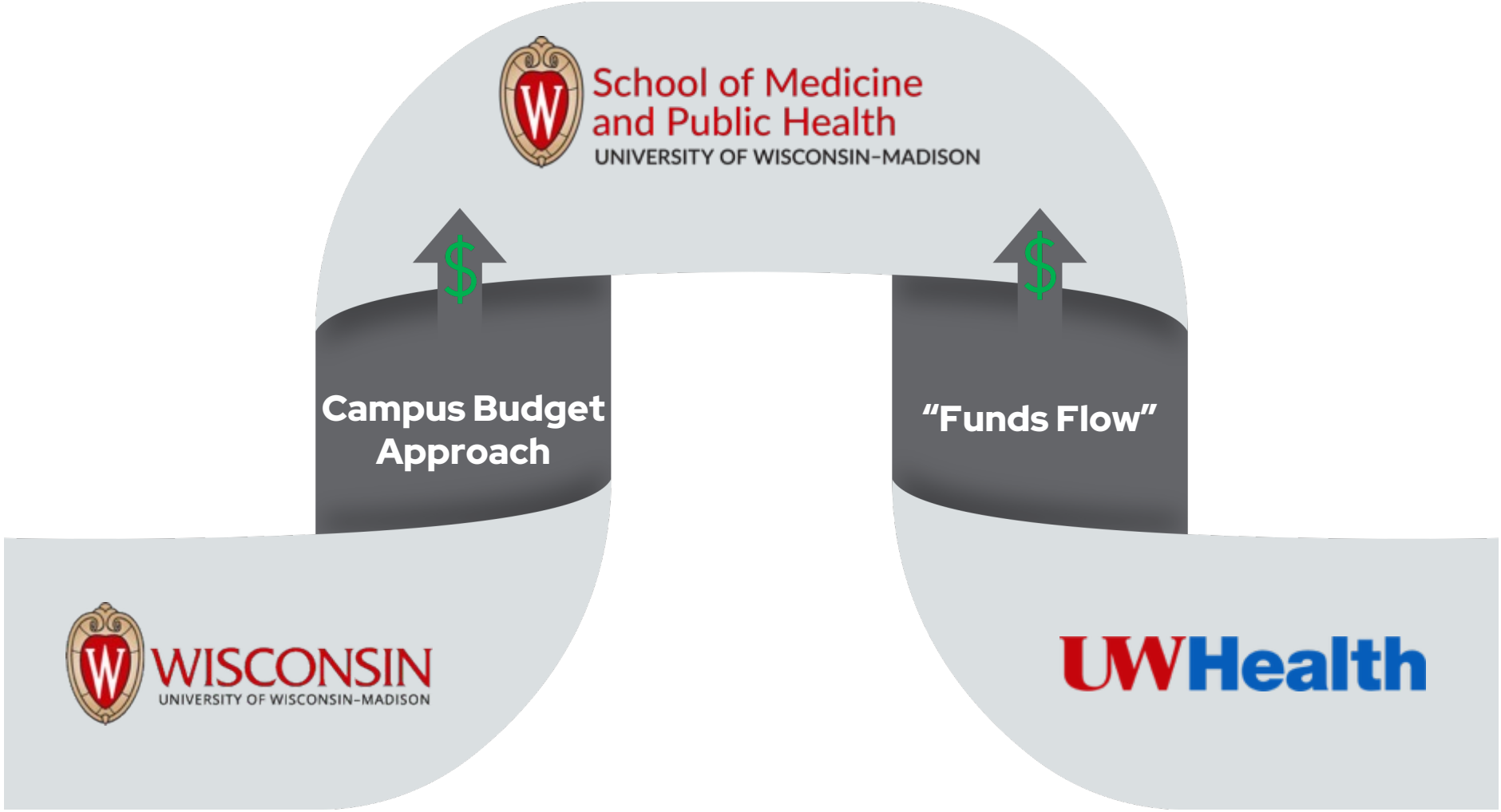
School's operating budget (excludes clinical)



Total	**$168.2M**	**$179.8M**	**$194.3M**	**$200.9M**	**$210.5M**	**$212.1M**

The school receives funds from campus and UW Health

Current initiatives are evolving both processes



Positive impacts of evolving processes

Campus Budget Approach

- Complex → Straightforward
- Needed focus → Mission-aligned
- Stagnant → Awards growth
- Slow to change → Agile

Funds Flow

- Static → Rewards dept growth
- Difficult to forecast → Predictable
- Diffuse → Strategic
- Estimates → Fully memorialized

Better ability to strategically invest in our school's future



UWHealth

New Campus Funding Approach to SMPH

- Capital Exercise, Fund 150, Fund 133
- Undergraduate Tuition
- Graduate Tuition
- Fund 101 Base

FY25 Academic Funding Streams to SMPH

- Base A
- Base B
- Cancer Center & Clinical Trials
- Clinical Departments Incentive Pool

UWH Clinical Budget Funding

School of Medicine and Public Health
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Funds are conceptually pooled in SMPH, who will then distribute academic support to departments based on a formulaic model, the "Academic Resourcing Approach" or "ARA"

Central SMPH

UWH will continue to support the clinical budgets much as they are today

Academic Resourcing Approach

Basic Science Departments

Centers / Institutes / Units

Clinical Departments

Academic Budgets 23%

Clinical Budgets 77%

Both academic and clinical budgets for clinical departments span both the UWH and SMPH books

Continuous improvement of administrative services

Stewardship builds trust in the Wisconsin Idea. To further our mission, we must make both appropriate and efficient use of funds – every day, every expense.

Complete

- Workday implementation
- First accurate data pulls from Workday
- Rolling out soon: Projections, Portfolio, Planning Tool – P3

Future and Ongoing

- Continued Workday optimization
- Leverage Adaptive Planning Tool
- IT extramural funding methodology
- Medicaid Administrative Cost proposal

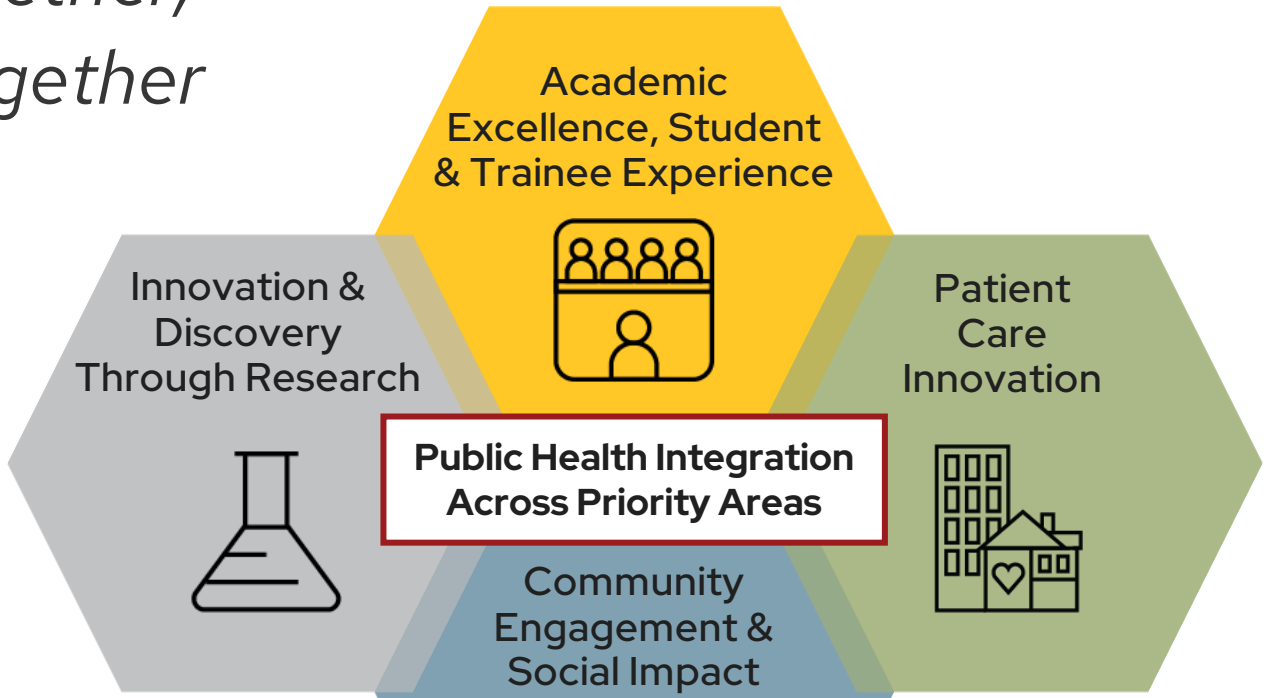

Looking ahead

Strategic Plan

Forward Together,
Healthier Together

Read the full plan

Priority Areas



Priority Enablers

- Partnerships & Collaborations
- Financial Sustainability & Capital for Investment
- Attracting & Developing Exceptional Faculty & Staff

Innovation & Discovery Through Research



- **Brain and mind health**
- **Cancer theranostics and immunotherapy**
- **Precision public health**
- **Team science**

Priority Areas

Academic Excellence, Student & Trainee Experience



Innovation & Discovery Through Research

Patient Care Innovation

Public Health Integration Across Priority Areas

Community Engagement & Impact

Partnerships & Collaborations

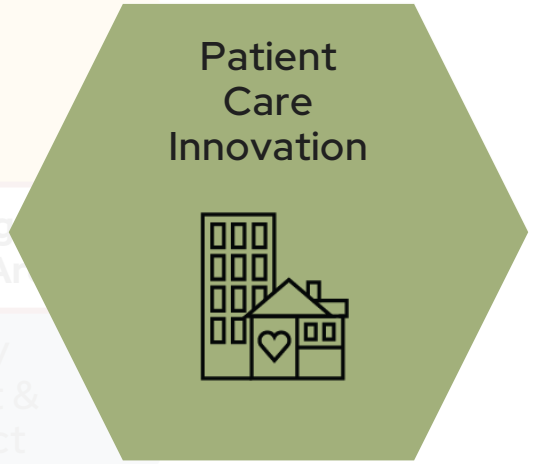
Financial Sustainability & Capital for Investment

Attracting & Developing Exceptional Faculty & Staff

Priority Enablers

- **Student support services**
- **Workforce development**
- **Innovative, human-centered education**

- **Collaboratively invest in clinical priorities**
- **Clinical research and clinical trial infrastructure**
- **AI-enabled data sharing**



- **Co-develop and invest in high-impact, sustainable, community-engaged initiatives and multi-sector partnerships**



Partnerships & Collaborations

- **Develop and scale a standardized, partnership-driven model that accelerates our work**

Attracting & Developing Exceptional Faculty & Staff

- **Build career development programs and pathways for faculty and staff**
- **Establish a Strategic Talent Investment Fund**

Financial Sustainability & Capital for Investment

- **Invest in coordinated fundraising and sponsorship efforts across Wisconsin Medicine and strategic campus partners**

Implementation Leadership

Partnerships & Collaborations	Attracting & Developing Exceptional Faculty & Staff	Financial Sustainability & Capital for Investment


Gwen McIntosh, MD, MPH


Anjon Audhya, PhD


Brian Rank, MD


Shiva Bidar-Sielaff, MA, CDM


Nick Langhals, PhD


Art Walaszek, MD


Alli Ingman, MPP

Implementation Leader


Allison Golden, MA

Chair Representatives


Stephen Nakada, MD


Betsy Quinlan, PhD

Portfolio Manager


Bernard Agrest

Looking ahead by mission

Strategic Plan initiatives will follow a phased timeline approach



Innovation & Discovery Through Research

- Launch cross-campus brain and mind resilience initiative
- Advance theranostics and biobanking core research
- Review and rollout taskforce recommendations



Academic Excellence, Student & Trainee Experience

- Implement LCME and PA accreditation recommendations
- Expand healthcare workforce programming
- Deliver unrivaled student experience

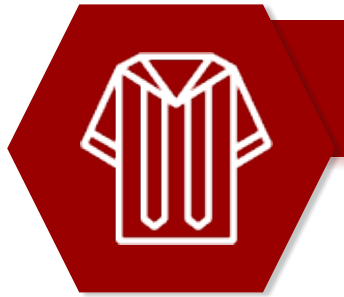


Patient Care Innovation

- Launch clinical trial taskforce
- Roll out cancer strategy
- Identify and invest in clinical priorities

Looking ahead by mission

Strategic Plan initiatives will follow a phased timeline approach



Attracting & Developing Exceptional Faculty & Staff

- Continue to develop programming that supports growth
- Establish awards and recognition program
- Institute a tool for enabling and tracking faculty and staff success



Financial Sustainability & Capital for Investment

- Align priorities and Wisconsin Medicine Advisory Board
- Expand high impact funds
- Expand industry partnerships

Outstanding progress so far

New cyclotron facility groundbreaking last Friday









UW Health begins offering proton therapy to treat cancer



Neutron Capture Therapy

Secured $8M grant from NIH to pursue this cutting-edge technology

Let’s stay in touch

ONPURPOSE
Reflections from Dean Ahuja

Nita Minute.
A Video Update from Dean Ahuja

Join us for

- Dean Petty retirement party: Nov. 2, 4-6 p.m., School of Nursing
- Sweater Weather Social on Dec. 3
- Winter Dean’s Town Hall on Jan. 11

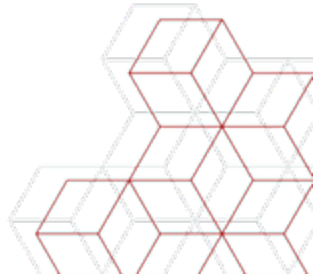
My inspiration this year:
The Pebble and the Ripple



Q & A

- In person: Raise your hand for a microphone
- Online: Put your question in the chat
- Please state your name and your unit as you ask your question





Award winners

Congratulations to all!

Faculty awards

An incredible honor:
Two AAMC awards this year



India Anderson-Carter, MD
Obstetrics and Gynecology
AAMC Herbert W. Nickens Faculty Fellowship



Shobhina Chheda, MD, MPH
Medicine and Pediatrics
AAMC Alpha Omega Alpha Robert J. Glaser Distinguished Teacher Award

Faculty awards

A banner year for campus awards

Vilas Early-Career Investigator Award



David Harris, MD
Surgery



Andrew Hryckowian, PhD
Medical Microbiology and Immunology and Medicine



Junsu Kang, PhD
Cell and Regenerative Biology



Daniel Shapiro, MD
Urology

Vilas Mid-Career Investigator Award



Diego Hernando, PhD
Radiology



Nicole Nelson, PhD
Medical History and Bioethics



Anne Marie Singh, MD
Pediatrics



Oliver Wieben, PhD
Medical Physics

Faculty awards

A banner year for campus awards

Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professorship



Rozalyn Anderson, PhD
Medicine



Lynn Schnapp, MD
Medicine



Joshua Coon, PhD
Biomolecular Chemistry

Vilas Research Professorship



Anjon Audhya, PhD
Biomolecular Chemistry

Hilldale Award



Ellen Wald, MD
Pediatrics

Faculty awards



Kevin Eliceiri, PhD
Medical Physics
Spencer Shorte Legacy Award



Tiffany Green, PhD
Population Health Sciences and Ob-Gyn
Chancellor's Inclusive Excellence Teaching Award



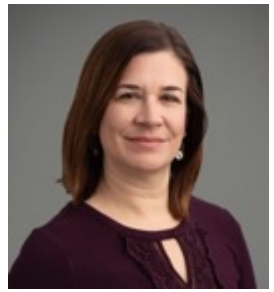
Abhishek Kumar, PhD
Cell and Regenerative Biology
Fellow of the American Physical Society



Accepted to Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine program



Carri Glide-Hurst, PhD
Radiation Medicine



Kari Wisinski, MD
Medicine

Executive Leadership in Healthcare program



Aimee Becker, MD
Anesthesiology

Lee Wilke, MD
Surgery

Faculty awards



Syed Nabeel Zafar, MD, MPH
Surgery
Global Oncology Yvonne Award



Tamara Scerpella, MD
Orthopedics and Rehabilitation
Orthopedic Surgeon Excellence Award

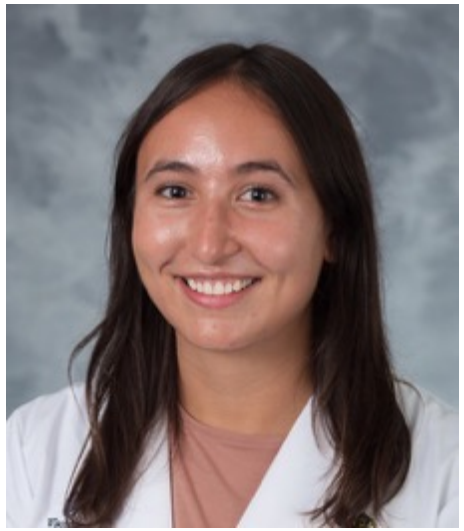


Claire Wendland, MD, PhD
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Guggenheim Fellowship



Jiwei Zhao, PhD
Biostatistics and Medical Informatics
Fellow of the American Statistical Association

Student awards



Sophie Vrba
MSTP student
Student position on the LCME



Zachary D. Muench
Medical student
Medical Program of the Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics



Emmanuel Perrodin-Njoku
Medical student
Wisconsin Idea grant

Student awards



Edith-Marie Green
Graduate student
Fulbright U.S. Student Award



Uma Chatterjee, MS, MHPS
Graduate student
NIH Outstanding Scholars in Neuroscience Award Program

Staff awards

Go team!



Administrative Improvement Award
SMPH Fiscal KnowledgeBase Platform team includes outstanding innovators from Fiscal Affairs and Strategic Communications

Academic Staff Excellence Award



Donna Cole
Family Medicine and Community Health



Katy Oksuita
Emergency Medicine



Robin Schwartz
Biomedical Research Model Services
University Staff Recognition Award

Award winners

Congratulations to all!

Share your good news with us:
go.wisc.edu/goodnews

2026 Folkert O. Belzer Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients



Betsy Trowbridge, MD



Jonathan Temte, MD, PhD

Honoring two champions of primary care

Share your feedback on this Town Hall

School of Medicine and Public Health
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