

# Office of Research

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# 2021

## The Year In Review

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**Highlights, accomplishments, and activities  
of the Office of Research throughout 2021.**



knowledge changing life

# Leadership Welcome

## Dear Colleagues,

Collectively, most of us began 2021 with mixed emotions – we were becoming slightly less uncomfortable with uncertainty, but still weary for lack of normalcy. While the world struggled with pandemic related challenges, the vaccine offered the first inkling of hope and optimism in nearly a year. We carried on, only to find the year ending with record-breaking COVID-19 case numbers.

In spite of many challenges, the research mission prevailed and thrived in 2021 by embracing necessary change and maintaining a sharp focus on discovery. Significant milestones were hit within the Accelerate Discovery goals:

- \$168.8M in total extramural research funding in FY21, a 5.7% increase from the prior year.
- 542 total interventional cancer clinical trial accruals in FY21.

The Office of Research has adapted to new ways of working and has been successful in meeting investigators and research personnel where they are at. The new year has seen a shift in attitude, and we have maintained our commitment for growth and opportunity in each of our nine units. Thank you to all of the researchers and advocates of science and discovery for soldiering on in another tough year.

Join us in taking a fresh, optimistic look into the future!



**Ann Nattinger, MD, MPH, MACP**

Associate Provost for Research  
Professor of Medicine  
Lady Riders Professor of Breast  
Cancer Research



**Cecilia Hillard, PhD**

Associate Dean for Research  
Professor of Pharmacology  
Director, Neuroscience Research  
Center



**Lisa Henk, MS**

Chief Administrator for Research  
Operations



# Headlines & Successes

MCW hit a new institutional record for annual NIH funding in federal fiscal year 2020 (October 2019 – September 2020), securing a total of \$122.7M. [The Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research](#), a national standard-bearer for calculating institutional funding, released their annual rankings of U.S. medical schools by NIH funding in February, 2021. MCW ranked #46 and was placed within the top third of the list, which had been an institutional aspiration in the research mission.

A master research affiliation agreement was signed in July, 2021, to initiate work under the Children’s Wisconsin Joint Venture. The agreement establishes a framework for the joint pediatric research enterprise relationship between MCW and CW with shared goals and objectives. The agreement also more fully supports pediatric physicians engaging in research in a collaborative and transparent manner, while making core services and resources more broadly available. In the latter half of 2021, much of the initial planning was done to establish two new MCW IRB committees for pediatric review. This will allow the CW Human Research Protection Program to begin relying on the MCW IRB committees for review, and to begin the process of transitioning studies. This has involved a great deal of effort from several individuals, directive-based teams, and oversight committees, including the work of the Research Systems team to prepare to accept pediatric studies in eBridge. With this agreement, the MCW & CW partnership is braced to continue improving child health through cutting edge research.



As highlighted in the [2020 COVID-19 Report & Year in Review](#), the Office of Research was instrumental in supporting the MCW COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic in partnership with the School of Pharmacy and other stakeholders including the Office of the President, Facilities, Public Safety, the COVID-19 Task Force, Froedtert Hospital, and 300+ volunteers. These efforts were documented in the article [Collective Action: The Medical College of Wisconsin COVID-19 Vaccination Program](#), which was published by the team leads in the December 2021 issue of the Wisconsin Medical Journal.

After the sunset of the MCW clinic in April, 2021, the Office of Research continued to host a vaccine hub staffed by the National Guard, which continued into 2022.

The MCW animal care and use program was awarded continued full accreditation by AAALAC International (the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care), and was once again recognized as an “exemplary” program. The rigorous accreditation process involves an extensive internal review with the Biomedical Resource Center, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, Internal Occupational Health, and Environmental Health and Safety, among other offices. The process also includes a 3-day site visit, which was conducted during the IACUC’s Semi-Annual Facility Inspection in August. MCW received its official notice of continued full accreditation on October 12, 2021, and has been continuously accredited since 1968. We are proud to have maintained the distinction as an “exemplary” program since 2012.



MCW Libraries has been tracking publications by MCW authors [in top quartile journals](#) since FY18. This includes curation of the annual journal list to ensure that less common or niche specialties are also included in the overall metric. In FY21, 1,445 MCW authored publications (or 64.1% of all MCW publications that year) appeared in these Top Journals.

# Headlines & Successes

With funding made possible by the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment, the Office of Research awarded multiple grants across three unique mechanisms in 2021. The team-science driven Program Project Formation Grants awarded pilot funds of \$250,000 for multi-lab projects to coalesce and competitively pursue NIH Program Project Grants. The teams were led by **Curt Sigmund, PhD**, (Physiology), **Cecilia Hillard, PhD**, (Pharmacology & Toxicology), and **Hershel Raff, PhD**, (Medicine).



Sigmund



Hillard



Raff

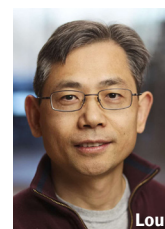
Three Competitive Resubmission grants of \$50,000 were awarded to fund research projects specifically designed to strengthen federal grant applications that were well scored but outside of the funding window. The funding supports acquisition of additional data to enhance the applications for future funding. These three projects were led by **Michael Mitchell, MD**, (Pediatrics), **Michele Battle, PhD**, (Cell Biology, Neurobiology & Anatomy), and **Xuelin Lou, PhD**, (Cell Biology, Neurobiology & Anatomy).



Mitchell



Battle



Lou

Lastly, four Limited Needs grants of up to \$30,000 were awarded to purchase specialty equipment, instrumentation, or software to enhance existing research projects. This year's Limited Needs awardees were **Grant Sinson, MD**, (Neurosurgery), **Kevin Rarick, PhD**, (Pediatrics), **Adriano Marchese, PhD**, (Biochemistry), and **Brian Volkman, PhD**, (Biochemistry). All of these awards highlight a rich and targeted investment in our outstanding faculty.



Sinson



Rarick



Marchese



Volkman

The [Society for Research Excellence](#) welcomed three new members in the 2021-2022 academic year: **Ivor Benjamin, MD**, (Medicine), **Carol Williams, PhD**, (Pharmacology & Toxicology), and **Mei-Jie Zhang, PhD**, (Institute of Health & Equity). Society members are characterized by their sustained research leadership, mentorship, and commitment to discovery, as well as a reputation for excellence in their respective field.



Benjamin



Williams

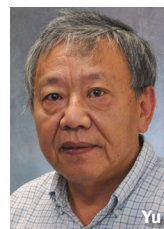


Zhang

[Two MCW investigative teams](#) received the Falk Medical Research Trust Catalyst Award in 2021. **Nikki Johnston, PhD**, (Otolaryngology) advanced the project "Aerosolized HIV Inhibitors for the Treatment of Laryngopharyngeal Reflux (LPR)" and **Hongwei Yu, MD**, and **Quinn Hogan, MD**, (both Anesthesiology) advanced the project "A Novel Analgesic Approach for Chronic Pain: Small Peptide Inhibition of Nav1.7 in Anatomically Targeted Sensory Neurons." These highly competitive grants seek to fund high-risk, high-reward translational research in therapeutics for disease, and only a select list of institutions are permitted to submit up to two projects. Successful Catalyst awardees can later pursue the Falk Transformational Award, a \$1 million grant for the best of the best translational investigators to continue their breakthrough research.



Johnston



Yu



Hogan

The Research Affairs Committee awarded \$280,000 in New Faculty Pilot Grants throughout 2021. Eight awards of \$35,000 each were issued in the spring and fall funding cycles to new assistant professors at MCW to support the development of preliminary data for the pursuit of future funding. The 2021 awardees were **Musaddiq Awan, MD**, (Radiation Oncology), **Lezi E, PhD**, (Cell Biology, Neurobiology & Anatomy), **Michael Harris, MD**, (Otolaryngology), **Erin McGonigle, MD**, (Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation), **Kajana Satkunendrarajah, PhD**, (Neurosurgery), **Andrew Schramm, MD**, (Surgery), **Daochun Sun, PhD**, (Cell Biology, Neurobiology & Anatomy) and **Dawn Wenzel, PhD**, (Biochemistry).



# Headlines & Successes

The Office of Technology Development participated in a number of activities throughout the year in support of MCW innovation. In January, the OTD hosted a virtual Startup Showcase to highlight MCW spin-out companies, an event that included a keynote talk from Drs. Michael Mitchell and Aoy Tomita-Mitchell. In April, the OTD facilitated the inclusion of MCW inventors at the 2021 First Look Forum, for which President Raymond delivered opening remarks. During Milwaukee Tech Week in October, the OTD also hosted a session titled “Connecting with MCW: Healthcare Startups and Opportunities.” The OTD wishes to celebrate



the success of Drs. David and Lyle Joyce and Dr. David Poetker, who experienced successes this year with their companies Hoplon and Badger Dental, respectively. In addition to being recognized for their innovation within their fields, both companies have been named Finalists in the Wisconsin Governor’s Business Plan Contest.

**Jen Brown**, Manager for Research Quality and Effectiveness, and **Sue Mauermann, RN**, Clinical Trial Budget Negotiation and Start-Up Specialist, (pictured on page 7) led a team in the Office of Research to implement [Florence eBinders](#) throughout the summer and fall of 2021. Florence eBinders™ is a secure, FDA Part 11 and HIPAA-compliant system that replaces paper forms and physical binders, giving research teams an efficient, compliant way to electronically sign, manage, store, and collaborate on study documents and to facilitate remote monitoring. Interfaced with the OnCore Clinical Trials Management System, eBinders is able to automate much of the manual entry of study information. During the roll-out of eBinders in the last



months of 2021, 600+ investigators, staff, and affiliates were registered and 700+ unique study binders were created in the system. 6,800+ e-signatures had been completed and 20,000+ documents had been uploaded.

The [Pre-Award Support Services \(PASS\) Program](#) in the Grants & Contracts Office provided administrative support for a record number of grant submissions in 2021. PASS, which is coordinated by **Chelsea Hamilton, MS, CRA**, GCO Analyst II, with additional support of **Carrie Herdeman, CCRC**, GCO Analyst II, expanded to include additional



analyst personnel to increase PASS Program capacity, and additional services were made available going into 2022 including unique service offerings and resources.

The [Early-Stage Research Regulatory Oversight Program](#) hit several milestones in 2021. The Program is led by **Kristin Busse, PharmD, BCPS**, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Administration & Regulatory Sciences (pictured on page 7). In addition to providing support in preparing and submitting Investigational New Drug (IND) and Investigational Device Exemption (IDE) applications, the Program established IND/IDE management training for sponsor-investigators who hold their own IND/IDEs. This robust training includes baseline and refresher training, and is tied to the user’s eBridge account. Additionally, the Program made processes more efficient by transitioning to electronic FDA submission systems, publishing decision trees to guide investigators through requirements, and setting up an eBridge report to routinely assess FDA reporting compliance.



In lieu of the annual Research Day event in September, the Office of Research held Virtual Research Week in February. Events spread throughout the week included two resource sessions, four poster sessions, focused talks, and a jam-packed [Event Catalog](#) with abstracts, event recordings, and an MCW Research Overview. Although the lively discussions and collegiality of an in-person event were missed, it was a good alternative for students, staff, residents, fellows, and faculty to share their work.

# Making Research Better

The workflow for the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) **review process was redesigned** to help shorten review times. Instead of IBC review and follow-up questioning taking place after Committee meetings, the IBC reviewers can now request changes of the submission team before a meeting, with a decision being made at the full Committee meeting after concerns are addressed and avoiding further feedback transactions.

The Office of Research training server, [train.mcw.edu](http://train.mcw.edu), updated and migrated **training content for the Office of Radiation Safety**. These courses were also integrated with eBridge and the Researcher Profile. Additionally, new content for the Epic Research Module, OnCore, Florence eBinders, CPS Research Billing and project support, and the new IND/IDE training was incorporated into the site.

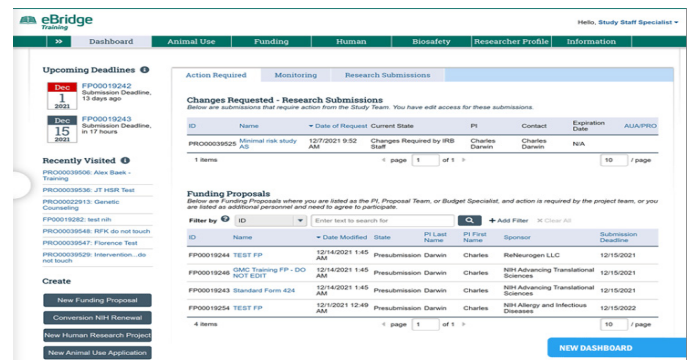
The OTD **negotiated and signed 8 total license/option agreements, including 4 new startup companies**. Three of them are developing novel therapeutics and one is based on medical software designed at MCW. These licenses represent technologies from faculty in Pediatrics, Radiology, Biophysics, Otolaryngology and Communication Sciences and Microbiology & Immunology.

The teams supporting all research related systems out of the Office of Research established a new monthly **Research Systems Drop-in Session**. These sessions cover questions related to eBridge, OnCore, Florence eBinders, Payments, and iLab, and provide a succinct check-in for system users to learn and ask questions.

The [External Review Program](#), which had been paused due to COVID-19, was reinstated under the leadership of Ann Rosenthal, MD, Associate Dean. The Program was also expanded to include **review of K-level grants in addition to R01** equivalent grants, providing applications with a full, NIH-style review completed by an outside reviewer.

The annual Continuing Education requirement for animal researchers was simplified in 2021. Now, **CE is only required on an as-needed basis** and at the discretion of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. Although PIs and study staff are encouraged to attend offerings such as IACUC Essentials and BRC workshops, the IACUC voted to make these changes based on a thorough evaluation of our animal care and use program.

Several eBridge projects were executed in 2021, including the redesign of the **eBridge Dashboards**. More than fifty different user dashboards were consolidated into one General Dashboard for easier and more efficient access.



New **extensible help** was also incorporated into eBridge via tooltips and informational pop-ups. The team has also been working on **enhancements for SF424 Forms G**, and has worked on a number of updates with Grants & Contracts including the ability to create or update a sub-agreement request.

In response to feedback regarding eBridge funding proposals, modifications were made to enhance the system. Requests from faculty to **limit eBridge access that non-key personnel have** to scientific and sensitive grant proposal information were addressed by security enhancements that limit access to relevant documents. Additionally, a new activity was added to eBridge to allow the PI, PT, BS, and ADR roles to request that the Just-In-Time loop be initiated by the Grants and Contracts Office.

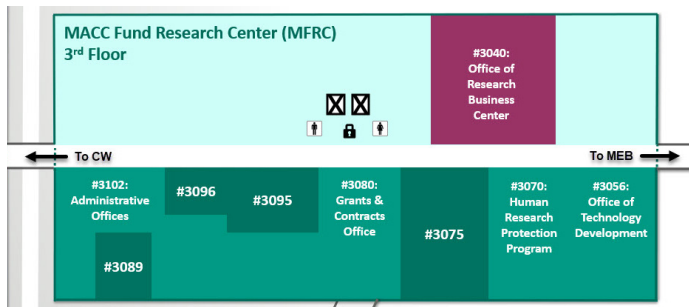
MCW librarians continued to show their expertise in all areas of service, growing the **systematic review service**, and sharing their experiences in scholarly journals. MCW Libraries continued to increase its engagement in **data management** and scholarly communications activities and services. The **Scholarly Resources Management** team continued its process review to better manage electronic resources while negotiating cost-conscious contracts on behalf of the institution.

In late 2021, MCW Libraries launched **OpenAthens**, a remote access and authentication solution widely used by academic libraries and publishers. OpenAthens offers better security, account management and reporting than its predecessor EZProxy.



# Reimagining from the Inside

A number of personnel in the Office of Research have pivoted to hybrid and virtual work. As these individuals primarily work out of their homes and no longer require dedicated offices or cubicles on campus, many cleared out their workspaces in 2021. The Office of Research sought to provide a space solution for those occasions when those individuals may need to come to campus, such as an important meeting or site visit. And so, the **Office of Research Business Center** (ORBC) was developed to function as a practical and accessible touchdown space for department personnel. The ORBC launched in July, 2021, and is housed in the former HRPP Office Suite. In addition to clearing the suite and outfitting each of the workstations with different technology options, a [Guidelines document](#) was developed to help outline information and best practices when using the space.



The Office of Research established an **Engagement Committee** that picked up steam throughout 2021 to work on engagement-related topics in the landscape of COVID-19 and virtual work. The two projects that the group tackled were the development of a Virtual Work Best Practice Guide and a plan for virtual Social Activities. To share and propel this work, a Microsoft Teams site was created for Office of Research Engagement that included a virtual bulletin board (via posts) for items such as volunteer opportunities and community events, holiday messages, and more. The site also included an archive of the internal newsletter, From the interiOR. Committee members helped plan and host events on behalf of their units, such as Trivia, ZOOM-out, and Bingo. The Virtual Best Work Practice Guide was also published, highlighting tips for success in an on-site, remote, or hybrid work environment. The Engagement Committee membership included **Megan Campfield, Maddy Glubka, Lauren James, Erika Kyle, Landon Olp, Ashleigh Sanchez, Tim Schafer, Casey Stark, Linda Yang, Ashley Zeidler and Ashley Zellhoefer.**

In addition to the ongoing work of the Engagement Committee, the Office of Research set a **Reimagining Goal** to continue to develop new and existing resources and programs that promote flexibility, increase connection, and encourage well-being in a hybrid format. 10 opportunities were identified and executed to help achieve this goal: 1) Maintain and offer use of the Business Center; 2) Offer employee headshots; 3) Offer departmental flu shots; 4) Send holiday cards; 5) Host 3 department Town Hall meetings; 6) Develop a department-wide donation effort; 7) Share promotions and accomplishments in internal newsletter; 8) Departmental DIAC member to share initiatives and opportunities of Diversity & Inclusion Action Committee; 9) Increase visibility of Wellness offerings and 10) Maintain and enhance the Virtual Work Best Practices Guide developed by the Engagement Committee.

For some time, groups such as the Committee to Reduce Regulatory Burden and Office of Research Unit Directors discussed the idea of **collecting on-demand feedback** from faculty, staff, and learners. This stems from the desire to better understand potential issues, positive trends, and if and when there are gaps in processes or communication. As a centralized and service-oriented department, it can be difficult to broadly assess how the department is doing. Such feedback becomes increasingly more useful when everyone is working apart and may not have the same sort of interaction with internal and external teams as they may have in the past. The Office of Research rolled out a new, optional add-on for department personnel to include in their email signatures as a means to collect instant feedback from customers and clients of the department. This tool

How was the service you received today?



is easily added to an email signature, and individuals who receive emails with the feedback tool in the sender's signature block can simply click a button to jump to a real-time survey. The survey asks the individual to rate their service and to indicate which unit assisted them. They also have the option to include additional information in a text box. These responses, which are collected anonymously, are then instantly shared with the leader of the indicated unit. This tool illustrates the fact that we are listening—and we hope to get useful feedback in return!

# Our People



The [President's 2021 Community Engagement Awards](#) included a special recognition to the team that supported the MCW COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic. This special acknowledgement recognized **Kristin Busse, PharmD, BCPS**, and **Lisa Henk, MS**, Chief Administrator for Research Operations, as well as Karen MacKinnon, BPharm, RPh, and Pam Jung. These four led a large team that included members from the Office of Research, the School of Pharmacy, the President's Office, and hundreds of volunteers. The Awards recognize the exemplary community-academic partnership, community engaged research, and community outreach activities. The Clinic was

an outstanding example of leveraging the unique capabilities of an academic medical center to make a difference in the community, and Kristin and Lisa helped lead this effort with professionalism and dedication.



MCW Engineering Core personnel **Bonnie Freudinger, ME**, and **Alex Sherman, BS**, recently co-authored a paper published in *3D Printing in Medicine* in collaboration with Advocate Aurora Research Institute titled [Design and 3D-printing of MRI-compatible cradle for imaging mouse tumors](#). The engineering team designed and 3D printed an MR cradle at MCW, which the Advocate Aurora team used to position, secure, and anesthetize mice for MR imaging of tumors. The team integrated novel features not commercially available, allowing for serial imaging and production of exceptional images. The collaboration resulted in a unique and highly reproducible

platform that helped further the field of cancer research with potential applications across the MR imaging field. Congrats to the team on publicizing their unique work and highlighting technical capabilities at MCW.



The Office of Research is proud of our two staff members who achieved impressive MCW service anniversary milestones in 2022. **Claire Wenzel**, Administrative Associate for the MCW Libraries, celebrated 30 years of service to MCW. Claire has been a key support contact for the Libraries for the duration of her institutional service. **Sue Mauermann, RN, CCRC**, Clinical Trial Budget Negotiation and Start-Up Specialist, celebrated 25 years at the institution. Sue previously supported cardiovascular clinical trials as Compliance Coordinator in the Department of Medicine. Claire and Sue have made tremendous contributions to the institution,

and we thank them for their ongoing commitment to the Office of Research and MCW.



**Ryan Spellecy, PhD**, Assistant Provost, Professor of Bioethics in the Institute for Health & Equity, and Director of the MCW Human Research Protection Program, and **Kristin Busse, PharmD, BCPS**, recently collaborated to publish a manuscript in the journal *Nutrition in Clinical Practice*. The paper, [The History of Human Subjects Research and Rationale for Institutional Review Board Oversight](#), outlines a chronology of regulations guiding research on people and references infamous cases of the past. This interesting look into history helps us understand the need to regulate this work and the importance of guidelines and policy to ensure patient safety.

The Society of Research Administrators International (SRAI) hosts a "Future of the Field" recognition program to highlight up-and-comers innovating and influencing the Research Administration profession. **Jill Landrum, CRA**, was selected from more than 100 international nominations by a committee of Research Administrator peers. Applications were evaluated based on candidates' career history, demonstration of professional growth, and significant contributions to the advancement of Research Administration. "The individuals recognized through Future of the Field are the some of the best and brightest in our profession," said Debra Schaller-Demers, SRAI President. "These are the next generation trailblazers we know will drive Research Administration forward in the decades to come!"



# Our People



**Ranelle Graber, BA**, was promoted to the role of GCO Analyst I. Ranelle joined MCW and the Office of Research in 2018 as Expeditor for the Grants & Contracts Office, which was a newly created role at that time. As an Analyst, Ranelle works directly with grant review and submission as a specialist, liaises with investigative teams, and exercises her growing breadth of knowledge in grants administration.



**Rita Sieracki, MLS**, has been promoted to Librarian II, Reference and Circulation Lead. This recognizes the additional leadership responsibilities that Rita has taken on in the Library, most recently including supervision of circulation personnel, coordination of the liaison program, and management of the LibAnswers system.



**Megan Campfield, ALAT**, transitioned to a new position in the Office of Research as a Business Analyst I in the Research Systems unit. In this role, Megan supports system projects in tandem with developers and other unit personnel. Megan has been at MCW since 2012 and joined the Office of Research in 2014, where she supported the IACUC Office as Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Coordinator.



**Will Baye, MIS**, was promoted to Enterprise Application Developer III in the Research Systems unit. Will has been providing technical leadership for new development initiatives and has had an increased scope of responsibility with regard to collaborators, change management, and project life cycle.



**Jill Landrum, CRA**, was promoted to Program Manager II, continuing as Manager of Grants Administration in the GCO. This promotion recognizes her expanded leadership of the GCO, her external representation of MCW, and her increased scope of responsibilities including additional institution-wide representation and work that promotes new policy and process improvement.



**Ann Amidzich, BS**, was promoted to Senior Intellectual Property Manager. Ann has been instrumental to operations in the Office of Technology Development and has taken on additional support duties for technology management. She's also developed relationships with the US Patent Office, AUTM, and other key stakeholders.



**Elizabeth Suelzer, MLIS**, was promoted to Librarian II, Scholarly Communications. Liz has been working to engage all MCW campuses to promote scholarly communication, including training and raising awareness of issues related to open access, data, scholarly identity, and research impact. She is also highly active in the medical librarian community.



**Lynne Prost** was promoted to Senior Business Manager. Lynne is the primary lead for the overall department budget, and she has been assisting with more complex unit budgets, conducting assessments and making recommendations. Lynne has also been representing the department in operationally for institutional initiatives and projects.

**Paula Handel** has been promoted to Financial Assistant II in the MCW Libraries. Paula has taken on new financial duties in the Library, such as handling orders, reviewing purchases, and following-up on payments. Paula has also taken on primary support for multiple functions of electronic resources.

# Welcomed in 2021



**Elizabeth Kelliher, MBA**, joined the Grants & Contracts Office January in the role of GCO Analyst I. Prior to joining MCW, Elizabeth worked at Rockwell Automation as an Asset Management Professional and has significant administrative experience. Elizabeth earned her bachelor's degree in Psychology as well as her MBA from Michigan Technological University as a student athlete.



**Katie Wilhelms, MS**, joined the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Office in March as Animal Research Liaison to spearhead Post Approval Monitoring In-Lab Visits. Katie has a BS from UW-Madison and an MS from University College Dublin, where she studied Animal Science and Wildlife Conservation and Management, respectively. Katie has previously worked as a Study Coordinator for pre-clinical toxicology studies and as a veterinary technician in large and small animal and emergency clinics .



The Human Research Protection Program Office welcomed **Vanessa Diaquino, BA**, to their team in July as an IRB Coordinator II. In this role, Vanessa has assumed the responsibilities for the Minimal Risk Committee. Vanessa has a degree in Psychology and Spanish from Marquette University. Prior to joining the Office of Research, she worked in the MCW Clinical and Transitional Science Institute as a Research Program Assistant for the All of Us program with a focus on community engagement.



Last August the Human Research Protection Program Office welcomed **Taylor Kazmierski, BS**, to their team as IRB Coordinator II, assuming the responsibilities for the Minimal Risk Committee. Taylor comes to us with a Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology and has most recently worked at Advocate Aurora Health as a Pre-Service Support Representative. Taylor previously worked in veterinary medicine and volunteered in wildlife rehabilitation.



**Alex Keimel, MLIS**, joined the MCW Libraries team in November as Electronic Resources & Metadata Librarian. Alex's primary duties include management of e-resources (journals, databases and ebooks) and analytical support. Alex graduated from UW-Milwaukee with a Masters of Library and Information Science, where he also received a BS in Information Science and Technology and a BA in Philosophy. He brings a breadth of library experience in public, legal, medical, and academic settings.



In November, the Grants & Contracts Office welcomed **Thomas Hensler, JD**, to their team as a Contracts Analyst I. In this role, Thomas supports the growing work of reviewing and processing critical research contracts for clinical trials and other research purposes. Thomas graduated from UW-Milwaukee with a bachelor's degree in Anthropology. He received his JD from the University of Iowa College of Law.



The Human Research Protection Program Office welcomed **Jacob Croal, BA**, in November as IRB Coordinator II. In this role, Jacob has assumed the responsibilities for greater than minimal risk committees. Jacob joins MCW with a Political Science degree from UW-Madison. Most recently, Jacob worked in Brookfield at Konecranes Inc., where he was a Logistics Coordinator.



**AnaKaren Manriquez Prado, BA**, joined the Human Research Protection Program Office team in November as an IRB Coordinator II supporting the Minimal Risk Committee. Ana attended Tufts University where she triple-majored in Community Health, International Relations and Spanish with a minor in Latino studies. Most recently, Ana worked as a Research Program Coordinator in the MCW Cancer Center for multiple federal grants focused on cancer health disparities.



# Welcomed in 2021



In December, the Human Research Protection Program Office welcomed **Nathan Thompson, MD, PharmD**, in the new role of Pediatric Associate Director, HRPP. Dr. Thompson is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics in the division of Critical Care. In this new leadership role, Dr. Thompson

will chair a new dedicated pediatric MCW IRB committee, serve as a resource for complex pediatric research issues, and monitor changing developments and practices in human research protections nationwide as they pertain to pediatric research. As Children's Wisconsin will maintain its Human Research Protection Program, Dr. Thompson will play an important role as liaison between the MCW HRPP, the CW HRPP, the CW Medical Executive Committee, and department leadership.



The Human Research Protection Program Office welcomed **Stephanie Bensman, BS**, to their team in December as IRB Coordinator II. In this role, she has assumed the responsibilities of the Minimal Risk Committee. Stephanie joins the Office of Research with a degree in Speech

Pathology from UW-Milwaukee. Most recently, Stephanie worked as a Research Program Coordinator at MCW in the Department of Pathology.



The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Office welcomed **Brian Taylor, BA**, to their team in December as IACUC Coordinator. Brian graduated from UW-Milwaukee with a degree in Biological Sciences, then finished two internship rotations at the Racine Zoo as an Animal Welfare Specialist. He

joined MCW in 2012 as a Lab Animal Technician, and after leaving his Team Leader position in 2017, he worked as a Research Technologist in Dr. Xiao Chen's lab studying Graft Versus Host Disease in mouse models.



In December, the Administrative team welcomed **Nicole Davis, MS**, as Coordinator for Internal Grants & Researcher Services. In this role, Nicole manages the Office of Research AHW grant and subaward funding opportunities, as well as the Research Affairs Committee New Faculty Pilot

Grants, External Review Program, and other faculty support initiatives. Nicole has worked at Froedtert & MCW for more than eight years. Most recently, she ran the Cancer Center Pilot Grant Program.



The Research Systems unit welcomed **Taylor Anglin, BS**, to their team in December in the new role of Clinical Trials System Support Specialist. Taylor obtained her Biomedical Sciences degree from UW-Milwaukee in 2016 before joining MCW as a Clinical Research Coordinator in the Clinical & Translational Science Institute. She has coordinated Women's Health Research Program events in OB/GYN, and has also worked with the Nephrology clinical research team to coordinate studies.

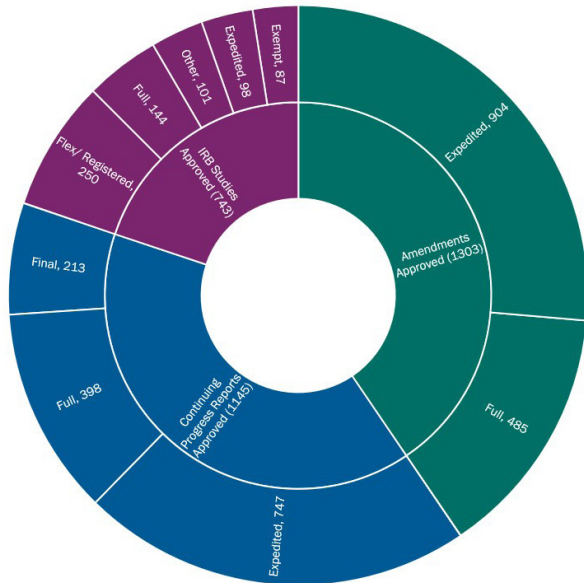


The MCW Libraries welcomed **Hayley Severson, MLIS**, to their team in December as Reference Librarian. Hayley graduated with her Masters of Library and Information Science from UW-Madison and received a BA in History and Political Science from the University of Minnesota. Before

joining MCW, Hayley worked for the UW-Oshkosh Fond du Lac campus as an academic librarian, and brings her experience with health sciences, maps & geospatial data, information literacy, and working with students.

# By the Numbers

## Institutional Review Board Activity



The Institutional Review Boards expedited approval for 66% of Amendments and 65% of Continuing Progress Reports. Additionally, 250 studies, or 34% of all new studies, were eligible for FLEX review. The Reliance Team also executed 68 agreements where MCW served as the IRB of record, and 17 additional studies relied on the NCI-CIRB.

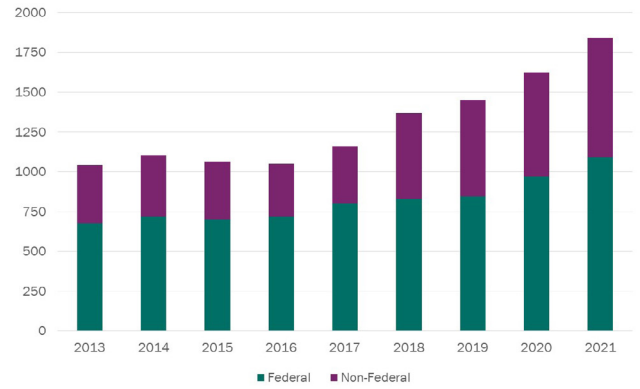
## Research Systems Activity

Total eBridge Accounts	8,361
Production Issues Fixed	252
Projects Completed	14
Total Help Desk Tickets	4,755
eBridge	3,777
OnCore	770
Payments	208
Online Course Completions	10,000+
1-on-1 Training Sessions	276
Qualtrics Forms Hosted	78

In addition to supporting the enterprise research systems eBridge, OnCore, and Payments, the Research Systems Team logged hours on several special projects in 2021, including the implementation of Florence eBinders, migrating OnCore to the cloud and executing a major upgrade, developing the Physician ACCESS (All Cancer Center Enrolling Studies) portal, and providing training and support for the Epic Research Module and Clinical Research Billing standardization. The team also began the work to develop eBridge to be able to accept pediatric protocols, an effort that continues into 2022 with the transition of pediatric studies to the MCW IRB.

## Grants & Contracts Office Activity

### Grant Applications

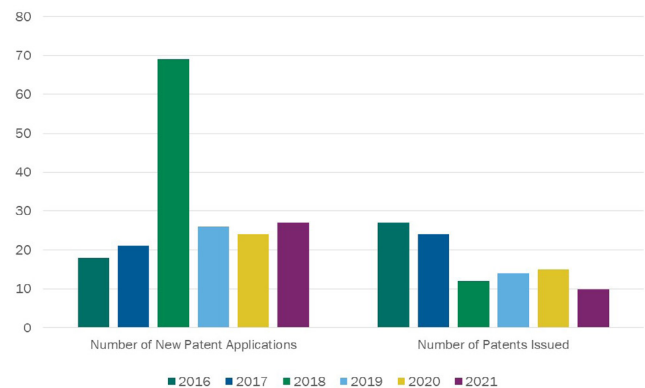


### Contract Activity



The Grants & Contracts Office submitted a record 2,096 total annual grant applications in 2021, 608 of which were to the NIH. The GCO supported 311 unique faculty members submitting to the NIH, with 171 unique faculty receiving awards in 2021.

## MCW Patent Activity: 2016 - 2021



The Office of Technology Development signed 43 agreements in 2021, an 87% increase over 2020. The licensing experts in the OTD also signed 8 total license/option agreements and took in 39 invention disclosures.



# By the Numbers

## Biomedical Resource Center Stats

Total Board Days	4,945,985
Total Annual Animal Count	36,816
Mice	30,693
Rats	6,000
Average Daily Census	13,551
Mice	10,231
Rats	3,000
Animal Imports/Exports	139

The BRC accommodated an additional 373,420 animal board days in 2021 than 2020, returning to pre-pandemic numbers. The BRC support team also offered 889 training opportunities for animal researchers during the year.

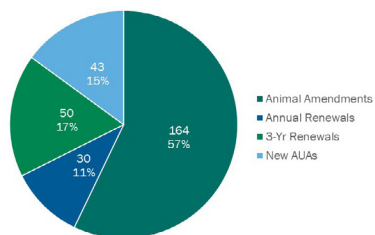
## MCW Libraries Stats

Todd Wehr Library Gate Count	20,673
Froedtert Library Gate Count	22,224
Circulation	919
Documents Delivered	1,268
Inter-Library Loan Items Borrowed	4,220
Inter-Library Loan Items Lent	6,223
Classes Taught	83
Library Guides Pageviews	182,110
Reference Questions Answered	2,701
Articles Published w/ Library Authors	17
Systematic Reviews (Assisted)	52

The MCW Librarians staffed the Todd Wehr Library on the main MCW campus, as well as the Froedtert Library and Children's Wisconsin locations. Reference services, training, and other support have been available virtually.

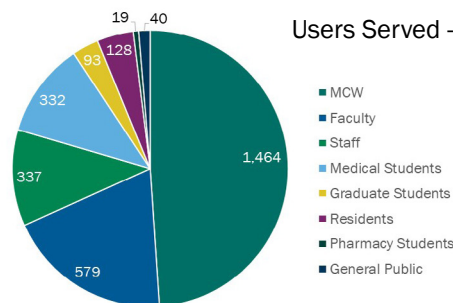
## Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee

AUA Approval Activity



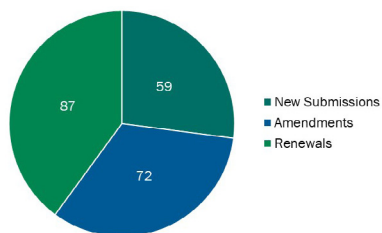
The IACUC Office processed 81 Animal Amendments, 365 Personnel Changes, and 262 Funding Changes. The IACUC Post-Approval Monitoring (PAM) program also conducted 17 In-Lab Visits and Follow-Ups in 2021. 343 Animal Use Agreements were in a state of Approved during 2021.

Users Served - Reference



## Institutional Biosafety Committee

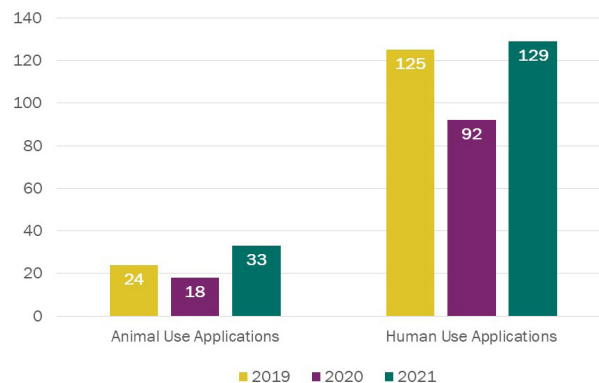
IBC Approval Activity



The Institutional Biosafety Committee instituted a new workflow that allows investigators to more rapidly make requested changes to application materials. This "real time" workflow is expected to reduce review times significantly in 2022.

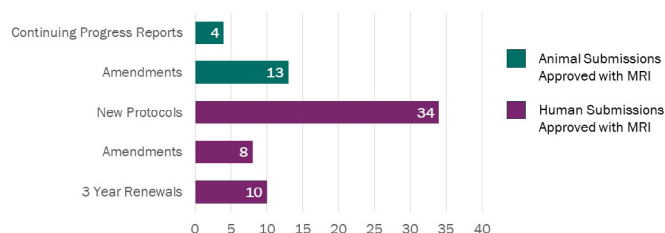
## Radiation Safety Committee

RSC Review Activity



The Radiation Safety Committee returned to pre-pandemic levels of activity in 2021, even seeing an increase in submissions from 2019. In addition to facilitating submission reviews, the Radiation Safety Office assisted with a number of clinical projects utilizing radioactive material, and processed renewals for 7 authorized users.

## MRI Safety Committee



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