



# Firearm Injury Prevention

Dr. James Bigham leads program for health care providers.

**O**n a recent January Saturday, Dr. James Bigham commemorated the two-year milestone of his firearm injury prevention course at Max Creek Outdoors in Oregon, Wisconsin. This course, launched to mitigate firearm injuries, is part of a visionary initiative he started in 2023 to foster cultural competency and empower health care professionals in firearm injury prevention discussions.

The monthly sessions, designed for medical students, residents, and faculty, include two hours of instruction on different types of guns, ammunition, and securing devices like cable locks, trigger locks, and gun safes. After the session, participants are invited to operate a firearm at Max Creek's indoor range. For many, it's their first encounter with a firearm. This experience often leads to a new appreciation of how



*Dr. James Bigham (foreground) works with experts at Bear Arms in Mequon to teach a firearm injury prevention course to health care professionals.*

Photo credit: Jovanny Hernandez / Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

partnerships with gun shops can help prevent firearm injuries.

"Our course demystifies firearms without glorifying them. We create a safe space for questions, helping those who care for patients with firearms but lack personal experience," says Bigham. "Before the session, 60 percent of participants felt uncomfortable

screening and counseling on firearm injury prevention. After our two-hour program, 95 percent feel confident or very confident."

## THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIP

The tragic school shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut made Bigham realize the urgent need to implement effective

*Continued on page 3.*





Dear Friends,

**W**elcome to the latest issue of *In Our Family*. Our lead story discusses a visionary firearm injury prevention teaching

program for health care professionals. The program, which partners with local gun shop owners, was launched by one of our faculty, Dr. James Bigham.

Also in this issue, you'll meet our 2024 sponsored and academic partner residency program and fellowship graduates and learn about their future plans.

Finally, we pay tribute to Dr. Marc Hansen, who passed away on February 5. Considered the founder of the UW Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, his pioneering efforts established UW as having one of the first 15 family medicine training programs in the country.

As always, please stay in touch. We want to hear from you too!

David Rakel, MD

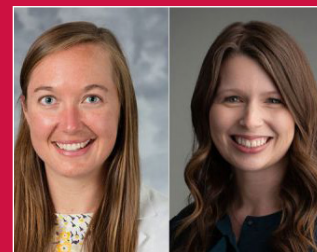
Chair, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

[More news at: fammed.wisc.edu/news](https://fammed.wisc.edu/news)

## News Briefs

### Barbour and Fleming Research Article Published in Annals of Family Medicine

Samantha Barbour (M4 Student) and Elizabeth Fleming, MD, published their research article, "Using the Electronic Health Record to Facilitate Patient Physician Relationship While Establishing Care," in the September/October 2024 issue of *Annals of Family Medicine*. This article is a result of a Summer Student Research and Clinical Assistantship (SSRCA) project conducted in 2022.



### Randy Brown, MD, PhD, Elected ACAAM President

Randy Brown, MD, PhD was elected as the next president of the American College of Academic Addiction Medicine (ACAAM). Brown will serve as president-elect for two years before moving into the role of president to lead the ACAAM Board of Directors in carrying out the organization's mission by directing the management of ACAAM's affairs and providing strategic guidance and leadership.



### 2024 WPHA Conference Features James Bigham, MD, MPH, FAAFP

James Bigham, MD, MPH, FAAFP presented at the 2024 Wisconsin Public Health Association Conference. Bigham's presentation, "Shifting Power – Achieving Justice and Health Equity by Advancing Community Expertise," discussed how collaboration in addressing access to culturally-responsive physical and mental health care can improve wellbeing for people who have experienced incarceration. The presentation also discussed the approach collaborators took to situate power in community, establish trust-based relationships between community and institutional partners, and incorporate both experiential and credentialed expertise to reduce barriers to health equity.



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approaches to reduce firearm risk in the community. Lacking exposure to firearm injury prevention during his medical school and residency training, he saw an opportunity to make a difference and eagerly accepted the chance to co-author a paper urging Wisconsin health systems to adopt strategies for reducing firearm injury risk among patients.

Following the publication of the [article](#), Bigham was invited to participate in a webinar for the [Dane County Ending Deaths from Despair](#) initiative in November 2022. The talk, “Lock, Stock and Barrel,” provided an opportunity to discuss how clinicians and gun shop owners can collaborate on suicide prevention.

His co-presenter, gun shop owner Chuck Lovelace, described The Gun Shop Project, an innovative program where gun shops voluntarily hold firearms for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. This free service helps restrict access to lethal means and prevent firearm-related deaths.

“Chuck and I quickly found common ground, and I realized I had overlooked the potential role of gun shops in injury prevention,” shares Bigham. This experience sparked his interest in collaborating with partners within the gun culture.

Encouraged by the success of the webinar, Bigham connected with Steve D’Orazio, the owner of Max Creek Outdoors. In January 2023, they launched their first training session for learners at the shop.

## WORKING WITH PATIENTS

Bigham practices universal screening by incorporating questions about firearm access into his social history inquiries using a curious and non-judgmental approach. In his practice, Bigham starts with less

intimate topics, such as tobacco use, and gradually moves to more personal subjects, ending with firearm access. He asks open-ended questions like, “I wanted to check in to see if you have access to firearms?”

If patients confirm they have access to firearms, Bigham follows up with questions about secure storage and preventing unauthorized access, such as, “How are you making sure the kids don’t have access?” He listens closely, applauds their efforts to reduce risk, and gently offers suggestions for enhancing risk reduction. He often refers patients to local gun shops for gun safes or lock boxes and encourages range training. If needed, he provides trigger or cable locks during their visit.

After learning that over 70 percent of firearm deaths in Wisconsin are suicides, Bigham started checking in to see if patients have a plan in place in the event of a mental health crisis.

“Many haven’t considered a plan for a mental health crisis, so I suggest a voluntary transfer to a friend, loved one, or one of the 40-plus gun shops in Wisconsin that hold firearms for free until it’s safe to have them back,” shares Bigham. “This has led to fruitful conversations, with many patients appreciating the chance to have a collaborative discussion about how to reduce their risk of self-harm.”

## FOCUS ON INJURY PREVENTION

Bigham believes the role of the physician is to help support patients in realizing optimal health, including strategies to reduce their risk of injuries. For patients who own a car, physicians often counsel on seatbelts, not driving while impaired, and avoiding texting and driving. The



Photo credit: John Maniaci/UW Health

*James Bigham, MD, MPH (left), with Steve D’Orazio, the owner of Max Creek Outdoors.*

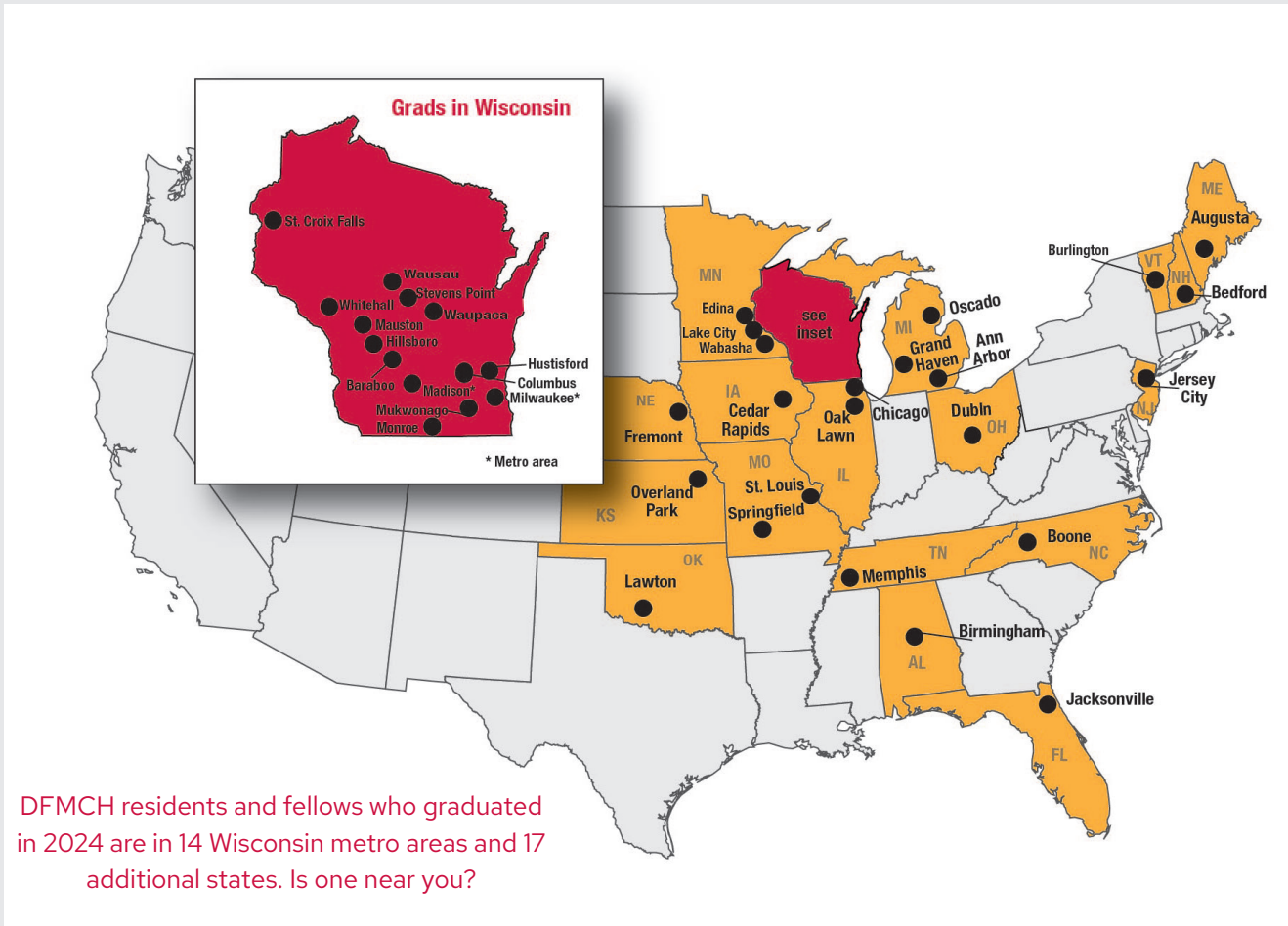
same techniques can be used when discussing firearms.

According to Bigham, physicians play a crucial role in advocacy. He emphasizes the importance of conducting research on firearms and firearm-related injury risks to provide evidence-based guidance to patients. Additionally, some physicians may use this knowledge to assist lawmakers in creating policies and legislation that reduce the risk of firearm injuries in our communities while preserving the legal right to responsibly own firearms.

“We can counsel patients with firearms on secure storage, proper use to prevent accidental discharge, and having a plan for voluntary transfer during a mental health crisis or if there’s an at-risk person at home,” says Bigham. “This can be done without taking a position on firearm ownership, which is a personal choice.”

For more information on Bigham’s firearm injury prevention course, contact [james.bigham@wisc.edu](mailto:james.bigham@wisc.edu) with the subject Lock, Stock and Barrel.

# Meet the 2024 Graduates



## FELLOWS



**Estefan Beltran, MD**  
UW Health  
(Madison, WI)



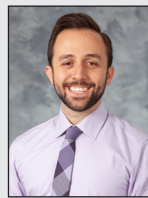
**Kane Laks, MD**  
Menominee  
Tribal Clinic  
(Keshena, WI)



**Ravneet Kaur, MD**  
Westside  
Family Medicine  
(Jersey City, NJ)



**Stephanie Liu, MD**  
Integrative  
Family Medicine  
(Ann Arbor, MI)



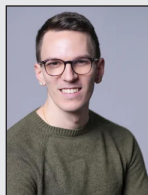
**Jeremiah Shaw, MD**  
UW Health  
(Madison, WI)



**Erica Yamamoto, DO**  
Ohio State Primary  
Care Family Medicine  
(Dublin, OH)



**Laurence Moore, MD**  
Aurora Family  
Medicine  
(Milwaukee, WI)



**Justin Temple, MD**  
Sixteenth St.  
Community Health  
(Milwaukee, WI)



**Asma Ali,  
PharmD, PhD**  
The University  
of Memphis  
(Memphis, TN)



**Ravi Hirekatur, MD**  
Integrative  
Health Clinic  
(Madison, WI)



**David Mallinson, PhD**  
Rush University  
(Chicago, IL)

## DFMCH-Sponsored Residency Programs

### BARABOO RTT

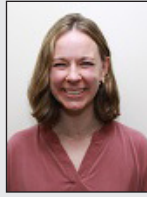


**Isheng Hou, MD**  
Allina Health  
Centennial  
Lakes Clinic  
(Edina, MN)



**Alison Howen, MD**  
SSM Health Dean  
Medical Group  
(Baraboo, WI)

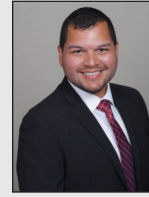
### MADISON RESIDENCY PROGRAM



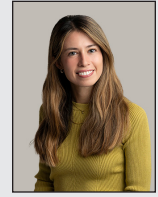
**Melanie Biegler, DO**  
Community  
Health Centers  
(Burlington, VT)



**Ashlyn Brown, MD**  
DFMCH Academic  
Medicine Fellowship  
(Madison, WI)



**Jose Carrillo, MD**  
Access Community  
Health Centers  
(Madison, WI)



**Camille  
Gonzalez, MD**  
Aurora Health Centers  
(Mequon, WI)



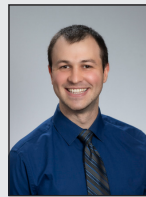
**Alex Hanna, MD**  
University of  
Alabama Sports  
Medicine Fellowship  
(Birmingham, AL)



**Rachel Her, MD**  
Advocate  
Aurora Health  
(Milwaukee, WI)



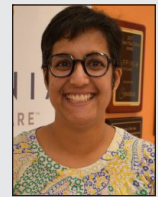
**Jenny Ho, DO**  
Dartmouth  
Family Medicine  
(Augusta, ME)



**John Kalmanek, MD**  
Advocate  
Aurora Health  
(Oak Lawn, WI)



**Colin Kavanaugh, MD**  
Prairie Ridge Health  
(Columbus, WI)



**Camila Khan, MD**  
Affinia Healthcare  
(St. Louis, MO)



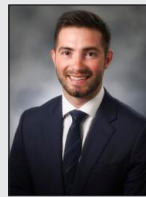
**Rebeca Liebl, MD**  
Access Community  
Health Centers  
(Madison, WI)



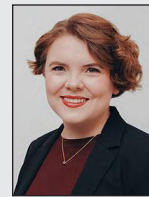
**Nivedita Nair, MD**  
Access Community  
Health Centers  
(Madison, WI)



**Bradley Pfeifer, MD**  
Methodist  
Health System  
Physicians Clinic  
(Fremont, NE)



**Luke Ragon, MD**  
Corewell Health  
(Grand Haven, MI)

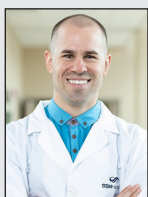


**Taylor Ross, MD**  
CoxHealth  
(Springfield, MO)

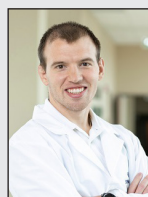
### MONROE RESIDENCY PROGRAM



**Jason  
Christenson, DO**  
ArchWell Health  
(Overland Park, KS)



**Zachary  
Coffman, DO**  
SSM Health  
(Monroe, WI)



**Landon Shea, DO**  
SSM Health  
(Monroe, WI)

## STATEWIDE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### Academic Partner Residency Programs

#### LA CROSSE RESIDENCY PROGRAM



From left: **Kyle Drehmel, MD**, Olmsted Medical Center, Lake City, MN; **Taylor Tomczyk, DO, MPH**, St. Croix Regional Medical Center, St. Croix Falls, WI; **Alicen Waxlax, MD**, Gundersen Tri-County Whitehall Clinic, Whitehall, WI; **Courtney Bork, MD**, Eastern Iowa Health Center, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; **Jacob Bentley, MD**, Gundersen St. Elizabeth's Wabasha Clinic, Wabasha, MN; **Katherine Edsall, MD**, Gundersen St. Joseph's Hillsboro Clinic, Hillsboro, WI.

#### MILWAUKEE RESIDENCY PROGRAM



From left: **Dragos Ghinea, MD**, Aurora Family Medicine, Muskego, WI; **Jonathan Melms, DO**, Sixteenth St. Community Health Center, Milwaukee, WI; **Michael Ainbinder, MD**, Medical College of Wisconsin Sleep Medicine Fellowship, Milwaukee, WI; **Ashley Quick Bear, MD**, Aurora Family Medicine, Menomonee Falls, WI; **Ryan Hamade, MD**, Aurora Urgent Care, Edgerton and Franklin, WI; **Samia Khan, DO**, Dartmouth Health in Bedford, NH; **Danielle Olsen, MD**, Aurora Family Medicine, St. Francis, WI; **Breana Chandra, MD**, Aurora Family Medicine, West Allis, WI; **Jayni Sanghavi, MD**, undecided; **Drew Gunderson, MD**, Aurora Family Medicine, South Milwaukee, WI.

#### AURORA LAKELAND RESIDENCY PROGRAM



**Brenna Rauner, MD**  
Aurora Family  
Medicine  
(Hubertus, WI)



**Sarah Rustad, MD**  
UnityPoint Health  
(Fitchburg, WI)



**Sabrina Webster, MD**  
ThedaCare  
(Waupaca, WI)

#### WAUKESHA RESIDENCY PROGRAM



**Hailey Bodette, MD**  
UW Health  
Odana Rd. Clinic  
(Madison, WI)



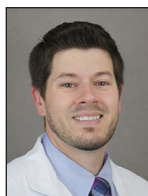
**Megan Byrnes, MD**  
Miles Bluff  
Medical Center  
(Mauston, WI)



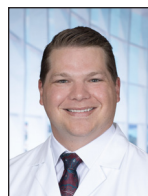
**Aleksander  
Downs, MD**  
Aspirus Hospital  
(Stevens Point, WI)



**Gretchen  
Mueller, MD**  
ProHealth Care  
(Mukwonago, WI)



**Brant Gunderson, MD**  
Sports Medicine  
Fellowship (Boone, NC)



**Cody Ratermann, MD**  
Obstetrical Fellowship  
(Jacksonville, FL)

#### WAUSAU RESIDENCY PROGRAM



From left: **Meghan Hughes, MD, MPH**, Aspirus Health, Wausau, WI; **Hilary Steltenpohl, MD**, Marshfield Clinic, Weston, WI; **Thomas Licata, DO**, Aspirus Wausau Hospitalists, Wausau, WI; **Natalie Weeks, MD**, Aspirus Merrill Clinic, Merrill, WI; **Cody Fox, MD**, Aspirus Wausau Hospital Fellowship, Wausau, WI. Not pictured: **Sudhakar Basetty, MD**, Comanche County Memorial Hospital, Lawton, OK.

# Marc Hansen, MD

Remembering a pioneer in family medicine.

**M**arc Hansen, MD, founder of the University of Wisconsin Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, passed away on February 5, 2025, at the age of 94.

Hansen's commitment to family medicine was unwavering. He tirelessly advocated for the incorporation of the family medicine specialty into hospital training programs, finding a willing partner in St. Mary's Hospital under Sister Rebecca Wright's leadership. His early collaboration with then state representative Tommy Thompson resulted in state funding for family medicine training, a legacy that continues to support the program 54 years later. These pioneering efforts established UW as having one of the first 15 family medicine training programs in the country.

Born in Marshfield, Wisconsin, Hansen's journey from a small Midwestern town to becoming the creator of one of the most respected family medicine departments in the country is truly inspiring.

While on scholarship at Harvard University, Hansen decided to pursue a career in medicine during his junior year, realizing that working directly with and for others was his calling. He returned to Wisconsin during medical school to work on a summer project in Ripon where he was paired with a general practitioner (GP). It was then that he understood the importance of the generalist physician.

"I was one of three classmates who left medical school with an intention to train to be a GP," Hansen shared

in an interview from May 2020. "I was unaware of the very rare programs that described themselves as general practice internships, and I planned to complete my training by doing a first year of internal medicine residency at Boston City Hospital and then returning to Wisconsin and the UW Hospital to do a year of pediatric residency, as final preparation."

After residency, Hansen spent over two years as a busy pediatrician while serving in the US Army. Returning to UW to continue his practice after discharge, he revived the department of pediatrics' Well Baby Clinic, creating a teaching program, the University Child Health Service. From the start, the service was designed as a team practice that included pediatricians, nurses, social workers, and therapists. Other specialists saw value in serving families collaboratively, and the University Family Health Service was born. Hansen's impact was felt in the broader health care landscape as well. While leading U-Care, one of Wisconsin's first HMOs, he promoted a capitated payment system to strengthen primary care and reduce the necessity for acute and catastrophic interventions. Even after U-Care's acquisition by Blue Cross, his innovative ideas remained influential.

Hansen also played an instrumental role in founding the [Society of Teachers of Family Medicine](#) and contributed to [The Journal of Family Practice](#)—pursuits that emphasize



*Marc Hansen, MD*

his dedication to mentorship and collaboration with younger faculty.

Each year, Hansen's legacy is honored at the Renner-Hansen Awards with the Marc Hansen, MD, Lecture delivered by a junior faculty member who has contributed significantly to the education of students and residents.

Future generations of physicians continue to draw inspiration from Hansen's life and work, which have indelibly shaped the UW Department of Family Medicine and Community Health and the field of family medicine.

His family is planning to hold a memorial service this spring.



# Department of Family Medicine and Community Health

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