

## **Medical College of Wisconsin**

MCW began as the Wisconsin College of Physicians and Surgeons, founded on May 20, 1893. On January 14, 1913, the Wisconsin College of Physicians and Surgeons and the Milwaukee Medical College merged to become the Marquette University School of Medicine.

In 1967, the school became a private, freestanding institution. The name was changed in 1970 to the Medical College of Wisconsin.

From these roots, MCW has grown into a nationally recognized education, research and clinical powerhouse. MCW has more than 15,000 living alumni.

### **The Beginning: An "Admirable Spirit" is Born**

Dr. John Bowman's words, spoken during the medical school's first capital campaign, are as true today as they were almost eight decades ago: "The people want the very best and will have nothing second rate."

### **Wisconsin's First Medical Schools**

The vision of a Wisconsin medical school began to be realized in 1893 with the founding of the Wisconsin College of Physicians and Surgeons and, later that decade, the Milwaukee Medical College. In 1907, Marquette University absorbed the Milwaukee Medical College creating the Marquette University Department of Medicine/Milwaukee Medical College.

Abraham Flexner, M.D., was commissioned in 1910 by the Association of American Medical Colleges to conduct a review of all U.S. medical schools because of growing concerns nationwide regarding a lack of standardization. Dr. Flexner's landmark report provided the first standards for medical education in this nation. As a result of his work, medical schools across the country were reorganized to improve the quality of medical education.

Marquette University responded by purchasing the Wisconsin College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1913. Through that acquisition and subsequent merger with Marquette's Department of Medicine/Milwaukee Medical College, a new institution was born: the Marquette University School of Medicine. Under the leadership of Louis F. Jermain, M.D., the medical school's first dean, the new medical school garnered community support and ultimately received an "A" rating from the American Medical Association's Council on Medical Education; the highest level of excellence in the nation.

### **Marquette University School of Medicine is Founded**

On January 14, 1913, Marquette University created a separate School of Medicine. In 1918, the Marquette University School of Medicine was reorganized into a separate fiscal corporation with its own Board of Directors.

Working with a core of full-time academic scientists and clinicians, most of the school's faculty were community physicians who volunteered to teach the medical school's classes.

It was under their tutelage — and more importantly their mentoring — that students at the Marquette University School of Medicine became known as outstanding clinicians; doctors with advanced skills and a special interest in patient care. It is a reputation that continues today.

The medical school trained doctors who practiced in every county of the state. Partnerships were also forged with almost every Milwaukee hospital as they became clinical training sites for medical students. As envisioned by Wisconsin's early leaders, the medical school became the center of the health care delivery system.

### **Plans for a Medical Center Begin**

Following World War II, medical schools were asked to play an even greater role in the nation's health care delivery system. The Marquette University School of Medicine, like its counterparts nationwide, was asked to affiliate with Milwaukee's VA Medical Center and upgrade the quality of medicine provided to the nation's returning war veterans.

Dr. John Hirschboeck, dean of the Medical School in the early 1950's, shared the commitment of the faculty and the community to maintain a strong medical school. He knew that to accomplish that goal, the medical school needed a medical center campus to house modern teaching hospitals with special commitments to teaching, research and tertiary care. In 1952, he unveiled plans for an ambitious venture: the "University Medical Center of Milwaukee," the precursor to today's Milwaukee Regional Medical Center.

Dr. Hirschboeck's vision of an academic medical center drew support from both the public and private sector. A major booster of the project was Kurtis R. Froedtert, a successful Milwaukee industrialist. Mr. Froedtert held a deep respect for medicine and medical education, and upon his death, he left much of his estate for the creation of a teaching hospital to be named Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital. Mr. Froedtert's gift helped the community realize that the dream of an academic medical center was within reach.