



Cheryl A. Maurana, PhD

MCW Eminent Scholar
Senior Vice President for Strategic Academic Partnerships
Professor of Population Health and Founding Director
Kern National Network for Flourishing in Medicine

As Senior Vice President for Strategic Academic Partnerships, Dr. Maurana is responsible for expanding the Medical College of Wisconsin's (MCW) inter-institutional academic efforts and fostering collaboration among existing and new partners. In this role, she provided collaborative leadership for the development of MCW's regional medical education campuses in Green Bay and Central Wisconsin that are designed to address the physician shortage by educating students from the community who will ultimately practice there. She also led the creation of the new School of Pharmacy that is focused on educating the pharmacist of the future. Both medicine and pharmacy have an innovative three-year curriculum, reducing student debt. She has led development of several other initiatives, including a BA/MPH with Mount Mary University.

Dr. Maurana led MCW's receipt of two generous gifts from the Kern family and Kern Family Foundation of \$37.9M in 2017 and \$50M in 2022. The first investment established the Robert D. and Patricia E. Kern Institute for the Transformation of Medical Education (Kern Institute) and the Kern National Network for Flourishing in Medicine (KNN), and the second investment expands the work of both entities.

Dr. Maurana served as the Founding Director and Stephen and Shelagh Roell Endowed Chair for the Kern Institute in its first three years. During her leadership, the Kern Institute launched several major programs and initiatives, including an innovative faculty development academy for MCW medical educators and an innovative team projects program based on human-centered design and entrepreneurial mindset to test new approaches to medical education, among other efforts.

As Founding Director for the KNN, Dr. Maurana leads a national movement in medical education and medicine focused on integrating four foundational elements within the profession of medicine: caring, character, practical wisdom and flourishing. She is also leading an initiative on bridging across differences to advance civil discourse.

Dr. Maurana is known for her strategic and innovative thinking, as well as her commitment to collaboration, mentorship and women's leadership. At MCW, she serves as senior advisor to the Center for the Advancement of Women in Science and Medicine. In this capacity she works to strengthen a new institutional culture of openness and collaboration and to create opportunities in which women at MCW can thrive and advance professionally.

Dr. Maurana served as the Senior Associate Dean and Founding Director of the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin (AHW) Endowment for its first twenty years. The AHW Endowment is dedicated to improving health through community-academic partnerships, research, and education. AHW was created from the conversion of Blue Cross/Blue Shield United of Wisconsin to for-profit status. Dr. Maurana served as one of the nine board members of the MCW Consortium on Public and Community Health, the public body mandated by the Insurance Commissioner to oversee the Endowment. Since 2004, AHW has invested approximately \$275M in nearly 500 initiatives to improve health across Wisconsin; current assets total \$449.5M. These initiatives have been weaving health through the fabric of communities, transforming health professions education, translating research from lab to bedside to community and back, as well as garnering new resources and conserving existing ones. Dr. Maurana provided leadership for a major shift in focus for AHW's third Five-Year Plan, entitled *Moving from Grantmaker to Changemaker*. This innovative focus, which has received national attention, leverages resources to build capacity, innovate and catalyze change for health improvement across Wisconsin. Changemaker roles include that of high-impact investor, learner, convener and influencer. Two major statewide initiatives include a \$20M investment for improvement of behavioral health and an additional \$20M for reduction of cancer disparities. Dr. Maurana led the development of AHW's fourth Five-Year Plan (2019-2023), entitled *Changemaking for a Healthier Wisconsin* with an emphasis on catalytic philanthropy.

Having served on the faculty of Purdue and Wright State Universities, Dr. Maurana joined MCW in 1995 to direct the statewide Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program, a collaboration of the state's two medical schools, leading it through a major strategic reorganization. She founded MCW's Center for Healthy Communities and served as the first MCW Senior Associate Dean for Public and Community Health.

In 2007, Dr. Maurana launched MCW's PhD in Public and Community Health focused on community-based participatory research, the first of its kind nationally. In 2010, she served as the founding director for the Institute for Health and Society, whose mission is to improve health and advance health equity. Focus areas include bioethics and medical humanities, biostatistics, global health, health equity, epidemiology and population health. The Institute offers PhD and Master's programs in public health, bioethics and biostatistics. For five years, she served as a co-principal investigator for the highly competitive \$20M NIH Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) for Southeast Wisconsin and leader for the CTSI's Community Engagement component.

Dr. Maurana has received national recognition for her work in public health research and community-academic partnerships, the focus of her academic work. She has built a number of collaborations, both within MCW and with communities, to improve health in Milwaukee and across Wisconsin. Dr. Maurana has been principal or co-investigator on more than 40 grants in health services research and community health, has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals, and has consistently presented her work at national meetings.

In 1999, Dr. Maurana received the Community Campus Partnerships for Health Award for national leadership. In 2005, she played a leadership role in MCW's receipt of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Award for Outstanding Community Service, a national award that recognizes medical schools for innovative community health improvement. She provided collaborative leadership for the receipt of the 2013 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll Award and the 2015 Community Engagement Classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, awards received by only a handful of medical schools.

Dr. Maurana received her BA from Seton Hill College and PhD in Sociology from Purdue, completing a four-year U.S. Public Health Service Fellowship in health services research. Dr. Maurana received the Distinguished Alumna Award from Seton Hill in 2007, the *Milwaukee Business Journal's* Women of Influence Award in 2008, and the Servant Leadership Award from SET Ministry for her leadership in the Milwaukee community in 2010. In 2016, she received the MCW Distinguished Service Award, the highest tribute to faculty and staff who have made significant and influential contributions over a sustained period. In 2019, Dr. Maurana received the *Milwaukee BizTimes* HealthCare Hero Award for Executive Leadership. In 2022, she received the MCW Honorary Alumni Award, recognizing those whose commitment and contributions to MCW have been exceptional and remarkable. She is a Professor in the Institute for Health and Equity contributing to its Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities. In 2023, Dr. Maurana was awarded the MCW Eminent Scholar designation that recognizes exceptional academic and scholarly achievement. The designation is the highest recognition of academic excellence for faculty members at MCW.

--February 2023