

The Hub

The Hub Newsletter provides all things related to CCSN from network updates, to valuable resources, and events!



June 2025

WHO IS CCSN?

M. Muska Nataliansyah, PhD, MD, MPH (he/him)

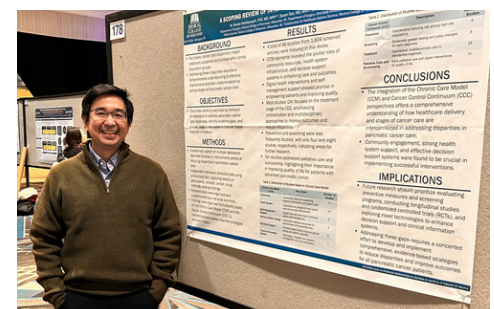
Assistant Professor, Division of Surgical Oncology; Strategic Planning Leader, Center for Advancing Population Science; MS CTS Course Director, Dissemination and Implementation Science | Medical College of Wisconsin

Growing up in Jakarta, Indonesia, Muska trained as a physician and completed his MD in December 2006 at the Trisakti University. Over time, he developed a passion for public health, allowing him to pursue his MPH in 2014 at the Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Yet, Muska's passion for public health didn't stop there. He later enrolled at the University of Iowa for a PhD in Health Services Research and Policy and graduated in 2021. Shortly after, he made his way to the Medical College of Wisconsin, making Wisconsin his home since then. While the Midwestern winters were quite an adjustment, he expressed how the **"Midwestern sense of community really feels familiar,"** providing the importance of social connection.



Muska joined CCSN as a Research and Community Scholar during the 2022-2023 cohort. What drew him to the program as a clinician was **"to not only treat disease but to bridge the gap in care."** During his time, he reflected on how breakthroughs in cancer disparities research and interventions can happen fast when community and science co-create an agenda to care. It's all about incorporating the value of weaving patient and survivor voices, accompanied by academics and clinicians, to **"keep science grounded and solutions practical."** He recognized how the CCSN approach allowed pauses to thoroughly consider the context within a community, as context matters when bridging the gap to cancer disparities. Muska described the importance of slowing down, nurturing trust with the community, and letting trust set the pace for outcomes. By co-creating projects and research questions, you allow ownership to evolve and **"building relationships and trust accelerated impact."**

In addition to his involvement with CCSN, Muska holds three integral positions at MCW: 1) Assistant Professor in Surgical Oncology, 2) Strategic Planning Leader in the Center for Advancing Population Science, and 3) Course Director for the Introduction to Dissemination and Implementation Science. He indicated how each role feeds into the other, allowing him to conduct research and mentor medical students in implementation sciences. His primary research focus encompasses the examination of disparities in treatment for pancreatic cancer, emphasizing how a public health approach allows us to tackle gaps upstream.



Muska Nataliansyah presenting findings on pancreatic cancer disparities and implementation strategies at a national conference

Muska continues to work in public health as he reflects on his past experiences when he saw patients arrive with cancer that was too advanced to treat. He clarified how late-stage diagnosis identifies the gaps in the system, not biological or clinical characteristics. Thinking critically, Muska stated how a solution to this problem is to recognize that **“you cannot work alone, you cannot work in silos,”** as different expertise is needed to bridge the overall gap to care, and not just disease as it comes through the door. Ultimately, **“learning new things motivates you to do better.”**

With all of his transformative work, Muska recharges by spending quality time with family! Together, they go for hikes and adventure out for movie night. A Studio Ghibli film—Spirited Away—is an all-time favorite among the family. As a representation of rural living, Muska’s favorite is My Neighbor Totoro. *Excellent choices, we must say!* While he manages many things in his daily work to meet expectations, Muska pinpointed the importance of slowing down and appreciating the small stuff, as they’re not so small after all.

As a final note, Muska shared his top three values guiding him in all he does: *humility, connection, and curiosity.* Thank you for all your work and participation, Muska!



Family day out at the Milwaukee Film Festival

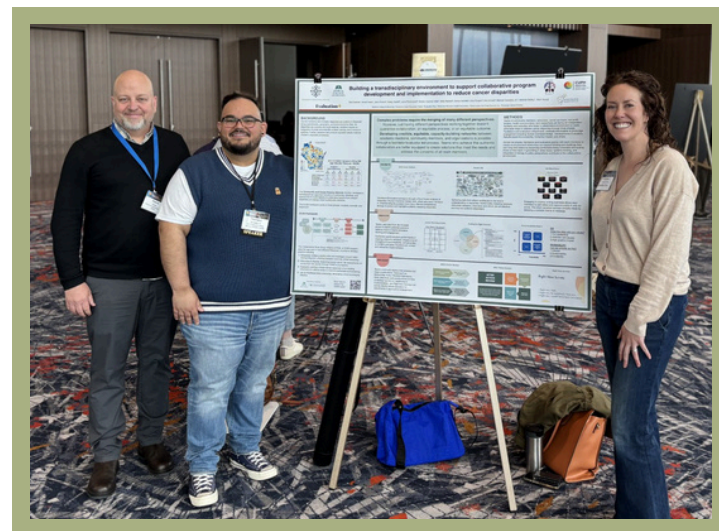
NETWORK UPDATES

CCSN CWG Poster at the Wisconsin Public Health Association Conference

The 2025 Wisconsin Public Health Association (WPHA) conference welcomed more than 500 professionals to Milwaukee on May 21-23, with the focus of “navigating the trail to better health”. The conference objectives focused on cultivating innovation, prioritizing community-led solutions, and building a foundation and space for the next generation of public health leaders.

This year, the Collaborative Work Groups (CWG) team presented a poster on how they used collaborative learning tools through CCSN’s three phases, Incubate, Innovate, and Implement, to blend the knowledge of community members, advocates, cancer survivors, nonprofit leaders, healthcare providers, and researchers. The team provided information on the work of the CWG teams and illustrations of how the different tools had helped advance the work of each of the individual CWG teams.

CWGs are currently in the implementation phase, where teams continually assess and modify their process to solutions. Tools like the Before Action Review and After Action Review help teams think collectively and constructively to address roadblocks to implementation to address breast and lung cancer disparities in Milwaukee, Racine, Walworth and in the Lac du Flambeau tribal area. Visit [here](#) to see the full poster!



David Frazer (Center for Urban Population Health), Michael Gonzalez, Jr. (MCW), and Kristen Gardner-Volle (Evaluation Plus) showcasing the CCSN CWG poster at the WPHA conference

Visit the GLITC Waabigwanii Gitigaanin Greenhouse & Garden Website

Major kudos to Emmy Mitchell—Greenhouse Program Coordinator at GLITC—for launching a website to capture all the exciting work GLITC is doing with their food sovereignty program. Their website features the hours of operation, an events schedule, a chance to meet the growers, and a featured crop of the month.

The website includes a link to sign-up for their own garden plot as well as information on a developing program for a free subscription of food boxes of healthy food from the gardens.

Visit the website [here](#) and sign up for the newsletter today!



2025 EVENTS SCHEDULE

Individual gardeners may register for a maximum of 1 full garden plot. Plot holders may register starting April 26th for any available plots. Please see our 2025 GLITC Community Garden Rules for more information on our Community Garden.



**Sat
June 21**

Growing Traditional Medicines
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
GLITC Conference Room (2932 State Highway 47 N,
Lac Du Flambeau, WI 54538)
FREE LECTURE (Presenter To Be Announced)

Share the Care Conference in Bowler Raises Awareness & Provides Support

This year, the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of the Mohican Indians hosted the annual Share the Care conference, coordinated by Judy Heubel, a long-time advisor for CCSN and included Minerva Cornejo-Vargas, CWG member, on the planning team. The yearly conference focuses on cancer and cancer support in Wisconsin's Indigenous communities and welcomes a variety of speakers and organizations highlighting resources and education.

The MCW Cancer Center Community Outreach and Engagement team was among the organizations present. The team walked attendees through a large, inflatable colon, directing attention to polyps and abnormal colon tissue that can lead to cancer.



Kelly Hackett (Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation), Michael Gonzalez, Jr. (MCW), and Claire Piehowski (WI DHS) exploring the colon at Share the Care

Attendees also learned about cancer concerns among WI tribal communities, traditional nutrition & food as medicine, cancer & alcohol use, commercial tobacco & radon as a lung cancer cause, and cancer survivorship & self-advocacy.

Dr. Melinda Stolley (MCW) presented on her work on cancer survivorship and discussed the importance of self-advocacy. She shared on how self-advocacy improves communication with health care provider(s) and overall quality care. Additionally, Dr. Stolley provided details on how one can build a support system, especially when establishing a family-centered and holistic approach. To build trust, we must also respect the historical context, traditional medicine, and collaborate with Tribal and Urban Indian Health Programs.



Dr. Stolley presenting at the conference

Research and Community Scholar Alumna Hosts Fundraiser for Non-Profit



Cynthia Hooker, a scholar in the 3rd cohort of the Research and Community Scholar Program, established [Cynthia's Breast Cancer Giving Circle](#) in 2010, to assist those dealing with a breast cancer diagnosis address the financial hardships often caused by increased medical bills and challenges maintaining a work schedule while going through treatment.

The group expanded to offer support to those with other cancer types. To date, the non-profit has supported nearly 300 patients, and helped pay more than 700 bills.



On Saturday, June 21, the non-profit will host their primary fundraiser, a Zumba/walk event held at Brown Deer Novak Family Field House, 8200 N. 60th Street, Brown Deer. Registration opens at 9am, and the event runs from 10am-12noon. Registration for each event is \$15 apiece, two for \$30 Advance registration is encouraged and includes an event t-shirt The event will also feature raffles. Visit the [event website](#) to learn more.

The Zumba event has been in existence for 14 years and the walking event for 13 years. The events are open to everyone.

Understanding Cancer Disparities in the Transgender/Nonbinary Group

After nearly two years working together, the PCORI-funded Understanding Cancer Disparities in the Transgender and Nonbinary Population transdisciplinary team is finalizing its work through hosting a series of Town Halls and meetings. The team is reviewing the feedback and with make adjustments to the plan.

The team is focused on four primary goals supported by various tactics. All of the efforts will include community and academic co-leadership, expand the use of transdisciplinary implementation practices, and employ comparative effectiveness research. Comparative effectiveness research is central to PCORI. In this research, two or more healthcare options (interventions, approaches, treatments, etc.) are compared to understand what works best for different people in different circumstances.

Improve access to cancer screening

Improve collaborations between community and reserchers

Enhance Research & Community Scholars Curriculum

Create resource for patients and caregivers to

All efforts include community and academic co-leadership

Expand use of transdisciplinary implementation practices

Employs Comparative Effectiveness Research

NETWORK UPDATES



Cancer Science Program for Research & Community Scholars

Be a part of the solution! The Community and Cancer Science Network has created a free opportunity for Milwaukee community members and the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) researchers to learn about the impact of cancer in different communities and how factors like biology, lifestyle, environment, healthcare and policy play a role. Build relationships and transdisciplinary collaboration skills while applying what you learn to design real-world solutions.

Apply Today for this **FREE** program!



LEARN



IDENTIFY CAUSES



COLLABORATE



EXPAND CANCER RESEARCH

When

- Hybrid (virtual & in-person) Bi-weekly meetings
- September - May on Wednesdays from 3:30 - 5:00pm



What to Expect



Presentations from local experts, facilitated by Simona Johnson, BSN, MBA The Synergy Company, and Dr. Nikki Lytle, Medical College of Wisconsin



Collaborative discussions with community leaders and researchers from Medical College of Wisconsin on tackling cancer.



Develop a **deep understanding** of how to authentically engage different perspectives for addressing cancer science.



Applications Due August 15th, 2025

ccsnwi.org/scholarsprogram | CCSN@mcw.edu

This program is fully funded by Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment



Community & Cancer Science Network

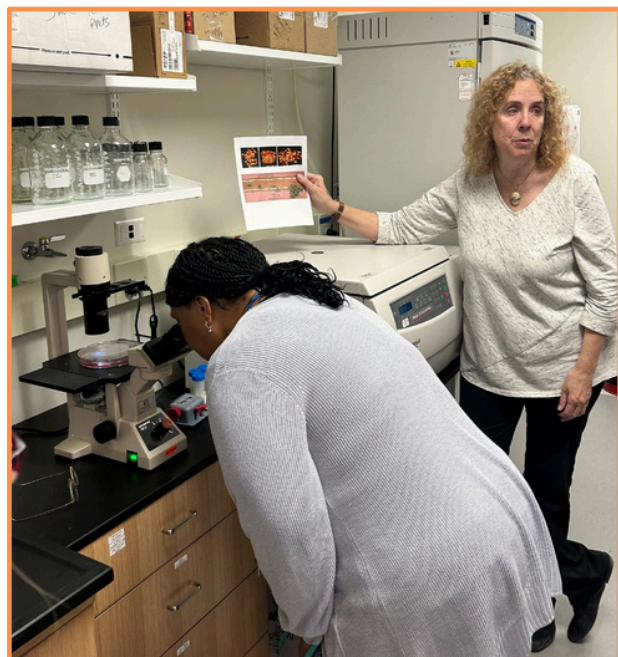
NETWORK UPDATES



Cancer Science Program for Research & Community Scholars

Benefits

- Developing transdisciplinary collaboration skills
- Gaining insights into Milwaukee's community and history
- Access to expertise on cancer research and contributing factors in a supportive environment
- Stimulating information to broaden understanding of cancer and healthcare



*"We learned that science should collaborate with the community to address problems together, rather than offering solutions after the fact."
- 2023-2024 Community Scholar*



*"Through this program, we've gained new tools and perspectives to tackle issues, and it's time for institutions to implement these changes"
- 2022-2023 Research Scholar*

*"Our initial excitement led to meaningful discussions that shifted our focus towards improving our system based on community needs, rather than just implementing external solutions."
- 2022-2023 Community Scholar*

Requirements

- Program requires access to a computer, tablet, or smartphone with internet connection and a web camera. Accommodations are available if technology requirements are a barrier.
- There is **no cost** to participate, but a commitment to attend the majority of sessions is expected, with occasional meetings for small group work outside of scheduled sessions.



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Community & Cancer Science Network

UPCOMING EVENTS

JOIN US

for a Bike Ride to End Cancer

Audacity, a new bike ride and community movement to accelerate cancer research, will hold its inaugural event on **Sunday, August 17, 2025, at American Family Field**. Funds raised from this event will contribute to MCW Cancer Center initiatives which will drive promising breakthroughs to end cancer.

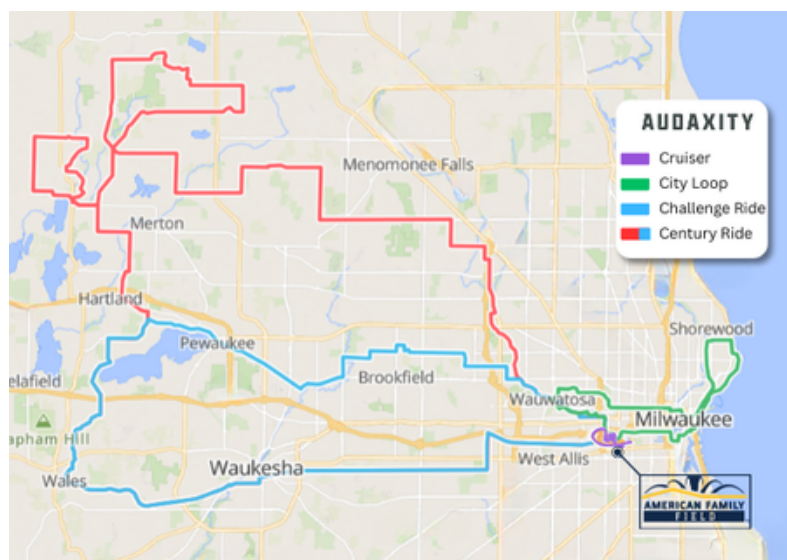
CCSN is organizing a team - **the Community and Research Cruisers** -and you are invited to join us! You can ride with us or just come out and enjoy the time together and cheer on the riders.

An Inside Look at Bike Routes

Cruiser Ride: A fun, family-friendly 3-5 mile loop around American Family Field, blending city sights with purpose. Whether you're a local or visiting, it's a great way to support MCW Cancer Center research while enjoying the ride.

City Loop Ride: This 25-30 mile route winds through Milwaukee, Wauwatosa, and Shorewood, mixing urban charm with scenic views. Ride along the Milwaukee River, explore green spaces, and pass landmarks like the Harley-Davidson Museum and lakefront trails. With a rest stop along the way, it's about camaraderie, exploration, and driving life-changing breakthroughs.

Challenge Ride: A 50+ mile adventure through city streets, Mitchell Park, and the rolling countryside of Lake Country. Scenic rivers, lakes, and parks make this a rewarding test of endurance, with rest stops every 15-20 miles to keep you fueled.



Century Ride: A 100-mile journey from city streets to peaceful farmland, featuring rustic roads, breathtaking views of Holy Hill, and—yes, even a chance to spot a buffalo! Explore Washington and Waukesha counties before heading back via the Glacial Drumlin Trail. With rest stops every 15-20 miles, this ride is a true test of resilience, pushing progress toward a future free of cancer



JOIN US

You can learn more about the ride by visiting www.audacity.org.

If you have questions about the CCSN team, please email Tobi (tcawthra@mcw.edu) or Melinda (mstolley@mcw.edu).

CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

June is Designated as Cancer Survivor Month

The goal of Cancer Survivorship programming at the MCW Cancer Center is to reach and support survivors at all stages of life and in all parts of our [community](#). Through the Froedtert & MCW Cancer Network's expert clinicians, researchers, and faculty, and in collaboration with health partners and community members, we're focused on meeting the evolving needs of survivors, addressing health disparities, and advancing a proactive research agenda to help those impacted by cancer achieve a better quality of life.

Recognition for excellence in patient experience

For six consecutive years, our Cancer Network has been [recognized](#) by Press Ganey for sustaining the highest standards in patient experience. As a 2023 Human Experience Guardian of Excellence Award® winner, we scored in the 95th percentile in Press Ganey's national database of 41,000 organizations—the largest database for patient experience measures.

This award speaks to the tireless support of our cancer scientists and providers to remove barriers to survivorship and to enhance coordinated care over a patient's journey.



Cancer in Our Community

Understand cancer incidence and disparities specific to our community.

[Learn about cancer's impact on our neighborhoods](#)



Community Engagement Improves Community Health

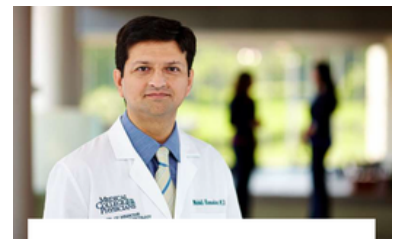
MCW's Cancer Center closely with community members to forge new programs that increase peoples' access to critical cancer prevention resources, the latest cancer treatments, life-changing [clinical trials](#) and survivor support groups. The goal is to eliminate cancer disparities and barriers at every stage of cancer to improve the health of our diverse community.



Adult Clinical Trials

View all active adult clinical trials available through the Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin Cancer Network.

[View adult clinical trials](#)



Physician Referrals

Visit MCW Physician ACCESS (All Cancer Enrolling Studies) to locate a potential match for adult and pediatric patients.

[Refer a patient](#)

Clinical Research

As a cancer clinical trial leader in Wisconsin, the Medical College of Wisconsin Cancer Center is dedicated to ensuring patients across our community have access to the latest groundbreaking clinical trials and care offerings.