



On The Prowl: The Research Review

July 2022

2022 Catalyst Grant Recipients

Phase 15 of the UWMRF Catalyst Grant Program has just been awarded to 4 recipients!

The UWMRF has facilitated the Catalyst Grant program, which supports discovery, creation of new knowledge, and innovation to bring ideas to the broadest possible audience through commercialization. Successful grants must be built on strong science as judged by expert outside reviewers and clear commercialization outcomes that move technologies closer to market. The Program is designed to focus on areas where UWM has the greatest potential to impact the local economy through commercialization activities including science and engineering. The Catalyst grant program has lead to 29.8M in follow-on funding, supported 21 startup companies, and has supported 105 catalyst projects.

The award winners are as follows:

Alexander Arnold, Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry; Director of MIDD
Identification of new therapeutics for inflammatory skin disorders

Karyn Frick, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor, Psychology
Assessing a new lead compound for alleviating hot flashes and improving memory

Priyatha Premnath, , Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Biomedical Engineering
Leveraging anti-cancer drug for bone healing

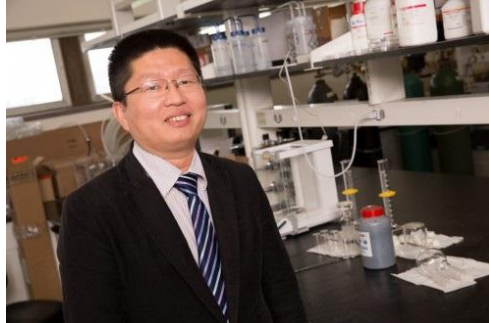
AkkeNeel Talsma, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Nursing
Prototyping and evaluating a new tool to improve maternal health

Startup Scoops

UWM Professor and Entrepreneur

In May, **Junjie Niu**, associate professor, was awarded a \$50,000, 12-month Ignite Grant from UW System to create a green technology to recycle and manufacture spent lithium-ion batteries. Dr. Niu is a Richard and Joanne Grigg associate professor, materials science & engineering, in UWM's College of Engineering & Applied Science.

Dr. Niu has filed invention disclosures with UWMRF, received funding from the UWRP Catalyst Grant, UW Systems Ignite program, and National Science Foundation to further his research. Dr. Niu has also started a Milwaukee-based start-up, Niu Energy, devoted to providing high-quality electrode materials for high energy-density lithium-ion batteries.



Full story

UWM Professor and Entrepreneur

Sandeep Gopalakrishnan, UWM assistant professor, director of Wound Healing and Tissue Repair Lab (WHTRL) at the UW-Milwaukee College of Nursing and CEO/Co-Founder of MegaPerceptron: Revolutionizing the Healthcare Ecosystem with AI, presented at the WARF "Innovation Day", hosted by Michael Best & Friedrich LLP in the BMO Tower at the Summerfest Tech event in late June.



Sandeep Gopalakrishnan

Attendees got to hear university innovation presentations and ask questions of some of Wisconsin's most innovative scientific researchers. This was an opportunity to hear about early-stage technologies that are prime for investment, and to learn how Wisconsin is innovating in healthcare, semiconductors, fusion power, hemp and much more.

This was the fifth year for **Summerfest Tech** with a focus on innovation and with community support from by gener8tor, i.c.stars, Milky Way Tech Hub, MKE Tech Hub Coalition, New North Inc., Techquity, The Commons, UW-E-business Consortium, Wisconsin Tech Association, and Young Enterprising Group.

Have you Heard about MIDD?



Dr. Alexander (Leggy) Arnold, Director of MIDD

Milwaukee Institute for Drug Discovery

The **Milwaukee Institute for Drug Discovery (MIDD)** was established to advance research and later-stage development of new drugs from research at the UW-Milwaukee and collaborating institutions. The Institute focuses on several areas of research at UWM; with initiatives in neuroscience, cancer, and infectious diseases. Because of the cross-functional nature of drug discovery and development, the MIDD is focused on collaborations among UWM departments, regional and national academic centers, and medical product companies.

The supported centers include:

- **Shimadzu Laboratory for Advanced and Applied Analytical Chemistry**
- **Center for Custom Synthesis and Lead**

- Development
- Center for High Throughput screening and Early Drug Development
- Center for Compound Safety
- Center for Structural Biology and Enzyme Kinetics Support
- Center for Biocalorimetry

Arnold, Alexander (Leggy), Director
Mirza, Shama, Co-director

Events and Deadlines



Ideadvance 2022 Cohort

Due: July 21

More Info and to Apply: [Click Here](#)

From startups to established businesses, if you are exploring a new technology, solution, and/or market with business innovation, you might be a fit for Ideadvance.



UWM LEC Scavenger Hunt

When: August 31st, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Where: Lubar Entrepreneurship Center

More Info and To Apply: [Click Here](#)

Compete in this one-of-a-kind UWM LEC Scavenger Hunt that starts at the Lubar Entrepreneurship Center and spans across UWM's Campus. Participate in teams to beat challenges and locate innovative spaces. No team? We'll match you with one!

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