

ANNUAL REPORT



2025

Prepared for WARF
and Morgridge Trustees,
UW–Madison leaders and
friends of the institute.





OUR MISSION

Improve human health through innovative, interdisciplinary biomedical discoveries, spark scientific curiosity and serve society through translational outcomes, in partnership with UW–Madison.

VISION

- ▶ We recognize that a fundamental understanding of human biology will drive the next big advances in human health.
- ▶ We take a long view of research to address and answer some of the biggest and most far-reaching challenges in biomedicine, with an eye for unforeseeable solutions.
- ▶ We believe society is strengthened by science, and our unique outreach, education and ethics programs spark public curiosity and passion for discovery.

CORE VALUES

Curiosity: We embrace and encourage bold questions. We conduct fearless science and follow the results where they take us.

Collaboration: We are a catalyst to take science further in collaboration with UW–Madison.

Integrity: We pursue our mission with rigor, discipline and honesty. We treat everyone with dignity and respect and are committed to equality.

Inspiration: We believe society is strengthened by science. We connect with communities to spark imagination.

How our ‘shared destiny’ strengthens Wisconsin science



At the Morgridge Institute, we talk frequently about our mission to provide “another arrow in the quiver” for Wisconsin biomedical research excellence. When we join forces with UW–Madison and WARF on a project, we are tightly integrated in a way that helps us achieve things that would be far more difficult for each entity to accomplish on its own.

And in 2025, another year gave us another powerful example of how this partnership works to produce mutual benefits to Morgridge and UW–Madison science. The recruitment of renowned regeneration science pioneer Kenneth Poss is one of those examples that went beyond just hiring great talent. We also enriched the playing field for regenerative science in Wisconsin.

To bring Ken here, we needed the support of WARF to create temporary vivarium space for zebrafish, the model organism central to his work. WARF was tremendously supportive of this endeavor, which enabled the Poss Lab to hit the ground running here. And we also needed WARF and UW–Madison’s support in revamping our vivarium facilities in a way that helps the Poss Lab thrive and invites greater campus use.

The big picture scientifically is that aquatics animals are increasingly important model systems, because they allow experiments in shorter time frames that inform phenomena important to human biology. In the Poss Lab’s case, it helps them explore heart disease within an organism famous for being able to regenerate damaged heart tissue. Unlocking that secret could lead to tremendous health advances for people who have suffered heart attacks.

But this development helped us make an impact beyond the Poss Lab and provide much-needed aquatics space for potential new recruits to UW–Madison. In the past, Deneen Wellik, chair of UW–Madison cell and regenerative biology, told me that many potential new faculty would not even interview with us because we could not support their work with aquatic animals.

The re-thinking of our vivarium facilities also was done in close partnership with leaders from the offices of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education, and the School of Medicine and Public Health. As a result, we have freed up additional space that can be managed strategically by SMPH, giving them greater resources to support research.

One of our new hires in the Poss Lab was critical to imagining and implementing this new approach. Jim Burris, our new director of the Aquatic Research Center, brought decades of experience with him to make this configuration work. As a result, the center is running with greater efficiency than ever before. And Burris has thought beyond Madison. Recognizing that UW–Stevens Point runs a highly successful freshwater biology program, Burris has created a biomedical aquaculture internship program to give UWSP students vital experience in a research environment.

We are very proud to add another example of how our work at Morgridge can create a nucleating effect for Wisconsin science. We were able to accomplish similar advances with the campus-wide Metabolism Initiative; with the multi-year effort to establish high-level cryo-EM research at UW–Madison; and with high-throughput computing investments that serve the ever-expanding need for data management.

These successes are part of the unique ecosystem here, something we’ve come to call our “shared destiny.” We might be the only research environment in the world that has both an independent research institute in Morgridge, and the grandfather of intellectual property management in WARF, both united in purpose to make a great research university even better.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Schwartz". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Brad Schwartz, M.D.

**Carl Gulbrandsen Chair, Chief Executive Officer
Morgridge Institute for Research**

FINDING 'THE RIGHT WORDS'

John and Tashia Morgridge honored for their vast impact

BY BRAD SCHWARTZ, M.D.



At our October celebration of the legacy of John and Tashia Morgridge, many guests noted the challenge of finding “the right words” to properly convey the tremendous impact John and Tashia have made in bringing the Morgridge Institute to life.

That struggle is understandable, considering the number of lives their generosity has touched — not just at Morgridge, but across the University of Wisconsin and across the state they love so deeply.

As it turns out, finding the “right words” wasn’t that difficult. All we had to do is ask. More than 120 Morgridge scientists and staff attended our October board retirement celebration and were able to convey, in their own words, what John and Tashia meant to their careers. And almost as many penned personal letters to John and Tashia expressing their gratitude.

Their board contributions, while often understated, always came back to one overriding theme: *Let’s stay true to our mission.* That means being a place that represents the highest ideals of science. It means taking on questions in biology that could bring the biggest benefits to society. It means adhering to high ethical standards and engaging with the public we serve. It means avoiding the urge to pivot toward the latest “shiny object” in research, choosing instead to invest in areas where we can make the biggest difference.

They also embraced the idea that great discoveries take patience, persistence, a bit of risk, and a bit of comfort with the unknown. They recognized that we can be a model for research excellence, even when times get difficult.

For that, we cannot thank them enough — for their willingness to dream big dreams with us, and for their dedication of time and resources to help us achieve those dreams.

My uncle worked at NASA and used to take us down to Huntsville, Alabama, where they put the rockets together. Imagine a noisy machine shop with sparks and smoke, noise and activity. At one point my uncle told me, in a slightly guilty voice, *“They actually pay me for this.”* And to me, the Morgridge Institute is just that kind of job. They actually pay me for the best, best job I could possibly have. I am incredibly grateful to John and Tashia for the opportunity they created.

JAMIE THOMSON, INAUGURAL MORGRIDGE SCIENTIST



Whenever I think about John and Tashia, one thought comes to mind: If there were more people in the world like John and Tashia and the Morgridge family, the world would be a better place. They have been very generous, and we’re very thankful, but it’s more about them as people. It’s about how they strive to give back to their communities. They give their money, but they give their time, they give their energy, they give their commitment. One thing we do know is that the Morgridge Institute, WARF and the great University of Wisconsin share a destiny, and with those three parts of our destiny, we can do wonderful things.

DEB KELLER, CHAIR, WARF BOARD OF TRUSTEES



John and Tashia have been deeply generous in crafting dreams with our faculty, our students and the community, dreams that have resulted in state-of-the-art programs and facilities. Many people have heard them say, *“Tashia and I have been thinking...”* or *“John and I were wondering...”* These statements are often an advance clue that something big is about to happen. Why would do these things? It’s because they understand the basics. They understand that basic and foundational scientific research is what will ultimately lead to medical discoveries and breakthroughs that will benefit humankind.

MARY GULBRANDSEN, FORMER DIRECTOR, FUND FOR WISCONSIN SCHOLARS



John and Tashia Morgridge exemplify the Wisconsin Idea through their vision, generosity, and enduring commitment to discovery and learning. We are deeply proud of their partnership with WARF and UW–Madison, which will have lasting consequential impact — from WiCell to the Discovery Building, the Morgridge Institute to Morgridge Hall, the Morgridge Entrepreneurial Bootcamp to directed student and faculty support — strengthening the ties among research, education, and the communities they serve.

ERIK IVERSON, CEO, WISCONSIN ALUMNI RESEARCH FOUNDATION





Even in the face of major disruptions to American science, the institute had a highly productive year.

A FEW EXAMPLES:

- ▶ **The Ken Poss Lab** is now fully established here at Discovery, further cementing Wisconsin's status as a world leader in regenerative biology. Our complete updating of zebrafish facilities has paved the way for more UW–Madison scientists to use this powerful model in their research.
- ▶ **The Center for High-Throughput Computing (CHTC)** celebrated its 40th year, and our Research Computing team enters the AI era more important than ever to scientists who harness massive computational challenges.
- ▶ We continue to be on the leading edge of **Biomedical Imaging**, with major advances taking place in fluorescence imaging, cryo-EM, quantum imaging and multi-scale imaging, just to name a few. **Randy Bartels** just received support from the Moore Foundation to create a first-ever quantum microscope, while the **Skala Lab** reached milestones on a startup venture that could drastically improve the success of cancer immunotherapy.



- ▶ **The Science Communication team** further established itself as a resource for improving how scientists communicate with the public that supports them. The team produced a series of insightful papers in 2025 exploring how AI will impact the science enterprise. And **the Community Engagement team** brought exciting science opportunities to more than 2,000 K12 students, and prepares to support the 20th anniversary of its signature outreach program, the Rural Summer Science Camp.
- ▶ We celebrated two new endowed chairs in 2025, where generous donors provided extra funding stability and flexibility to **Jing Fan** and **Ken Poss**. The new additions bring Morgridge to six endowed chairs for our scientists.
- ▶ In our **Metabolism initiative**, we named **Jing Fan** as the lead investigator and completed a search for a new metabolism scientist. **Jon Stefely**, a physician-scientist at Massachusetts General Hospital, just accepted our offer last week! Jon will join us in August and his work on understanding mitochondrial proteins is a beautiful fit with our science.

YEAR IN DISCOVERY:

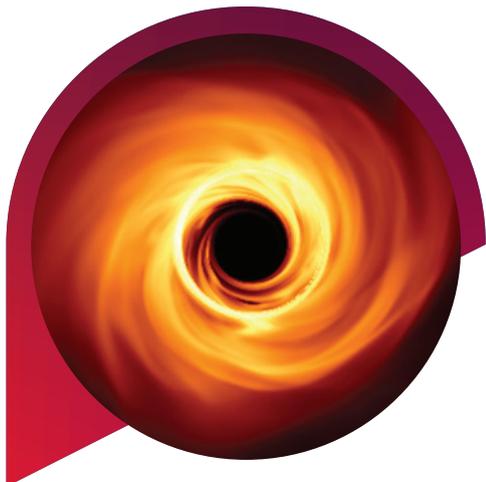
Advances led by Morgridge scientists



Bioengineered arteries show promise for bypass surgery

Scientists at UW–Madison have been at the forefront of stem cell research and regenerative biology since James Thomson isolated the first human embryonic stem cell in 1998. Now, they are growing stem cell-derived artery grafts that could advance the field of vascular bypass surgery to combat cardiovascular disease.

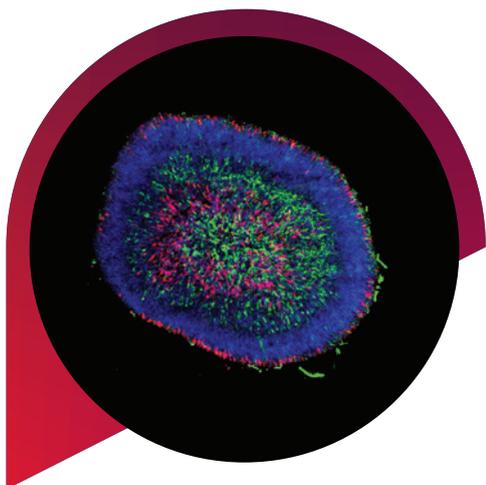
In a new study published in *Cell Reports Medicine*, they built upon that work to create a universal, small diameter, vascular graft using stem cell-derived arterial endothelial cells (AECs) that could advance the field of vascular bypass surgery.



Decoding black holes with high throughput computing

The international team trained a neural network with millions of synthetic simulations and artificial intelligence (AI) to tease out new cosmic curiosities about black holes, revealing the one at the center of our Milky Way is spinning at nearly top speed.

These massive simulations were generated by throughput computing capabilities provided by the Center for High Throughput Computing (CHTC), a joint entity of the Morgridge Institute for Research and UW–Madison. The astronomers announced papers in June 2025 in three papers in the journal *Astronomy & Astrophysics*.



Morgridge expertise tapped for advanced eye disease research

Inside the human eye, the retina is made up of several types of cells, including the light-sensing photoreceptors that initiate the cascade of events that lead to vision. Stem cell replacement therapy using lab-grown photoreceptors is a promising strategy to combat retinal disease.

In a March 2025 study published in *Stem Cell Reports*, UW–Madison ophthalmology researcher David Gamm Lab partnered with researchers at Morgridge to develop lab-grown pig retinal organoids. They found that pig-derived photoreceptors shared many similarities with those made from human retinal organoids. Morgridge bioinformatics PI Ron Stewart and his team built these new stem-cell derived organoids.



‘Just the Facts’ is not enough to counter science skepticism

In a new communications landscape that feasts on polarization, the science community needs to rethink how it engages society in scientific discovery, controversy and policy. By showing humility and acknowledging that science “doesn’t have all the answers,” scientists can be more effective communicators with society.

In a July 2025 special report in *Proceedings of the National Academies of Science* (PNAS), Morgridge Investigator Dietram Scheufele argued that the standard communication model of disseminating the facts and assuming “the truth will prevail” is increasingly falling on deaf ears.



Mass spec offers new way to wrangle multi-omics data

To better understand the underlying mechanisms that can lead to disease, scientists need reliable and efficient tools to collect and analyze -omics data — an integrated approach to studying different subsets of biomolecules.

Research published in January 2025 in *Science Advances*, outlined a new mass-spectrometry method that uses nanoflow-based multiomic single-shot technology to profile both proteins and lipids simultaneously. Morgridge investigator Joshua Coon co-led the project, along with Harvard cell biologist Wade Harper, who studies neurodegenerative diseases.



CHAMMI 75: Finding common ground across millions of biology images

Scientists at the Morgridge Institute for Research are raising the ante on the common phrase, “Every picture tells a story.”

Morgridge Investigator Juan Caicedo and his team have developed a database that combines 2.8 million cellular images — captured across a wide range of imaging modalities — that can be used to train machine learning models to help answer questions about basic biology, functional genomics, and treatment design. The ultimate goal is to provide researchers with a more universal tool to examine cellular morphology for biological studies.

Jon Stefely to join Morgridge metabolism research team



Jon Stefely, M.D., Ph.D., a physician-scientist at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston who studies disease-causing amoeba, will join the Morgridge Institute for Research as a metabolism investigator in summer 2026.

In addition, Stefely will become a University of Wisconsin-Madison assistant professor of biomolecular chemistry and join the School of Medicine's Pathology and Laboratory Medicine department on a 10 percent appointment, enabling him to see patients as a clinical pathologist subspecializing in transfusion medicine.

Stefely studies the metabolism of infectious amoeba, which are under-studied and pose increasing danger to public health. His current primary focus is on *Acanthamoeba castellanii*, which causes serious eye infections (*Acanthamoeba keratitis*) and is also tied to a rare but fatal brain infection.

"We basically have no targeted therapies right now, and all existing drugs have problems with toxicity," Stefely says. "Unfortunately, no patient has ever survived the brain infection, while the eye infection very often leads to blindness in the affected eye."

Acanthamoeba is a single-cell organism that lives in water and soil all over the world in diverse environmental niches, with variable levels of oxygen and nutrients, he says. The pathogen is always adapting to new environments; those same metabolism changes are important during human pathogenesis.

"The eye infections cause about 5,000 to 10,000 cases per year, and many people end up going blind in one eye," Stefely says. "When I talk with my ophthalmology colleagues, they report how terrible this disease is and how much they need new therapies. We just don't know what to do to help these patients."

One very important feature of the research is that *Acanthamoeba* are part of a broader group of nasty bugs called protozoan pathogens. These include things like plasmodium that causes malaria, which affects about 300 million people per year. Another is *Giardia*, which causes hundreds of thousands of cases of intestinal illness.

Two of these protozoan pathogens — *Giardia* and *Babesia* — are common in Wisconsin. *Babesia* is a tick-borne illness that's coincident with Lyme disease. Interestingly, one of the hot spots for *Babesia* in the U.S. is right there in Wisconsin. As a physician, Stefely helps treat patients with severe *Babesia* infections.

"Collectively, these protozoan infections impact almost a billion people per year globally," says Stefely.

"My hope is our research can lead to a new diagnostic strategy, new treatment for the amoeba, that could have a broader impact on this very large field of protozoan infectious disease research," he says. "The dream would be to develop a new drug for *Acanthamoeba*, then find a similar strategy that could work for malaria. We could go from treating a relatively uncommon disease, to helping help treat 300 million people across the world."

Stefely earned his M.D./Ph.D. at UW-Madison under the mentorship of former Morgridge scientist David Pagliarini, and he is very much looking forward to the academic homecoming.

"Morgridge has a diverse set of scientific expertise areas that are going to be complementary and we can work together in exciting ways," he says. "Morgridge is an outstanding place for postdocs and graduate students to land. Having a place that allows you to succeed in recruiting the very best talent is really important."

Stefely will formally begin in August 2026.



Big year for cancer immunotherapy startup

Scientists at the Morgridge Institute for Research are continuing to land crucial support for an imaging technology that enhances the effectiveness of an important new class of cancer treatments.

Chimeric Antigen Receptor T cell therapy — or “CAR T” therapy as its commonly known — trains a patient’s own immune cells to recognize and attack cancer cells. This personalized form of immunotherapy has been transformational in treating cancers such as lymphoma and leukemia. It’s also being studied for many other uses, including solid tumors and autoimmune disorders.

But it also has a drawback: Only about half of all patients eligible for such therapy have T cells healthy enough to be manufactured into viable cancer-fighting agents, leading to high failure rates.

The Morgridge team, led by biomedical engineer Melissa Skala, has developed a new bioimaging technique that can assess T cell fitness in patients, and identify those patients most likely to have the best outcomes. The team has formed the startup company SeLight, led by Skala Lab scientist Amani Gillette.

In summer 2025, the research team hit an important milestone: Funding from the National Science Foundation’s Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. That support will ultimately help SeLight demonstrate the feasibility of a prototype that will fit seamlessly in clinical settings.

The project also received support this fall from the UW–Madison Discovery to Product State Economic

Engagement & Development Fund (SEED), which will help the team begin to integrate the prototype with a commercial bioreactor system.

The Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF) also was an early champion of the research. The imaging technology was the 2018 winner of the WARF Innovation Award, the top technology chosen from more than 400 UW–Madison invention disclosures that year. The project also earned a place in the WARF Accelerator Program, which gives inventors support to bring promising technologies to the marketplace.

“Early investment from WARF was critical to de-risk our technology and show that it can succeed in a commercial setting. Now that we have a solid foundation in technical rigor, we can pursue applications and product development,” says Skala.

The novel imaging technology behind SeLight monitors the energy production of T cells and helps identify those cells healthiest and most viable for CAR T therapy.

SeLight could not only ramp up the success rates of CAR T therapies, which cost in the range of \$375,000 per patient, but also help ensure that patients who are unlikely to benefit from CAR T are redirected to more viable therapies.

“For CAR T manufacturing, our system could help rapidly identify patients who are most likely to have success on the therapy, which is crucial for doctors and patients alike. Making CAR T cells is a long and involved process, so having an early sense that it is going to work is invaluable,” Gillette says.

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WHEN THE BOX PUSHES BACK

Reflections on the spirit of resilience at Morgridge and WARF

BY ROMA BROADBERRY



My college physics course introduced me to Newton's third law of motion, which teaches that when you push a box across a mythical frictionless surface, the box is somewhat politely pushing you back. The idea stayed with me. It offered a simple way to understand how systems ebb and flow in response to various pressures: every action has an equal and opposite reaction.

Scientific research, I would later learn, behaves similarly, albeit with far more friction.

In the ecosystem of discovery, the "reaction" to a restrictive force isn't always resistance. More often, it resembles resilience: the quiet strength of bending without shattering. When familiar support falls away and external pressures mount, scientists have found ways to reorganize and create new structures that keep knowledge moving forward.

This pattern is evident in two campus origin stories: the founding of the Morgridge Institute for Research in the early 2000s, and the creation of the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF) a century earlier. Both institutions emerged during moments when scientific progress faced political or financial constraints, and both were built by Wisconsin researchers demonstrating how their communities adapt to preserve the momentum of discovery — a lesson that feels urgent amid today's unstable funding landscape and eroding public trust.

In August 2001, a federal executive order limited funding for embryonic stem cell research. At the time, UW–Madison had become the epicenter of this field thanks to James Thomson's groundbreaking discovery on how to isolate human embryonic stem cells in 1998. Navigating the complexities of federal support, Wisconsin scientists and advocates worked with philanthropic partners to build new research infrastructure, culminating in the founding of the Morgridge Institute for Research in 2006. This institutional response not only allowed stem cell research to continue but helped shape the emerging field of regenerative medicine.

This spirit of resilience goes back at least three generations. In the 1920s, university research was chronically underfunded and increasingly forced to compete with an expanding industrial research sector in a loosely regulated medical marketplace. When UW biochemist Harry Steenbock discovered how to fortify foods with vitamin D, a breakthrough that would help eliminate rickets worldwide, he chose not to sell the discovery for personal profit. Instead, Steenbock worked with university leaders to create what in 1925 became WARF: a nonprofit structure that would allow the university to steward its discoveries, manage patents responsibly, and reinvest revenue into future research. This model has persisted through depressions, political swings, and shifting scientific priorities for a century.

My own field, cryogenic electron microscopy (cryo-EM), is notoriously expensive and resource-intensive. The cryo-EM facilities at UW–Madison exist because of sustained investments in research infrastructure from the Department of Biochemistry, Morgridge, and WARF, along with major equipment grants. This collective support allows facilities like ours to function at the scale and precision modern research demands.

But while the successes of WARF and Morgridge might suggest that that institutional strength alone guarantees scientific progress, as a graduate researcher working across UW–Madison, Morgridge, and WARF, I’ve observed that resilience is not a static inheritance. It is something each generation must rebuild for itself.

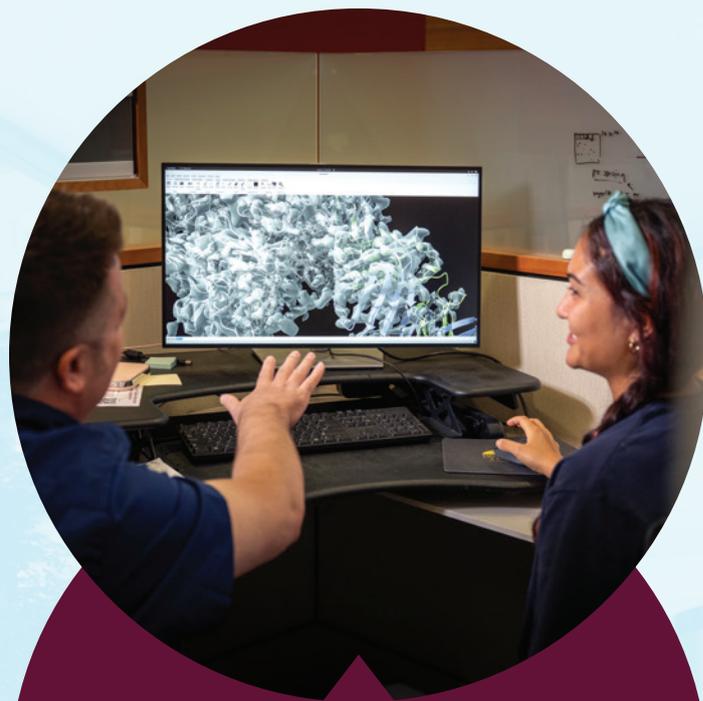
I recently encountered such pressures while collaborating with scientists in South Africa to understand antibody responses to HIV. Federal restrictions on NIH funding, along with foreign policy cuts to South Africa, disrupted our project and other HIV/AIDS-focused work. Our research continues, but under ongoing uncertainty, while other research projects have stalled entirely. This fragility reminds us that discovery depends not just on producing rigorous data, but on constantly reinforcing the stability of the larger systems around it.

This is where the legacy of WARF and Morgridge becomes instructive for early-career scientists like me. The lesson of the last century is that when the “action” restricts science, the “reaction” must pair resources with strategy. Thomson and Steenbock didn’t save their fields by hoping external pressure would pass but rather built new structures to counter them.

I have seen this strategy not just in funding science but in rebuilding trust. According to a 2020 USPTO report, women are named as inventors on only about 13 percent of patent applications despite making up roughly 25 percent of the nation’s STEM workforce. I’ve been fortunate to work with a team at WARF dedicated to understanding these disparities and identifying opportunities to bridge this gap. If we want to counter public skepticism, our institutions must evolve to be more equitable. Resilience today requires widening access to discovery just as much as funding it.

For scientists, the history of Morgridge and WARF show that discovery never moves forward on a frictionless surface — the box will always, and rarely politely, push back. Discovery only advances because people choose to push it forward.

Editor’s note: Roma Broadberry, a biophysics Ph.D. student in the Tim Grant Lab, is also a WARF Ambassador. She offers her perspective on what makes these two great organizations thrive.



WU

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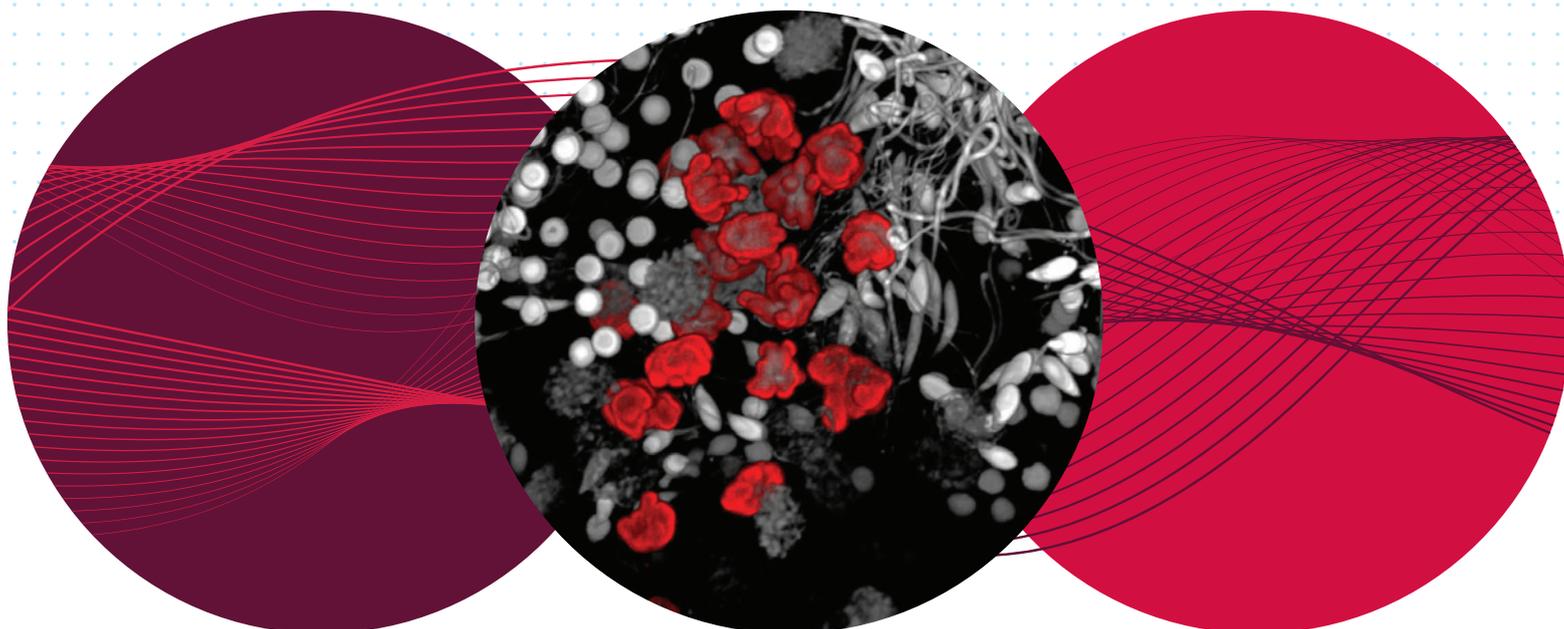
Broadberry, with mentor Tim Grant, analyzes structures from cryo-EM.

MORGRIDGE IS REDEFINING CAREER DEVELOPMENT

A 'whole scientist' approach pays longer-term dividends for Morgridge trainees

BY SMRITHIKA SUBRAMANI





The Morgridge Institute approach to curiosity-driven research, called Fearless Science, means pushing into new frontiers of biology and biomedical engineering by asking bold questions and following wherever the answers lead.

But that approach can lead to many paths beyond conventional bench science that can be just as rewarding, personally and professionally. It's a research-backed but often overlooked approach to training the "whole scientist" for which Morgridge is becoming a national model.

"Morgridge has a unique culture," says Wes Marner, Morgridge's director of engagement, education, and equity. "We provide a whole suite of opportunities and training in non-technical skills catered to our graduate students, postdocs and staff scientists — skills they will need to be successful leaders wherever they go."

Together with Ellen Dobson, Morgridge's postdoctoral and graduate program manager, Morgridge has been building a culture of career development that opens many paths to fulfilling futures. "A scientist's next career steps are not necessarily a given and not always a single transition," Dobson says. "Exposure, planning and preparation are key career steps for the whole scientist."

Our programming strategy in Madison and beyond

According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, the average ratio of students to career services staff is about 2,000-to-one. Experts recommend a ratio as low as 500-to-one for effective personal support. "Ours is around 150 to one," Dobson says. Through Dobson, Morgridge scientists can tap one-on-one advising, career exploration strategies, professional and personalized support, tailored access to resources and networking conversations.

On campus, Morgridge has bolstered ties with UW–Madison's Graduate School Office of Professional Development and the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs through formal programs such as the Morgridge Professional Development Series and the Postdoctoral Training Course in Scientific Leadership.

Nationally, Marner has been a representative to the National Academies' recent Roundtable on Mentorship, Well-Being, and Professional Development in STEMM, and is a newly elected member of the National Postdoctoral Association's Board of Directors. Dobson has been expanding Morgridge's footprint on LinkedIn, long an important platform in industry and increasingly used by academics.

In 2026, Dobson will expand her advising approach into direct support and guidance from alumni through a new Morgridge Community Network group on LinkedIn. This new resource is rooted in the fact that, as Marner puts it, "The best champions and cheerleaders for Morgridge are those who look back on their time here with a positive outlook."



Balancing research productivity with career planning

Having been a former postdoc herself both at Morgridge and abroad, Dobson recounts feeling isolated. But things have changed drastically today. “The pull to the lab bench is very strong — to meet certain metrics such as publications, grants, advisor’s goals, and the list goes on. The fact that our office exists at Morgridge shows the importance of developing non-technical skills,” Dobson notes.

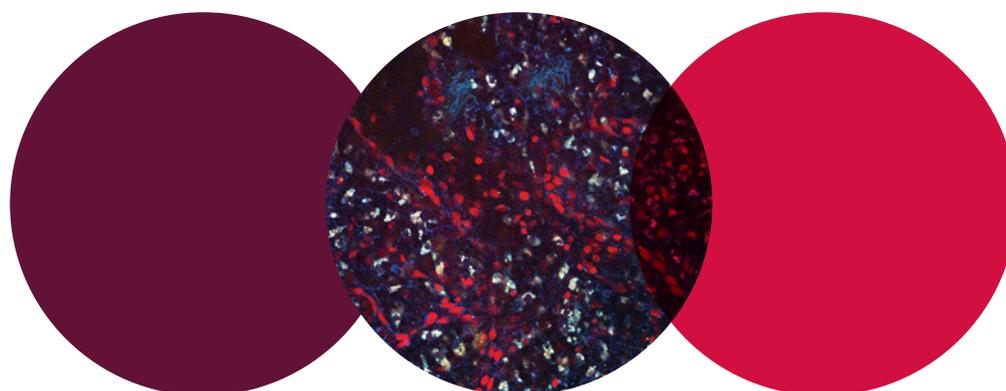
In traditional high-pressure academic environments that only focus on the number of papers you write and grants you win, the culture can very quickly shift from healthy productivity to counting the hours spent at the bench and days spent in the lab. The team’s goal is to educate scientists about the small investments toward their career development that can have a huge payoff in the end, not just for their own careers but also in the form of highly productive and scientifically active groups.

From uncertain to unstoppable: career success stories from Morgridge

Many Morgridge alumni can attest the value of this holistic approach.

“Ellen organized many exceptional sessions that helped me with everything — from resume writing to academia-to-industry transitions,” says Ross Soens, a graduate student from Josh Coon’s Lab and incoming research scientist at Promega Corporation. “She even personally assisted me with optimizing my resume for a specific role that I ended up receiving in no small part due to her guidance.”

Steve John, a former postdoc in Jing Fan’s lab who is now a scientist at Thermo Fisher Scientific, offered a similar take. “Ellen’s one-on-one training was invaluable as I navigated networking and the job market. She is kind, patient and very willing to support your career growth. Her professional development seminars were very insightful,” John says.



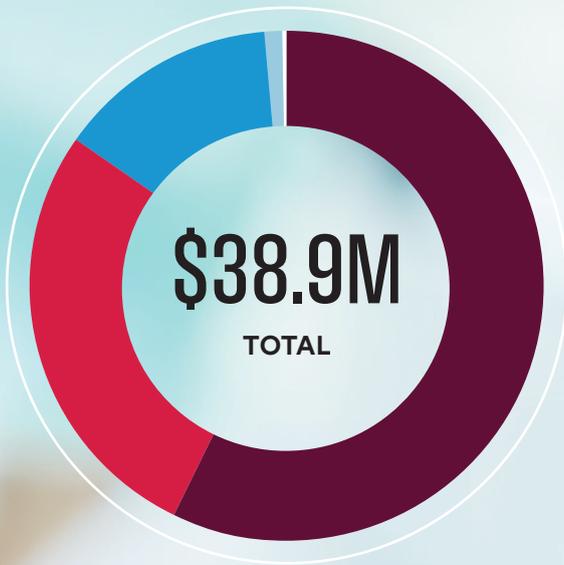


Humans, it turns out, are innate scientists. They're curious. They want to explore, to understand things. Kids drive their parents crazy by asking how and why every five minutes, they take apart their toys and your gardening tools to understand how they work. They're thrilled by discovery.

Basic scientists are humans who choose to engage that curiosity, that innately human characteristic, for a living — to know things that no one else knows, for a living. What we're looking for in students who aspire to do science, is that spark of curiosity that has at its endpoint the potential to improve life and advance society.

Keith Yamamoto, Morgridge Trustee and former vice chancellor for science policy and strategy, University of California, San Francisco

FY25 | Revenue & Support



57.1%
INVESTMENT
SUPPORT
\$22.2M

27.5%
GRANT
REVENUE
\$10.7M

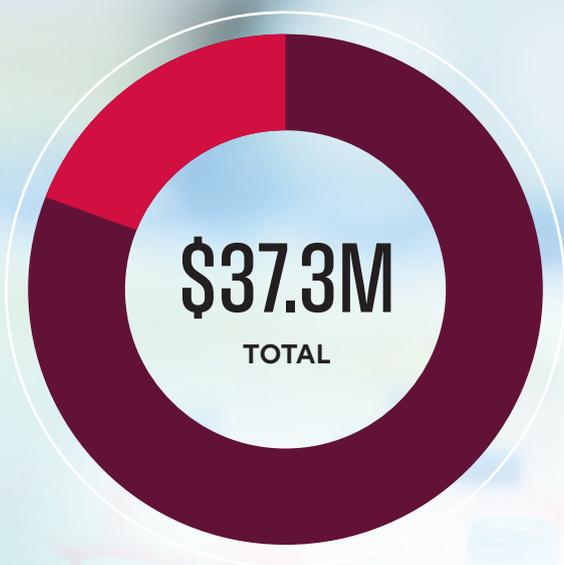
13.6%
FOUNDATION
SUPPORT
\$5.3M

1.3%
INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY
REVENUE
\$0.5M

0.05%
OTHER
GIFTS
\$0.2M

FY24		
Investment Support	\$19.6M	57%
Grant Revenue	\$8.4M	24.4%
Foundation Support	\$5.6M	16.3%
Other Gifts	\$0.2M	0.06%
Intellectual Property Revenue	\$0.6M	1.7%
TOTAL	\$34.4M	100%

FY25 | Operating Expenses



84.9%
RESEARCH
\$31.7M

15.1%
GENERAL &
ADMINISTRATIVE
\$5.6M

FY24		
Research	\$27.2M	84.0%
General & Administrative	\$5.2M	16.0%
TOTAL	\$32.4M	100%

Investigators

Paul Ahlquist, John W. and Jeanne M. Rowe Chair of Virology; UW–Madison professor of oncology and plant pathology

Randy Bartels, Biomedical Imaging; UW–Madison professor of biomedical engineering

Brian Bockelman, Research Computing

Dominique Brossard, Science Communication; professor and chair, UW–Madison life sciences communication

Juan Caicedo, Biomedical Imaging; UW–Madison assistant professor of biostatistics and medical informatics

Jason Cantor, Metabolism; UW–Madison assistant professor of biochemistry

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