DATE: December 17, 2025

TO: Dean Nita Ahuja, MD, UW-SMPH – Dr. Jon Audhya, Designated Representative

Kirsten Johnson, Secretary-designee, DHS - Dr. Mark Werner, Designated

Representative

Dr. Karen Hyun, Secretary, DNR – Greg Pils, Designated Representative Randy Romanski, Secretary, DATCP – Gilbert (Gil) Kelley, Designated

Representative

Dr. Christopher Strang, Chair Dr. Mark Werner, Vice Chair Dr. Jon Audhya, Member Jessica Blahnik, Member Dr. Robert Corliss, Member Gina Green-Harris, Member Gilbert (Gil) Kelley, Member

John Larson, Member

Hasmik Mkrtchyan, Member

Greg Pils, Member

Becky Rowland, Member Zana Sijan, DNR Alternate

Rebecca Fahney, DNR Alternate Anna Benton, DHS Alternate Paula Tran, DHS Alternate

Andrea Poehling, UW-Madison Alternate

FROM: Dr. Rudolph Johnson, Secretary

Director, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene

RE: Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors Meeting

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene

In-Person/Online Meeting

December 17, 2025, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

CC: Dr. Errin Rider

Allen Benson Tip Vandall Kevin Karbowski Dr. Al Bateman Jan Klawitter Sheila Jager

Nancy McLean Steve Strebel

WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING NOTICE

for

Wednesday, December 17, 2025 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

MEETING LOCATION 2601 Agriculture Drive, Madison, WI 53718

Notice is hereby given that the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors will convene in person and via teleconference at <u>1:00 pm on Wednesday</u>, <u>December 17</u>, <u>2025</u>.

Notice is further given that matters concerning Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene issues, program responsibilities, or operations specified in the Wisconsin Statutes, which arise after publication of this notice may be added to the agenda and publicly noticed no less than two hours before the scheduled board meeting if the board Chair determines the matter is urgent.

Notice is **further given** that this meeting may be conducted partly or entirely by teleconference or videoconference.

Notice is further given that questions related to this notice, requests for special accommodations, or requests for a public appearance are addressed by the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Administrative Offices by phone at (608) 890-0288 or in writing to the Secretary, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors, C/O WSLH Director, 465 Henry Mall, Madison, WI 53706

ORDER OF BUSINESS: See agenda.

Respectfully submitted,

7/4/

Rudolph C. Johnson, PhD
Secretary, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors
Director, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
465 Henry Mall, Madison, WI 53706

AGENDA

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Item 1.	ROLL CALL
Item 2.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Item 3.	REORGANIZATION OF AGENDA
Item 4.	PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Item 5. BOARD MEMBERS' MATTERS

BUSINESS ITEMS

ltem 6.	BIOMONITORING OVERVIEW	

Meshel Lange – WSLH Chemical Emergency Response Laboratory Manager **Dr. Carrie Tomasallo** – DHS Section Manager for Environmental Epidemiology and Surveillance

Dr. Amy Schultz – UW REACH Scientist for the Dept. of Population Health Sciences

Item 7. FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY OVERVIEW PRESENTATION

Kayla Neuman – WSLH Forensic Toxicology Laboratory Director

Item 8. FINANCIAL REPORT

Kevin Karbowski - WSLH Chief Financial Officer

Item 9. CONTRACTS REPORT

Tip Vandall – WSLH Accounts Receivable and Contracts Manager

Item 10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Workday Update - Kevin Karbowski - WSLH Chief Financial Officer

Public Relations Report – Jan Klawitter – WSLH Communications Manager

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Item 1. ROLL CALL

Description of Item:

Roll call of attendance at Board Meeting led by Board Chair

Suggested Board Action:

Submit roll call

Staff Recommendation and Comments:

Board Secretary will record the roll call

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Item 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Description of Item:

The draft minutes of the September 17, 2025, board meeting are submitted for approval

Suggested Board Action:

Motion: Approve the draft minutes of the September 17, 2025, board meeting as submitted

Staff Recommendation and Comments:

Approve draft minutes

Once approved, minutes become part of the public record and are posted on the WSLH website:

http://www.slh.wisc.edu/about/board/board-meetings-agendas-and-minutes/.

APPROVED MINUTES

(with two edits – Dr. Christopher Strang is Chair and Dr. Mark Werner is Vice-Chair)

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

<1:00 PM - 4:00 PM>

MEMBERS PRESENT:	
⊠ Greg Pils (DNR)	⊠ Gil Kelley
□ Chair Dr. Christopher Strang	⋈ Hasmik Mkrtchyan
☑ Secretary Dr. James Schauer	☑ Zana Sijan (WDNR alternate)
☑ Dr. Robert Corliss	☑ Becca Fahney (WDNR alternate)
☑ Dr. Jon Audhya (SMPH)	☐ Paula Tran (DHS alternate)
☑ Vice Chair Dr. Mark Werner (DHS)	☐ Anna Benton (DHS alternate)
☐ Jessica Blahnik	☐ Andrea Poehling (SMPH alternate)
☐ Gina Green-Harris	
⊠ Rebecca Rowland	
WSLH STAFF PRESENT:	
☑ Dr. Errin Rider	
⊠ Allen Benson	
⊠ Kevin Karbowski	☐ Jim Sterk
⋈ Nancy McLean	
	⊠ Dr. Adélaïde Roguet
□ Dr. Al Bateman	

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors Meeting December 17, 2025

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

GUESTS PRESENT: David Case from EPIC Systems was present as a listener for this WSLH Board Meeting.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Item 1. ROLL CALL

WSLH Board Chair Dr. Chris Strang called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM.

At, 1:03 PM WSLH Board Chair Dr. Chris Strang asked Sara Anderson to call the roll of Board Members and alternates. All Board members or their designated representatives were present except for those excused.

Item 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

At 1:06 PM, WSLH Board Chair Dr. Chris Strang entertained a motion to approve the July 30, 2025 WSLH Board Meeting Minutes as submitted. Greg Pils moved for approval and Hasmik Mkrtchyan seconded. A voice vote to approve the minutes for the record was passed.

Item 3. REORGANIZATION OF AGENDA

No request to reorganize the agenda was made during the board meeting

Item 4. PUBLIC APPEARANCES

No public appearances occurred for this board meeting

Item 5. BOARD MEMBERS' MATTERS

No business from the board members was mentioned

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Item 6. CDD Response to H5N1, Measles, and other Infectious Diseases – Al Bateman

Dr. Al Bateman, WSLH Communicable Disease Division Director, provided a presentation on CDD's response to H5N1 Avian Influenza, Measles, and other Infectious Diseases. This presentation covered CDD's state-funded, fee-for-service, and federally-funded testing, as well as CDD's preparedness and response actions to infectious diseases. Continued situational awareness, communication at both an internal and external level, response procedures in-lab, and national involvement all contribute to CDD's preparedness and response action plans. A background and response towards H5N1 Avian Influenza and Measles wrapped up Dr. Bateman's presentation.

Wastewater Dashboards: Monitoring Respiratory Diseases in Wisconsin – Dr. Adélaïde Roguet

Dr. Adélaïde Roguet, Scientist III for the Environmental Health Division's Wastewater Surveillance program, provided a presentation on Wastewater Surveillance Dashboards and monitoring for diseases in Wisconsin. Wisconsin's Wastewater Surveillance Program helps cover respiratory pathogens (such as COVID, the seasonal flu and bird flu), gastrointestinal pathogens (such as norovirus), and vaccine preventable diseases (such as Mpox and measles). An overview of the various wastewater surveillance public-facing dashboards – including the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – were discussed alongside the summary of information obtainable via internal dashboards, weekly reports, and the upcoming DHS dashboard.

Item 7. Financial Report – Kevin Karbowski

Kevin Karbowski, the WSLH Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the budget and statement of income from the prior WSLH Board Meeting on July 30th. Mr. Karbowski informed the board that the finance team will be monitoring the budget as the months progress and will provide the board members with more information surrounding what is needed for a potential price increase next year. This monitoring will be ongoing and Mr. Karbowski will provide an update the next WSLH Board Meeting scheduled for December 17, 2025.

Item 8. Contracts Report - Tip Vandall

Tip Vandall, the WSLH Accounts Receivable and Contracts Manager, provided the WSLH Board Members with a summary of contracts executed since the July 2025 board meeting. The number of contracts executed amounts to a grand total of \$7,498,151.00; including 3 annual renewals, 17 renewals, and 6 new contracts. Some of the new contracts include newborn screening programs from Maryland and Ohio.

Item 9. Directors Report

Workday Update Kevin Karbowski, the WSLH Chief Financial Officer, shared an update with the WSLH Board of Directors regarding Workday. As a whole, Mr. Karbowski said that solutions seem to be picking up and problems seem to be holding steady. WSLH staff are getting paid and making their needed purchases, which is an essential component of the platform. WSLH Director Dr. Jamie Schauer added that Workday touches on Purchasing, Human Resources, and Finance; with ATP possibly being brought back into the equation for further support regarding financial reporting. Public Relations Report WSLH Communications Manager Jan Klawitter shared select items from the full Public Relations Report included in the September 17, 2025 Board agenda packet.

Adjourning

At 2:19 PM, WSLH Board Chair Dr. Chris Strang entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn offered by Greg Pils and seconded by Hasmik Mkrtchyan. There was a unanimous vote to adjourn, and Dr. Chris Strang ended the meeting at 2:19 PM.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Item 3. REORGANIZATION OF AGENDA

Description of Item:

Board members may suggest changes in the order in which agenda items are discussed

Suggested Board Action:

None

Staff Recommendation and Comments:

Reorganize the agenda if requested by the Board

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Item 4. PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Description of Item:

Under the board's *Policies and Procedures*, non-members are invited to make presentations

Suggested Board Action:

Follow WSLH Policies and Procedures:

Staff Recommendation and Comments:

Follow WSLH Policies and Procedures

Per Policies and Procedures of the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors:

- §6.12 *Speaking privileges.* When the board is in session, no persons other than laboratory staff designated by the director shall be permitted to address the board except as hereinafter provided:
 - (a) A committee report may be presented by a committee member who is not a member of the board.
 - (b) A board or committee member in the course of presenting a matter to the board may request staff to assist in such a presentation.
 - (c) If a board member directs a technical question for clarification of a specific issue to a person not authorized in this section, the Chair may permit such a person to respond.
 - (d) The board may by majority vote or by decision of the Chair allow persons not otherwise authorized in this section to address the board if the situation warrants or the following criteria is followed:
 - (1) Written requests for public appearances on specific current agenda items shall be made to the Board Secretary no later than two working days prior to the meetings. The request shall outline the reasons for the request including the subject matter to be discussed in as much detail as is feasible prior to the meeting of the board. Those requesting an appearance may, at or prior to the board meeting, provide board members copies of any written materials to be presented or a written statement of a position.
 - (2) Individual presentations will be limited to five minutes, unless otherwise authorized by the Chair.
 - (3) To schedule an appearance before the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors, contact the Board Secretary, c/o Director, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene, 465 Henry Mall, Madison, Wisconsin 53706. Telephone (608) 890-0288. The subject or subjects to be discussed must be identified.
 - (4) The Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene "Guidelines for Citizen Participation in WSLH Board Meetings" are published on its website: https://www.slh.wisc.edu/, and printed copies are available on request. (See Appendix 5) [Section §6.12 approved 5/27/03 board meeting.]

Appendix 5

Guidelines for Citizen Participation at WSLH Board Meetings

The Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene board provides opportunities for citizens to appear before the board to provide information to the board on items listed on the agenda. Such appearances shall be brief and concise. In order to accommodate this participation in the allotted time, the guidelines are as follows:

- A. Items to be brought before the board:
 - 1. The board Secretary and Chair will assign a specific time on the agenda to hear public comment when a request to speak has been received from a member of the public.
 - 2. Individuals or organizations will be limited to a total of five (5) minutes to make a presentation to the board. Following the presentation board members may ask clarifying questions.
 - 3. An organization is limited to one (1) spokesperson on an issue.
 - 4. On complex issues, individuals wishing to appear before the board are encouraged to submit written materials to the Board Secretary in advance of the meeting so the board may be better informed on the subject in question. Such information should be submitted to the board Secretary for distribution to all board members no later than seven (7) working days before the board meeting.
 - 5. No matters that are in current litigation may be brought before the board.
- B. The board encourages individuals to confine their remarks to broad general policy issues rather than the day-to-day operations of the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene.
- C. Citizens who have questions for board members should ask these questions prior to the board meeting, during any recess during the board proceedings, or after board adjournment.
- D. Written requests to appear before the WSLH Board of Directors should be submitted <u>no later than</u> two (2) working days prior to a scheduled board meeting.
- E. Submit written requests to:

Secretary, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors

C/O WSLH Director 465 Henry Mall Madison, WI 53706

Telephone: (608) 890-0288

Email: sara.anderson@slh.wisc.edu

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Item 5. BOARD MEMBERS' MATTERS

Description of the Item:

Board Members' Matters will present board members with the opportunity to ask questions and/or discuss issues related to the Wisconsin Laboratory of Hygiene

Suggested Board Action:

Receive for information

Staff Recommendations and Comments:

BUSINESS ITEMS

Item 6. BIOMONITORING OVERVIEW

Description of the Item:

Meshel Lange, the WSLH Chemical Emergency Response Laboratory Manager, alongside her collaborators Dr. Carrie Tomasallo and Dr. Amy Schultz, will provide the Board of Directors with a Biomonitoring Overview.

Suggested Board Action:

Review and provide input.

Staff Recommendations and Comments:

BUSINESS ITEMS

Item 7. FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY OVERVIEW PRESENTATION

Description of the Item:

Kayla Neuman, the WSLH Forensic Toxicology Laboratory Director, will provide a Forensic Toxicology Overview Presentation to the Board of Directors.

Suggested Board Action:

Review and provide input.

Staff Recommendations and Comments:

BUSINESS ITEMS

Item 8. FINANCIAL REPORT

Description of the Item:

Kevin Karbowski, the WSLH Chief Financial Officer, will provide an update on the Financial Report to the Board.

Suggested Board Action:

Review and provide input.

Staff Recommendations and Comments:

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
All Funds Revenue Analysis
(For the 92 Days Ending 09.30.25 or 25.2% of Fiscal Year 2026)

	July 2025	August 2025	September 2025	FY26 YTD	WIP Budget	Over (Under)	%
Federal Revenue	\$ 353,100.84	\$ 384,087.09	\$ 326,338.94	\$ 1,063,526.87	\$ 915,735.75		
State (non UW) Revenue	26,960.37	28,743.93	29,067.65	84,771.95	-		
Private Contracts & Grant Revenue	11,341.18	9,420.07	9,298.79	30,060.04	-		
Sales Revenue	3,641,009.08	11,245,772.84	3,254,626.54	18,141,408.46	-		
Sales to UW	-	-	95,108.88	95,108.88			
General Purpose Revenue from UW	-	-	13,076,729.93	13,076,729.93	13,076,729.93		
Other Revenue	-	-	-	-	11,853,793.25		
Interest Income	11,406.83	-	69,149.70	80,556.53	-		
Total Revenues	\$ 4,043,818.30	\$11,668,023.93	\$16,860,320.43	32,572,162.66	\$25,846,258.93	\$ 6,725,903.73	26%
ERROR(S)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -			

University of Wisconsin-Madison Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene All Funds Compensation Analysis (For the 92 Days Ending 09.30.25 or 25.2% of Fiscal Year 2026)

		July 2025		August 2025		September 2025		FY26 YTD		WIP	Over	%
Student Salaries	S		•		¢		s	24,027.97	¢	Budget	(Under)	70
Limited Salaries	J	-	J		J	-	J	-	J	-		
		1,119.30		1,175.70		1,058.40		3,353.40		-		
Graduate Student Assistant Salaries		6,830.78		5,976.94		6,261.56		19,069.28		-		
Faculty Salaries		11,823.08		9,836.71		9,973.16		31,632.95		23,083.75		
Academic Professional Staff Salaries		1,900,532.80		1,759,145.38		1,769,611.55		5,429,289.73		5,555,192.25		
Academic Clinical Staff Salaries		85,288.31		78,921.65		83,126.56		247,336.52		-		
University Staff Salaries		604,742.97		551,492.33		533,645.71		1,689,881.01		1,623,235.75		
Total Salaries	\$	2,621,139.40	\$	2,415,796.81	\$	2,407,654.65	\$	7,444,590.86	\$	7,201,511.75	\$ 243,079.11	3% 무
Fringe Benefits	\$	205.28	\$	224.97	\$	161.44	\$	591.69	\$	2,391,816.62		
Group Health Benefits		199,985.69		-		-		199,985.69		-		
Group Life Benefits		1,392.67		-		-		1,392.67		-		
Student Benefits		345.67		295.94		127.28		768.89		-		
Limited Employee Benefits		117.52		123.46		111.14		352.12		-		
Graduate Student Assistant Benefits		1,400.30		1,225.28		1,283.60		3,909.18		-		
Faculty Benefits		4,055.31		3,373.98		3,384.06		10,813.35		-		
Academic Professional Staff Benefits		651,882.78		603,386.70		600,448.52		1,855,718.00		-		
Academic Clinical Staff Salaries		29,253.91		27,059.11		28,208.20		84,521.22		-		
University Staff Benefits		232,826.27		212,324.73		204,115.91		649,266.91		-		
Total Benefits	\$	1,121,465.40	\$	848,014.17	\$	837,840.15	\$	2,807,319.72	\$	2,391,816.62	\$ 415,503.10	17% 무
Total Compensation	\$	3,742,604.80	\$	3,263,810.98	\$	3,245,494.80	\$	10,251,910.58	\$	9,593,328.37	\$ 658,582.21	7% 무
ERROR(S)	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-				

University of Wisconsin-Madison Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene All Funds Supplies and Services Analysis (For the 92 Days Ending 09.30.25 or 25.2% of Fiscal Year 2026)

	July 2025	August 2025	September 2025	FY26 YTD	WIP Budget	Over (Under)	%
Travel	\$ 6,011.20	\$ 26,085.57	\$ 27,126.97	\$ 59,223.74	\$ -		
Training	2,600.00	-	5,630.25	8,230.25	81,750.00		
Telecommunications	153.23	61.70	741.67	956.60	-		
Rentals	269,657.36	273,258.13	297,306.29	840,221.78	-		
Maintenance	78,415.50	345,833.01	176,511.33	600,759.84	661,750.00		
Utilities	43.32	-	42.65	85.97	-		
Services	20,841.91	46,466.09	55,396.89	122,704.89	1,687,010.00		
Postage	985.50	30,364.00	4,000.00	35,349.50	-		
Materials & Supplies	573,317.65	906,784.13	1,253,549.82	2,733,651.60	3,093,359.75		
Information	35,282.17	54,062.90	19,757.75	109,102.82	-		
Freight	135,885.72	269,771.96	128,819.43	534,477.11	-		
Subscriptions & Dues	303.00	912.18	2,861.76	4,076.94	-		
Advertising	2,673.39	944.67	4,430.90	8,048.96	-		
Awards & Prizes	-	-	1,402.04	1,402.04	-		
Medical Services	93.00	1,734.00	2,458.32	4,285.32	-		
Minor Equipment	-	57,363.60	5,193.84	62,557.44			
Miscellaneous	-	17.53	-	17.53	880,168.50		
Bank & Credit Card Fees	17,386.42	23,725.56	19,331.39	60,443.37	-		
Other Expenses	63,654.89	64,354.90	60,395.08	188,404.87	-		
UW Services	46,181.62	54,937.33	94,695.15	195,814.10	-		
Purchasing Discounts	(890.20)	(1,341.83)	(2,375.23)	(4,607.26)	-		
Total Supplies & Services	\$ 1,252,595.68	\$ 2,155,335.43	\$ 2,157,276.30	\$ 5,565,207.41	\$ 6,404,038.25	\$ (838,830.8	4) 👍
ERROR(S)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -			

University of Wisconsin-Madison Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene All Funds Income Statement (For the 92 Days Ending 09.30.25 or 25.2% of Fiscal Year 2026)

Revenues Salaries Benefits Compensation	July 2025 \$ 4,043,818.30 \$ 2,621,139.40 1,121,465.40 \$ 3,742,604.80	\$ 2,415,796.81 848,014.17	September 2025 \$16,860,320.43 \$ 2,407,654.65 837,840.15 \$ 3,245,494.80	2,807,319.72	WIP Budget \$25,846,258.93 \$ 7,201,511.75 \$ 2,391,816.62 \$ 9,593,328.37		% 26% 1 3% 7 17% 7
Supplies & Services Capital Purchases GAAP Interfund Sales Credits Depreciation Total Expenses Net Profit (Loss)	\$ 1,252,595.68 - - 198,808.81 \$ 5,194,009.29 \$ (1,150,190.99)	\$ 2,155,335.43 - - 197,370.14 \$ 5,616,516.55 \$ 6,051,507.38	\$ 2,157,276.30 - - 199,887.00 \$ 5,602,658.10 \$11,257,662.33	\$ 5,565,207.41 - - 596,065.95 \$16,413,183.94 \$16,158,978.72	\$ 6,404,038.25 68,750.00 96,630.00 - \$16,162,746.62 \$ 9,683,512.31	\$ 250,437.32 \$6,475,466.41	2% 67% d

BUSINESS ITEMS

Item 9. CONTRACTS REPORT

Description of the Item:

Tip Vandall, the WSLH Accounts Receivable and Contracts Manager, will provide a brief update on Contracts to the Board of Directors.

Suggested Board Action:

Review and provide input.

Staff Recommendations and Comments:

BUSINESS ITEMS

Item 10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Rudolph Johnson, Director, WSLH

- Workday Update
 - o Kevin Karbowski, WSLH Chief Financial Officer
- Public Relations Report
 - o Jan Klawitter, WSLH Communications Manager

Report to the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board Representative Public or Environmental Health Incidents of Educational Interest September 5 – December 5, 2025

Approx. Date	Agent or Event Name	Description	Current Status
		OUTBREAKS AND INCIDENTS	
August- September 2025	Measles	On August 2 nd , the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and Oconto County Public Health confirmed nine cases of measles in Oconto County. One case was confirmed through testing at the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene, with eight additional cases confirmed based on exposure and symptoms. DHS and Oconto County Public Health led the outbreak response, with the WSLH Communicable Disease Division providing PCR and serology testing support. In total, 36 cases of measles were reported with two hospitalizations.	Closed
November 2025	Infant Botulism	A multistate outbreak of infant botulism linked to ByHeart powdered infant formula has resulted in 39 hospitalized cases across 18 states (as of 12/03/25), including Wisconsin. All affected infants consumed recalled formula, and no deaths have been reported to date. WSLH Communicable Disease Division has been working closely with DHS on monitoring and response. Wisconsin has seen very few testing requests so far. For suspected cases, stool specimens are sent to the Minnesota Department of Health Public Health Laboratory for confirmatory testing, as they serve as the regional botulism lab.	Ongoing

		RECENT EVENTS and FINDINGS	
August 25, 2025	Universities of Wisconsin article about water careers	The WSLH's Environmental Toxicology section is highlighted as a career pathway in this story from the Universities of Wisconsin. Bright futures in freshwater: New course will expose students to water careers, tackling contamination issues with hands-on field and lab experience	Complete
August 31, 2025	Wisconsin Groundwater Coordinating Council 2025 Report	The Groundwater Coordinating Council (GCC) recently shared its recommendations for protecting and preserving the state's vital groundwater resources in its 2025 annual report to the Wisconsin State Legislature. WSLH activities to protect groundwater are featured in the Universities of Wisconsin section of the report and start on page 71 of the report PDF. More information is available on the report web page.	Complete
September 2025	New Cytology Partnership with Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences	The WSLH Cytology Section has partnered with the Albany (NY) College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (ACPHS) to become a new clinical training site for students in the Master's in Cytotechnology and Molecular Cytology program. Starting Fall 2025, students can complete their practicum training in our Cytology Lab.	Ongoing
September 2025	APHL Lab Matters article – Wastewater surveillance and the NFL Draft	The Fall 2025 issue of the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) <i>Lab Matters</i> magazine includes an <u>article</u> about the WSLH's wastewater surveillance program monitoring Green Bay-area wastewater during the NFL Draft in April.	Complete
September 8, 2025	UW College of Engineering article – PFAS in Lake Superior	The National Atmospheric Deposition Program and PFAS Research lab at the WSLH are helping UW-Madison PhD students track the different ways PFAS gets into Lake Superior. Through weather and water, PFAS will pollute Lake Superior	Complete

September 10, 2025	UW Institutes for Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR) Research Day	Lauren Hjelsand, Nithya Attipetty, Francesca Scala, Dr. Alana Sterkel were co-authors on the poster - Improving Healthcare Access for Rural Wisconsinites: New Diagnostics for Blastomycosis Lauren Hjelsand, an undergraduate research student in CDD Associate Director Dr. Alana Sterkel's research lab, presented a poster on the lab's blastomycosis research at the ICTR Research Day.	Complete
September 16, 2025	ORCHARDS Study Concludes - UW Department of Family Medicine	After more than a decade of groundbreaking work, the Oregon Child Absenteeism Due to Respiratory Disease Study (ORCHARDS) has concluded. Launched in 2014, ORCHARDS became one of the most comprehensive and long-running community-based studies of respiratory illness in school-aged children in the United States.	Complete
		The WSLH Communicable Disease Division was the primary testing partner for the ORCHARDS study throughout. The ORCHARDS legacy is one of scientific innovation, community partnership, and real-world impact. A Decade of Discovery: ORCHARDS Concludes After Ten Years of Groundbreaking Research	
September 21- 26, 2025	Borkenstein Course on Drugs and Human Performance	Forensic Toxicology's Allison Vanderfeen and Elexi Horvath attended this week-long training course on drugs and how they affect the human body. This course is essential for all toxicology employees as they testify to toxicology results in courts of law.	Complete
September 23, 2025	PLOS One journal article	CDD Associate Director Dr. Alana Sterkel and two of her UW undergraduate research students Suzanne Dargle and Olivia Bree were co-authors on – Assessment of environmental risk factors for blastomycosis during a large outbreak at a Michigan paper mill PLOS One, September 23, 2025 https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0332398	Complete

September 29, 20 and October 2, 2025	WCLN Regional Meetings Wisconsin Crime Lab Symposium	The WSLH Communicable Disease Division hosted three WI Clinical Laboratory Network regional meetings. These all-day meetings — held in Eau Claire, Green Bay and Madison - offer clinical and public health laboratorians, infection preventionists, and state and local public health representatives the chance to strengthen their relationships through networking and discussions on relevant laboratory and infectious disease issues. The WSLH received the following email from the WI Division of Public Health Western Region Director — "Western Region WALHDAB (local health officers) met yesterday and several mentioned that this session of the network meetings were incredible! They especially appreciated the discussion about Emerging and Reemerging Viral Infectious Diseases. Thank you for continuing to offer these sessions for local and Tribal health department leaders!" Forensic Toxicology's Aaron Zane presented along with Crime Lab and Chemical Test Section staff on	Complete
2025	Symposium	ASB 122: Guidelines for Forensic Alcohol Extrapolation Calculations and their implementation.	
October 6-10, 2025	Association of Forensic Quality Managers Annual Meeting in Portland, OR	Forensic Toxicology Supervisor and former QA/QC Coordinator Kristin Drewieck attended this week-long conference to learn and network with other forensic quality managers. This conference is important in ensuring that the WSLH Forensic Tox Program maintains high quality testing that is backed by accreditation.	Complete
October 16, 2025	October Traffic Seminar	Forensic Toxicology's Aaron Zane presented to Circuit and Appellate Court Judges and Staff Attorney's on Who/What Forensic Toxicology is, ASB 122 guideline implementation, and how the lab is addressing the Smith v. Arizona decision.	Complete
October 16, 2025	WSLH Employee Recognition Awards	The WSLH awarded its 2025 Employee Recognition awards on Oct. 16 th . We had co-winners in two categories this year. The Golden Bucky's were awarded to –	Complete

		Staff Distinguished Service Award (co-winners) –	
		Dick Lentz (WisCon) and Laura Gower (Building Services)	
		Collaboration Award (co-winners) –	
		Caitlin Marks (CDD) and Zoe Purcell (EHD)	
October 22-24, 2025	Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) Prosecutors' Seminar	Forensic Toxicology's Abby Houliston presented to WI OWI Prosecutors on THC (testing and impairment), common defenses, and laboratory updates (TAT, testing volume, etc.).	Complete
October 26-31, 2025	Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT) Annual Meeting in Portland, OR.	Several Forensic Toxicology employees (Allen Mello, Cole Pajunen, Supervisor Dan McManaway, Kristina Martinet, and Director Kayla Neuman) attended the annual SOFT conference. Allen Mello and Kristina Martinet presented their research in oral (high methamphetamine cases) and poster (Drug trends in WI) presentations. Cole Pajunen was a moderator for one of the scientific sessions and Kayla Neuman was this year's Scientific Program Co-Coordinator. In addition, Kayla also presented research on stop-limit testing practices in WI. Each also attended various workshops to gain knowledge on mental health practices for forensic professionals, method development/validation, popular drug trends and data reporting.	Complete
October 29, 2025	JAMA Cardiology journal article	WSLH Cytogenetics and Molecular Genetics Director Dr. XQ Shao, along with Dr. Vanessa Horner, Dr. Jessica Tumolo, and Dr. Patrice K. Held (formerly with the WSLH) are co-authors on Genetic Diagnosis of Familial Hypercholesterolemia	Complete
		in Residual Newborn Dried Blood Spots	
		JAMA Cardiology, October 29, 2025, doi: 10.1001/jamacardio.2025.4047	
November 5, 2025	Annual WCLN LabTAG Meeting	CDD hosted the annual Wisconsin Clinical Laboratory Network Laboratory Technical Advisory Group meeting in Wausau. This day-long conference of ~15 laboratorians from clinical labs throughout the state reviews the previous year's continuing education and networking, and plans the upcoming year's webinars and in-person meetings.	Complete

November 12, 2025	WMLN Meeting	CDD hosted its annual Wisconsin Mycobacterial Laboratory Network meeting in Madison. Approximately 60 attendees participated in the daylong meeting that included talks from infectious disease physicians, local and state public health, and clinical and public health laboratorians, all focused on improving statewide communications, testing, and management of patients with <i>Mycobacteria tuberculosis</i> and other mycobacteria.	Complete
November 12, 2025	WI Public Radio: Drugged driving is a growing concern on Wisconsin's highways	Dr. Heather Barkholtz's cannabis and driving research was featured in — Drugged driving is a growing concern on Wisconsin's highways She was also interviewed on WPR's Wisconsin Today show about her research.	Complete
November 14, 2025	WSLH Director Dr. Jamie Schauer retires	After 27 years with the University of Wisconsin-Madison and 8 years as WSLH Director, Dr. Jamie Schauer retired on November 14 th . WSLH staff honored his service and dedication at retirement parties at the Henry Mall and AG Drive locations on Nov. 11 th and 12 th .	Complete
November 15, 2025	WiSER Conference Lunch with the Experts	CDD Director Dr. Allen Bateman and CDD Microbiologist Ava Gehrke-Laundrie were invited to participate as experts in a "Lunch with the Experts" session at the Wisconsin Science Education and Research Consortium at UW-La Crosse, to share about public health microbiology as a career.	Complete
November 17, 2025	Dr. Rudolph Johnson begins as WSLH Director	On Nov. 17 th , Dr. Rudolph (Rudy) Johnson, a toxicologist with national leadership experience in emergency response and measuring human exposure to toxic substances, began as WSLH Director.	Ongoing
		Johnson joins the WSLH from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, where he served as director of the military exposures research program since 2023. His career experiences have included leading national laboratory preparedness initiatives and public health programs focused on toxic substance exposure research and testing, analytical chemistry and laboratory modernization.	

		From 2003-2023, he held progressive leadership roles at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including serving as the chief of the Emergency Response Branch for 8 years. He has held leading roles in the federal response to numerous public health issues. As the leader for the CDC's National Laboratory Response Network for Chemical Threats, he set national performance benchmarks and instituted proficiency testing programs that advanced the ability of laboratories in all 50 states to respond to public health emergencies.	
November 24, 2025	ACS Chemical Health & Safety journal article	Kate Y. Mongold and Dr. Heather M. Barkholtz with WSLH Forensic Toxicology and Meshel A. Lange and Mason Shields with WSLH Chemical Emergency Response are co-authors on -	Complete
		What's in the Powder? Evaluating Fentanyl Test Strip Sensitivity to Common Household Items in Chemical Emergency Response Scenarios	
		ACS Chemical Health & Safety, originally published on September 18, 2025, https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.chas.5c00103	
		The article is featured on the journal's cover.	
November 24 & 27, 2025	The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists (TIAFT) Annual Meeting	Maia N. Bates and Dr. Heather Barkholtz were co- authors on two oral presentations at the annual TIAFT meeting in Auckland, New Zealand.	Complete
		Maia's presentation on 11/24/25 was titled: "Leveraging untargeted high-resolution mass spectrometry and molecular networking for forensic toxicology screening of novel psychoactive substances".	
		Heather's presentation on 11/27/25 was titled: "Non-fatal overdose bio-surveillance in the United States: A cross-sectional pilot study".	
November 27, 2025	The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists (TIAFT) Annual Meeting	Maia N. Bates and Dr. Heather Barkholtz's recent publication "Nonfatal Overdose Biosurveillance: A Cross-Sectional Pilot Study", published in September 2025 in the journal <i>Public Health Reports</i> was shortlisted for the TIAFT Young Scientists Award – Best Paper. While they did not ultimately win the award, they were still honored to be a runner-up.	Complete

December 4,	Be Well Informed	The WSLH partnered with the Wisconsin	Complete
2025	online tool for well	Departments of Natural Resources and Health	
	owners	Services and UW-Madison Division of Extension to	
		create Be Well Informed, a new online tool designed	
		to help private well owners better understand their	
		drinking water lab results.	