

MANAGING DIRECTOR

AUDAXITY (part of Medical College of Wisconsin)

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Audacity's purpose is to inspire bold action and collective generosity to fund innovative cancer research and patient care.

The Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) is seeking an accomplished, entrepreneurial leader to serve as Managing Director of Audacity, a community-powered fundraising initiative supporting innovative cancer research and patient care at the MCW Cancer Center. The Managing Director will be an employee of MCW and will report to the Cancer Center Administrator, while working closely with the Audacity Co-Chairs and other leaders to advance the vision, growth, and impact of Audacity.

MCW has partnered with Spano Pratt Executive Search to identify their new Managing Director. For a confidential conversation and to learn more about this opportunity, please contact Shelly Beaver or Lindsey Kriete. [Spano Pratt Executive Search:](#)

Shelly Beaver, Executive Search Consultant
sbeaver@spanopratt.com
(262) 685-8017

Lindsey Kriete, Practice Director
lkriete@spanopratt.com
(414) 234-9033

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

Lead something audacious. Build a movement. Help end cancer.

Audacity is a community-powered fundraising initiative of the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW), dedicated to accelerating the fight against cancer by bringing people together through an inspiring, community-powered cycling event. Launched in Milwaukee in 2025, Audacity was founded on the belief that bold ideas, meaningful connections, and collective action can drive life-changing breakthroughs in cancer research.

More than a fundraising event, Audacity brings together riders, volunteers, researchers, patients, families, corporate partners, and supporters around a shared mission: ending cancer.

At the heart of Audacity's work is a commitment to advancing innovative cancer research at the Medical College of Wisconsin Cancer Center (MCW Cancer Center). With 100% of participant-raised funds directed to cancer research and related initiatives, Audacity connects the generosity and energy of the community directly to work with the potential to transform cancer prevention, treatment, and care.

Audacity is built around three core pillars—people, ideas, and community. The initiative helps attract and support exceptional researchers, provides critical funding to advance promising discoveries, and invests in programs addressing unmet needs in cancer care throughout Wisconsin. By connecting scientific excellence with community engagement, Audacity is helping turn generosity into meaningful progress for patients and families.

Inspired by the determination and resilience embodied in cycling, Audacity welcomes people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds to participate through riding, volunteering, fundraising, and community engagement. Every mile and every dollar represent another step toward accelerating lifesaving discoveries.

Following the success of its inaugural ride, Audacity is poised for significant growth. MCW and Audacity's volunteer leadership are building a larger, more inclusive, and increasingly influential community around cancer research, with the ambition to become a signature Milwaukee tradition and a nationally recognized fundraising movement.

More than 1,100 riders, along with supporters, volunteers, and fundraisers, represented the Medical College of Wisconsin in the inaugural 2025 Audacity bike ride.

POSITION OVERVIEW

Audacity is at an exciting inflection point, and the Managing Director will have the opportunity to shape what comes next. This is an entrepreneurial leadership role within the Medical College of Wisconsin for someone energized by the opportunity to build a movement, grow philanthropic support, strengthen community engagement, and create measurable impact in the fight against cancer.

The Managing Director is an employee of the Medical College of Wisconsin and reports to the Cancer Center Administrator. The Managing Director will work closely with the Audacity Co-Chairs, MCW Cancer Center leadership, the Governing Board, and other MCW partners to advance Audacity's mission and strategic priorities. The Managing Director will provide the day-to-day leadership and

operational direction for Audaxity while serving as the key connector between MCW and the broader community.

Working closely with the Audaxity Co-Chairs, MCW Cancer Center leadership, sponsors, community partners, and external event partners, the Managing Director will lead the vision, strategy, growth, and execution of Audaxity. This includes building and inspiring a lean team, expanding ridership and philanthropic support, strengthening corporate partnerships, managing financial performance, and ensuring that every element of Audaxity advances its mission and aligns with MCW's priorities.

This is far more than an event leadership role. The Managing Director will serve as Audaxity's highly visible ambassador throughout the Milwaukee community, developing meaningful relationships across business, philanthropy, healthcare, academia, and civic organizations. The successful leader will bring strong business acumen, financial discipline, creativity, and an entrepreneurial mindset, paired with the emotional intelligence and communication skills necessary to inspire people to action.

Audaxity's next leader will be both strategic and hands-on—able to envision where the initiative can be five years from now while remaining focused on what needs to happen next week.

The opportunity is significant. The aspiration is to exponentially grow riders, sponsors, dollars raised, and community engagement, ultimately creating a \$10 million-plus annual fundraising event and a lasting pillar of the Milwaukee community.

The next Managing Director will not simply lead a ride. They will build the team, grow the movement, bring the community together, and help accelerate the fight against cancer—all as a member of the Medical College of Wisconsin team.



More than 1100 riders, along with supporters, volunteers, and fundraisers represented the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) in its 2025 inaugural Audaxity bike ride.

CORE RESPONSIBILITIES AS MANAGING DIRECTOR

- Provide overall day-to-day leadership and management of Audacity on behalf of the Medical College of Wisconsin Cancer Center, ensuring alignment with MCW's institutional priorities, policies, and fundraising objectives.
- Report to the Cancer Center Administrator and work closely with the Audacity Co-Chairs, volunteer leadership, and MCW Cancer Center leadership to establish strategic priorities, goals, and objectives for Audacity.
- Oversee the planning and execution of the annual Audacity Bike Ride, including vision, logistics, budgeting, committee oversight, stewardship, participant experience, and evaluation.
- Serve as the primary liaison among the Cancer Center Administrator, Audacity Co-Chairs, MCW Cancer Center leadership, MCW partners, external event consultants, and other key stakeholders to ensure strategic goals and operational priorities are aligned and successfully executed.
- Prepare and manage the \$2M Bike Ride budget, with philanthropic projections of up to \$7M, ensuring financial goals are met and expenses remain within budget parameters. Partner with the MCW Cancer Center Business Manager on financial reporting and provide regular budget updates to Audacity leadership and appropriate MCW committees.
- Build an effective team of individuals who are engaged and inspired by Audacity's mission.
- Build and maintain strong internal relationships across MCW, including the Office of Institutional Advancement, Office of Communications, Office of General Counsel, and other departments critical to Audacity's success.

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

Minimum Education: Bachelor's degree

Minimum Experience: 8 years of professional experience

The ideal candidate will bring a strong combination of fundraising, business, relationship development, and event leadership experience, along with the entrepreneurial drive to grow Audacity into a significant and sustainable fundraising movement.

Preferred qualifications include:

- Five or more years of related experience in fundraising, development, event management, or a comparable field.

- Demonstrated success securing philanthropic support and developing relationships with corporate partners, donors, foundations, and community leaders.
- Proven ability to build and cultivate relationships independently and translate those relationships into meaningful engagement and financial support.
- Experience leading peer-to-peer fundraising initiatives and engaging donors, participants, teams, and community partners.
- Demonstrated ability to manage multiple priorities, complex timelines, budgets, vendors, and event logistics.
- Strong leadership skills and the ability to inspire individuals and groups to take action in support of a shared mission.
- Experience with large-scale sporting, fundraising, or community events is highly desirable.
- Familiarity with peer-to-peer fundraising platforms, campaigns, digital engagement, and related technologies is a plus.
- Experience working within a complex organization and collaborating across multiple teams and functions is preferred.



Audacity helps fuel the Medical College of Wisconsin Cancer Center's efforts to reshape cancer care through innovative research and discovery.

COMPETENCIES & PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES FOR SUCCESS

Strategic & Entrepreneurial Leadership

The Managing Director will be a visionary and entrepreneurial leader who can see what is possible and translate that vision into action. This individual will identify new opportunities for growth, make thoughtful and timely decisions, and balance ambitious goals with financial discipline, organizational capacity, and effective execution. The successful candidate will be comfortable with ambiguity, persistent in navigating challenges, and able to connect Audaxity's long-term aspirations with the priorities that must be addressed today.

Relationship Development & Mission-Driven External Leadership

The Managing Director will be one of Audaxity's most visible ambassadors and will build authentic relationships that expand participation, community engagement, corporate partnerships, and philanthropic support. This individual will be energized by connecting with corporate and community leaders, donors, clinicians, researchers, participants, and other stakeholders and will be confident inspiring others to invest their time, talent, relationships, and resources.

Equally important will be the ability to tell Audaxity's story in a way that makes its mission tangible and compelling. The successful candidate will connect people to the purpose behind the ride and inspire them to become part of a movement advancing cancer research and improving patient care.

Collaborative Team & Organizational Leadership

As Audaxity continues to grow, the Managing Director will build the organizational capacity necessary to support its ambitions. This includes developing and empowering a high-performing team, strengthening committees and engagement, clarifying roles and responsibilities, and establishing the systems, processes, and accountability needed for sustainable growth.

The ideal leader will be highly collaborative and emotionally intelligent—a strong listener who builds trust, brings people together, and creates an environment where others are motivated to contribute and succeed. At the same time, this individual will be willing to take ownership, establish priorities, make decisions, and ensure that ideas translate into meaningful results.

Adaptive Executive Presence & Influence

The Managing Director will operate across a diverse and complex network of stakeholders, including MCW leadership and teams, the Audaxity Co-Chairs, Board members, corporate partners, healthcare and cancer organizations, donors, participants, and the broader Milwaukee community.

Success will require confidence, composure, credibility, and the ability to influence across an organization and community without relying solely on formal authority. The successful candidate will be politically astute and diplomatic while remaining appropriately assertive, able to navigate institutional complexity without losing Audaxity's entrepreneurial spirit.

This leader will bring positive energy, resilience, sound judgment, and authenticity; listen thoughtfully and remain open to diverse perspectives; and have the confidence to make difficult decisions when necessary.

COMPENSATION

The salary range for this position is \$101,200 to \$129,700.

LOCATION: MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

This position offices out of the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, and the Managing Director is expected to be actively engaged within the community with volunteers, major sponsors, individual funders, corporate and community leaders.

In Milwaukee, you will find urban living and a Midwest ambience combined to provide an ideal work-life balance for modern living. Short commute times, big city amenities, diverse and affordable neighborhoods, below average cost of living, an abundance of natural resources and a nationally recognized education system all come together during an unprecedented time of opportunity and growth. The Milwaukee Region is made up of five counties in southeastern Wisconsin that have a combined population of 1.8 million people.

Located on the southwest shore of Lake Michigan, Milwaukee offers numerous beaches and waterfront activities, including canoeing, paddleboarding, beach volleyball, yoga, sandcastle-building contests, and fishing. Beachfront and inland parks span more than 15,000 acres, giving residents ample access to green space. For professional sports fans, Milwaukee is home to the MLB Brewers and the NBA Bucks.

Milwaukee is known for its festivals and food scene. The largest festival is Summerfest, a two-week music festival, which brings in close to 900,000 people from across the country to hear their favorite artists and bands. The Milwaukee food scene continues to grow with more options for exotic taste buds and wild appetites from James Beard award winners to Food Halls.

Milwaukee is home to the famous Milwaukee Art Museum, the Milwaukee Public Museum, Discovery World, and The Betty Brinn Children's Museum. Milwaukee features an opera company, ballet, and a symphony. With over 15,000 theater seats, the Milwaukee Theater District ranks No. 1 in the United States for the highest number of theater seats per capita.



<https://audacity.org/>
<http://www.mmac.org>
<http://www.visitmilwaukee.org>