



From the tennis courts to medical device innovator

Eric Mokolke, PhD
Research Scientist Leader
W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc.



Corrine Bahr Memorial Lecture

This talk is going to be divided into three “chapters.” Chapter 1 is to introduce this group to W. L. Gore & Associates—a privately held company that has a revenue of over \$4B. They are a materials science company focused on discovery, product innovation and rewarding careers for Associates. Gore combines industry expertise with product versatility to create solutions for the most challenging environments—from implants in the human body, to clothing worn on expeditions to Mt. Everest, to electronic cables transmitting signals from Mars. Chapter 2 will highlight my unlikely path from my undergraduate days here at the UW as a dietetics/nutrition major, through post-baccalaureate training to becoming an innovator at a highly innovative med-tech company. I’ll share some research discoveries made during this time which displays my modus operandi of taking things that don’t normally belong together, or noticing something intriguing or unique and connecting them into something novel. Finally, in Chapter 3, I’ll talk about a novel disease model that I helped to characterize and establish as a company and discuss a concept for a passive, device-based therapy for heart failure.

ABOUT the SPEAKER

Eric Mokolke received his PhD in Kinesiology and Applied Physiology at the University of Colorado-Boulder. He was an Assistant Professor at the Indiana University School of Medicine Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology before he pivoted his career to work in industry. Dr. Mokolke is a proven innovative researcher on mechanisms and treatment of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and heart failure in basic and applied scientific and industry positions. He has designed and conducted feasibility research on device-based therapy (electrical stimulation) for hypertension, systolic and diastolic heart failure and was instrumental in developing novel implantable devices for therapies directed toward cardiovascular disease. He has significant experience conducting technology discovery, assessment, and development in industry and academic settings.

Corrine Bahr Memorial Lecture Series: Every year, the biomedical engineering department at the UW–Madison hosts an honorary speaker selected by the student community in memoir of one departments pioneers, Corrine Bahr. Corrine was the department’s administrator who was always characterized by her commitment to support both students and faculty who came from diverse places and cultures and making them feel like home here at Madison.

Monday, March 27 at noon
1003 Engineering Centers (Tong Auditorium)