

# Women in the Field of Science

A SALUTE ON INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE

## One Young Woman's Path in Science

Olivia Deering always had aspirations to work in the medical field. From her teenage years, suffering two ACL tears, she has been exposed to professionals in the field. "The physician's assistant (PA) who worked with me for my surgery was great," Deering shared. "I was inspired by what she did and how she helped me through the entire journey."

Olivia remembered that care and took it with her to college. She majored in Neurobiology and Global Health at UW-Madison. All through college she worked as a part-time emergency medical technician (EMT) and also worked in a lab. While she enjoyed the people and pace of being an EMT, she was more passionate about research.

Today, Deering is the Clinical Research Coordinator for the AHEAD study at the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC). The AHEAD Study tests whether an investigational treatment can slow or stop the earliest brain changes due to Alzheimer's disease in people with a higher risk of developing the disease later in life. "My study has become even more impactful for me, as my grandmother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2022," Deering said. "Alzheimer's became really personal, really fast and I'm so happy to be in a field where I can make an impact." She plans to attend PA school in the near future and likely remain in Alzheimer's research!

## Advice to Young Women in the Field

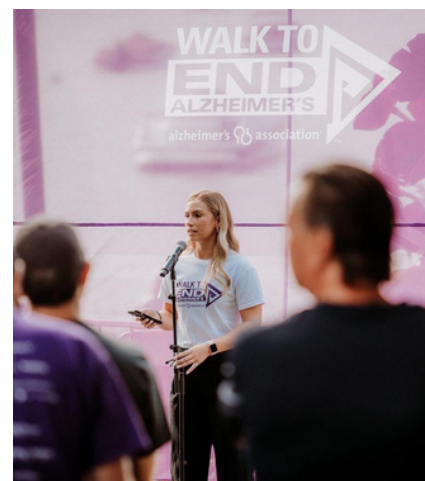
"My advice to any young woman looking at the field of science is that you can do anything you put your mind to," Deering said. "A lot of fields in STEM are more dominated by men, and I've experienced that myself being outnumbered in many of my college classes and while working as an EMT. But always remember you can do exactly the same thing – even better!"

Olivia also began volunteering with the Alzheimer's Association as a Community Educator in 2022 as a way to give back. "I enjoy working with people and teaching and educating," Deering said. She teaches such classes as, "Understanding Alzheimer's and dementia" and "10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's."

On International Day of Women and Girls in Science, we salute Deering for her dedication to the field of science and advancing research dedicated to finding a cure for Alzheimer's.



**Olivia Deering, BS**  
Clinical Research Coordinator  
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**Olivia speaking at the Walk to End Alzheimer's in Walworth County.**