



Alumni Physicians of Feinberg

The **Alumni Physicians of Feinberg (APF)** is an innovative program that unites our renowned Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine alumni and faculty with medical students who want to learn about the lives of physicians. The program was initiated by students seeking greater interaction with physicians in order to develop a deeper understanding of their daily work and their lives outside of medicine.

Through APF, each academic society hosts a series of dinners with alumni and faculty who discuss their careers—how they made their specialty choice, what they actually do all day, how they balance work, family, and life, lessons they have learned, and what they would do differently. The dinners are informal, unscripted, and fun, allowing students to go behind the scenes to learn about the lives of real physicians. These intimate gatherings take place on weekday evenings and can accommodate 15-20 students. Each session lasts about 90 minutes and the format is a facilitated discussion led by a student.

This program is especially valuable to students who are making their specialty choice. Students often struggle with this choice because they are concerned about becoming locked in one specialty for an entire career, or because they have generalized uncertainty about the lives of physicians after residency training. Personal stories from our alumni and faculty offer a unique perspective, enabling students to recognize that physicians within a specialty often have varying jobs, and over the span of a career, physicians often have multiple roles, depending on evolving personal or professional circumstances. These insights help to strengthen students' confidence about their career paths.

APF is open to all current Feinberg students. Special effort is made to introduce students to a spectrum of physicians with diverse backgrounds, medical specialties, professional paths, and personal interests. Here is what some of our students have to say about the program:

"APF is a great platform for candid conversations with attending physicians. We're able to ask any questions we have on our minds and get real, unfiltered answers that help us learn what being a physician is like."

"APF has shown me the influence a physician can have in many different arenas including the surrounding community, medical education, policy, and research. With these discussions, I am confident I can choose a specialty that allows me to reach my maximum potential as a physician with diverse interests."

"I really enjoyed hearing about the daily life of Dr. A.! She makes me think I think I can actually do this."

For more information about the Alumni Physicians of Feinberg program, please contact Dan Schwarzlose at 312-503-4519 or daniel.schwarzlose@northwestern.edu.