The Northwestern Brain Tumor Institute (NBTI) is a nationally recognized leader in the fight against brain and spinal cord tumors. The NBTI's mission is to provide state-of-the-art clinical care to patients with brain tumors, to provide resources and support necessary for patients and their families to meet the challenges of living with a brain tumor, to train neuro-oncology researchers and clinicians to meet the highest standards, and to endeavor to find a cure for brain and spinal tumors.

Each year, the NBTI team serves and treats approximately 7,000 brain and spinal cord tumor patients. NBTI neurosurgeons perform nearly 1,000 brain and spinal cord tumor-related surgeries annually.

The NBTI is at the vanguard of fighting the discouraging odds faced by so many who encounter brain and spinal cord tumors. With the help of our committed donors, we are succeeding in our efforts of:

- Recruiting the nation’s top clinicians in the fields of neurology and neurosurgery;
- Building a robust basic and translational science program to yield promising, new avenues for treatment; and
- Offering access to cutting-edge clinical trials and psychosocial support to ensure that we provide patients with every resource available to deal with the many facets faced by patients with cancer of the brain or spine.

Our work is gaining momentum, and in turn, Northwestern is garnering national attention. In the 2013 America’s Best Hospitals listing in U.S. News & World Report, Northwestern’s neurology and neurosurgery programs are ranked 7th in the country, a dramatic rise and source of pride for all involved with the NBTI. Our progress is a source of hope for countless brain tumor patients who are treated at Northwestern each day. These strides inspire us to remain focused on our vision to achieve our primary objective—to eradicate brain and spinal cancer.

A collaboration between Northwestern Medicine and the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University, the NBTI is co-directed by James P. Chandler, MD, and Jeffrey Raizer, MD, and involves more than 50 faculty and staff across a multitude of disciplines including neurology, neurosurgery, neuro-oncology, radiation oncology, neuro-radiology, neuropathology, pediatric neuro-oncology, nursing, and rehabilitative medicine.

In 2013, Northwestern Medicine and the NBTI were happy to welcome two internationally recognized leaders in the neurosciences. Andrew Parsa, MD, PhD, an internationally renowned neurosurgeon specializing in complex tumors of the brain and spine, came to Northwestern from the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Parsa serves as chair of neurological surgery at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and as the Michael J. Marchese Professor and Chair of the Department of Neurological Surgery at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. Dimitri Krainc, MD, PhD, enjoyed a 21-year career at Harvard and was most recently on the neurology faculty at Massachusetts General and Harvard. At Northwestern, Dr. Krainc is the Aaron Montgomery Ward Professor of Neurology and chair of the Ken and Ruth Dave Department of Neurology at Feinberg. He also serves as director of the Center for Rare Neurological Diseases.

**Basic and Translational Research**

**Laboratory Research**

Our research teams of faculty clinicians and scientists are focused on identifying and treating brain cancers early, determining factors that contribute to their development, researching new therapies and investigational drugs, developing effective new cancer treatments, and

“Our Brain Tumor Institute firmly establishes Northwestern as a preeminent resource in efforts to help us improve care for patients now and in the future. Northwestern boasts an incredible team of experts in the fields of neurology, neurosurgery, neuro-oncology, and radiation oncology, along with a team of internationally-renowned research scientists. The NBTI unites these minds in pursuit of our efforts to offer patients hope for a healthier future.”

James P. Chandler, MD, Lavin/Fates Professor of Neurological Surgery, Co-director and surgical director, Northwestern Brain Tumor Institute
enhancing our patients’ quality of life. The NBTI’s research priority has been significantly strengthened by the presence of Northwestern University’s premier Stem Cell Research Lab, one of the nation’s only Centers of Cancer Nanotechnology Excellence, and one of the United States’ foremost molecular analysis research labs.

**Clinical Research**

The depth and breadth of the NBTI’s clinical trial offerings reflect the Institute’s leadership position in the realm of brain tumor research and therapy. The NBTI prides itself on having a vast array of clinical trials open for patients with primary brain tumors or those tumors that have spread to the nervous system. These trials are designed for patients when they are first diagnosed or when their tumors recur after initial treatment. At any given time, we have approximately 10-15 trials open specifically for patients with these diseases, and we offer the largest number of clinical trials in Chicago. We are focused on clinical research as we work to find better treatments for patients.

The NBTI recently joined a landmark clinical trial to investigate if a vaccine made from a patient’s own brain tumor is effective in slowing tumor progression and extending survival. The randomized phase II trial will study how well giving the study vaccine with or without Avastin (bevacizumab) works in treating patients with recurrent glioblastoma multiforme (GBM).

**Brain Tumor Patient and Caregiver Support**

The complexity of care required for brain tumor patients and the enormous impact of brain tumors on the lives of patients and their loved ones require substantial support. In its steadfast commitment to treat the whole person, the NBTI offers a variety of psychosocial and supportive oncology services to it patients. One example is the Brain Tumor Support Group, which consistently serves nearly 300 patients and their caregivers annually.

**Now is the time for the Brain Tumor Institute**

At the Lurie Cancer Center, we recognize that every positive contribution we have made to the field of cancer care, research, and education has been made possible by donors who have entrusted us with their philanthropic support. We invite our loyal donors and interested friends to join us in supporting the Northwestern Brain Tumor Institute and ensuring its continued success through gifts of outright support and endowment.

Learn more about the Northwestern Brain Tumor Institute’s patient care, services and programs, research and education, clinical trials, and faculty at braintumorinstitute.org.

“Each day as a clinician, I help to care for patients who are facing the biggest challenge of their lives. I am always looking for new and better options to offer them. It is exciting to know that the NBTI is at the vanguard of clinical care and patient support, as well as translational research efforts that will accelerate the introduction of new and better therapies. I want to be able to offer my patients hope for better outcomes, a better quality of life, and, someday, even a cure.”

Jeffrey J. Raizer, MD, Mazza Foundation Distinguished Physician, Co-director and medical director, Northwestern Brain Tumor Institute
Cancer Institutes at Northwestern Medicine

The Cancer Institutes within the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University are providing exciting opportunities to bring our best people, programs, and resources together to plan, coordinate, and implement patient care, research, education, community service, and advocacy across the realm of cancer. In addition to creating a breakthrough Department of Cancer Biology, we will establish several new institutes and centers within the next few years to facilitate the work of our cancer physicians and scientists. These robust interfaces and collaborations will undoubtedly lead to clinical advances that benefit patients and their families locally, nationally, and across the globe.

THROUGH NORTHWESTERN MEDICINE, WE ARE CREATING A NATIONAL EPICENTER FOR HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION, RESEARCH, COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND ADVOCACY.

About the Lurie Cancer Center

• The Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University—one of only two National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers in Illinois and one of 41 in the nation—is committed to being a national leader in the battle to overcome cancer.

• Recognized as a national leader in cancer treatment, the Lurie Cancer Center supports care for a broad scope of cancers through comprehensive research; distinguished and dedicated faculty and staff; a world-class teaching program; and ongoing advances in medical, surgical, radiation, and interventional oncology.

• We are a founding member of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN): an alliance of 23 of the nation’s leading cancer centers dedicated to improving the quality and effectiveness of cancer care through development of clinical treatment guidelines and longitudinal outcomes research.

• Northwestern’s Lurie Cancer Center is a founding member of the Big Ten Cancer Research Consortium, which collaborates on oncology clinical trials that leverage the scientific and clinical expertise of the Big Ten universities.

• The Lurie Cancer Center has established major research strengths in breast, genitourinary, gastrointestinal, aero-digestive, neurologic, and gynecologic cancers; hematologic malignancies, sarcoma, melanoma, and pediatric oncology.

• Our basic and translational research programs in hormone action/signal transduction, angiogenesis, gene regulation, biologic therapies, oncologic mathematical modeling, and nanotechnology are nationally and internationally recognized.

• Our outstanding basic, translational, and clinical research complements a full range of prevention, early detection, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care programs for all types of cancer.

• Our nationally recognized supportive oncology care and survivorship programs include a Division of Fertility Preservation for young cancer survivors.

Learn more about the Lurie Cancer Center’s patient care, services and programs, research and education, clinical trials, and faculty at cancer.northwestern.edu