Northwestern University Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute
Galter Health Sciences Library
GALTER HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY

Transforming the health of humankind is our bold vision at Northwestern Medicine. Many factors contribute to achieving this significant institutional goal, though none is more important than the talented and dedicated individuals across our organization.

Our physicians provide exemplary clinical care; our scientists generate breakthrough discoveries; our faculty are exceptional educators; and our students pursue their dream of becoming extraordinary medical and research professionals. This culture of excellence is a hallmark of Northwestern Medicine. In pursuit of this goal, countless gifted faculty and staff have contributed to our history with their lifetime accomplishments.

The Galter Health Sciences Library embodies the commitment of Northwestern Medicine to excellence in research, education, and care. It serves as a trusted partner for Northwestern Medicine. Since its founding in 1859, Galter Library has been an anchor for Northwestern’s medical community. Today, our faculty physicians and scientists, administrators, students, and alumni increasingly depend on Galter Library to advance their next-generation information and data needs. Galter Library is succeeding as never before.

An Exemplary Institution

Galter Health Sciences Library is already recognized as a global leader among medical libraries. It initially earned this distinction through a longstanding commitment to the development of extraordinary resources and information support services. Today, Galter Library accelerates its pursuit of excellence through innovative programming and novel strategic information platforms that make it the exemplar of 21st century libraries.

Galter stands alone as an integrated partner in the clinical and translational sciences ecosystem, thanks to a strategic merging of its operations with the Northwestern University Clinical and Translational Sciences (NUCATS) Institute to accelerate a spectrum of activities on campus. By combining the parallel strengths of these two programs, Northwestern Medicine has formed a powerful and synergistic resource for the organization.

Galter Library catalyzes information transfer and dissemination to enhance impact. Galter recently launched DigitalHub, an innovative digital repository for the scholarly outputs of Northwestern Medicine scientists. DigitalHub represents the most cutting-edge repository technology available and enhances the discoverability and resulting impact of our scientists.

“The decision by Feinberg to merge Galter Health Sciences Library with NUCATS has been transformative. NUCATS and Galter share common missions in advancing education, research, and clinical care, and speeding knowledge translation to improve human health. This marriage has resulted in Galter becoming a medical library with unparalleled impact. It is the backbone of our great 21st century academic medical center and our rapidly evolving ‘learning health system,’ which requires rapid information access and dissemination. In short, this is not your grandfather’s library.”

Donald M. Lloyd-Jones, MD, ScM, FACC, FAHA, Senior Associate Dean for Clinical and Translational Research and Director of the NUCATS Institute, Chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine at Feinberg, and a cardiologist at Northwestern Memorial Hospital
“Galter Health Sciences Library is at the heart of Northwestern Medicine. We are dedicated to enabling the success and enhancing the impact of our remarkable faculty, staff, and students. And, just as Galter Library is the heart of Northwestern Medicine, the heart of the library is truly the dedicated and innovative team of professionals whose work ensures that we are setting the pace for the world’s leading medical libraries.”

Kristi Holmes, PhD, Director of Galter Health Sciences Library, Director of Evaluation at the NUCATS Institute, and associate professor of Preventive Medicine (Health and Biomedical Informatics) and Medical Education.

DigitalHub data are machine-readable, enabling web search engines to find the materials in the repository more easily than would be possible on an ordinary webpage. Our scientists can now rapidly and effectively share their science, data, and research products, promoting downstream translation and impact. The DigitalHub repository is a stellar example of Galter Library’s commitment to groundbreaking approaches to promote the impactful scholarship and expertise of Northwestern Medicine.

The Galter Health Sciences Library is a next-generation, fully integrated information and knowledge management hub for Northwestern Medicine. Galter Library is committed to digital innovation and maintains several new and enhanced leading-edge services to meet the research and scholarly needs of faculty, staff, students, and trainees. These advances include the Research Computing Cluster for statistical and data analysis tools; the Metrics and Impact Core, which provides expertise in health research impacts; and specialty information services to support critical needs on campus such as evidence-based decision support through the clinical informationist program, a robust systematic review program, and programs in support of informatics and data science. Galter Library is quickly defining the vision of what it means to be a successful modern biomedical library.

The library is also dedicated to preserving the rich heritage of Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. Our Special Collections contain valuable resources for use by scholars who seek to learn from those who have walked before them. Included among these assets are: The Archibald Church History of Medicine Collection (5,000 volumes); A.D. Black History of Dentistry Collection (1,390 volumes); rare volumes representing seminal works in anatomy and pathology and other disciplines; the 1555 edition of Andreas Vesalius’ De Humani Corporis Fabrica (The Fabric of the Human Body) with a modern annotated translation of this seminal text completed over a 10-year period by Northwestern professors Drs. Malcolm Hast and Daniel Garrison; and the Dr. Meryl Haber Special Collections Fund, which is a wonderful reminder of the importance of a commitment to preserve and restore these precious artifacts.

“Galter is one of the most important centers of student activity at Feinberg. In addition to studying, students take classes, participate in small groups, and actively learn at Galter. It is a place for reflection, study, acquiring new knowledge, and collaboration. The support that Galter Library provides for Feinberg students is integral to their success.”

Diane B. Wayne, ’91 MD, Dr. John Sherman Appleman Professor of Medicine and Medical Education, Dean for Medical Education

The letter “V” in the Galter Library’s 1555 copy of Vesalius.
The balance of preserving treasures while providing cutting-edge tools and resources is the essential work of the modern biomedical library. It is no longer enough for a library to maintain stacks of books for on-site research, along with comfortable study and teaching facilities. At Galter Library, the medical school has immediate access to critical data and information and benefits from a sophisticated partner to support discovery, use, analysis, visualization, and dissemination of information. Indeed, a research breakthrough or a successful clinical decision may depend on it.

Galter Library staff understand the paramount importance of providing such complex and expansive support. The challenge to do so has led to exciting plans for an innovative space, described herein.

**Plans to Evolve**

Our vision is well underway. **Galter Health Sciences Library** is setting the pace for the future of biomedical libraries, serving the Northwestern Medicine community with world-class services, support, programming, and facilities. The “new” Galter Library will provide faculty, researchers, and students with limitless learning opportunities through digital advances and an innovative setting to support students well into the future.

The Galter Library renovation will improve function and enhance the library’s footprint to better support our educational, clinical, and research missions. This begins with a reorientation of the Galter Library entry to Superior Street, directly across from the new Louis A. Simpson and Kimberly K. Querrey Biomedical Research Center. A sky bridge will join the two facilities, promoting interaction and access to library resources such as research software and computing tools. An expanded 24-hour innovation lab work space will serve as a hub for collaboration, investigation, and learning.

Collaboration is the cornerstone of every new space in the renewed Galter. Flexible, reconfigurable rooms will accommodate large and small group instruction. In select locations, students will be able to display their work individually or in groups on large monitors to catalyze discussion and dialogue. Eleven Problem-Based Learning Rooms will actively support small-group instruction in a technology-rich environment. An expanded and upgraded Special Collections facility will enhance our ability to archive and preserve work, as well as to make our exquisite holdings available for study. Galter Library is also a strong supporter of a healthy campus and #NorthwesternWellness through weekly yoga classes to recharge and relax, and treadmill and bike desks for students to use for study. Together, these innovative updates will equip our campus with the tools and spaces necessary for success. All this must be accomplished while maintaining the legacy of historic treasures and the richness and character of our distinguished library.

**Philanthropic Opportunities**

Northwestern is fortunate to have dedicated friends and supportive organizations that share the priorities of the University and Northwestern Medicine. These advocates regularly step forward with financial investments to help advance initiatives that otherwise might not flourish to their full potential.

The **Galter Health Sciences Library** at Northwestern Medicine looks to those potential partners who recognize the importance of maintaining it as an exemplary and highly effective component of our organization. Philanthropic support from generous individuals and groups in the form of outright gifts and endowments will be crucial in continuing the incredible trajectory and impact of Galter Library.

For more information about supporting **Galter Health Sciences Library**, please contact:

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