Inaugural Interventional Oncology Symposium

More than 100 medical students and residents attended the inaugural Interventional Oncology Training Symposium hosted by Northwestern on October 15. The one-day conference included more than a dozen presentations, hands-on workstations, and panel-based discussions on this emerging field of medicine. Noted experts in the field presented on topics related to clinical care, research, and entrepreneurship. Story >

Multidisciplinary Collaboration Offers Innovative Approach to Surgery

Northwestern surgeons are among few in the country trained to perform minimally invasive procedures without the external incisions associated with more traditional surgical procedures. Patients are benefiting from improved pain management, less scarring, and faster healing. Surgical residents are benefitting through their involvement in a procedure that residents elsewhere have only heard about. Story >

Metabolic Hormone Core Studies Weighty Issues

The number of adults with diabetes worldwide has more than doubled since 1980 to 347 million. According to the Center for Disease Control, if the current trend continues, then one-third of US adults will have diabetes by 2050. While the numbers look bleak, there are researchers at Northwestern whose work creates hope for the epidemic. A main source of support for them is the Metabolic Hormone Core in the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

Dr. Murphy Discusses the Importance of Vitamin D
As the weather turns colder, many individuals don't spend as much time in the sun, which can lead to vitamin D deficiency. Too little vitamin D causes brittle bones and has been linked to such diseases as prostate cancer, diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, and multiple sclerosis. In this clip, Northwestern urologist Adam Murphy, MD, discusses how to get the recommended daily allowance. Video >

Committed to Quality and Safety
More than 400,000 patient interactions benefited as a result of process improvement projects at Northwestern Memorial and Northwestern Lake Forest hospitals in fiscal year 2011. The top improvement projects were recently showcased during the 16th Annual Improvement Day, which featured 41 posters highlighting projects and their impact. Improvement teams this year helped reduce overall healthcare costs by $13.7 million and 70 percent achieved statistically significant improvements, including reductions in infections and complications. Since 2002, more than 230 improvement projects have been completed. Nadim Rana, LCSW, a social worker in case management, was impressed by the changes implemented as a result of the projects. "You always need to be pushing the boundaries and that is what all these booths are doing," he said.

Did you know?
First-time applicants to medical school reached an all-time high in 2011, increasing by 2.6 percent over last year to 32,654 students, according to new data released by the Association of American Medical Colleges. Total applicants rose by 2.8 percent to 43,919, with gains across most major racial and ethnic groups for a second year in a row.

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