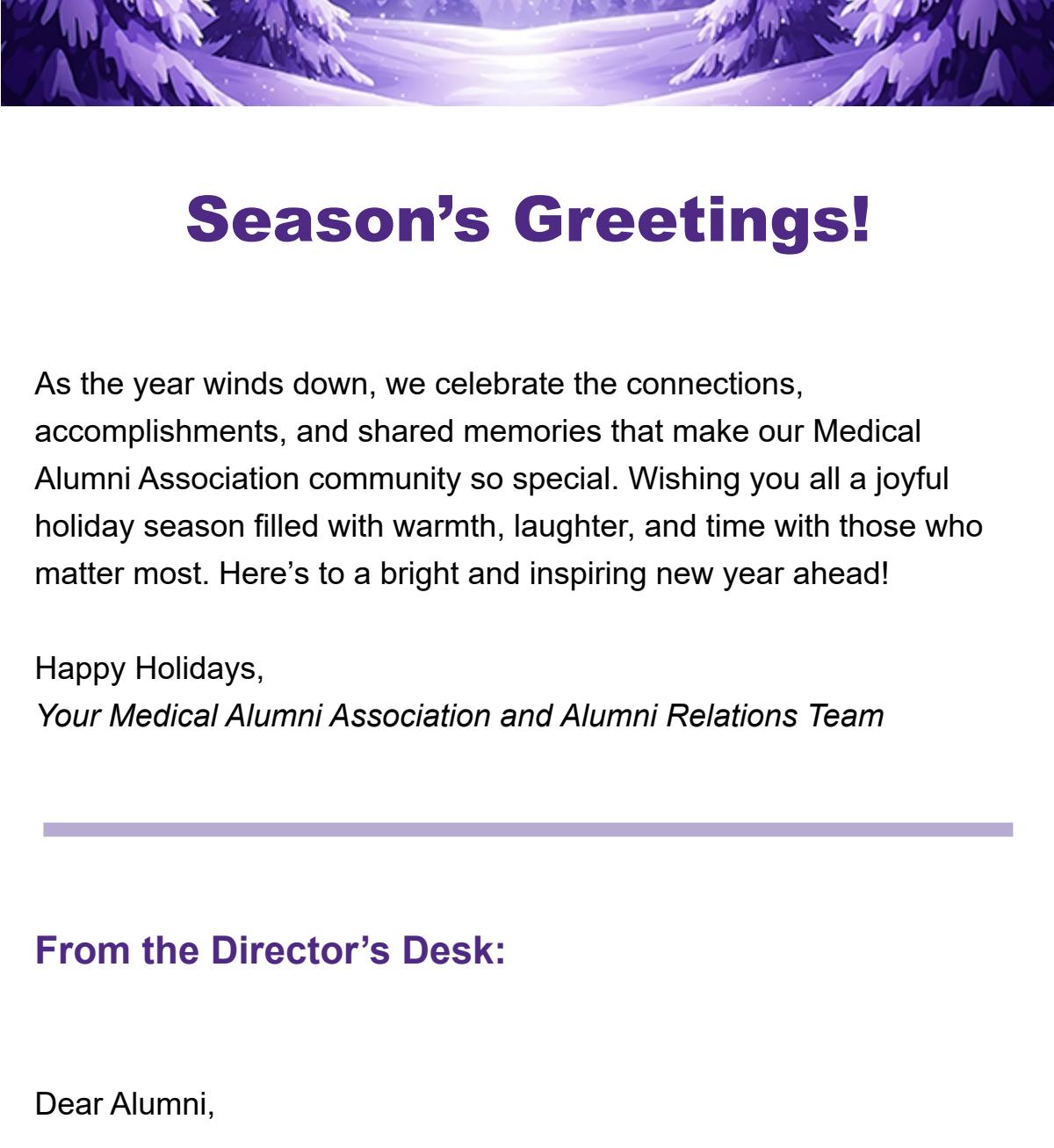


Medical Alumni Association NEWSLETTER

December 2025 | Issue No. 98



Season's Greetings!

As the year winds down, we celebrate the connections, accomplishments, and shared memories that make our Medical Alumni Association community so special. Wishing you all a joyful holiday season filled with warmth, laughter, and time with those who matter most. Here's to a bright and inspiring new year ahead!

Happy Holidays,
Your Medical Alumni Association and Alumni Relations Team

From the Director's Desk:

Dear Alumni,

I hope that you are having a wonderful holiday season! We are excited to let you know that **Alumni Weekend 2026 registration will open on January 5**. Early-bird promotional pricing will be in effect until February 28, providing a 20% discount on all paid activities.

[Check out our website](#) and sign up early. We can't wait to welcome you back to campus on May 1–2.

Please reach out with any questions.

Happy Holidays!

Thank you,
Babette



Babette Henderson '21 CERT

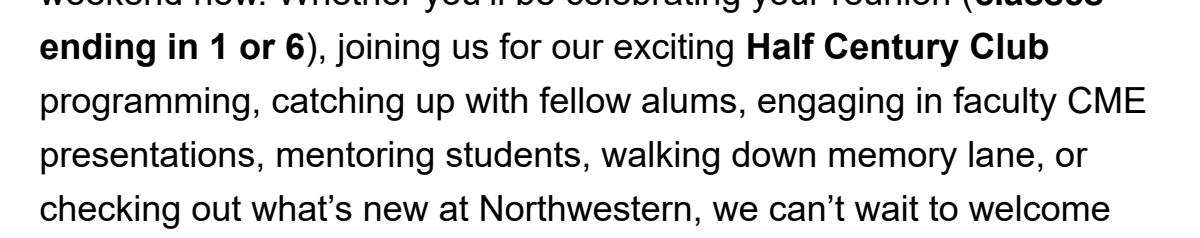
Senior Director, Alumni Engagement

Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

babette.henderson@northwestern.edu

312-503-0855

Celebrating Our Incredible Alumni



As we wrap up another year, we are deeply grateful for you, our alumni community. Your dedication, enthusiasm, and engagement have made a lasting impact on our school and the future of medicine. Whether you attended an event, offered mentorship, made a gift, or shared your time in other ways, you inspire us every day. Your involvement shapes the experiences of current and future students.

In fiscal 2025, your contributions helped us:

- Engage 2,127 alumni and friends through 23 events
- Connect with alumni in 8 cities through in-person gatherings
- Welcome 104 Half Century Club webinar attendees

- Host 25 mentoring events, strengthening ties between students and alumni
- Facilitate 27 virtual connections between student and alumni

- Receive gifts from 1,497 alumni
- Celebrate 243 reunion gifts from alumni
- Endow 2 MD class scholarships: 1972 and 1975

- Achieve 100% giving participation by the MAA Board for the 9th consecutive year
- Equip 140 incoming medical students with white coats

- Provide 140 stethoscopes and medical tools for the incoming class
- Distribute the MAA Newsletter to over 17,000 subscribers

- Surpass over 28,000 in our social media reach across all platforms

Your support makes everything we do possible, and we look forward to building on this momentum together in the year ahead!

Save the Date: Alumni Weekend 2026

We are officially kicking off the countdown to our favorite weekend of the year. [The Alumni Weekend 2026 Website is live!](#)

Get a sneak peek of our full lineup of events and start planning your weekend now. Whether you'll be celebrating your reunion (classes ending in 1 or 6), joining us for our exciting Half Century Club programming, catching up with fellow alums, engaging in faculty CME presentations, mentoring students, walking down memory lane, or checking out what's new at Northwestern, we can't wait to welcome you.

We're also thrilled to announce that the Medical Alumni Association will host Northwestern University Dental School alumni at our first-ever Alumni Weekend **Dental Alumni Reunion Dinner**. Welcome to all our NUDS alums!

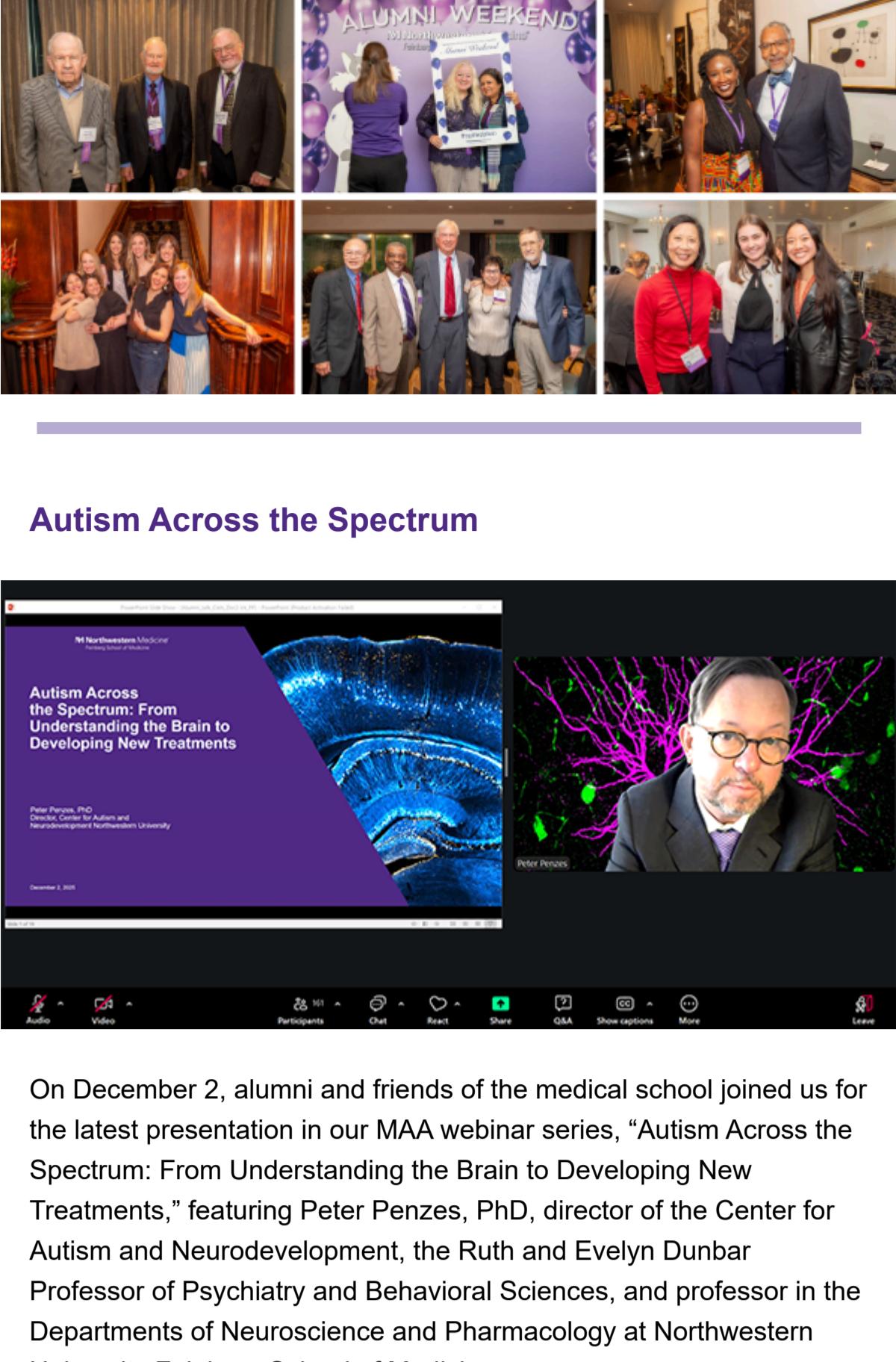
Alumni Weekend is the cornerstone event for the Medical Alumni Association. **ALL ALUMNI** are welcome to join our weekend events and are encouraged to bring guests and family members. No matter your interests, there's something for everyone at Alumni Weekend.

Alumni Weekend 2026: May 1–2

Book your hotel now! Discounted room blocks are available at several nearby hotels. Visit the [2026 Travel and Accommodations](#) portion of our Alumni Weekend website for more information. Rates are guaranteed until **March 30**, or until the room blocks sell out.

Online registration for Alumni Weekend opens **January 5**.

Let's get ready to Celebrate in Chicago!



Autism Across the Spectrum

Autism Across the Spectrum: From Understanding the Brain to Developing New Treatments

Peter Penzes, PhD
Director, Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment Northwestern University

December 2, 2020

Participants: 161

Chat

React

Share

Q&A

Show captions

More

Leave

On December 2, alumni and friends of the medical school joined us for the latest presentation in our MAA webinar series, “Autism Across the Spectrum: From Understanding the Brain to Developing New Treatments,” featuring Peter Penzes, PhD, director of the Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment, the Ruth and Evelyn Dunbar Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, and professor in the Departments of Neuroscience and Pharmacology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

During the presentation, Dr. Penzes shared insights into the research underway at Northwestern’s Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment. He highlighted recent findings in genetics and brain imaging that help us better understand the wide variation in experiences among individuals on the autism spectrum. His remarks emphasized how advancing scientific knowledge is illuminating the core mechanisms of autism and related neurodevelopmental conditions.

This popular webinar series keeps alumni and friends coming back for more, and we have lots more great content in store for 2026. You can even register to have the recording sent straight to your inbox!

Join the conversation by streaming this session and all of our previous MAA webinars anytime via our [MAA Virtual Event Recording Archives](#).

MAA Digital Series: Hosted by Joseph Gugenheim, '72 MD

“Chicago’s Iconic Clocks”

Chicago’s Iconic Clocks



Joseph Gugenheim, '72 MD



We’re thrilled to bring you the newest installment of our MAA Digital Series from our fantastic host and historian, alum **Joseph Gugenheim, '72 MD**.

In this episode, Dr. Gugenheim explores Chicago’s historic clocks, those often-overlooked landmarks that quietly mark the city’s rhythm. He begins with the Marshall Field clock, a beloved gathering spot during this festive season that has brought generations together. From there, he explores the grand tower clocks that once guided shoppers, workers, and travelers, with each timepiece reflecting the city’s architectural vision, ingenuity, and civic pride.

Learn about the Father Time figure at the former Jewelers Building, the enormous terra cotta clock faces of the Wrigley Building, and the evolving Chicago Board of Trade clock. Along the way, Dr. Gugenheim shares intriguing anecdotes, historical quirks, and the artistry behind these enduring fixtures. Meet us under the clock for this fascinating exploration of Chicago’s timepieces that are woven into both the rhythm of the city and the spirit of the season.

Dr. Gugenheim presents “Chicago’s Iconic Clocks.”

Thank you, Dr. Gugenheim!

Stream “Chicago’s Iconic Clocks”



COMING SOON: “Maxwell Street”

In January, Dr. Gugenheim will turn his attention to Maxwell Street, revealing the rich history, vibrant community, and some of the remarkable stories that define this legendary Chicago neighborhood. Stay tuned for more episodes coming in the new year!

Catch up on all previous episodes of our MAA Digital Series on our [MAA website](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

Help Us Celebrate Abbott Hall!

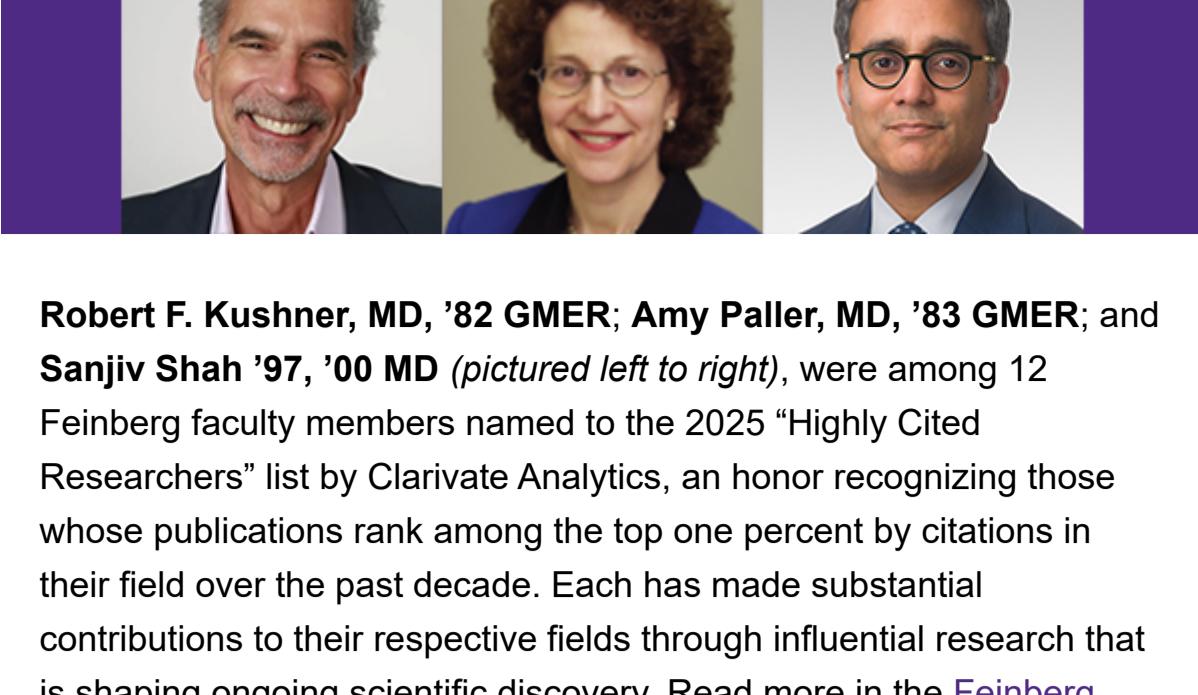
Abbott Hall has been home to generations of Northwestern medical students as a place of late-night study sessions, lifelong friendships, and unforgettable memories. We want to hear yours!

Add your photos, stories, or favorite memories to our [“Memories of Abbott Hall” Kudoboard](#) now, and they may be featured during Alumni Weekend 2026 as part of our *Have Coffee and Conversations with the Half Century Club: The History of Abbott Hall* presentation with **Joseph Gugenheim, '72 MD**.

Your stories will help bring Abbott Hall’s history to life!

My Memories of Abbott Hall

Congrats Are in Order!



Robert F. Kushner, MD, '82 GMER; Amy Paller, MD, '83 GMER; and Sanjiv Shah '97, '00 MD (pictured left to right), were among 12 Feinberg faculty members named to the 2025 "Highly Cited Researchers" list by Clarivate Analytics, an honor recognizing those whose publications rank among the top one percent by citations in their field over the past decade. Each has made substantial contributions to their respective fields through influential research that is shaping ongoing scientific discovery. Read more in the [Feinberg News Center](#). Congratulations, Drs. Kushner, Paller, and Shah!



Ariz Keshwani '21, '22 MPH, a Feinberg medical student, is co-author of a nationwide study analyzing geographic and demographic disparities in brain and nervous system cancers in the United States, published in *JAMA Neurology*. The research found that while incidence rates have remained stable, deaths

and disability from these cancers have declined modestly, with notable differences by location, age, sex, and socioeconomic status. Read more in the [Feinberg News Center](#). Congratulations, Ariz!



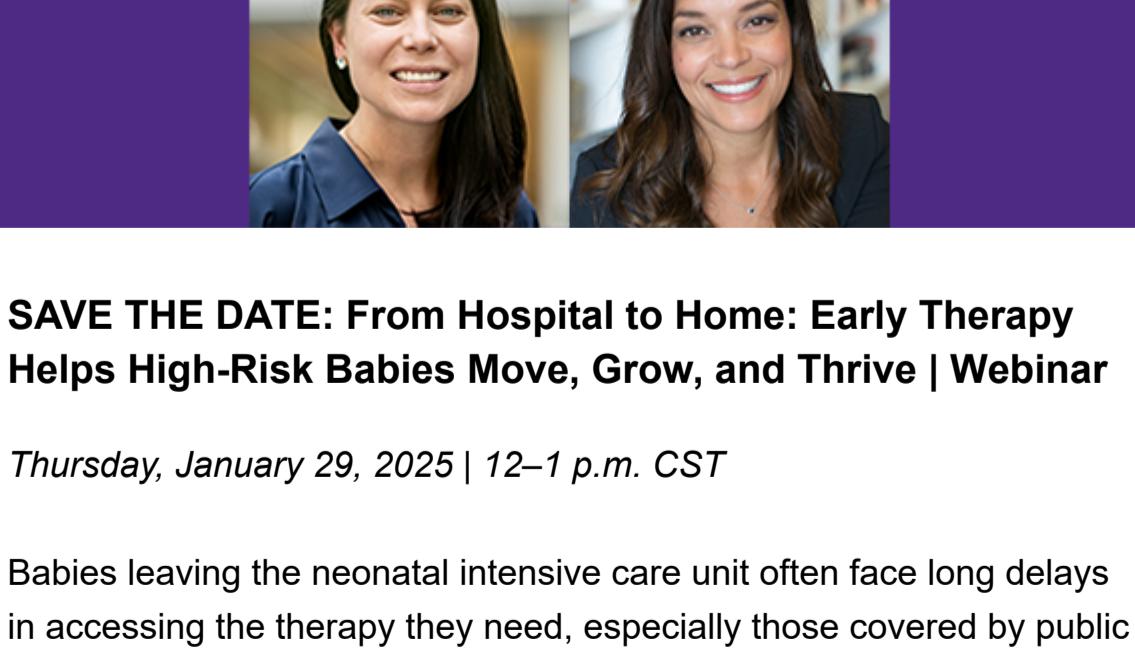
Sadiya Khan '05, '09 MD, '12 GMER, '16 GMEF, the Magerstadt Professor of Cardiovascular Epidemiology and associate professor of Medicine in the Division of Cardiology at Feinberg, and her research team introduced a first-of-its-kind online tool that forecasts 30-year heart disease risk and shows where patients rank among their peers based on common health measures, such as blood pressure, cholesterol, smoking status, diabetes history, and kidney function. The tool, published in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, aims to make long-term risk more relatable and actionable to support earlier preventive conversations and interventions. Read more in the [Feinberg News Center](#). Congratulations, Dr. Khan!



Hemant K. Roy, '89 MD, was recently named chair of the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), effective March 2026. A gastroenterologist and former UNMC faculty member, Dr. Roy currently chairs the

Department of Internal Medicine at Ben Taub Hospital and serves as associate dean of Academic and Faculty Affairs at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. At UNMC, he will lead the largest clinical department in the College of Medicine, which plays a major role in education and research at the graduate and undergraduate levels. Congratulations, Dr. Roy!

Upcoming Events



Medical Alumni Association: Plan It Purple Calendar

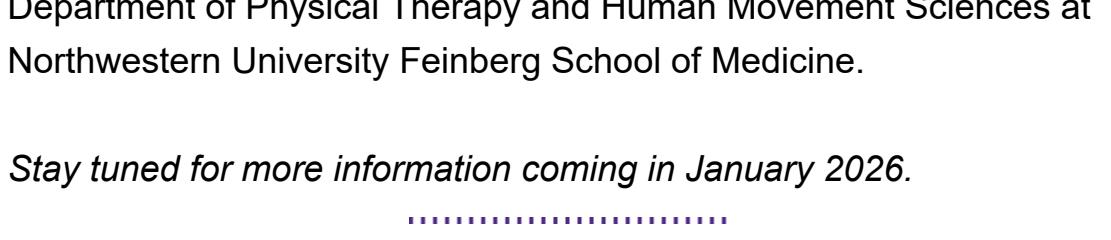
Did you know that the MAA has its very own [Plan It Purple calendar](#)?

With the Plan It Purple calendar, you'll never miss a Medical Alumni Association event!

You can register for events, download a save-the-date reminder to your calendar, and learn more about other University-wide events and offerings.

Bookmark the MAA calendar or visit the [MAA home page](#) to keep tabs on all of our upcoming events.

Visit the MAA Plan It Purple Calendar



Midwest Biotech Startup Showcase | San Francisco, California

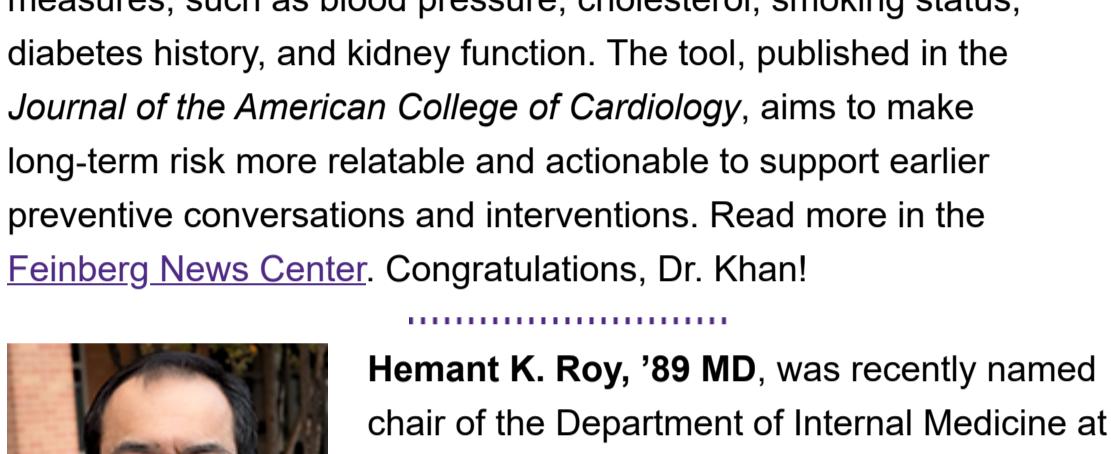
Monday, January 12, 2026 | 5–7 p.m. PST

Join us for the Midwest Biotech Startup Showcase, held during the J.P. Morgan Healthcare Conference Week, featuring leading life sciences and biotech ventures from Northwestern University, Purdue University, the University of Chicago, the University of Illinois Chicago, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and the University of Michigan. This showcase will convene investors, industry leaders, and academic innovators to highlight groundbreaking technologies and ventures advancing the future of healthcare.

Location: Northwestern University San Francisco Office | 44 Montgomery, Montgomery Street, 18th Floor | San Francisco, California

For questions or more information, please contact the event organizers through the [registration page](#).

Register for the Midwest Biotech Startup Showcase



SAVE THE DATE: From Hospital to Home: Early Therapy Helps High-Risk Babies Move, Grow, and Thrive | Webinar

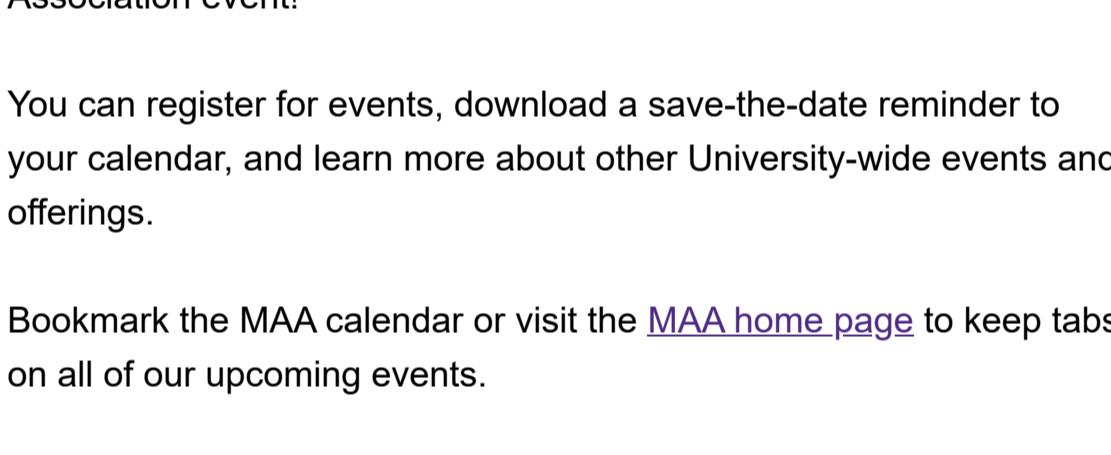
Thursday, January 26, 2026 | 12–1 p.m. CST

Babies leaving the neonatal intensive care unit often face long delays in accessing the therapy they need, especially those covered by public insurance. Research shows that delivering physical therapy immediately after discharge is not only feasible, but it significantly improves motor development during the most critical months of life. Acting early opens the door to better outcomes and ensures every child has the chance to reach their full potential.

Jessica Trenkle, PT, DPT (pictured left) is a board-certified clinical specialist in pediatric physical therapy and assistant professor of Physical Therapy and Human Movement Sciences at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

Ali Liddle, PT, MPP, PCS (pictured right) is associated faculty in the Department of Physical Therapy and Human Movement Sciences at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

Stay tuned for more information coming in January 2026.



SAVE THE DATE: From Hospital to Home: Early Therapy Helps High-Risk Babies Move, Grow, and Thrive | Webinar

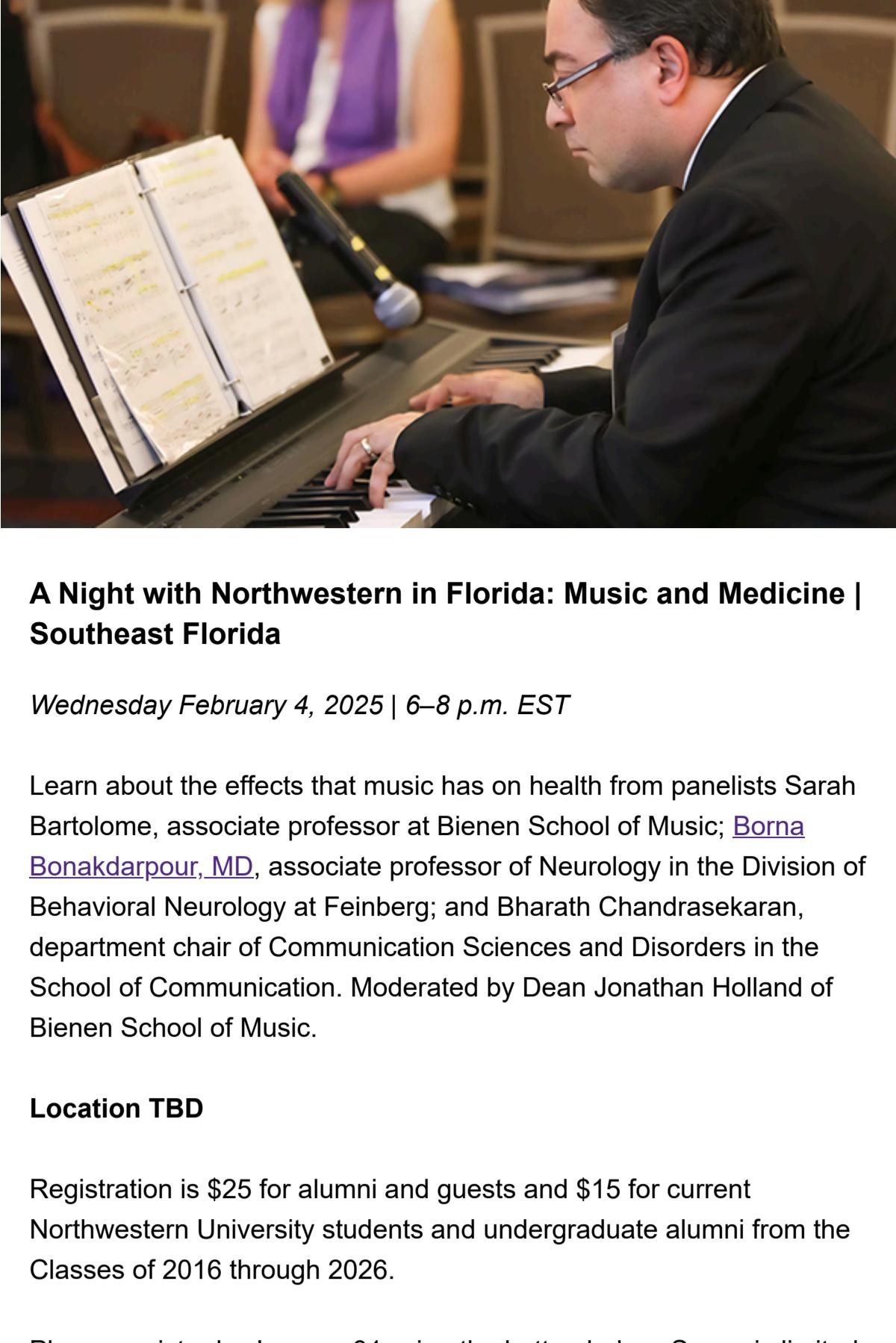
Thursday, January 26, 2026 | 12–1 p.m. CST

Babies leaving the neonatal intensive care unit often face long delays in accessing the therapy they need, especially those covered by public insurance. Research shows that delivering physical therapy immediately after discharge is not only feasible, but it significantly improves motor development during the most critical months of life. Acting early opens the door to better outcomes and ensures every child has the chance to reach their full potential.

Jessica Trenkle, PT, DPT (pictured left) is a board-certified clinical specialist in pediatric physical therapy and assistant professor of Physical Therapy and Human Movement Sciences at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

Ali Liddle, PT, MPP, PCS (pictured right) is associated faculty in the Department of Physical Therapy and Human Movement Sciences at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

Stay tuned for more information coming in January 2026.



A Night with Northwestern in Florida: Music and Medicine | Southeast Florida

Wednesday February 4, 2025 | 6–8 p.m. EST

Learn about the effects that music has on health from panelists Sarah Bartolome, associate professor at Bienen School of Music; [Borna Bonakdarpour, MD](#), associate professor of Neurology in the Division of Behavioral Neurology at Feinberg; and Bharath Chandrasekaran, department chair of Communication Sciences and Disorders in the School of Communication. Moderated by Dean Jonathan Holland of Bienen School of Music.

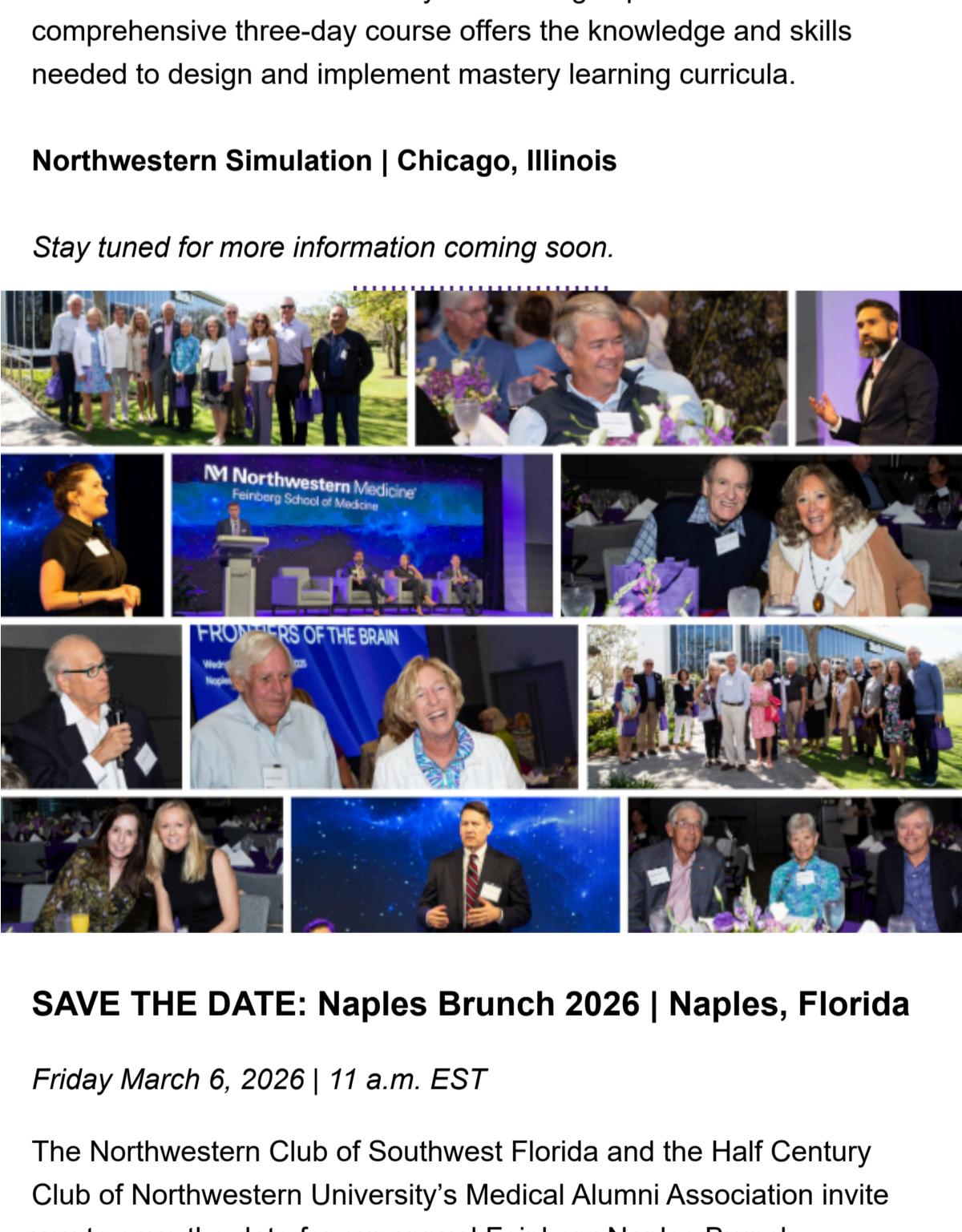
Location TBD

Registration is \$25 for alumni and guests and \$15 for current Northwestern University students and undergraduate alumni from the Classes of 2016 through 2026.

Please register by January 31 using the button below. Space is limited, and registration will close when event capacity is reached.

Advance registration is required.

[Register for A Night with Northwestern in Florida](#)



SAVE THE DATE: Cubs Spring Training Game | Mesa, Arizona

Saturday, February 21, 2026 | 1:05 p.m. MST

Chicago Cubs vs. Texas Rangers

To thank you for your support, we will open ticket sales to members of [The Founders Society](#) and [Half Century Club](#) prior to the full alumni population. Your \$45 purchase includes one game ticket, food, soda, and \$20 in Cubs Cash that can be used on adult beverages or in the Cubs Team Store at Sloan Park. Exclusively for members of The Founders Society and Half Century Club, and Northwestern alumni.

Limited tickets will be available. Reserve your travel and hotel accommodations now.

Stay tuned for more information coming in January 2026.

Designing & Implementing Simulation-Based Mastery Learning Curricula

SAVE THE DATE
Monday, March 2 – Wednesday, March 4, 2026
Northwestern Simulation | Chicago, IL

Mastery learning, a rigorous competency-based medical education model, improves patient care quality and reduces healthcare costs. Northwestern Simulation faculty are leading experts in this field. This comprehensive three-day course

offers the knowledge and skills needed to design and implement mastery learning curricula.



SAVE THE DATE: Designing & Implementing Simulation-Based Mastery Learning Curricula | Chicago, Illinois

Monday, March 2–Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Mastery learning, a rigorous competency-based medical education model, improves patient care quality and reduces healthcare costs. Northwestern Simulation faculty are leading experts in this field. This comprehensive three-day course offers the knowledge and skills needed to design and implement mastery learning curricula.

Northwestern Simulation | Chicago, Illinois

Stay tuned for more information coming soon.

[Add Northwestern Simulation to My Calendar](#)

SAVE THE DATE: Naples Brunch 2026 | Naples, Florida

Friday March 6, 2026 | 11 a.m. EST

The Northwestern Club of Southwest Florida and the Half Century Club of Northwestern University's Medical Alumni Association invite you to save the date for our annual Feinberg Naples Brunch.

Welcome Reception: 11–11:30 a.m.

Program and Brunch: 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. (Begins promptly)

This year's program offers a rare opportunity to hear from one of the world's foremost authorities on metabolic health: [Robert F. Kushner, MD, '82 GMER, MS](#).

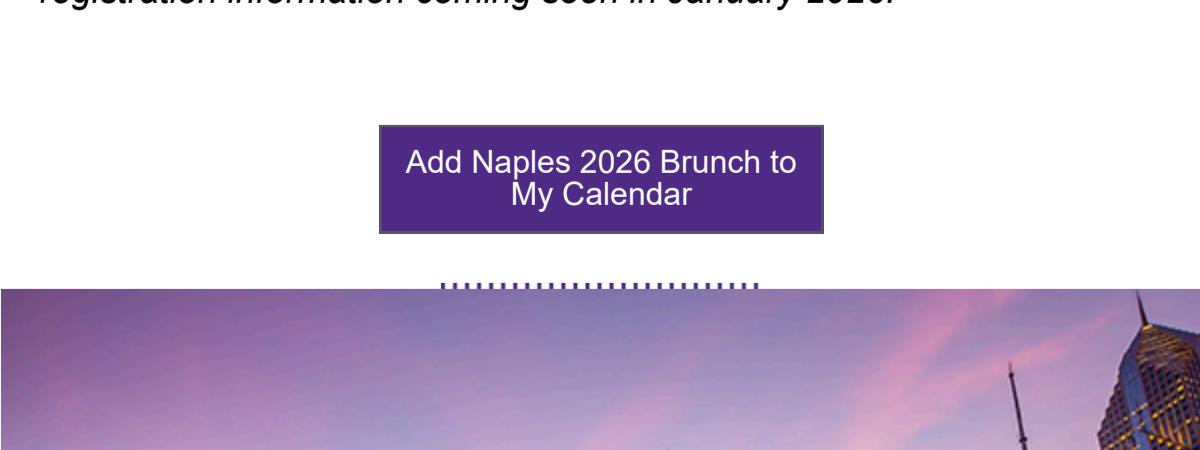
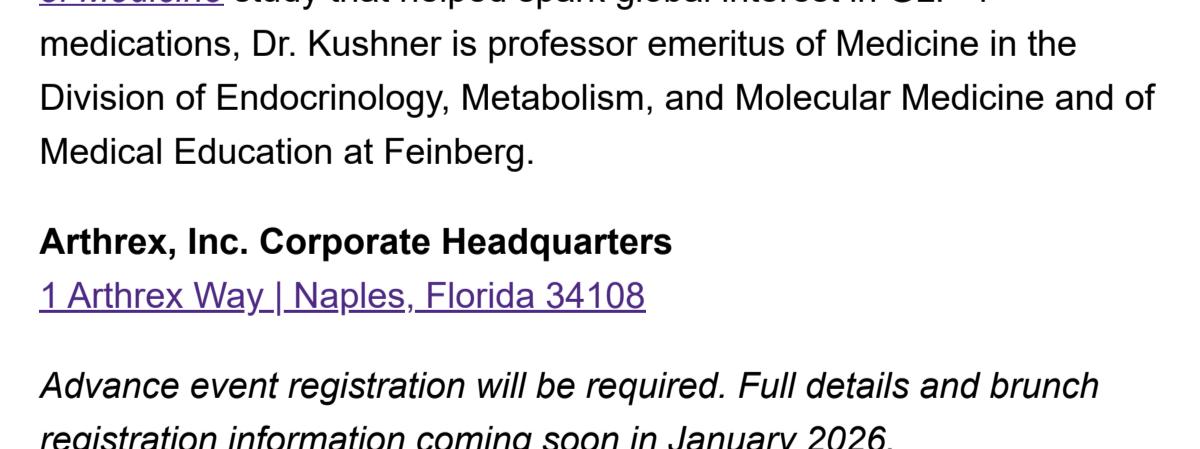
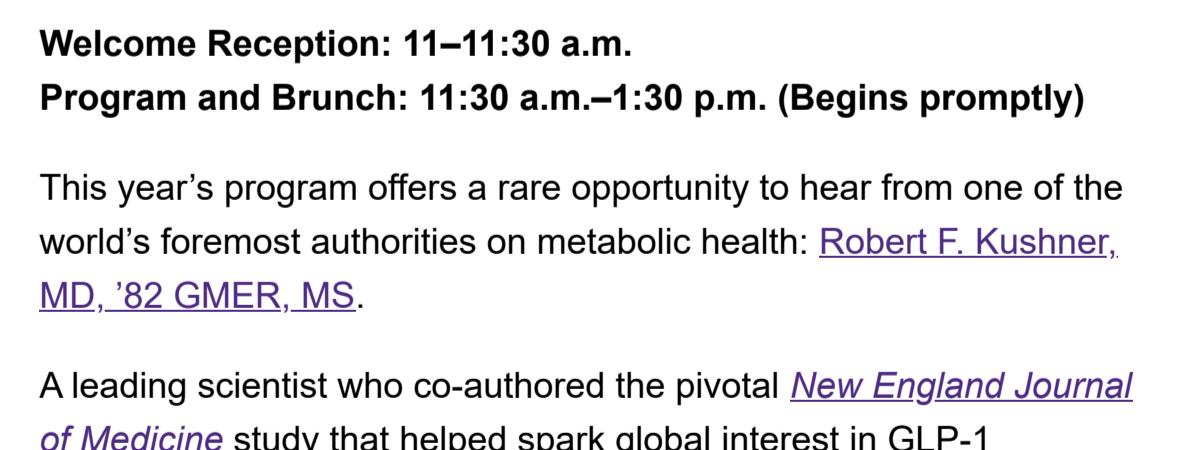
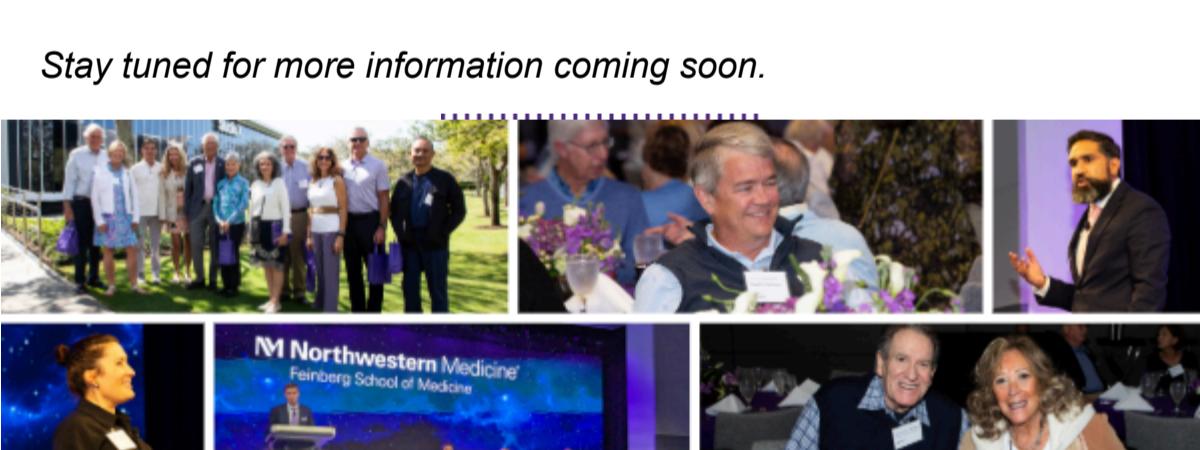
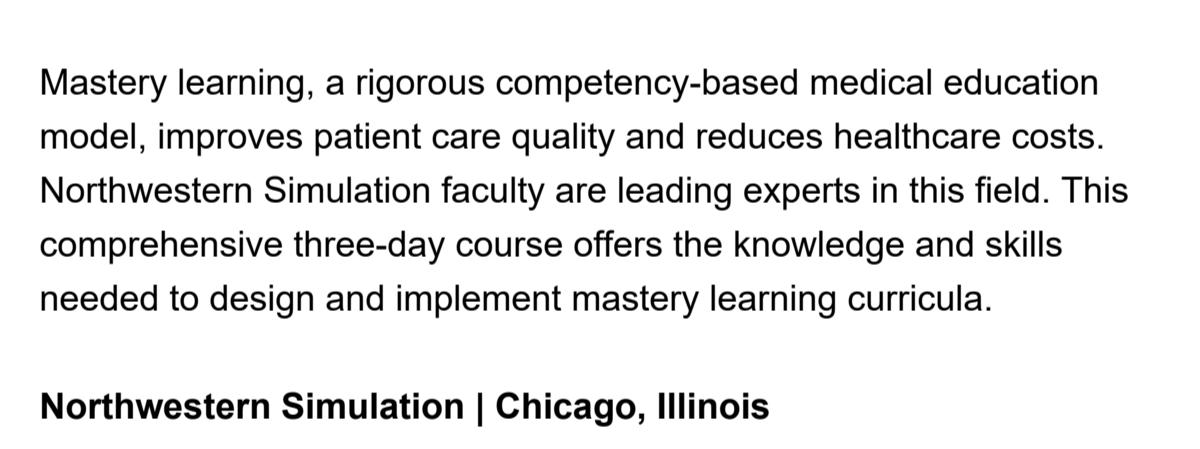
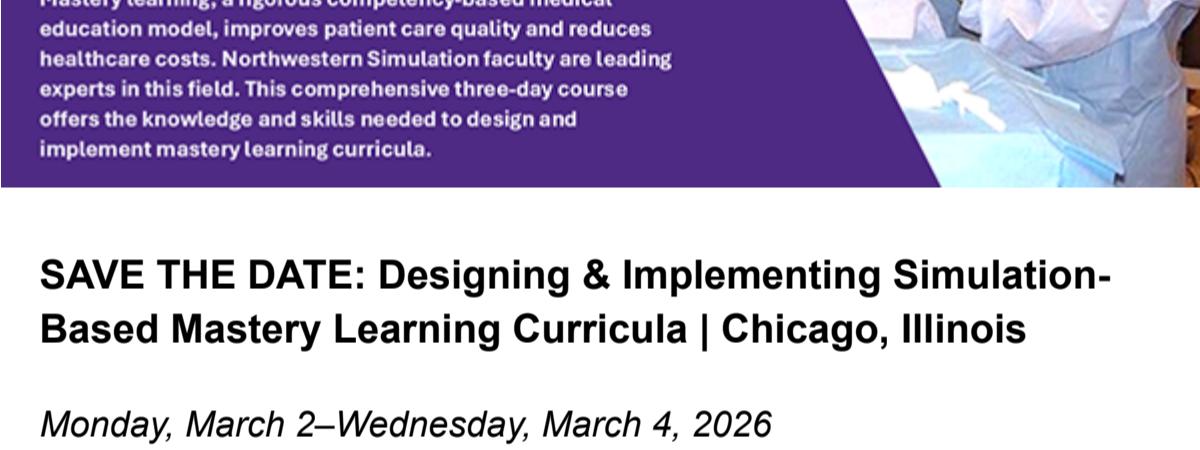
A leading scientist who co-authored the pivotal [New England Journal of Medicine](#) study that helped spark global interest in GLP-1 medications, Dr. Kushner is professor emeritus of Medicine in the Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism, and Molecular Medicine and of Medical Education at Feinberg.

Arthrex, Inc. Corporate Headquarters

1 Arthrex Way | Naples, Florida 34106

Advance event registration will be required. Full details and brunch registration information coming soon in January 2026.

[Add Naples 2026 Brunch to My Calendar](#)



SAVE THE DATE: Alumni Weekend 2026 | Chicago, Illinois

Friday, May 1–Saturday, May 2, 2026

Celebrate in Chicago next spring!

Alumni Weekend is the cornerstone event for the Medical Alumni Association. Spend the weekend reconnecting with friends and classmates as you explore campus, participate in lectures and tours, and celebrate at class dinners. We are thrilled to welcome our 2026 reunion classes, as well as all members of our Half Century Club.

Not your reunion year? Not a problem! There's so much to see and do. Plan to spend the weekend with us.

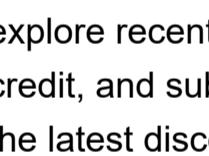
Don't wait: Secure your hotel for Alumni Weekend 2026 now!

We've arranged discounted room blocks at several local Chicago hotels, including Aloft Chicago Mag Mile, Omni Chicago Hotel, and The Ritz-Carlton, Chicago. Early booking is strongly recommended, as rooms are limited and offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Visit the **“2026 Travel and Accommodations”** portion of our [Alumni Weekend website](#) for more information.

The [Alumni Weekend website](#) is live, and **registration opens January 5, 2026**. See you in Chicago!

Add Alumni Weekend 2026 to My Calendar



Advancing Health and Longevity by Analyzing the Retina

with Manjot Gill, MD

Listen to the Episode >>

 Northwestern Medicine

Feinberg's Breakthroughs Podcast Archives | Claim CME Credit

Now Available

Stay in tune with Feinberg faculty through candid interviews in the [Breakthroughs](#) podcast archives. Discover more about their insights, explore recent episodes, claim continuing medical education (CME) credit, and subscribe to the show so that you can stay up-to-date with the latest discoveries.

Check out the latest episode: “[Advancing Health and Longevity by Analyzing the Retina with Manjot Gill, MD](#).”

For Physicians Claiming CME Credit: Most episodes are approved for CME credit. After streaming the episode, you will find the eligible credit amount at the bottom of each podcast webpage and a “claim your credit” button, which will take you to Feinberg’s CME website.

Just sign in and fill out the form.

Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine podcasts are available on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), and [Pandora](#).

Subscribe to the Breakthroughs Podcast

Questions? Contact us anytime at medalum@northwestern.edu.

Thank you for engaging with us and staying connected to your alma mater!

 Northwestern Medicine®

Feinberg School of Medicine

Medical Alumni Association

