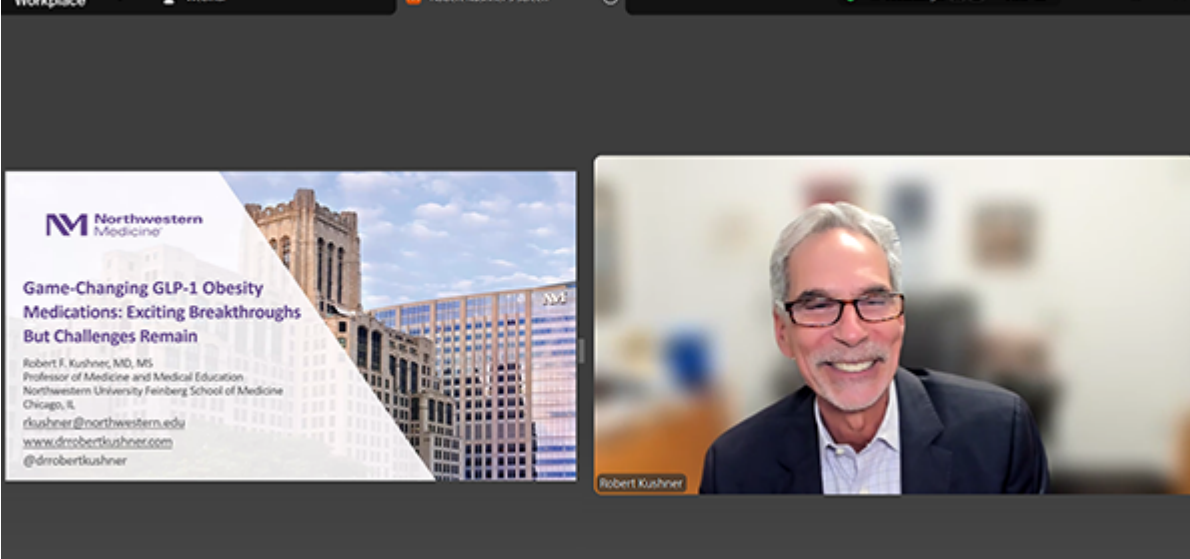


Medical Alumni Association NEWSLETTER

July 2025 | Issue No. 93



Game-Changing GLP-1s

On July 15, your Medical Alumni Association was thrilled to host another outstanding webinar, *Game-Changing GLP-1 Obesity Medications: Exciting Breakthroughs But Challenges Remain*, featuring **Robert F. Kushner, MD, '82 GMER, MS**, professor of Medicine in the Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism, and Molecular Medicine and of Medical Education at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. **Nearly 700 alumni and friends** of the medical school registered for this event!

Dr. Kushner, a national expert in obesity treatment and co-author of the landmark *New England Journal of Medicine* study that helped spark worldwide interest in GLP-1 medications, shared how therapies like Wegovy and Zepbound are transforming clinical care. Dr. Kushner discussed their rapid rise, clinical promise, and emerging challenges. From their discovery to current and future applications, this session offered a comprehensive look at one of the most talked-about advances in modern medicine.

Missed it? You can stream this session and all of our previous MAA webinars anytime via our [MAA Virtual Event Recording Archives](#).

Thank you to Dr. Kushner and everyone who signed up to join us!

From the Director's Desk:

Dear Alumni,

I hope that you are having a good summer. I want to highlight some of our fabulous virtual webinars that we are now hosting on a monthly basis. In July, nearly 700 alumni and friends of the medical school signed up for our webinar on GLP-1 medications featuring **Robert F. Kushner, MD, '82 GMER, MS**. In August, we will hear from Mercedes Carnethon, PhD, FAHA, for a discussion on *Critical Windows: How Life Transitions Shape Women's Obesity Risk*. Please see the "Upcoming Events" section of this newsletter for more details on that event. Even if you can't attend live, you can register and receive a recording to stream at your convenience.

As always, please reach out with any questions.

Thank you,
Babette



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Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
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312-503-0855

Save the Date: Alumni Weekend 2026 Join Us on Campus Next Spring, May 1–2



Get ready to head back to campus! Your Alumni Relations team and medical school leadership are thrilled to invite you to **Alumni Weekend 2026**, taking place **May 1–2**.

Whether you're **celebrating a reunion** (for class years ending in 6 or 1), connecting with fellow **Half Century Club** members, earning CME credit, mentoring students, or just curious to see what's new at Northwestern, there's something for everyone.

Alumni Weekend is the cornerstone event of the Medical Alumni Association, and **ALL ALUMNI** are welcome to join us. Reconnect with classmates, hear from world-class faculty, explore what's new at Northwestern, and celebrate at reunion dinners and more.

Stay tuned for more details later this year. If you have questions or are celebrating a milestone reunion and want to get involved with your class committee, contact **Katie Bradshaw Ferris** at katie.ferris@northwestern.edu.

Add Alumni Weekend 2026
to My Calendar



Build Your Alumni Community | Ways to Get Involved in Your Area



Let's Keep the Momentum Going!

As we close out fiscal year 2025 and kick off a new school year, we're reminded of the power of alumni connection. From mentoring students to attending events and helping classmates reconnect, alumni like you keep our community vibrant and strong. Whether you're welcoming new Half Century Club members or helping us reconnect with classmates that we haven't seen in a while, there are many ways to get involved throughout the year. However you choose to engage, you help move our mission forward.

Want to get involved? Reach out anytime at medalum@northwestern.edu.

MD Class of 1999 Zoom Catch-Up



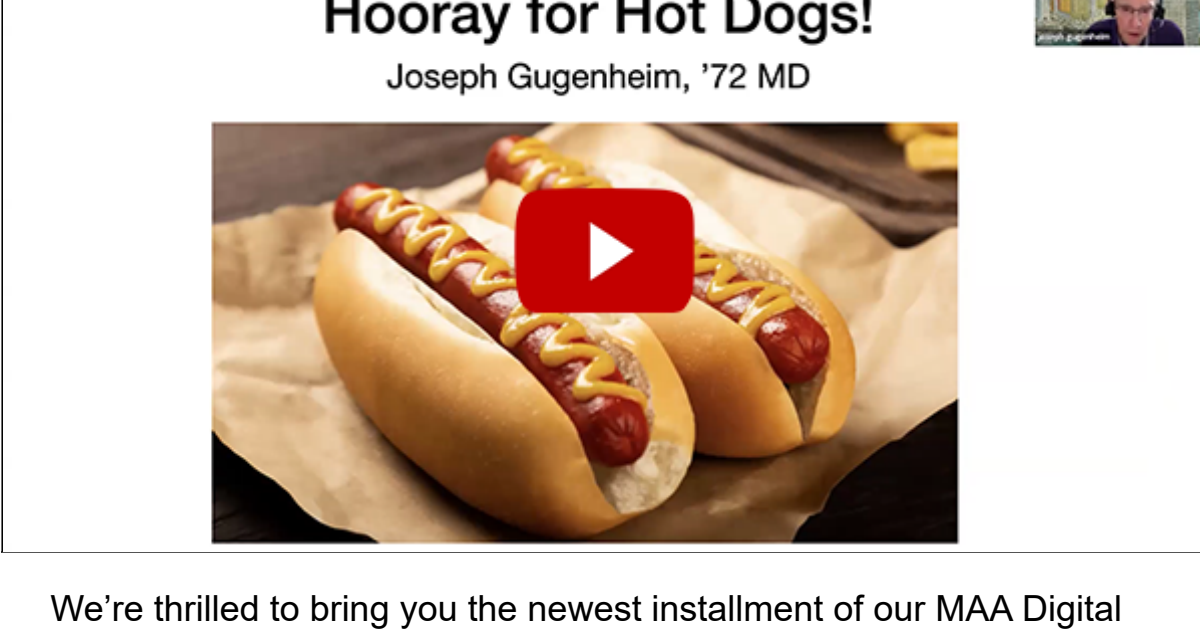
On June 25, members of the MD Class of 1999 reunited on Zoom for a casual catch-up, a year after celebrating their 25th reunion. The group enjoyed reconnecting, sharing personal and professional updates, and taking a walk down memory lane as they looked back on their 25-year reunion and time in medical school.

Thank you to the Class of 1999 for continuing to stay connected and engaged with one another and your alma mater!

Interested in organizing a virtual gathering with your class? We'd love to help! Contact us at medalum@northwestern.edu.

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

“Hooray for Hot Dogs”



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 celebration of National Hot Dog Day on July 16, Dr. Gugenheim is once again serving up a delicious helping of Chicago history. Pull up a chair, slather some Miracle Whip on white bread, add some slices of bologna, and learn how a family of Chicago immigrants popularized German meat products in the US. Through innovation and entrepreneurship, this history highlights Chicago's unique blend of food, culture, and creative spirit.

Dr. Gugenheim presents “**Hooray for Hot Dogs.**”

Thank you, Dr. Gugenheim!

Stream “Hooray for Hot Dogs”

COMING SOON:

“The Rockefeller of Lake Shore Drive”

Next month, Dr. Gugenheim returns with the remarkable story of Edith Rockefeller McCormick, daughter of John D. Rockefeller and a powerful presence in Chicago society around the turn of the 20th century. In this episode, you'll discover how the Rockefeller and McCormick families merged as a result of her marriage, how Edith rose to the heights of society, and how her 41-room mansion once stood where two ordinary apartment buildings now stand on North Lake Shore Drive. From lavish opera dinners and grand architectural dreams to personal heartbreak and fading fortune, this episode offers a poignant look at a legacy that still quietly echoes just blocks from Feinberg's campus.

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

Northwestern Medical Orchestra's Summer Wind Band Takes the Stage



On June 27, the [Northwestern Medical Orchestra \(NMO\)](#) Summer Wind Band performed at Thorne Auditorium for a vibrant audience of in-person and virtual attendees. Led by conductor Todd A. Florin, MD, who also is a professor of Pediatrics at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, the NMO Summer Wind Band performed a program of exciting pieces that included Frank Ticheli's *Joy Revisited*, Eric Whitacre's *The Seal Lullaby*, John Williams's *The Jedi Steps and Finale*, and Morton Gould's *American Salute*.

Stream the full [concert recording online](#).

Stream the NMO Concert Recording

Calling All Physical Therapy Alumni!



CALLING ALL PT ALUMNI

Northwestern is in the planning stages for our Centennial Celebrations during 2027 and 2028. You do NOT want to miss out as we celebrate 100 years of physical therapy education. Connect with us and make sure your contact information is up to date!

Update My Info with PTHMS

Keep Your Finger on the Pulse: *Feinberg Vitals*



Dive into the July 2025 issue of [Feinberg Vitals](#), a newsletter created for prospective students. As an alum, you're invited to enjoy this special behind-the-scenes look, featuring an interactive virtual tour, inspiring student journeys, groundbreaking programs, and the many ways Feinberg continues to lead in medical education. See how our

tradition of excellence—your tradition—continues to grow!

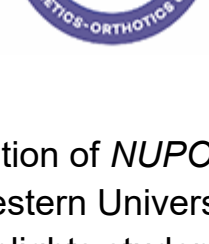
Interested in receiving *Feinberg Vitals* directly in your inbox? Contact us at medalum@northwestern.edu to get on the list and stay connected to the latest updates from Feinberg.

Check Out the Feinberg
Vitals Newsletter

NUPOC News: Advancing Prosthetics and Orthotics

NUPOC NEWS

The official newsletter of the
Northwestern University Prosthetics-Orthotics Center



Check out the July 2025 edition of *NUPOC News*, the quarterly newsletter from the Northwestern University Prosthetics-Orthotics Center. This publication highlights student achievements, staff updates, and more.

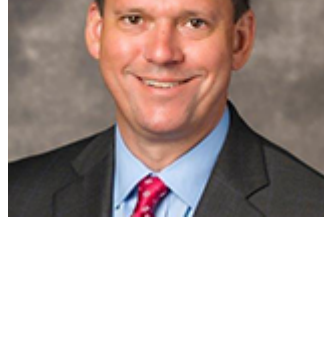
[Download the full newsletter](#) and visit the [NUPOC website](#) to learn more about their mission of helping people affirm their lives with hope, independence, and enthusiasm by advancing technology and knowledge about prostheses and orthoses.

NUPOC News: The Official
Newsletter of NUPOC

Congrats Are in Order!



Blair Golden, MD, '18 GMER, '20 MS, was named the 2025 Junior Investigator Award recipient by the Society of Hospital Medicine (SHM). Dr. Golden is an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health and serves as director of Academic Development in the Division of Hospital Medicine. Her research focuses on improving clinician communication with hospitalized patients and caregivers and enhancing hospital care for older adults experiencing or at risk for delirium. Dr. Golden is supported by a K23 Career Development Award from the National Institute on Aging and her work has been featured in the *Journal of Hospital Medicine*, the *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, *JAMA Internal Medicine*, and the *British Medical Journal*. She also serves on the SHM Research Committee. Congratulations, Dr. Golden!



Christopher M. Gonzalez, MD, '00 GMER, '06 MBA, has been named regional chief clinical officer for Trinity Health's Illinois and Indiana region, which includes Loyola Medicine and Saint Joseph Health System. A former Feinberg faculty member, Dr. Gonzalez is chair of the Department of Urology, chief of surgery at Loyola University Medical Center, and the Albert J. Jr. and Claire R. Speh Professor at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine. Dr. Gonzalez also serves as regional director of Urology for Trinity Health Illinois/Indiana and represents Loyola's physician faculty on their Regional Board. He previously served as chair of Public Policy for the American Urologic Association and serves as an associate editor for *Urology* and section editor of *Urology Times*. A trustee and chair of the Certifying Exam Committee for the American Board of Urology, he also is president-elect of both the Society of Genitourinary Reconstructive Surgeons and the American Board of Urology. Congratulations, Dr. Gonzalez!



Leo A. Gordon, '73 MD, addressed the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center Alumni Association in Los Angeles on June 25. Dr. Gordon has been collecting books, scientific papers, ephemera, and other materials related to the most lethal nightclub fire in American history—Boston's Cocoanut Grove fire of November 28, 1942. His presentation, "Fire at the Grove!," set the tone of Boston in 1942, reviewed the history of the Cocoanut Grove nightclub, and analyzed the potential cause of the fire. Dr. Gordon then discussed the medical, architectural, and legal aftermath of that tragedy. The presentation ended with specific recollections of those who survived and personal vignettes of several of those who perished. This thoughtful and powerful talk honored the memory of those affected while offering critical insight into the event's far-reaching impact. Alumni interested in a recording of this presentation should contact Dr. Gordon at LeoGordonMD@gmail.com. Congratulations, Dr. Gordon!



Nitin Karandikar, MD, '97 PhD, was appointed the first enterprise chief strategy officer for University of Iowa (UI) Health Care. In this new role, Dr. Karandikar will guide long-term strategic direction across UI Health Care's clinical, research, and education missions. Dr. Karandikar also serves as professor and chair of the Department of Pathology, departmental executive officer, and holds the Dr. Richard G. Lynch Chair in Experimental Pathology. Dr. Karandikar previously served as professor and vice chair for Clinical Services in the Department of Pathology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. Congratulations, Dr. Karandikar!



Jeffrey Sherman, MD, '84, '85 GMER, co-chair of the Northwestern University Medical Alumni Association's Business of Medicine Committee, was named an Honorary Senator of the Lindau Nobel Laureates Meeting Foundation at their Opening Ceremony. This prestigious recognition honors his leadership and contributions to science. Dr. Sherman is chief medical officer emeritus of Horizon Therapeutics/Amgen. The Opening Ceremony of the 74th Nobel Laureate Meeting is [available to stream online](#), with additional livestream sessions accessible on the foundation's website. Congratulations, Dr. Sherman!



William Small Jr., '90 MD, '91, '94 GMER, was recently appointed vice president of Oncology for the Illinois and Indiana region of Trinity Health, which includes Loyola Medicine and Saint Joseph Health System. Dr. Small also serves as professor and chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology at Loyola University Chicago's Stritch School of Medicine and director of the Cardinal Bernardin Cancer Center. He is senior editor of *ASTRO Practical Radiation Oncology*, a board member of the American College of Radiation Oncology, president-elect of the American Radium Society, immediate past chair of the Education Committee for the American Society of Radiation Oncology, and vice chair of the NRG Oncology Publications Committee. Congratulations, Dr. Small!



Samir S. Taneja '88, '90 MD, was recently appointed senior vice president, system chair of Urology at Northwell Health, and chair of the Smith Institute for Urology. He also serves as the Waldbaum/Gardner Professor and chair of the Department of Urology and professor of Radiology at the Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra University/Northwell. Dr. Taneja joined Northwell after 29 years at NYU Langone Health, where he held multiple leadership roles, including vice chair of the Department of Urology and director of the Division of Urologic Oncology. A pioneer in MRI-guided prostate cancer diagnosis and focal therapy, Dr. Taneja specializes in laparoscopic, robotic, and conventional open techniques. He has authored hundreds of works on urologic cancer, including the widely used textbook, *Taneja's Complications of Urologic*

Surgery: Prevention and Diagnosis.

Congratulations, Dr. Taneja!



Darren E. Wethers, '88 MD, president of the Northwestern University Medical Alumni Association, will moderate a panel on healthcare affordability at HLTH 2025 this October in Las Vegas, Nevada. Now in its seventh year, HLTH is the preeminent event for innovation in healthcare and wellness, bringing together industry leaders to tackle pressing challenges and explore transformative solutions. Congratulations, Dr. Wethers!

Do you have news to share with us or know of an alum we should recognize? Post it on our [Facebook](#) page, tag us on [Instagram](#), or email us at medalum@northwestern.edu.

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

A Night With Northwestern at the Theatre: *Parade* | Chicago, Illinois

Thursday, August 7, 2025 | 7 p.m. CDT

The Northwestern Alumni Association and the University's School of Communication invite you to join them for *Parade* at Broadway in Chicago's CIBC Theatre, followed by an alumni-led talkback.

Thursday, August 7, 2025

7:00 p.m. Performance | Talkback to follow

CIBC Theatre: 18 West Monroe Street | Chicago, Illinois

Content Advisory

Please be advised that this production includes depictions of violence and themes of racism and antisemitism. The show is suitable for ages 12 and up.

Questions? Email alumnieducation@northwestern.edu.

Register for a Night with Northwestern at the Theatre

Critical Windows: How Life Transitions Shape Women's Obesity Risk | Webinar

Thursday, August 14, 2025 | 12–1 p.m. CDT

The Northwestern University Medical Alumni Association invites you to a virtual event featuring [Mercedes Carnethon, PhD, FAHA](#). Women face unique weight-related challenges throughout their lives, with certain life stages creating particularly vulnerable periods for weight gain. This talk explores how major transitions—from puberty through pregnancy, menopause, and beyond—create “critical windows” that significantly influence long-term obesity risk. Drawing on cutting-edge epidemiological research, we'll examine how hormonal fluctuations during these transitions interact with psychological stressors, relationship changes, and social expectations to impact women's weight trajectories. Beyond biology, we'll explore how structural factors—from workplace policies to healthcare access—either support or undermine women's weight management efforts across different life stages. The presentation will address the pervasive weight stigma women face and how it compounds during vulnerable periods, while examining how lifestyle factors like sleep, physical activity, and eating patterns shift with life's demands. Rather than a one-size-fits-all approach, we'll discuss evidence-based strategies tailored specifically to women's unique physiological and social realities.

Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of why traditional weight management approaches often fail women and discover more effective, life-stage-appropriate interventions that acknowledge the complex interplay of biological, psychological, and social factors shaping women's weight health throughout their lives.

Advance registration is required.

Register for the Women's Obesity Risk Webinar

CTIP 2025 Annual Pediatric Device Innovation Symposium | Chicago, Illinois

Friday, August 15, 2025 | 11 a.m.–6 p.m. CDT (Networking Happy Hour to Follow)

The Consortium for Technology & Innovation in Pediatrics (CTIP) presents its [2025 Annual Pediatric Device Innovation Symposium](#), bringing together innovators, clinicians, patients, and industry leaders to explore the latest pediatric medical device advancements and foster collaboration.

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
Simpson & Kimberly Querrey Biomedical Research Center (SQBRC)
Potocsnak Family Atrium
303 East Superior Street | Chicago, Illinois

The 2025 CTIP Symposium has expanded and is now part of the inaugural Lurie Medtech Week! 2025 Lurie Medtech Week represents a strategic partnership between Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Lurie Children's Hospital's Innovate2Impact Program, and the Consortium for Technology & Innovation in Pediatrics. The symposium features several Northwestern alumni and innovators among its speakers.

Learn more and register on the [CTIP website](#).

Register for the CTIP Symposium

Save the Date: Northwestern Leadership Symposium | Evanston, Illinois

October 5–6, 2025

Please mark your calendar for the Northwestern Alumni Association's annual signature volunteer program, taking place immediately after Homecoming and Reunion Weekend this fall.

The Northwestern Leadership Symposium is an exclusive, complimentary gathering for Northwestern's most engaged alumni volunteers. The program offers:

- Updates on key University priorities and initiatives
- Insights from expert faculty
- Opportunities to network with fellow alumni leaders
- Actionable takeaways to support your role as a volunteer

The NAA Service and Club Awards will be presented during the symposium, honoring volunteers for their exceptional service and contributions.

Stay tuned for registration, the full schedule, and more details later this summer.

Visit the [Leadership Symposium page](#) for the latest updates and additional resources.

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. See you in Chicago!

Stay tuned for more information coming later this year.

Add Alumni Weekend 2026
to My Calendar



From the South Side to Streeterville: The Creation of the Chicago Campus | Hybrid

Now Available In Person and Online

One hundred years ago, on May 8, 1925, Northwestern administrators, students, and major donors gathered to break ground on a new campus in the up-and-coming Streeterville neighborhood. This campus would bring together Northwestern’s medical, dental, law, and business schools for the first time, fulfilling a vision nearly 20 years in the making. Those 20 years had seen many changes in medicine and medical education, and the planned Ward Memorial Building, home of Northwestern University Medical School (the future Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine), would allow Northwestern to remain at the forefront of medical education, research, and care.

Now on display in the Eckenhoff Reading Room, *From the South Side to Streeterville: The Creation of the Chicago Campus* uses items from Galter Health Sciences Library’s archival, artifact, and book collections to explore the story of the medical school’s move to Streeterville, including its former locations, the decision to move, the changing landscape of science and medical education, and the financial campaigns that raised millions to create the Chicago campus. [The exhibit also is available online.](#)

Explore the Galter Exhibit
Online



A Promising Drug for Alzheimer’s Disease

with William Klein, PhD, and Richard Silverman, PhD

[Listen to the Episode >>](#)



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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: “[A Promising Drug for Alzheimer’s Disease with William Klein, PhD, and Richard Silverman, PhD.](#)”

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!