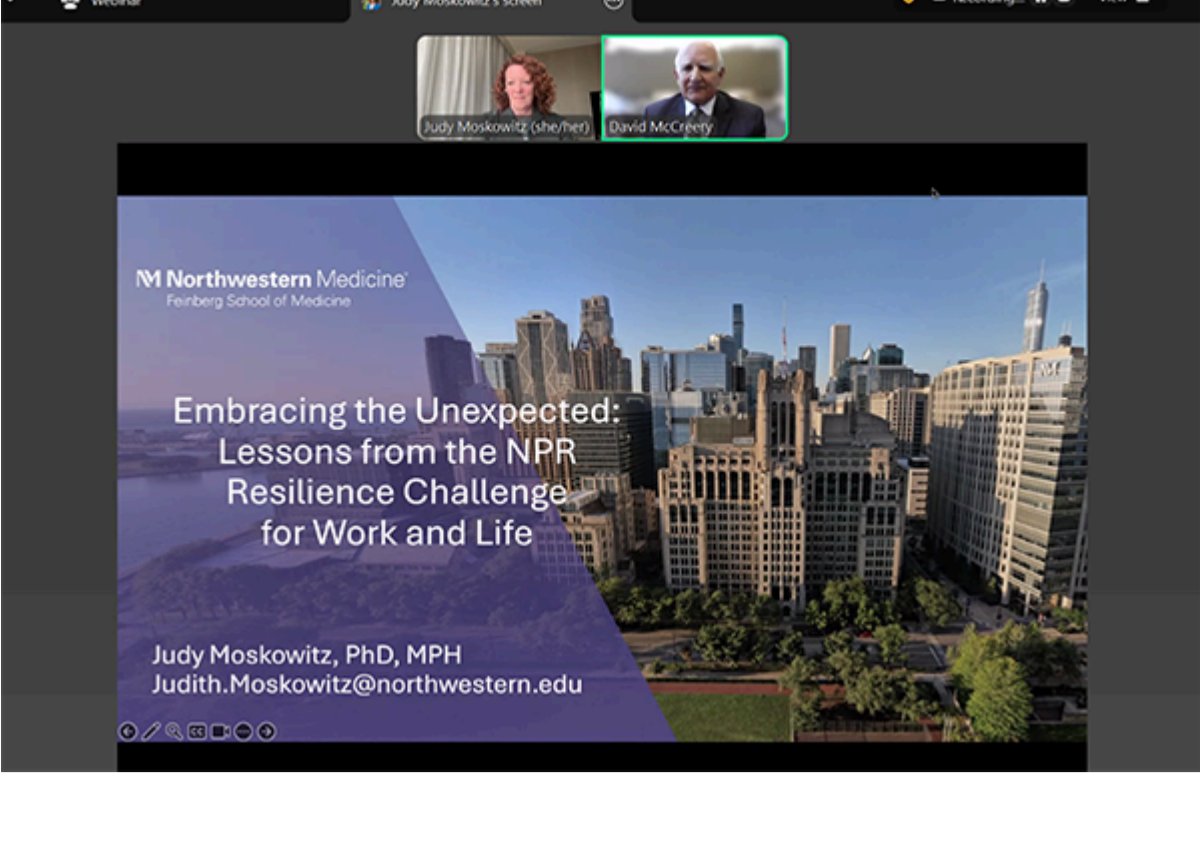


Medical Alumni Association NEWSLETTER

June 2025 | Issue No. 92



Resilience Challenge Lessons

On June 17, your Medical Alumni Association (MAA) hosted an inspiring virtual event featuring Judy Moskowitz, PhD, MPH, professor and vice chair for Scientific and Faculty Development in the Department of Medical Social Sciences at Feinberg.

Dr. Moskowitz shared insights from her partnership with National Public Radio (NPR) on the Resilience Challenge, a positive emotion skills program offered as part of NPR's *Stress Less* series. The program attracted over 11,000 volunteers and focused on building mental resilience through evidence-based strategies. She also discussed her ongoing research on how cultivating positive emotions can reduce stress, improve emotional well-being, and support better health outcomes.

Attendees gained valuable insights into how positive emotions can help manage stress and learned practical strategies to apply in their daily lives.

Thank you to Dr. Moskowitz for sharing her expertise and to the more than 300 people who registered to join us for this important conversation!

If you missed this event or have questions about joining future virtual programs, please contact us at medalum@northwestern.edu.

From the Director's Desk:

Dear Alumni,

We hope that you're enjoying a wonderful summer! We're pleased to highlight that your MAA is hosting a virtual webinar on July 15 at 12:00 p.m. CDT featuring **Robert F. Kushner, MD, '82 GMER**.

The talk, "Game-Changing GLP-1 Obesity Medications: Exciting Breakthroughs But Challenges Remain," will explore the science behind GLP-1 drugs like Wegovy and Zepbound, their impact on obesity treatment, and the challenges ahead.

Please see the link and details below in our "Upcoming Events" section, and register to join us for this timely discussion.

If you have any questions or if I can be of further help, don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you,
Babette



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312-503-0855

Feinberg's Federal Funding Freeze in the News



Feinberg faculty have recently been featured across national and local media outlets discussing the federal funding freeze and its impact on medical research, patient care, and clinical trials.

- The [Wall Street Journal](#) recently covered the federal funding freeze for Northwestern University, featuring interviews with many medical school faculty.
- [WGN Radio](#) also reported on concerns at Feinberg regarding the impact of the freeze on federal grants.
- [CNN](#) examined how the National Institutes of Health funding halt threatens critical clinical trials at Northwestern, highlighting its potential impact on patient care and medical breakthroughs.

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



Did You Know? | Our Alumni Are Everywhere

Feinberg alumni live in all 50 states—and beyond! We have more than 10,000 alumni in Illinois, nearly 4,000 in California, and over 1,400 in Florida. From smaller communities like Alaska and Montana to bustling hubs across the country, our alumni network is making an impact everywhere.

Ways You Can Get Involved

Our alumni are everywhere, and every one of you plays a vital role in keeping our community connected. Here are a few ways you can help:

- Update your information so your classmates can find you.
- Help locate lost reunion friends and invite them back into the fold.
- Welcome new Half Century Club members as they reach this special milestone.

Strong connections make a strong alumni network, and it all starts with you!

If you're interested in getting more involved or have questions about how you can help, we'd love to hear from you.

Ready to get started? Contact us at medalum@northwestern.edu.

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

“The 12th General Hospital Unit: Northwestern’s War Hospitals”

The 12th General Hospital Unit Northwestern’s War Hospitals



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**.

This month, join Dr. Gugenheim as he explores “The 12th General Hospital Unit: Northwestern’s War Hospitals” and the vital role Northwestern physicians, nurses, and medical students played in both World Wars. From makeshift tent hospitals in France to converted villas in North Africa and fortress hospitals in Italy, the 12th General treated tens of thousands of Allied and Axis troops with exceptional skill and innovation. In this episode, Dr. Gugenheim explores the remarkable story of the unit, from its profound impact on military medicine to its enduring legacy of service, and how it carried Northwestern’s heritage to the front lines of history.

Dr. Gugenheim presents “**The 12th General Hospital Unit: Northwestern’s War Hospitals.**”

Thank you, Dr. Gugenheim!

Stream “The 12th General Hospital Unit: Northwestern’s War Hospitals”

COMING SOON:

Hooray for Hot Dogs! National Hot Dog Day is July 16, and next month, Dr. Gugenheim is once again serving up some very interesting 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.

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

Your Virtual Pass to Feinberg’s Campus



Explore Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine like never before through our new [360-degree virtual tour](#)! From state-of-the-art research spaces to the vibrant urban setting of downtown Chicago, it’s a great way to experience the campus you once called home and see how it has evolved from anywhere in the world.

Please note that the tour renders differently on desktop versus mobile, with the best experience available on mobile.

Explore Our Campus

Northwestern Launches First-of-Its-Kind Prosthetics & Orthotics Research Master’s Program



Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine is proud to announce the launch of the [Master of Prosthetics & Orthotics Research \(MPO-R\) program](#)—the first program of its kind in the US. Combining rigorous clinical training with advanced research education, MPO-R prepares the next generation of clinician-scientists to lead innovation in prosthetics and orthotics.

Launched in 2024 through the Northwestern University Prosthetics-Orthotics Center (NUPOC), the selective nine-session program builds on the established MPO curriculum by adding research-focused coursework and a thesis-driven capstone project. Students gain immersive experience in clinical care, biomechanics, statistics, scientific writing, rehabilitation research, and more.

For more program details, check out the full [press release](#). For more information on curriculum and admissions, visit the NUPOC website or contact Matthew Major, PhD (matthew-major@northwestern.edu), or Rachel Lyons (rachel.lyons@northwestern.edu).

Master of Prosthetics & Orthotics Research Program

Alumni Travel Recap: The Charm of the Amalfi Coast



Earlier this month, a group of Northwestern alumni and friends enjoyed an unforgettable journey along Italy’s stunning Amalfi Coast.

Pictured here, left to right, are Lindsay Vahl Dean, assistant vice president of Alumni Engagement and executive director of the Northwestern Alumni Association (NAA), former MAA Board member **Kenneth W. Merkitich '82, '84 MD, '88 GMER**, and **Janine M. Merkitich '83**.

From the scenic base in Vietri sul Mare, the group explored ancient archaeological sites, savored authentic Italian cuisine, and soaked in breathtaking views amid the region’s famous lemon-scented breezes. This enriching experience combined history, culture, and camaraderie along one of the world’s most beautiful coastlines.

We look forward to more inspiring journeys with our alumni

community in the future! The NAA Travel Program offers several trips annually to alumni and friends of the University, with experiences that cater to all interests—including Bali, Costa Rica, Switzerland, and more. Find your next trip on the [NAA program's website](#).

Northwestern Alumni
Association Travel

Feinberg Development and Alumni Relations Staff Give Back at Ohio Street Beach Cleanup



On June 11, the Feinberg Development and Alumni Relations (DAR) Green Team hosted a volunteer park cleanup at Ohio Street Beach, bringing together staff from across the DAR office. The group teamed up with the Chicago Parks Foundation to help keep this popular lakefront spot clean and welcoming.

This effort reflects the office's ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship, sustainability, and making a positive impact in the Chicago community that we call home.

Congrats Are in Order!



Hee Soo Jung '02, '07 MD, was recently appointed as a new councilor to the American Board of Surgery Council. Dr. Jung is associate professor of surgery, program director of the Surgical Critical Care Fellowship, and director of surgical critical care services at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health and the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics in Madison. His research focuses on reducing preventable errors in patient care by improving interdisciplinary team communication through novel assessment methods. Dr. Jung currently serves as vice chair of the Surgical Education Research Committee of the Association for Surgical Education and chair of the Trauma Prevention Coalition. Congratulations, Dr. Jung!

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

2025 CFAAR Food Allergy Summit | Chicago, Illinois

Friday, June 27, 2025 | 8 a.m.–9:30 p.m. CDT

The Center for Food Allergy & Asthma Research (CFAAR) invites Feinberg alumni working in pediatrics and primary care to a dynamic day of education and connection focused on food allergy care.

Held in Chicago, the Pediatric Track of CFAAR's annual summit will offer clinicians—including pediatricians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, and allied health professionals—cutting-edge tools and evidence-based strategies to better support children and families managing food allergies and related conditions.

Highlights include:

- Earn CME credit (AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™)
- Networking cruise on Lake Michigan
- Poster sessions and travel stipends available

Register now and receive 40% off as a Northwestern alum.

Register for the CFAAR Summit



Northwestern Medical Orchestra Summer 2025 Wind Band Concert | Chicago, Illinois

Friday, June 27, 2025 | 7:30 p.m. CDT

The Northwestern Medical Orchestra invites you to its Summer 2025 Wind Band Concert featuring members of the Northwestern medical community. Come by to enjoy the music and meet the musicians!

The program includes exciting wind band pieces such as *The Jedi Steps and Finale*, *Joy Revisited*, *A Festival Prelude*, *The Seal Lullaby*, and *American Salute*.

Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law, Thorne Auditorium 375 East Chicago Avenue | Chicago, Illinois

Suggested Donation: \$10 for adults; \$5 for students and children

This concert will be held in-person and livestreamed. Registration is required for the livestream.

The Northwestern Medical Orchestra is comprised of over 120 Northwestern medical students, trainees, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members.

For more information about the Northwestern Medical Orchestra, please contact nmorchestra@u.northwestern.edu.

Register for the NMO Summer Wind Band

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Game-Changing GLP-1 Obesity Medications: Exciting Breakthroughs But Challenges Remain | Webinar

Tuesday, July 15, 2025 | 12–1 p.m. CDT

The Northwestern University Medical Alumni Association invites you to a virtual event featuring [Robert F. Kushner, MD, '82 GMER](#).

GLP-1 medications, such as Wegovy and Zepbound, have experienced blockbuster success over the past four years, changing the lives of thousands of people living with obesity. What is the science behind GLP-1, and what challenges do these treatments present? This presentation will review the hype behind this transformative drug, from discovery to its current and future applications.

Advance registration is required.

Register for the GLP-1
Obesity Medications
Webinar

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CTIP 2025 Annual Pediatric Device Innovation Symposium | Chicago, Illinois

Thursday, August 15, 2025 | 11 a.m.–5 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 Atrium
303 East Superior Street | Chicago, Illinois

The symposium features several Northwestern alumni and innovators among its speakers.

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

Register for the CTIP
Symposium

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Save the Date: Northwestern Leadership Symposium

October 5–6, 2025 | Chicago, Illinois

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.

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

Available Now 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’s archival, artifact, and book collections to explore the story of the medical school’s move to Streeterville. Learn more about 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

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Medical Research Funding at Risk

with Rod Passman, MD

[Listen to the Episode >>](#)



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Check out the latest episode: “[Medical Research Funding at Risk with Rod Passman, MD.](#)”

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Breakthroughs Podcast

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

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