Medical Alumni Association NEWSLETTER

May 2025 | Issue No. 91 | Special Double Issue



What a Celebration in Chicago!



Alumni Weekend 2025

together for Alumni Weekend 2025! The weekend was packed with opportunities to reconnect and

Over 650 alumni, guests, faculty, students, and staff came

reflect, from milestone reunion celebrations to meaningful moments with classmates and friends. A special congratulations to our reunion classes—including 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, and 2015—and a warm welcome to the Class of 1975, now officially part of our Half Century Club.

We loved seeing so many familiar faces back on campus and hope

that you enjoyed your time reliving memories and creating new ones.

If you joined us for Alumni Weekend, we'd appreciate your

Couldn't make it this year? We hope that you'll join us next time!

feedback—please take a moment to complete our survey.

Save the date: Alumni Weekend 2026 will take place May 1–2 in Chicago.

<u>Center</u>.

In the meantime, don't miss our coverage from the <u>Feinberg News</u>

If you have any questions about Alumni Weekend or want to

get more involved with your reunion, contact:

Alumni Weekend 2025 Recap



Katie Ferris
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We're thrilled to share that our Alumni Weekend was a great

staff joining us during the first weekend in May.

success, with more than 650 alumni, quests, faculty, students, and

Highlights included our Welcome Reception, faculty- and alumni-led forums, campus and city tours, Celebrate in Chicago—our all-alumni

Dear Alumni,

Thank you, Babette

Half Century Club dinners.

Save the date for Alumni Weekend 2026: May 1–2 on our Chicago campus.

party—Pancakes and Perspectives, which honored the 50-year reunion class, Conversations with the Dean, and our reunion and

<u>babette.henderson@northwestern.edu</u> 312-503-0855

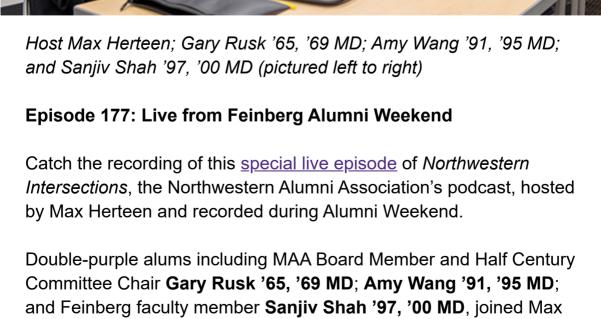
Intersections Podcast!

Please reach out with any comments or questions.

Babette Henderson '21 CERT
Senior Director, Alumni Engagement

Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

LIVE from Alumni Weekend, It's the Northwestern



pivotal moments that shaped their careers, and the lessons they've learned along the way.

Tune in as they reflect on their Northwestern experiences, how they made their way in the medical field, and what advice they would give to current and prospective students.

for a candid conversation about their time in medical school, the

more stories on Northwestern Intersections.

Listen now to this exclusive Alumni Weekend episode and explore

Northwestern Intersections LIVE! Recording

Special Alumni Weekend Event: Have Coffee and

Conversations



On May 2, as part of our Alumni Weekend programming, we were pleased to welcome outgoing MAA Board President Nupur Ghoshal, '01 PhD, '03 MD, for a special hybrid edition of Have Coffee and Conversations. Speaking before an audience of inperson and virtual attendees, Dr. Ghoshal presented Dementia Dialogue: Discussing Evaluation through Care Options, offering a clear overview of how dementia is assessed and managed across its stages. She provided valuable context around the patient and caregiver experience, as well as emerging approaches in the field. Thank you to all who joined us!

graduated 50+ years ago, continues to bring together alumni for meaningful dialogue and connection. Whether you're a long-time member or new to the group, we invite you to get involved by joining us for future HCC events and helping us spread the word to your classmates. Mark your calendar for our next Have Coffee and Conversations,

The Half Century Club (HCC), which recognizes our alumni who

from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. CDT. Stay tuned for details on our featured speaker and topic—we look forward to seeing you online!

which will take place virtually on Tuesday, September 9, 2025,

For questions or to learn more about the HCC, contact:



Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine meghan.monaghan@northwestern.edu 312-503-1091

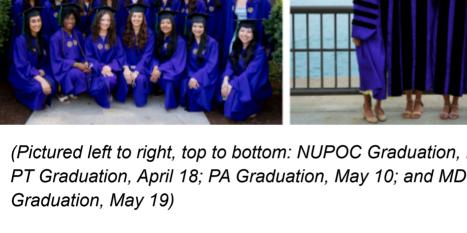


allison.glibowski@northwestern.edu 312-503-0788

Welcome to the Medical Alumni Association!

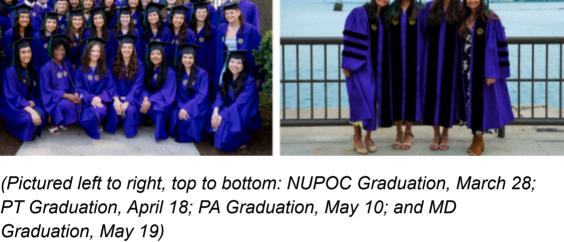






Congratulations to all our 2025 graduates!

and excited to see where your careers take you.



Your dedication and perseverance have brought you to this moment, and we celebrate all that you've accomplished. As you turn your tassels, you officially join the Medical Alumni Association (MAA)—a

vibrant community of more than 34,000 alumni who once stood

where you do today. We're honored to welcome you into this network

Welcome to the Medical Alumni Association! To see highlights from this year's graduation events, explore Feinberg's coverage.

MAA Names 2025 Viste Award Recipient



heartfelt and inspiring address at the Dean's Graduation Luncheon, where she welcomed this year's MD graduates into the Medical Alumni Association.

A special thank-you to Shelly Vaziri Flais '95, '99 MD, '02 GMER

presenting Dr. Cheung with the award. Dr. Flais also delivered a

(pictured left), MAA Board and Feinberg faculty member, for

Thank you, Dr. Flais!

Passing the Torch: Welcoming New MAA Leadership



impact of the MAA across our alumni network. Thank you, Dr. Ghoshal, for your service and inspiring leadership. We now proudly welcome Dr. Wethers as the 18th president of the

Dr. Ghoshal led the board with dedication and vision during her term as the 17th MAA president, significantly broadening the reach and

Medical Alumni Association. A committed leader, Dr. Wethers brings a deep passion for engagement and connection among our alumni and students.

We look forward to all that lies ahead under Dr. Wethers's leadership.

Congratulations to both Dr. Ghoshal and Dr. Wethers!

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



"Abbott Hall: The War Years"

Abbott Hall: The War Years





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. Calling all Abbott Hall enthusiasts! This month, join Dr. Gugenheim

as he explores the history and origins of one of our Chicago campus

Navy midshipmen's school before becoming a cherished residence

mainstays. Completed in 1940, Abbott Hall first served as a U.S.

for generations of Northwestern medical students. In this episode, Dr. Gugenheim explores the building's transformation during World War II and its pivotal role in the war effort—leading up to the close of the conflict in 1945. Tune in for a fascinating look at this storied chapter in Abbott Hall's history—one that shaped both the building and the lives of those who passed through its halls. This special installment marks the fifth anniversary of the MAA digital series! Celebrate with us as we explore a pivotal chapter in

Abbott Hall's history. Dr. Gugenheim presents "Abbott Hall: The War Years."

Stream "Abbott Hall: The War Years"

Thank you, Dr. Gugenheim!

COMING SOON:

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 Northern Africa and fortress hospitals in Italy, the 12th General treated tens of thousands of Allied and Axis troops with exceptional skill and innovation. Discover how this extraordinary unit shaped military medicine and carried Northwestern's legacy of service to the front lines of history. Catch up on all previous episodes of our MAA Digital Series on our MAA website and YouTube channel.

In recognition of D-Day next month, join Dr. Gugenheim in June as

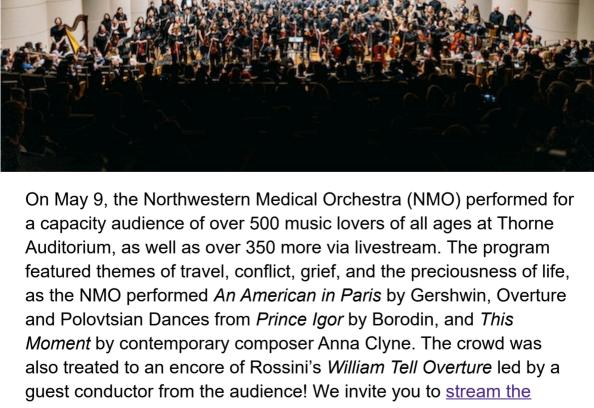
Healthspan in the City of Brotherly Love



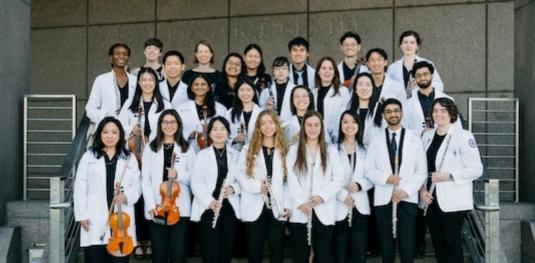
this event, including Betty Rhiew-Breslin '96 MMGT and medical alum Karen Miller '83, MD, '92 GMER. Thanks to everyone who joined us for a great evening of learning and conversation!

Special thanks to the NU Club of Philadelphia for their partnership on

NMO Spring Concert Recap



concert recording. Save the Date: Friday, June 27 (7 p.m. CDT) NMO Summer Wind Band Concert at Thorne Auditorium (with livestream option as well).



Food for Thought: Dinners with a Doc



spring Dinners with a Doc! On April 30, Thomas E. Bournias, MD, '92 GMER, welcomed a

Thank you to the MAA Board members who hosted students for

group of first-year ophthalmology students to Francesca's on Chestnut for dinner and conversation. The evening offered a valuable opportunity for students to hear firsthand about the field and Dr. Bournias's path in medicine. The following night, on May 1, MAA Board President Darren E.

'76, '78 MD; and Jamie Terry, '89 MD, gathered with a group of M1s and one M4 at Beatrix. With a range of specialties represented, the group sparked wide-ranging discussion and meaningful connections. Several students have since reached out, eager to stay engaged and explore future mentoring opportunities. Interested in getting involved with our Dinners with a Doc program?

Wethers, '88 MD; Jeffrey J. Schaider '83, '85 MD; F. Douglas Carr

Contact Allison Glibowski for more information.



312-503-0788

NU Day @ Wrigley 2025



thousands of Wildcats from across the University at Wrigley Field for the annual NU Day @ Wrigley. Attendees cheered on the Cubs as they took on the Miami Marlins and enjoyed a memorable evening of

On May 14, members of the Medical Alumni Association joined

baseball, camaraderie, and purple pride. Alumni kicked off the evening with a lively pregame reception, reconnecting over shared memories and appetizers before heading to the game. Outfitted in limited-edition Cubs hats in Northwestern colors, they brought plenty of purple pride to the ballpark.

Confines.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for this beloved tradition! We

look forward to seeing you again next season at the Friendly

WHAT'S NEW

Extra! Extra! What's New at Northwestern



NUPOC News: Advancing Prosthetics and Orthotics

The official newsletter of the Northwestern University Prosthetics-Orthotics Center

NUPOC NEWS

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

NUPOC website to learn more about their mission of helping people

updates, and more. <u>Download the full newsletter</u> and <u>visit the</u>

affirm their lives with hope, independence, and enthusiasm by advancing technology and knowledge about prostheses and

Explore What's New at Northwestern: Spring 2025

To the Northwestern Medical Alumni Network,

National Survey: Wearable Devices

A Message from Brian Han '11, '15 MD



orthoses.

My name is Brian Han (Class of 2015), and I am currently a pediatric cardiologist at Stanford Medicine. My team and I are leading a national survey to better understand clinicians' knowledge of the medical capabilities of wearable devices and their potential impact on patient care,

and we would appreciate your assistance! The number of smartwatches sold is growing (184M sold in 2023), and additional regulated features continue to be added, yet we haven't assessed medical providers' knowledge of these smartwatch data and

individual features. Without a base

understanding of how they work, this data/these alerts won't be used to their full potential and, even worse, may be misused. As a result, we are formally studying clinical providers' baseline understanding of smartwatch features. We think that it is important to understand if further education is needed on this topic and, if so, in what areas.

To that end, please fill out the anonymous survey below (should take <5 mins). We are not collecting any identifying information in this IRB-exempt study.

Brian Han '11, '15 MD

Thank you so much for all your help!

Wearable Devices Survey

Congrats Are in Order!



Weekend 2025. Created in 1998 by then-vice president and dean of the medical school Harvey Colten, this award is presented annually to recognize an alum whose outstanding professional achievements bring honor to the medical school and merit special recognition. Dr. Schlegel is director of the Center for Cellular Reprogramming and the Oscar B. Hunter Endowed Chair of the Department of Pathology at Georgetown University Medical School at Washington, DC. Dr. Schlegel is widely regarded as the principal investigator behind the development of the technology for the first human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, marketed as Gardasil. Read more about the presentation of this award in the Feinberg News Center. Congratulations, Dr. Schlegel! Thomas W. Gardner, MD, '83 GMER, '84

Feinberg School of Medicine Distinguished Medical Alumni Award at Alumni



and Internal Medicine at the University of Michigan. He also is a senior scholar at the A. Alfred Taubman Medical Research Institute and scientific co-director of the Mary Tyler Moore Vision Initiative. A clinician-scientist, Dr. Gardner has made significant contributions to precision medicine in ophthalmology, particularly in the area of diabetic retinal disease. Congratulations, Dr. Gardner! Dan Handel '97, '02 MD, MPH, recently published Healthcare Administration, Leadership, and Management (HALM): The Essentials, First Edition, the first board-preparation textbook for the new ACGME-accredited HALM Fellowship programs. This important resource supports

emerging leaders in healthcare administration

Leo A. Gordon, '73 MD, has had a new fiction piece published in the Fiction section of the

"Meshamorphosis," the story reimagines Franz

physicianleaders.org. Congratulations, Dr.

and management. Learn more at

Hektoen International Journal. Titled

Handel!

GMEF, has been honored with the 2025

Outstanding Science Alumni Award from Penn State's Eberly College of Science. Dr. Gardner serves as professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Molecular and Integrative Physiology,



Kafka's *Metamorphosis* through a surgical lens offering a creative and clinical twist that caught the attention of the journal's editors. A retired surgeon and longtime writer, Dr. Gordon explores the intersection of medicine and the humanities in this piece, available online. Congratulations, Dr. Gordon! Tina Hittenberger '75 CERT served as the keynote speaker at the 2025 Northwestern University Prosthetics and Orthotics Center graduation ceremony (NUPOC). A distinguished

alum, Ms. Hittenberger earned her orthotics

advancing the field is reflected in the

certification after completing an orthotics course at Northwestern in 1975, becoming one of the first women ever to do so. Her dedication to

Hittenberger Legacy Fund Scholarship, which provides critical support for NUPOC students. Through her leadership and generosity, she



continues to shape the future of care in the orthotics and prosthetics profession. Congratulations, Ms. Hittenberger! Soyoung Lee '25 MPO recently celebrated the official opening of the Public Children's Rehabilitation Center in Korea, where she established an orthotics and prosthetics clinic and a dedicated fitting room to provide specialized care for children. With orthotic and prosthetic care growing in Korea, she hopes to help develop structured education and training programs locally. Congratulations, Ms. Lee!

Niccolo Emanuele Mencacci, MD, PhD, '21 **GMEF**, was recently featured in *Northwestern* Now for his role in identifying key genes involved

technology. Dr. Mencacci is assistant professor of Neurology in the Division of Movement Disorders

in Parkinson's disease using CRISPR

in the Ken and Ruth Davee Department of

Neurology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. He co-authored a large-scale study that pinpointed new genetic contributors to



the disease, paving the way for more precise therapeutic targets. His work represents a major step forward in understanding the genetic architecture of Parkinson's. Congratulations, Dr. Mencacci! Monica E. Rho '01, '05 MD, '09 GMER, was featured by the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago as part of its Women in Science exhibit in honor of Women's History Month. Dr. Rho is the Reva and David Logan Section Chief of Musculoskeletal Medicine, director of residency training, and director of Women's Sports Medicine at the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab and associate professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Northwestern University

Feinberg School of Medicine. Dr. Rho also

serves as head physician for the US Women's National Soccer Team and accompanied the team to the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, where they won the gold medal. The Women in



Science program is made possible by **Ann M**. Drake '84 MBA. Congratulations, Dr. Rho! Jeffrey Sherman, MD, '83 GMER, '85 GMER, Medical Alumni Association Board member, was recently acknowledged in The Inner Circle as a Pinnacle Lifetime Member for his contributions to medical innovations and advocacy. With more than 25 years of pharmaceutical experience, Dr. Sherman specializes in regulatory and clinical strategy and therapeutic development for rare diseases. He served as executive vice president and chief medical officer at Horizon Therapeutics from 2009 to 2023, a global biotechnology company focused on medicines for rare, autoimmune, and severe inflammatory diseases. Congratulations, Dr. Sherman!

Do you have news to share with us or know of an alum we should recognize? Post it on our <u>Facebook</u> page, tag us on <u>Instagram</u>, or email us at medalum@northwestern.edu.



Did you know that the MAA has its very own Plan It Purple calendar?

Medical Alumni Association: 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

The Evolution and Impact of the Tommy John Surgery in

Thursday, June 12, 2025 | 12–1 p.m. CDT The Northwestern Alumni Association invites you to an engaging

event featuring Lucas Buchler, MD, '18 GMER, assistant professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Northwestern University Feinberg School

Sports Medicine | Webinar

of Medicine, orthopaedic sports medicine physician at Northwestern Medicine, and assistant team physician for the Chicago Cubs. Dr. Buchler will delve into the captivating history of the Tommy John surgery, which offers second chances to countless athletes whose careers might otherwise have been cut short. Thousands of pitchers

from the major leagues to high schools have undergone this elbow ligament reconstruction, and the procedure boasts return to sport rates approaching 90%. What began as a long-shot idea is now regarded as one of the most important medical advances in baseball history. Advance registration is required.

Register for the Tommy John Surgery Webinar

A Golden Summer: Paris Olympics 2024 | Webinar

The Northwestern Alumni Association invites you to a virtual event

featuring Vehniah Tjong, MD, '2016 GMEF, associate professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and orthopaedic surgeon at Northwestern Medicine.

Tuesday, June 17, 2025 | 11 a.m.-12 p.m. CDT

Dr. Tjong will share her professional journey to becoming the orthopaedic team physician for the US Women's National Soccer Team. She also will discuss her unique experience at the Paris 2024 Olympics with a behind-the-scenes look at how the team won the

Advance registration is required. Register for the Golden Summer Webinar

Lessons Learned from the NPR Resilience Challenge |

The Northwestern University Medical Alumni Association invites you

Dr. Moskowitz will discuss the experience of partnering with NPR to

to a virtual event featuring <u>Judy Moskowitz</u>, <u>PhD</u>, <u>MPH</u>.

Tuesday, June 17, 2025 | 4–5 p.m. CDT

gold medal.

Webinar

emotional well-being.

make her program of positive emotion skills widely available to their listeners. The program, which teaches participants skills to bolster

mental resilience, was offered in conjunction with NPR's Stress Less series and garnered interest from more than 11,000 volunteers. Dr. Moskowitz also will share her research on the impact of positive

emotion and how to increase it to help manage stress and enhance

Advance registration is required. Register for the Positive Emotions Webinar 2025 CFAAR Food Allergy Summit | Chicago, Illinois

The Center for Food Allergy & Asthma Research (CFAAR) invites

day of education and connection focused on food allergy care.

offer clinicians—including pediatricians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, and allied health professionals-

Feinberg alumni working in pediatrics and primary care to a dynamic

Held in Chicago, the Pediatric Track of CFAAR's annual summit will

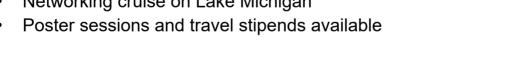
Highlights include:

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

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



cutting-edge tools and evidence-based strategies to better support children and families managing food allergies and related conditions.

Jake There Drive on Ohlcage Leenue hicago - Illinois From the South Side to Streeterville: The Creation of the Chicago Campus | Hybrid Available Now In-Person and Online

Melabird and Merhe Drebiteets

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,

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.

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, 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



The Science Behind Sleep Health with Minjee Kim, MD

Listen to Breakthroughs >>



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Check out the latest episode: <u>"The Science Behind Sleep Health with Minjee Kim, MD."</u>

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 <u>Apple Podcasts</u>, <u>Spotify</u>, and <u>Pandora</u>.

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!

M Northwestern Medicine* Feinberg School of Medicine

Medical Alumni Association

