Medical Alumni Association
NEWSLETTER

October 2026 | Issue No. 107



A Little MAA-gic: Halloween Trivia

An Eerie-sistible Prize Is Up for Grabs!

Ready to put your Feinberg knowledge to the test? We've conjured up a little MAA-gic for this Halloween edition, with spooky stories, a few tricks, plenty of treats, and a prize in the cauldron!

The Medical Alumni Association (MAA) has been bringing Northwestern's alumni together for generations. But can you unearth the year it all began?

Trivia question: In what year was the Northwestern University Medical Alumni Association founded?

Send your guess to medalum@northwestern.edu. Those who guess correctly will be entered into a drawing to win a Northwestern Medicine swag bag. No crystal ball required, just a little knowledge of Feinberg history!

Whether you're dressing up, handing out candy, or indulging in a few Halloween treats of your own, we hope your holiday is full of festive fun and just the right amount of magic.

Have a fa-boo-lous Halloween!

Answer the Trivia Question and Enter to Win

Devilishly Delightful Details from the Director's Desk:

Dear Alumni,

Happy Halloween!

We are in the midst of planning our **Alumni Weekend** activities, scheduled from **April 30–May 1, 2027**. If you are in a reunion class ending in 2 or 7, we hope that you will join us to celebrate this milestone!

While your class dinners will be the highlight of the weekend, we also are planning campus tours, self-guided museum outings, and forums featuring Northwestern faculty leaders.

All are welcome at Alumni Weekend, and there is something for everyone. We look forward to welcoming you back to campus next year. Registration opens January 4, 2027.

Please email me with any questions.

Thank you,
Babette



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A Spooktacular Weekend with the MAA Board



A big thank you to our dedicated Medical Alumni Association Board members! On October 2, Board members gathered in Chicago for our semiannual meeting to reconnect, share ideas, and continue their work supporting alumni engagement, mentoring, and Northwestern's leadership in medical education, patient care, and research. Through their dedication and collaboration, Board members help shape the future of Feinberg and strengthen ties across our alumni community.

The excitement continued that evening as Board members attended the grand opening of the new Ryan Field, joining fellow Wildcats for a historic night of Northwestern football. The stadium's debut and our victory over Penn State marked an exciting new chapter in Wildcat history and gave Board members another opportunity to connect with the Northwestern community.

Thank you to all our Board members for their continued commitment to Feinberg and for making this another meaningful weekend.

Want to learn more about the work of the MAA Board committees? Reach out to us at medalum@northwestern.edu.

Dr. Kei Hui Has Us Spellbound!



The Medical Alumni Association (MAA) Board was delighted to welcome Northwestern First Lady Kei Hui, MD, to the Feinberg community during its semiannual meeting on October 2.

Dr. Hui shared her background in medicine and higher education, including her work advancing healthcare initiatives and building medical alumni networks. We are grateful she took the time to join us and look forward to partnering with her to build connections across Feinberg and the broader Northwestern community.

Welcome to Northwestern, Dr. Hui, and thank you for joining us!

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

"A Grave Matter: Chicago's Weird Cemeteries"



Joseph Gugenheim, '72 MD

We're dying to share the latest installment of our MAA Digital Series, featuring our beloved historian and spirited host, **Joseph Gugenheim, '72 MD**!

Join Dr. Gugenheim as he kicks off a fascinating two-part series exploring Chicago's cemeteries. From the weird to the beautiful, this presentation takes a closer look at the evolution of these sacred grounds, the stories behind their monuments, and even some of the legends surrounding reports of paranormal activity.

Discover the surprising role cemeteries have played in Chicago's history and uncover the stories that make them so much more than final resting places.

Dr. Gugenheim presents **"A Grave Matter: Chicago's Weird Cemeteries."**

Thank you, Dr. Gugenheim!

Stream "A Grave Matter: Chicago's Weird Cemeteries"

COMING SOON:
"A Grave Matter: Chicago's Beautiful Cemeteries"

Join Dr. Gugenheim next month for the second installment of his two-part series exploring Chicago's historic cemeteries. In November, discover the beauty, artistry, and history of Graceland Cemetery, a 121-acre arboretum and final resting place for many notable Chicagoans. Explore the stories behind its distinctive monuments, learn how landscape architects shaped its park-like setting, and uncover the fascinating connections between its residents and Chicago's history.

Catch up on all previous episodes of our MAA Digital Series on our MAA website and YouTube channel.

Northwestern Medicine Magazine: A Frightfully Good Read



Explore the most recent issue of *Northwestern Medicine Magazine*:

- Join **MAA Board President Darren E. Wethers, '88 MD**, as he shares his vision for "Ushering in the Next Generation of Greatness" in the Alumni President's Message.
- In the Alumni Profile, "Setting Spines Straight," **Lawrence Lenke, '86 MD ('14 P)**, recipient of Feinberg's 2026 Distinguished Medical Alumni Award, reflects on his career advancing spinal deformity surgery, developing a widely used scoliosis classification system, and setting new standards for surgical care.
- In the Alumni Giving News feature, learn more about how Feinberg honored the transformative power of scholarships and marked the launch of our new giving campaign in "Feinberg Celebrates Scholarship Impact While Kicking Off $200 Million Fundraising Campaign."
- Discover how **Jeffrey H. Barsuk, '99 MD, '02 GMER, '10 MS**, is working to transform medical training through simulation and mastery-based learning to improve patient outcomes in "From Models to Mastery," our Alumni Perspectives feature.
- Visit our "In Memoriam" section as we honor the lives and legacies of our alumni and dear friends.
- Check out the alumni "Progress Notes" to hear personal and professional updates from your fellow alumni.
- And more!

Check Out the Latest Edition of NM Magazine

NUPOC News: Wickedly Wonderful Advances in Prosthetics and Orthotics

NUPOC NEWS

The official newsletter of the Northwestern University Prosthetics-Orthotics Center

Check out the October 2026 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

A BOO-st to Better Health: Celebrating PT and PA Alumni



October is full of reasons to applaud our physical therapy (PT) and physician assistant (PA) alumni!

National Physical Therapy Month shines a spotlight on the

professionals who help patients regain mobility, navigate recovery, and improve their quality of life through expert care, research, and advocacy.

Physician Assistant Week, observed October 6–12, offers another chance to recognize our PA alumni, whose clinical knowledge and collaborative approach help meet patient needs across specialties and care settings.

From helping patients get back on their feet to expanding access to essential healthcare, our PT and PA alumni make a lasting difference every day. We're delighted to celebrate all they do to advance healthcare!

Thrilling Achievements!



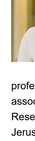
James "Jimmy" A. Hill '71, '74 MD, '79 GMER ('12, '16 P), longtime Medical Alumni Association (MAA) Board member and former MAA Board president *(pictured left in bottom photo and on Ryan Field billboard)*, was honored alongside his fellow 2026 Northwestern Alumni Medal recipients during Northwestern's Homecoming game at the new Ryan Field on October 10. The Alumni Medal is the highest honor bestowed by the Northwestern Alumni Association. A distinguished orthopaedic surgeon, educator, and dedicated Northwestern volunteer, Dr. Hill has served on the Feinberg faculty for more than four decades and held numerous leadership roles, including chief of staff at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and as a member of the Northwestern Memorial Hospital Foundation Board of Directors. He also served as medical director of the Orthopaedic Education and Research Foundation and board examiner for the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery. Dr. Hill provided care as a physician for the 1988 US Olympic Team and has been recognized for his commitment to service, including receiving the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boys & Girls Club of Chicago Icon Award. Since 1932, the Northwestern Alumni Medal has celebrated alumni who have made a transformative impact in their fields, performed exemplary volunteer service to society, or demonstrated an outstanding record of support for the University. Visit the Northwestern Alumni Medal website to learn more about Dr. Hill and the other 2026 recipients. Congratulations, Dr. Hill!



Víctor Andrés Arrieta González, MD, PhD, '23 MS, '26 MS *(pictured above)*, has been named a 2026 STAT Wunderkind, recognizing his contributions to oncology and artificial intelligence. A postdoctoral researcher at Feinberg, Dr. Arrieta focuses on using machine learning and computational analysis to personalize treatment for patients with glioblastoma, an aggressive form of brain cancer. His research aims to analyze the molecular features of patients' tumors to help identify the most promising treatments and clinical trials. Dr. Arrieta hopes to establish a research program that bridges computational science and patient care. The 2026 STAT Wunderkinds were selected from more than 150 nominees and recognize early-career scientists and researchers pushing the boundaries of science and medicine. Congratulations, Dr. Arrieta!



Margaret Danilovich, '07 DPT, '22 MBA, was recently featured in *TIME* for her research on how walking at a faster pace may help reverse frailty in older adults. The director of Clinical Programs at Agilon Health, Danilovich co-authored a study published in *PLOS ONE* that found nearly 70% of participants in a high-intensity walking group improved in at least one frailty category, compared with 46% of those who walked at a more leisurely pace. The findings suggest that encouraging older adults to walk more vigorously may improve health outcomes. Read more on the *TIME website*. Congratulations, Dr. Danilovich!



Jacqueline S. Jeruss, MD, '03 PhD, '05 GMER, has been elected to the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), one of the highest honors in health and medicine. A former member of the Feinberg faculty from 2006 to 2018, Dr. Jeruss is the Alfred E. Chang, MD, Research Professor of Surgical Oncology; professor of Surgery, Pathology, and Biomedical Engineering; associate dean for Regulatory Affairs; and associate vice president for Research Integrity and Compliance at the University of Michigan. Dr. Jeruss's contributions to cancer research and treatment include advancing fertility preservation for young patients with cancer, identifying key mechanisms in cancer progression, and helping bring new targeted therapies into clinical use. Her work also spans surgical education, medical ethics, and research integrity. Learn more about the 2026 National Academy of Medicine members. For a complete list of Feinberg NAM members, visit our website. Congratulations, Dr. Jeruss!



Albert C. Koong, '96 MD, PhD, has been elected to the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), one of the highest honors in health and medicine. Dr. Koong is senior vice president and chief scientific officer, the Sewell Family Distinguished University Chair, and professor of radiation oncology at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Dr. Koong's research has helped establish stereotactic body radiotherapy as a safe and effective treatment option for pancreatic and liver cancers through influential clinical trials. His laboratory also uncovered a key cellular pathway that may offer new opportunities for cancer treatment, particularly in tumors with low oxygen levels. Learn more about the 2026 National Academy of Medicine members. For a complete list of Feinberg NAM members, visit our website. Congratulations, Dr. Koong!



Daniel L. Meges, '73 MD, has been named the 2026 Catholic Doctor of the Year by the Mission Doctors Association, receiving its World of Difference Award for his service to underserved communities. Dr. Meges has provided medical care in Mexico City, the Andes of Peru, and El Salvador. In Cleveland, he spent 15 years treating individuals experiencing homelessness at St. Malachi Church before serving as medical director of Care Alliance Health Center. He practiced internal medicine and rheumatology throughout the greater Cleveland area for 32 years. He continues to volunteer with Catholic Charities in Collier County, Florida, helping people experiencing homelessness access food, clothing, and other essential support. Congratulations, Dr. Meges!

Do you have news to share with us or know of an alum we should recognize? Tag us on Facebook or Instagram, or email us at medalum@northwestern.edu.

It Will Haunt You If You Miss These... 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



The Exciting Future of Surgery | Webinar

Wednesday, November 4, 2026 | Noon–1 p.m. CST

The future of medicine is being transformed by new technologies, and remarkable advancements are taking place in the field of surgery. As a result, early-career surgeons are entering a landscape shaped by artificial intelligence and continual new developments. To prepare these young physicians, the Northwestern Medicine Department of Surgery works with them to conduct cutting-edge research and develop skills to provide patients with unprecedented surgical care.

Featuring Feinberg faculty members **Hasan B. Alam, MD, '26 MBA**, and Karen J. Ho, MD.

Location: Virtual via Zoom | Link provided upon registration

Advance registration is required.

Register for The Exciting Future of Surgery



Have Coffee & Conversations with Daniel M. Corcos, PhD | Webinar

Tuesday, November 17, 2026 | 10–11 a.m. CST

The care of people with Parkinson's has dramatically advanced over the past 40 years. One key advancement in treatment has been the integration of exercise as medicine. By focusing on exercise as proactive healthcare and being able to slow down disease progression, people with Parkinson's can expect to live a full and complete life with high healthspan.

Location: Virtual via Zoom | Link provided upon registration

Advance registration is required.

Register for Have Coffee & Conversations



Artificial Intelligence in Medicine with Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine | Chicago, Illinois

Wednesday, November 18, 2026 | 5–7:30 p.m. CST

Learn how Northwestern is advancing AI-driven medical research and real-world healthcare applications. Emcee Abel Kho, MD, founding director of Feinberg's Institute for Artificial Intelligence in Medicine and co-chair of the University's Northwestern Network for Collaborative Intelligence, will lead a panel discussion with four Feinberg physicians/scientists representing major areas of medicine who will discuss the profoundly positive impact of utilizing AI in their research.

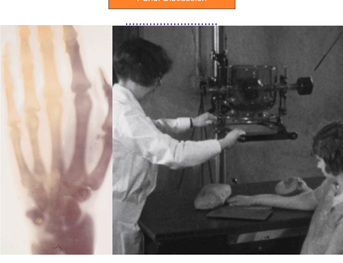
Panelists include David Gate, PhD (Neurology); **Sanjiv Shah '97, '00 MD** (Cardiology); Lee Cooper, PhD (Pathology); and Luisa Iruela-Arispe, PhD (AI in basic science research).

Panel Presentation: 5:30–6:30 p.m. Reception to follow.

Location: Louis A. Simpson and Kimberly K. Querrey Biomedical Research Center | 303 East Superior Street | Chicago, Illinois

Advance registration is required.

Register for AI in Medicine Panel Discussion



Revolutions in Medicine: 250 Years of Medical Progress | Chicago, Illinois

Tuesday, December 8, 2026 | Noon–12:45 p.m. CST

You're invited to visit the new Galter exhibit honoring the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. It highlights four breakthroughs that sparked their own revolutions and transformed medicine forever: the development of modern epidemiology, the invention of vaccination, the advancement of surgical anesthesia, and the discovery of X-rays.

Now on display in the Eckenhoff Reading Room, Revolutions in Medicine: 250 Years of Medical Progress traces the scientific developments that have led to the rapidly changing field of medicine we know today.

Location: Galter Library | 320 East Superior Street | Chicago, Illinois Meet at the circulation desk.

Advance registration is required.

For questions or more information, contact ghsl-specialcollections@northwestern.edu.

Register for Revolutions in Medicine



SAVE THE DATE: Alumni Weekend 2027 | Chicago, Illinois

Friday, April 30–Saturday, May 1, 2027

Get ready to celebrate in Chicago next spring!

Return to campus, reconnect with classmates and friends, enjoy lectures and tours, and gather for memorable class dinners. We're excited to welcome our 2027 reunion classes and Half Century Club members, and we invite all alumni to join us for the weekend.

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 2027 now!

We've arranged discounted room blocks at several local Chicago hotels, including Aloft Chicago Mag Mile, Hyatt Centric Chicago Magnificent 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 "**2027 Travel and Accommodations**" portion of our Alumni Weekend website for more information.

Stay tuned for more information coming later this year.

Questions? Contact the Medical Alumni Association at medalum@northwestern.edu.

Add Alumni Weekend 2027 to My Calendar



Decoding the Immune Response in Early Bladder Cancer

with Joshua Meeks, MD, PhD

Listen to the Episode >>

Northwestern Medicine

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Check out the latest episode: "Decoding the Immune Response in Early-Stage Bladder Cancer with Joshua Meeks, MD, PhD."

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