

Medical Alumni Association NEWSLETTER

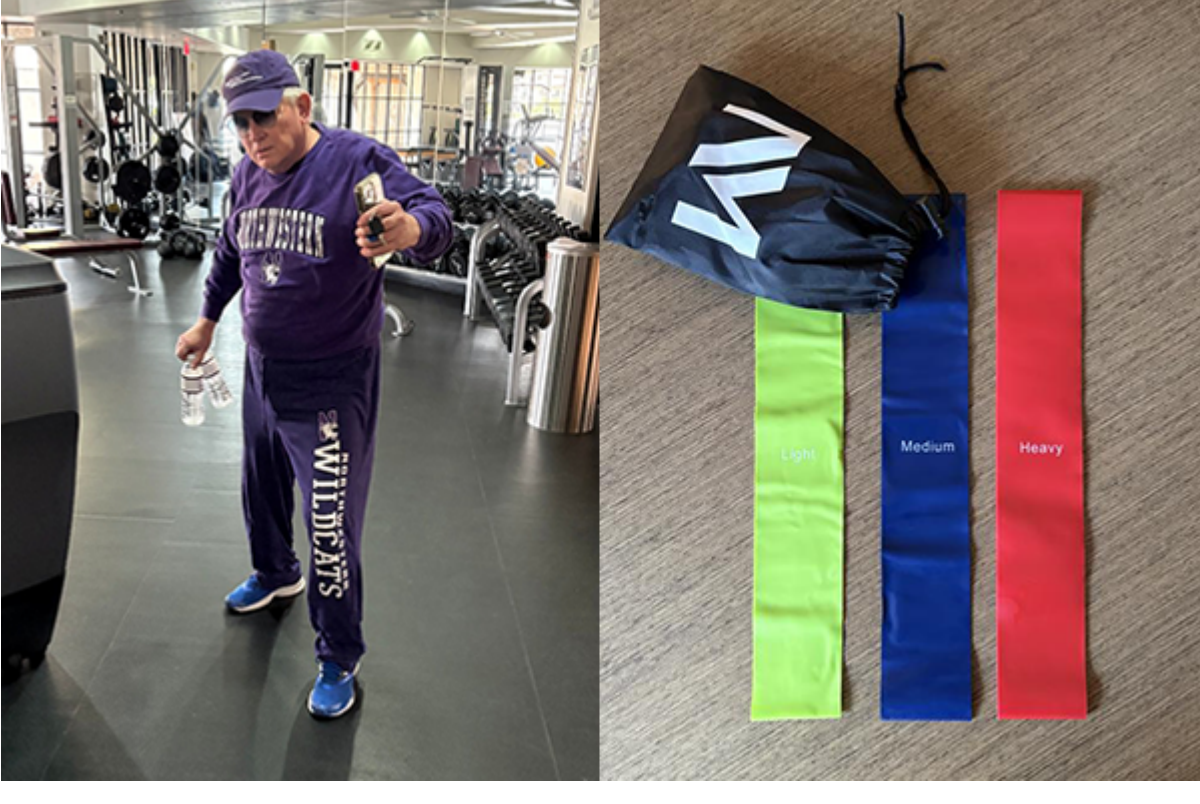
January 2026 | Issue No. 99



NU Year. NU You.

Happy New Year! In celebration of the new year, we want to see how you are staying active. Share your fitness, wellness, or workout photos on our **NU Year. NU You. Kudoboard**. Bonus points if you're rocking your Northwestern gear, just like alum **Stephen M. Stahl, '75 MD, PhD, DMedSci (Hon.), DSci (Hon.)**, showing off his Wildcat pride (pictured below, left side).

[Post your photo](#) and **receive a limited-edition gift:** A Northwestern Medicine workout band set (pictured below, right side)!



Be sure to add your favorite wellness tips, too. What's your advice for keeping your body and mind healthy? Let's celebrate Northwestern strength inside and out.

Here's to good health, new possibilities, and a year filled with special moments that bring us together.

Let's go, 2026!

Your Medical Alumni Association and Alumni Relations Team

NU Year. NU You.
Kudoboard

Registration is Now Open for Alumni Weekend 2026!



Make plans to join us in Chicago on **May 1–2** as alumni from across generations return to campus for a weekend of conversation, connection, and celebration.

This year, we're excited to celebrate our **2026 MD and physician assistant reunion classes ending in 1 or 6** and **all members of our Half Century Club**, whose lifelong engagement continues to strengthen our community. This year, for the first time, we're thrilled to welcome **Northwestern University Dental School alumni** at Alumni Weekend. Whether you're marking a milestone reunion or simply looking for a reason to reconnect, Alumni Weekend is your invitation back.

Not your reunion year? Not a problem. **Alumni of ALL classes, along with guests and family members, are welcome to join the festivities.**

Visit the [Alumni Weekend website](#) to register and preview the schedule, which features faculty-led discussions, behind-the-scenes campus experiences, class gatherings, Chicago excursions, and an all-alumni celebration.

Take advantage of early bird pricing for a limited time. **Enjoy 20% off paid events with NO PROMO CODE NEEDED.** **Early Bird Promo Pricing automatically applies through February 28.** Regular Event Pricing is in effect starting March 1.

Interested in getting more involved with your reunion class committee? Alumni volunteers are vital and play a key role in shaping their class's reunion experience. If this is your reunion year and you'd like to participate, please contact Katie Bradshaw Ferris, assistant director of Reunion and Leadership Giving, at katie.ferris@northwestern.edu.

Don't wait. Book your hotel now. Special discounted rates have been secured exclusively for alumni, but rooms are limited. Visit the "[2026 Travel and Accommodations](#)" section of the Alumni Weekend website for details.

Register today and **start planning your return to campus.** We can't wait to welcome you back!

Register for Alumni
Weekend 2026



From the Director's Desk:

Dear Alumni,

Happy New Year! We hope that you and your loved ones had a wonderful holiday season.

As we kick off the new year, we invite you to start planning your return to campus this spring. **Alumni Weekend registration is open!** Please take advantage of our discounted early bird registration pricing through February 28. No promo code needed. You don't have to be in reunion year to join us either: ALL are welcome at Alumni Weekend.

Visit our [Alumni Weekend website](#) for more information and to register. We hope to see you on campus, May 1–2.

Please reach out with any questions.

Thank you,
Babette



Babette Henderson '21 CERT
Senior Director, Alumni Engagement
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
babette.henderson@northwestern.edu
312-503-0855

2025 Year in Review



In a year of unprecedented challenges and opportunities, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine continued to pursue excellence in education and pushed new boundaries in improving human health through research and discovery. In 2025, Northwestern Medicine scientists reached new heights in uncovering the deepest underpinnings of human biology and the causes of disease, while also pioneering novel solutions to treat and cure disease.

From a recognition of Northwestern scientists' influential contributions to science to the continuing excellence of Northwestern Medicine clinical partners, along with the exceptional accomplishments of the medical school's educational leaders in preparing the next generation of physician and physician-scientist leaders, 2025 cemented Feinberg's stature as a leader in scientific discovery, medical education, and clinical breakthroughs.

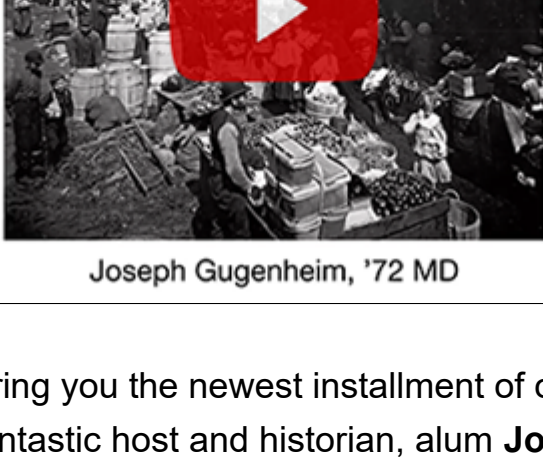
Visit the [Feinberg News Center](#) for a selection of our most impactful and groundbreaking stories from the last year.

Feinberg News Center Year
in Review

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

“Chicago’s Maxwell Street”

Chicago’s Maxwell Street



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 Maxwell Street, one of the city’s oldest neighborhoods and a powerful gateway for generations of immigrants. Often called the “Ellis Island of the Midwest,” Maxwell Street was shaped by Irish laborers, Eastern European Jewish families, African Americans arriving during the Great Migration, and, later, Mexican American communities.

Dr. Gugenheim also touches on the Chicago Maternity Center and traces the evolution of the legendary Maxwell Street Market, from its beginnings as a push-cart economy to its role as a bustling commercial hub where nearly anything could be bought and sold. He also highlights Maxwell Street’s lasting cultural influence, including its central role in the development of Chicago-style electric blues, where musicians such as Muddy Waters and Howlin’ Wolf helped shape a sound that would influence music for generations to come. Join Dr. Gugenheim as he shares stories of the innovation and urban development that would ultimately reshape the neighborhood.

Dr. Gugenheim presents “**Chicago’s Maxwell Street**.”

Thank you, Dr. Gugenheim!

Stream “Chicago’s Maxwell Street”

COMING SOON:

“Chess Records”

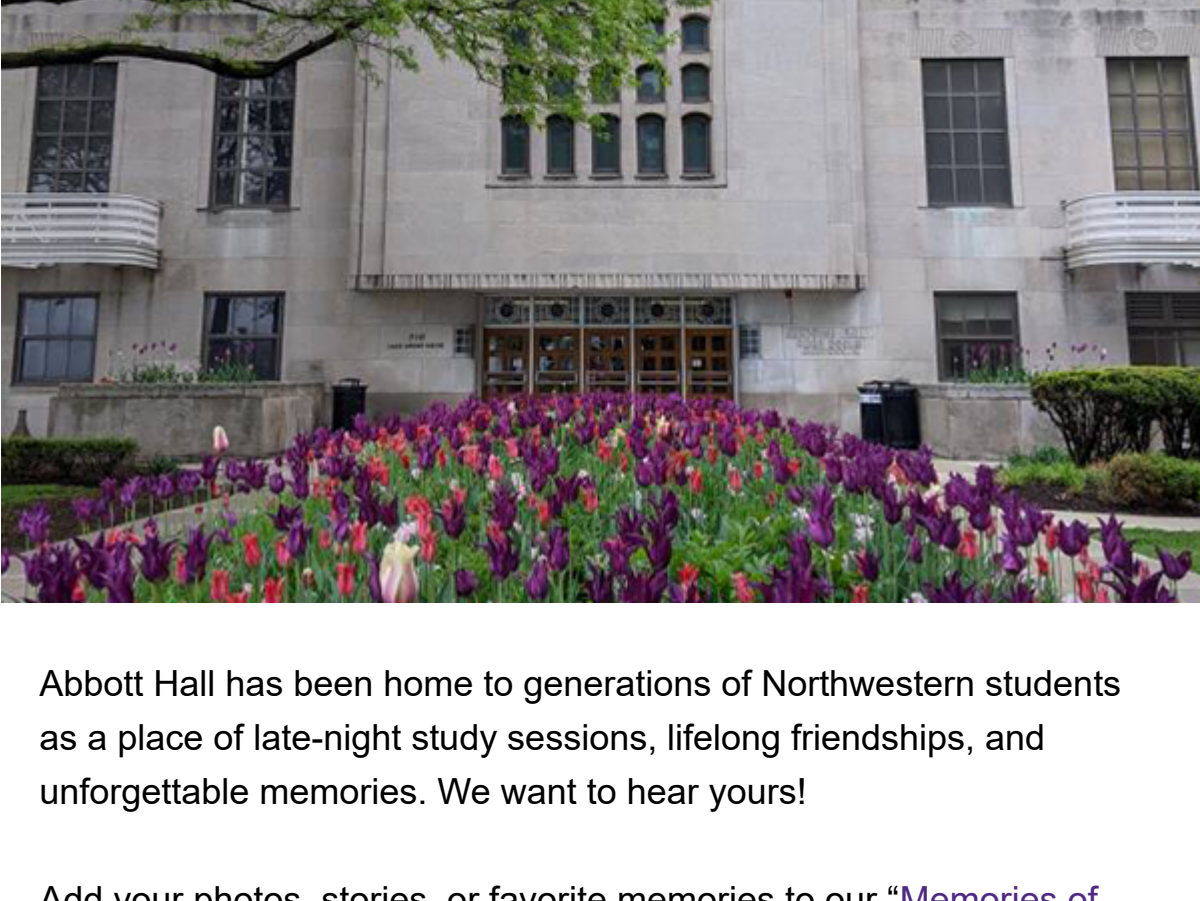
In February, in celebration of Black History Month, Dr. Gugenheim will explore Chess Records, hailed by music critic Cob Koda as “America’s greatest blues label” and by Chicago singer John Primer as “the greatest recording studio in Chicago.” Founded by Polish immigrants Lawrence and Phil Chess (born Leizzor and Fishel Czyż) in the heart of Bronzeville, Chess Records became a crossroads of culture, bringing together African American musicians and Jewish entrepreneurs to create R&B, blues, jazz, soul, gospel, and doo-wop that influenced listeners worldwide.

Learn more about iconic hits from Muddy Waters, Howlin’ Wolf, Chuck Berry, and the Moonglows, and how Chess’s legacy even shaped other genres, inspiring the Rolling Stones and Bob Dylan. The history of Chess Records is marked by opportunity, innovation, and a legacy of extraordinary talent.

Stay tuned for this fascinating episode, coming next month!

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 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

From Superman to Tchaikovsky: NMO Brings Music to Life



Photo credit: Stephanie Chiricuta

On December 5, the Northwestern Medical Orchestra (NMO) performed for another capacity audience of over 450 music lovers at Thorne Auditorium, as well as 450 friends across the country via livestream. NMO's exciting program included *Superman March* by John Williams, *Danse Bacchanale* by Saint-Saëns, and *Pictures at an Exhibition* by Mussorgsky. The crowd was also treated to an encore of Tchaikovsky's *Trepak* led by a 7-year-old guest conductor from the audience! Enjoy the video recording on the [NMO website](#).

Save the Date: Join the NMO for its Winter Chamber Music Concert on Friday, March 6 at 7:00 pm CST, in Hughes Auditorium (303 East Superior Street). Registration details coming soon.

For more information on the Northwestern Medical Orchestra, [visit its website](#).

NMO Fall Concert Recording

Office of Health Equity Newsletter

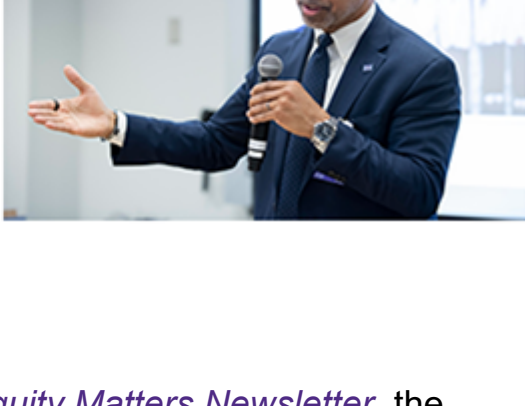
Health Equity Matters

Quarterly news for the Feinberg community

Advancing Healthcare to Improve Health for All People

We create opportunity; we lead with passion; and we hold firm our learned truism: the absence of health in any one of us impacts the health of all of us.

[Clyde Yancy, MD, MSc](#)
Vice Dean, Health Equity



In this inaugural issue of the [Health Equity Matters Newsletter](#), the [Office of Health Equity](#) shares insights from Clyde Yancy, MD, MSc, vice dean for Health Equity, and Dineen Simpson, MD, chief health equity executive at Northwestern Memorial HealthCare.

The issue highlights the Northwestern Medicine Outpatient Center on Chicago's South Side in the historic Bronzeville neighborhood, the Office of Health Equity's second annual research symposium and Lyceum Series, the NU Docs Pathway Program, and more.

Learn how Feinberg is advancing healthcare to improve health for all people.

Health Equity Matters Newsletter

NUPOC News: Advancing Prosthetics and Orthotics

NUPOC NEWS

The official newsletter of the Northwestern University Prosthetics-Orthotics Center

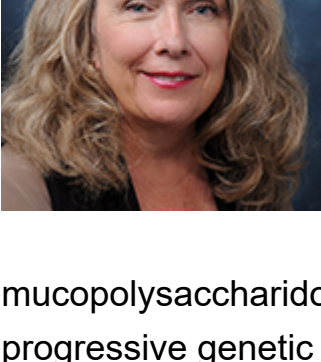


Check out the January 2026 edition of *NUPOC News*, the quarterly newsletter from the Northwestern University Prosthetics-Orthotics Center. This publication highlights student achievements, staff updates, and more.

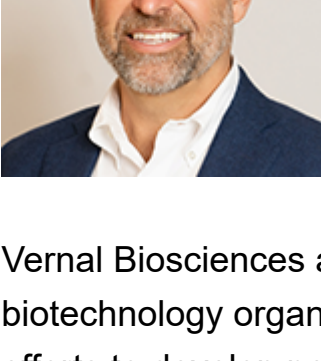
[Download the full newsletter](#) and visit the [NUPOC website](#) to learn more about their mission of helping people affirm their lives with hope, independence, and enthusiasm by advancing technology and knowledge about prostheses and orthoses.

NUPOC News: The Official Newsletter of NUPOC

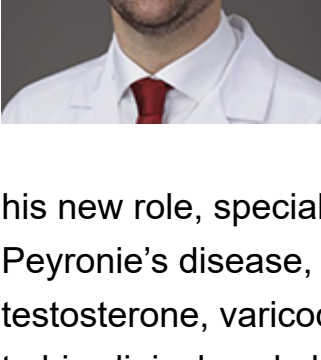
Congrats Are in Order!



Barbara K. Burton, '73 MD, '75 GMER, '77 GMEF, professor emeritus of Pediatrics in the Division of Genetics, Genomics, and Metabolism at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, is coauthor of a recently published study of a multi-year clinical trial examining an experimental therapy for mucopolysaccharidosis type II, or Hunter syndrome, a rare and progressive genetic disorder. The study, published in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#), found significant reductions in harmful biomarkers and functional improvements among participants, suggesting promising potential for patients with limited treatment options. To learn more about the study, visit the [Feinberg News Center](#). Congratulations, Dr. Burton!



Christian W. Cobaugh, PhD, '99 MS, has been appointed chief executive officer (CEO) of Alloy Genetic Medicines, a company focused on advancing nucleic acid-based therapies at the genetic level. With more than 15 years of leadership experience in genetic medicines, including serving as founding CEO of CDMO Vernal Biosciences and holding leadership roles at other pioneering biotechnology organizations, Dr. Cobaugh will lead the company's efforts to develop next-generation RNA medicines. Congratulations, Dr. Cobaugh!

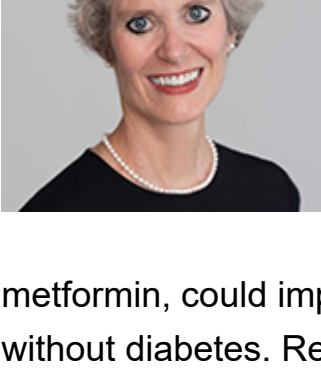


Justin M. Dubin, MD, '22 GMEF, has been named director of Men's Sexual Health at Baptist Health Miami Cancer Institute. Before joining Baptist Health, he served as a men's health specialist at Memorial Healthcare System in Hollywood, Florida. Dr. Dubin brings extensive clinical and research experience to his new role, specializing in conditions such as erectile dysfunction, Peyronie's disease, ejaculatory disorders, testicle pain, low testosterone, varicoceles, and other male genitalia issues. In addition to his clinical work, he co-hosts the educational podcast *Man Up—A*

Doctor's Guide to Men's Health and has been featured as a medical expert on several major media platforms. Congratulations, Dr. Dubin!



Leo A. Gordon, '73 MD, recently had a letter published in the [Wall Street Journal](#) responding to an essay on look-alikes. In it, he shared his experiences of being mistaken for Leo I. Gordon, MD, the Abby and John Friend Professor of Oncology Research and professor of Medicine in the Division of Hematology and Oncology at Feinberg. While Dr. Leo A. Gordon has had a distinguished career as a general surgeon, he occasionally receives invitations and requests intended for his namesake. The two met in person at Alumni Weekend 2023, and the September 2024 issue of the [Medical Alumni Association Newsletter](#) featured their story, "A Tale of Two Gordons." Congratulations, Dr. Gordon!



Mary McDermott, MD, '92 GMER, '94 GMEF, is the first author of a study published in [JAMA](#) which follows a major clinical trial investigating treatments for peripheral artery disease (PAD), a condition that affects blood flow to the legs and causes pain while walking. The study tested whether a common diabetes medication, metformin, could improve walking performance in PAD patients without diabetes. Results showed metformin had no significant effect, but Dr. McDermott and her team continue to explore other potential treatments, including cocoa flavanols and nicotinamide riboside, to improve mobility for PAD patients. To learn more about the study, visit the [Feinberg News Center](#). Congratulations, Dr. McDermott!



Drew Senyei, '79 MD ('06, '08, '16 P), Trustee, has been appointed to the board of trustees of the Salk Institute for Biological Studies. Dr. Senyei is a physician, inventor, and venture capitalist with more than 30 years of experience in healthcare and emerging technology. He is the co-founder of Enterprise Partners Venture Capital, the founding investor of Nuvasive, and a former executive chair of NeoSeq, Ltd. He is credited with more than 30 patents and has served on the boards of numerous companies. He is a former chair of the UC San Diego Jacobs School of Engineering Advisory Council and a current member of the UC San Diego Foundation Board. At Salk, Dr. Senyei will work alongside global business and nonprofit leaders to support foundational and innovative biological research. Congratulations, Dr. Senyei!

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 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.

Boca Raton Museum of Art | 501 Plaza Real | Boca Raton, Florida

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



Have Coffee and Conversations with Faraz Ahmad, MD, MS | Webinar

Wednesday, February 11, 2026 | 10–11 a.m. CST

Our "Have Coffee and Conversations" series is a unique opportunity for you to reconnect with fellow alumni, share your experiences, and enjoy meaningful conversations in a relaxed setting. In February, in honor of American Heart Month, we're *Getting to the Heart of AI: How Artificial Intelligence Is Transforming Cardiovascular Care Today*.

Virtual via Zoom: Link will be provided when you register.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is already reshaping how cardiovascular disease is detected, monitored, and treated in everyday clinical practice. This talk will highlight how AI tools are currently being used to identify heart conditions earlier, support clinical decision-making, reduce administrative burden, and improve the patient experience. Dr. Ahmad will discuss real-world examples from Northwestern Medicine, outline how these technologies are likely to evolve over the next decade, and explore key unanswered research and implementation questions with an emphasis on practical clinical impact and patient-centered care.

The Half Century Club (HCC) recognizes our alumni who graduated 50+ years ago and celebrates your dedication to the betterment of human health. We have created this club to honor you because you are an important part of our Medical Alumni Association family. As a member, you are invited to connect with fellow alumni, join us at local or virtual events, celebrate at reunion gatherings, and regale us with tales of your career. Learn more on the [HCC website](#).

For questions, contact Allison Glibowski at

allison.glibowski@northwestern.edu.

Register for the HCC
Webinar

Resilient by Design

BUILDING AN
ENDURING
HEALTHCARE
ECOSYSTEM



Kellogg Business of Healthcare Conference | Evanston, Illinois

Sunday, February 14, 2026 | 8 a.m.–4 p.m. CST

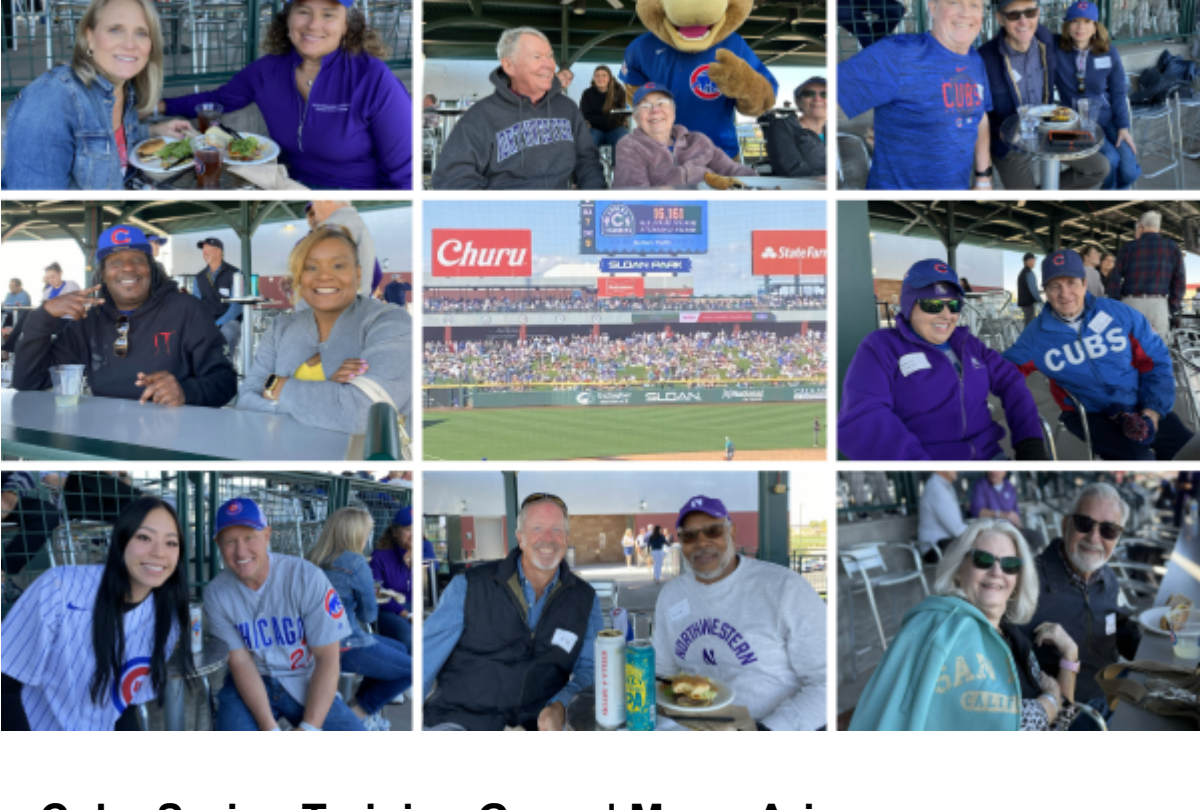
Join fellow Northwestern alumni, industry leaders, students, and professionals at the 26th annual Kellogg Business of Healthcare Conference, a forum dedicated to exploring innovation, strategy, and opportunity across the healthcare sector. Hosted at the Kellogg Global Hub on Northwestern University's Evanston campus, this event brings together experts from digital health, biotechnology, diagnostics, medical devices, and payer and provider organizations to share insights, network, and discuss trends shaping the future of healthcare.

The day will feature keynote presentations, panel discussions, and Kellogg's Startup and Growth Fair, a talent marketplace connecting MBA students and alumni with leading healthcare companies.

Visit the [Kellogg Business of Healthcare Conference website](#) for full program details and to register.

Advance registration is required.

Register for the Business of
Healthcare Conference



Cubs Spring Training Game | Mesa, Arizona

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

Chicago Cubs vs. Texas Rangers

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](#), [Half Century Club](#), and Northwestern alumni.

Limited tickets are available. Reserve your travel and hotel accommodations now.

Advance registration is required.

Purchase Spring Training
Game Tickets

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.



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

Advance registration is required.

Register for Simulation-
Based Mastery Learning

Northwestern Connects

March 3, 2026

Northwestern Connects | Global

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Join alumni from across schools, class years, and regions for Northwestern Connects, the Northwestern Alumni Association's annual signature global networking event. Held simultaneously in cities around the world, Northwestern Connects offers an opportunity to reconnect with fellow alumni, expand your personal and professional networks, and celebrate your Purple Pride, wherever you may be.

With events hosted in locations near home and around the globe, alumni can choose the experience that fits them best. Last year, more than 100 events took place worldwide, and additional locations will continue to be added.

Most events are free, but advance registration is required. Visit the [Northwestern Connects website](#) to explore locations and register. For questions, email connects@northwestern.edu.

Register for Northwestern
Connects



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 our annual Feinberg Naples Brunch.

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

Welcome Reception: 11–11:30 a.m.

Program and Brunch: 11:30 a.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](#).

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

About 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 34108](#)

Note: If 1 Arthrex Way doesn’t appear in your navigation app, try using the older map address of 1250 Creekside Parkway | Naples, FL 34108

Advance event registration is required.

Register for Naples 2026 Brunch



Alumni Weekend 2026 | Chicago, Illinois

Friday, May 1–Saturday, May 2, 2026

Celebrate in Chicago this 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 and the Northwestern University Dental School.

Not your reunion year? Not a problem! There’s so much to see and do. Alumni of ALL classes, along with guests and family members, are welcome to join the festivities. 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.

To register, visit the [Alumni Weekend website](#).

Take advantage of early bird pricing for a limited time. **Enjoy 20% off paid events with NO PROMO CODE NEEDED.** Early Bird Promo Pricing automatically applies through February 28. Regular Event Pricing is in effect starting March 1.

See you in Chicago!

Register for Alumni Weekend 2026



How Cell Function Can Shed Light on Neurodegeneration

with Vladimir Gelfand, PhD

[Listen to the Episode >>](#)



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: “[How Cell Function Can Shed Light on Neurodegeneration with Vladimir Gelfand, 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!