

Medical Alumni Association NEWSLETTER

March 2026 | Issue No. 101



Alumni Weekend: Time is Running Out to Register

Registration Closes on Friday, April 17, at 11:59 p.m. CDT

Alumni Weekend 2026 (May 1–2) is almost here, and registration is nearing its close.

Return to Chicago to reconnect with classmates, celebrate with your fellow alumni, and take part in a weekend that celebrates the past and looks to the future. From Reunion and Half Century Club gatherings to CME sessions, campus tours, mentoring opportunities, and Tea at the Historic Drake Hotel, the schedule offers something for everyone. All alumni and guests are welcome!

Over **300 alumni and guests** have already signed up to attend. Advance registration is required, and there will be no onsite registration for any event.

Hotel room blocks are available for a limited time and are filling up quickly. [Take advantage of discounted rates](#) at various local hotels through March 30, 2026, or until the room blocks sell out.

Secure your spot, finalize your plans, and join us for Alumni Weekend. Let's celebrate in Chicago!

Register Now for Alumni Weekend 2026



For more information about your reunion, contact:



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From the Director's Desk:

Dear Alumni,

Alumni Weekend is one month away! We are so excited to welcome you back to campus.

Please make sure you [register for Alumni Weekend](#) by Friday, April 17. Advance registration is required for all events, and there will be no onsite registration.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out. We look forward to seeing you in May!

Thank you,

Babette



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Another Fantastic Year in Naples



On March 6, we were excited to celebrate another wonderful gathering at the Arthrex One Conference Center for our annual Naples brunch and a discussion on **Game-Changing GLP-1 Obesity Medications: Exciting Breakthroughs but Challenges Remain**.

A leading scientist who co-authored the pivotal [New England Journal of Medicine](#) study that helped spark global interest in these drugs, **Robert F. Kushner, MD, '82 GMER, MS**, 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.

For those who joined us, your engagement made the conversation with Dr. Kushner dynamic and thought-provoking. If you were unable to attend this year's brunch, we hope to see you next time.

If you are interested in exploring the research and topics discussed at the event, we invite you to read a recent [Wall Street Journal](#) article featuring Dr. Kushner on the effects of GLP-1 medications (subscription required), learn more about his work in obesity medicine on [his website](#), and listen to his Feinberg *Breakthroughs* podcast episode, "[A Promising Obesity Drug with Robert Kushner, MD.](#)"

The evening of March 5, Northwestern Medicine (NM) welcomed guests for a reception and discussion with health system leaders, highlighting recent developments across NM.

Thank you to everyone who joined us at these events! To stay informed of events in the Naples area and continue being part of our growing community in southwest Florida, reach out to us at medalum@northwestern.edu.

Naples Brunch Photo

Destination: HCC



Big things are happening with our Half Century Club (HCC) all over the country. Alumni came together for a luncheon on February 26 in Oak Brook, Illinois (pictured above), and a dinner on March 5 in Naples, Florida (pictured below). Both events offered a chance to reconnect, share stories, and enjoy time with friends old and new.

Looking ahead, HCC members and guests are invited to **Have Coffee and Conversations with the Half Century Club** during Alumni Weekend. On Saturday, May 2, from 9–10 a.m. CDT, **Joseph Gugenheim, '72 MD**, will present “The History of Abbott Hall,” sharing the fascinating story of this iconic campus building.

Alumni Weekend 2026 will also feature additional HCC programming, including **Pancakes and Perspectives**, our **Commitment to Scholarships Luncheon**, an exclusive **HCC Dinner**, and plenty of opportunities to catch up, explore campus, and connect with faculty and friends. Secure your spot and register today!



Register for Alumni Weekend HCC Events

The HCC offers all alumni past their 50-year reunion the chance to stay connected, enjoy exclusive events, and celebrate shared experiences. Membership is automatic. Your alumni community is waiting!

For more information on upcoming HCC events or to get involved, please contact:



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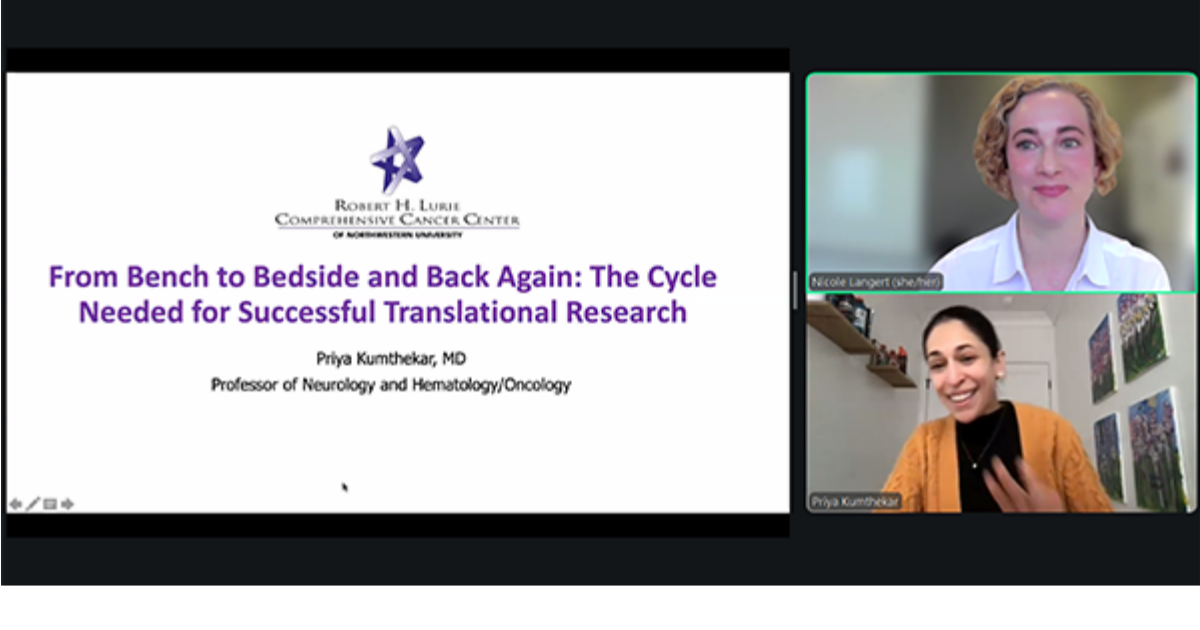


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From Bench to Bedside and Back Again



On March 24, your MAA welcomed alumni and friends to our most recent virtual webinar, “From Bench to Bedside and Back Again: The Cycle of Successful Translational Research in Brain Tumors,” presented by **Priya U. Kumthekar, MD, '08 GMER, '11 GMER, '12 GMER**, professor of Neurology in the Division of Neuro-oncology and of Medicine in the Division of Hematology and Oncology; disease team lead for clinical trials; and director of the Brain Metastases Program.

During the session and the thoughtful discussion that followed, attendees explored how collaborative research across Northwestern labs is shaping clinical trials for patients with brain tumors. Dr. Kumthekar walked through the translational research process, demonstrating how discoveries made in the lab are carried through to patient care and how clinical insights, in turn, help guide ongoing research efforts.

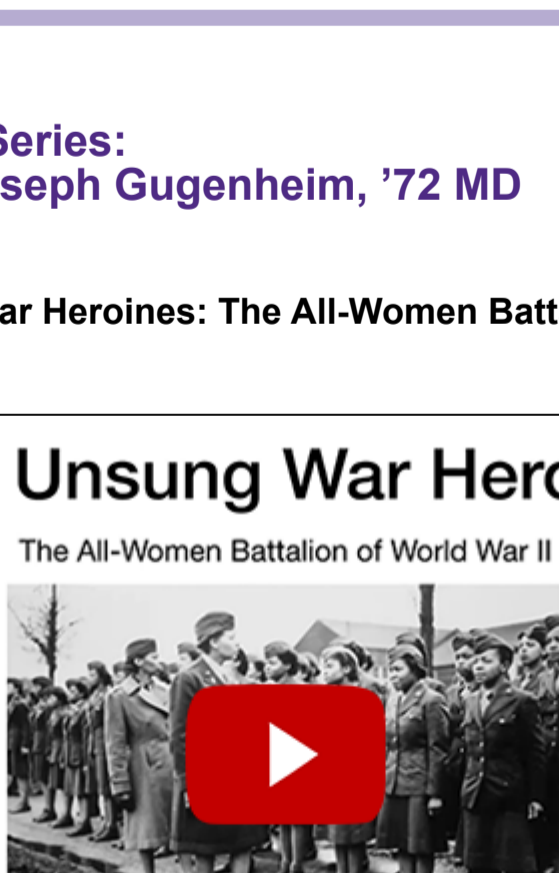
This dynamic webinar series continues to bring alumni and friends closer to innovative work happening across Northwestern Medicine. You can sign up to receive the recording in your inbox or watch this and past MAA webinars anytime through the [MAA Virtual Event Recording Archives](#).

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

“855 Unsung War Heroines: The All-Women Battalion of World War II”

855 Unsung War Heroines

The All-Women Battalion of World War II



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 celebration of Women's History Month, Dr. Gugenheim shares the story of the U.S. Army's 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the “Six Triple Eight” in this episode. Under the command of Major Charity Adams, this extraordinary unit of the Women's Army Corps deployed to Europe in 1945, where they cleared a massive backlog of undelivered mail in record time, lifting troop morale across the front lines during World War II.

Among these trailblazers was Margaret Glenn Sales Semmes, a Northwestern music student in the 1940s, whose leadership and dedication exemplified the courage, ingenuity, and resilience of the battalion. In 2025, the 6888th was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, and their inspiring story continues to resonate with new generations.

Join Dr. Gugenheim as he highlights the enduring legacy of the Six Triple Eight, a unit defined by leadership, service, and the power of teamwork.

Dr. Gugenheim presents “**855 Unsung War Heroines: The All-Women Battalion of World War II.**”

Thank you, Dr. Gugenheim!

Stream "855 Unsung War Heroines: The All-Women Battalion of World War II"

COMING SOON:

"The Evolution of the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab"

In May, Dr. Gugenheim will take us through the remarkable story of the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab, the first-ever "translational" research hospital where clinicians, scientists, innovators, and technologists work together in the same space, applying research in real time to physical medicine and rehabilitation. Founded as the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago in 1952 by Paul B. Magnuson, MD, the institute began in a modest warehouse and grew into one of the largest buildings in the world devoted entirely to comprehensive rehabilitation.

Dr. Gugenheim highlights the visionary leadership of Henry B. Betts, MD, who emphasized interdisciplinary care and addressing the full spectrum of patients' needs, and **Joanne C. Smith, MD, '92 GMER**, whose patient-centered "ability over cure" philosophy guided the creation of the 1.2 million square foot Shirley Ryan AbilityLab, opened in 2017. With five specialized "ability labs" and an innovative design that encourages collaboration among all experts including the patients themselves, the Lab continues to redefine what is possible in rehabilitation medicine.

Join Dr. Gugenheim next time as he shines a light on this remarkable facility!

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

NEW Northwestern Intersections Podcast Episode Coming Soon!



Episode 189: Advice from Feinberg Alumni Weekend

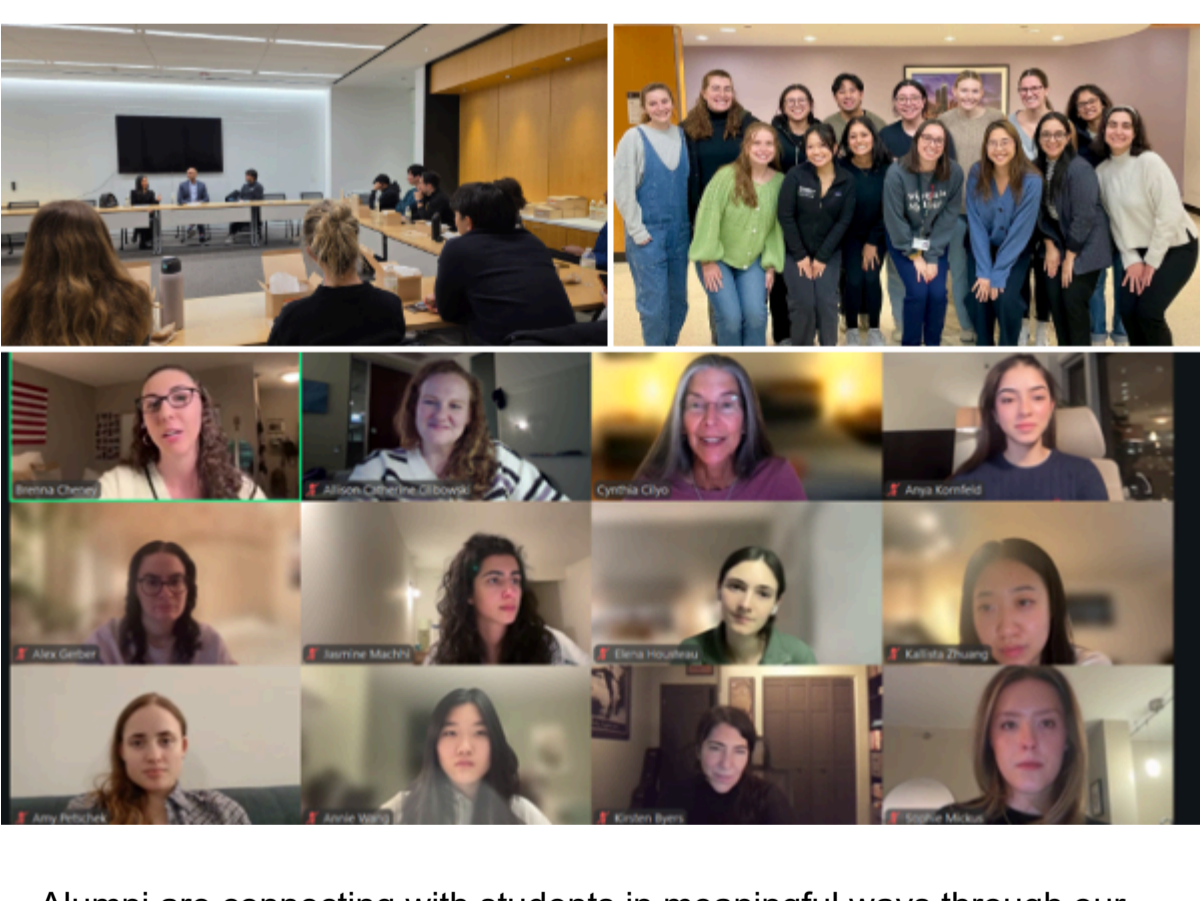
Mark your calendars for a new Feinberg-themed episode of [Northwestern Intersections](#), the Northwestern Alumni Association's podcast, coming soon!

Alumni **Andrew C. Alexander, '96 MD**; **Farah Hashemi Fakouri '89, '91 MD, '92 GMER**; **Lawrence G. Lenke, '86 MD ('14 P)**; **Sandra J. Schorr, '76 MD**; and **MAA Board Member Nicholas J. Volpe, Jr., '21 MD, MBA**, join host Max Herteen for an open, candid conversation about their medical school journey including the pivotal moments that shaped their careers, the lessons they carry forward, and the experiences that defined their time in medical school.

Tune in as they reflect on their Northwestern experiences, share how they made their way in the medical field, and offer advice for current and future students.

Listen to this exclusive Alumni Weekend episode and discover more stories on [Northwestern Intersections](#). Coming April 29, 2026!

Mentoring in Action



Alumni are connecting with students in meaningful ways through our recent mentoring events.

On February 23, **Anand P. Shah '01, '05 MD**, and **Shivani P. Shah '01, '05 MD, '08 GMER, '11 GMEF**, hosted an Alumni Physicians of Feinberg session (*pictured top left*) and met with students to share candid insights about life as a physician, specialty choices, and balancing work, family, and life.

The following day, **Kalya A. Petrusha '21 MMS** and **Myra Zhan '24 MMS** offered guidance and mentorship to current physician assistant students as part of our Alumni Physician Assistants of Feinberg series (*pictured top right*). That same day, Women in White Coats welcomed **Cynthia L. Cilyo, '79 MD**, for a virtual session (*pictured below*), sharing her journey in medicine, leadership, and life while inspiring our students. Our Women in White Coats series is open to all members of the Feinberg community.

These events highlight the powerful role alumni mentorship plays in shaping careers and guiding future leaders. Interested in getting involved? Join our mentoring programs to share your experiences, support students, and make a lasting impact. Contact Allison Glibowski to get started.



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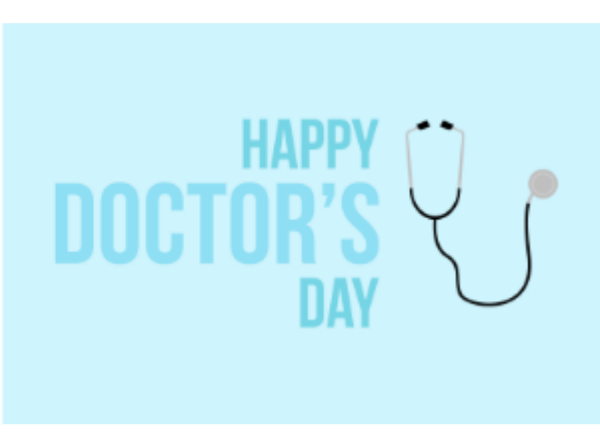
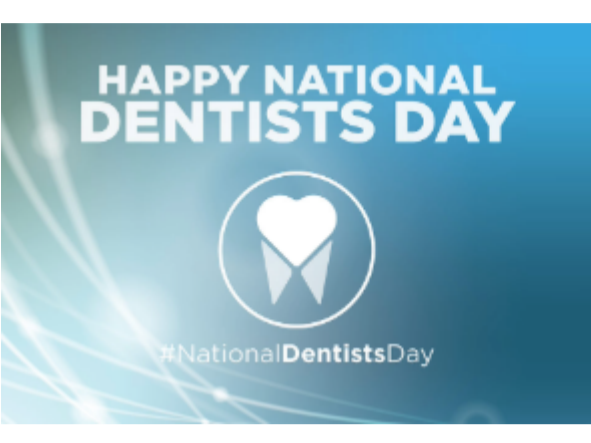
Editor's Note: MAA Newsletter Spring Schedule Change



Please note that there will be no *Medical Alumni Association Newsletter* in April this year. Instead, look forward to a special edition in May, which will include a recap of Alumni Weekend 2026.

Stay tuned for exciting updates and alumni news coming your way!

March Alumni Spotlights



March 6: Dentist's Day

This Dentist's Day, we celebrate the remarkable legacy of Northwestern University Dental School (NUDS) alumni. For over 107 years, NUDS has trained some of the nation's most skilled and innovative dentists, and we are proud to call you part of the Northwestern family. Your dedication and achievements continue to advance the field of dentistry, and we are grateful for the impact you make every day.

March 30: Doctor's Day

On Doctor's Day, we honor our MD and GME alumni who are transforming healthcare. Your expertise, leadership, and commitment to patient care, research, and education inspire the next generation of clinicians. Thank you for your extraordinary contributions and for shaping the future of medicine.

Celebrating Match Day 2026



Congratulations to our M4s who celebrated Match Day on March 20!

During this milestone moment, students discovered where they will begin their medical residencies. With 154 students matching into ACGME-accredited specialties and 68% heading to programs affiliated with top 25 U.S. medical schools, this class is poised to make an incredible impact.

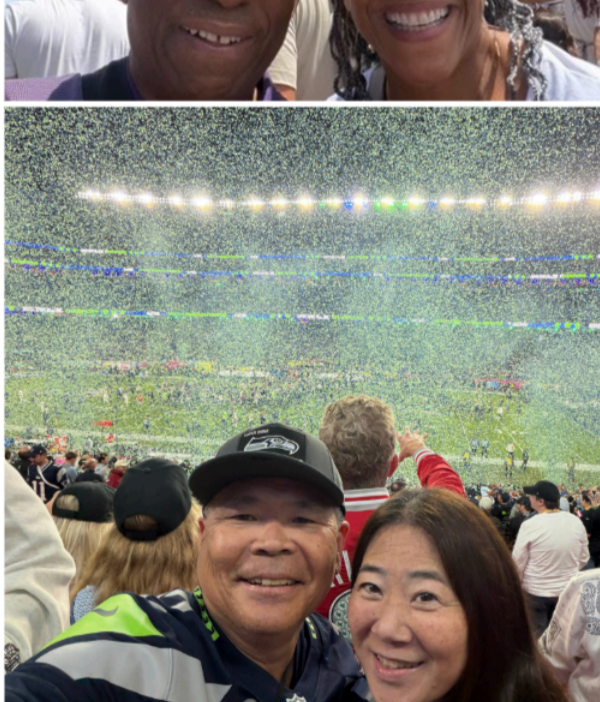
Explore highlights from Match Day 2026 in the [Feinberg News Center](#) and check out the [full list of match results on our website](#).

Relive the Moment from Match Day 2026

Learn Where Our M4s Matched



Alumni Around the World



We love seeing our alumni celebrating, showing off their spirit, and adventuring! Recently, several of you shared snapshots of your memorable moments, and we are thrilled to share them.

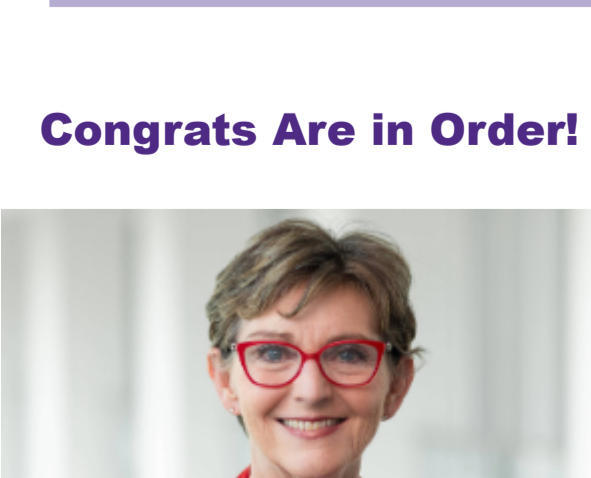
Courtland L. Munroe, '65 MD (pictured top left), is showing off his Half Century Club mug and purple pride with his Northwestern Medicine hat.

MAA Board Member Jamie E. Terry '89 MD, and husband Nelson Anthony (pictured top right) recently explored Brazil. Their journey included a stunning stop in Rio de Janeiro in front of the iconic Christ the Redeemer statue, followed by a visit to the breathtaking Iguassu Falls.

Ray Sato '88, '90 MD, and wife Traci Sato (bottom photos) brought the excitement to Super Bowl LX, on February 8, 2026, at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California, decked out in their Seattle Seahawks gear as they cheered on their team in style.

We would love to see more of you in action. Share your photos with us at medalum@northwestern.edu, and you might be featured in our next edition!

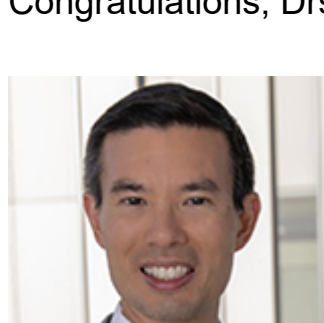
Congrats Are in Order!



Sharonne Hayes '81, '83 MD (pictured left), and **Melissa Simon, MD, MPH, '06 GMEF, MBA** (pictured right), will be recognized at the 111th Annual Meeting of the American Medical Women's Association for their achievements in women's health, held in San Francisco in March 2026. Dr. Hayes, professor and founder of the Women's Heart

Clinic at Mayo Clinic, in Rochester, Minnesota, will receive the Lila A. Wallis Lifetime Achievement Award for Advancing Women's Health. Dr. Simon will be presented with the 2026 Woman in Science Award at the meeting. Dr. Simon is vice chair for research in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology; the George H. Gardner, MD, Professor of Clinical Gynecology; and professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the Division of General Obstetrics and Gynecology, of Preventive Medicine, and of Medical Social Sciences in the Division of Implementation Science at Feinberg, as well as associate director of Community Outreach and Engagement at the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University.

Congratulations, Drs. Hayes and Simon!



Samuel Lin '94, '97 MD, '06 GMER, MBA, has been named editor-in-chief of *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*, the official journal of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons. Dr. Lin is associate professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School; director of Aesthetic Surgery at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC); chief of Plastic Surgery at BID-Needham Hospital; co-director of the Harvard Aesthetic and Reconstructive Fellowship; adjunct associate professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Tufts University; and program director of the BIDMC/Harvard Plastic Surgery Residency Programs since 2018. He also serves as executive director of the Harvard Surgical Program in Innovation at BIDMC and has held national leadership roles, including chair of the Plastic Surgery Foundation's Clinical Grants Committee.

Congratulations, Dr. Lin!

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



Alumni Weekend 2026 | Chicago, Illinois

Friday, May 1–Saturday, May 2, 2026

Celebrate in Chicago this spring!

Time is running out to register. 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 and The Ritz-Carlton, Chicago. Rates are guaranteed until March 30, 2026, or until the room blocks sell out.

Visit the **"2026 Travel and Accommodations"** portion of our [Alumni Weekend website](#) for more information.

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

See you in Chicago!

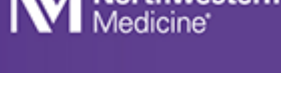
Register for Alumni Weekend 2026



Improving Imaging of the Spinal Cord

with Molly Bright, DPhil

[Listen to the Episode >>](#)



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Check out the latest episode: ["Improving Imaging of the Spinal Cord with Molly Bright, DPhil."](#)

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