



## History of Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

The first informal meeting for the school's establishment, held on March 12, 1859, included a number of prominent and scholarly physicians of Chicago – Hosmer A. Johnson, MD; Edmund Andrews, MD; Ralph N. Isham, MD; and David Rutter, MD. The goal was to create a medical department for Lind University in response to a proposition made to them by university trustees. Nathan Smith Davis, MD, founder of the American Medical Association and faculty member at Rush Medical College, believed a medical education should include a longer course of study and more exacting standards, and he wanted to establish a school to implement these reforms. In October of that year, 33 students began their medical studies in the newly created department.

When the trustees of Lind University were unable to fulfill their financial obligations with the Department of Medicine, the medical faculty reorganized in 1863 and became the Chicago Medical College. The college increased its educational facilities, extended the curriculum, and maintained higher standards for both admission and graduation. In 1868, the two year course of study was lengthened to three years. No other medical school in the country had adopted such an extended curriculum.

The Chicago Medical College affiliated with Northwestern University in 1870. Nathan Smith Davis became the first dean in 1870, and served until 1898. From 1870 to 1926, the school was closely affiliated with and located adjacent to Mercy Hospital, on the near south side of Chicago. With the new affiliation came curriculum changes, including the addition of a fourth year of instruction and a longer academic year. In 1906, the name of the school formally became Northwestern University Medical School. The school would change names one more time, becoming Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in 2002 in recognition of a \$103 million donation from the Joseph and Bessie Feinberg Foundation.



## EDUCATION AND INNOVATION

In 1911, under the deanship of Arthur Robin Edwards, MD, the trustees approved a six-year course of study leading to both a Bachelor of Science and an MD degree to encourage adequate premedical training. A compulsory fifth year of internship, either in a hospital or a research laboratory, was instituted in 1915. By 1918 admissions standards were raised again, requiring two completed years of college for admittance.

In 1919, Northwestern University purchased nine acres of land along Lake Michigan in the Streeterville neighborhood. Built to house the medical and dental schools, the new medical center building, the A. Montgomery Ward Memorial Building, was the first “skyscraper” medical center in the world. The new campus also provided the opportunity for the medical school to become co-educational. The first female students matriculated in the fall of 1926.

In the 1940s, Dean J. Roscoe Miller, MD, stressed the need for additional institutes, hospital facilities, and programs, including a central school for nursing. Many of these proposals and programs were incorporated in a plan for a medical center announced in 1946. During World War II, Northwestern faculty members staffed military hospitals in greater numbers than faculty members from any other medical school, and in 1946 Northwestern established the first medical school linked to the U.S. Veterans Administration.

The 1950s and ‘60s saw major changes in the medical school curriculum and campus, with Richard Hale Young, MD, as dean. The addition of full-time faculty and staff to the clinical departments, along with growth in research of the clinical and basic sciences departments, necessitated the expansion of the medical school’s research facilities. Young revised the curriculum that reduced lecture hours, instituted clerkships, and offered more electives in 1956. The Honors Program in Medical Education started in 1961, admitting students simultaneously to one of the undergraduate colleges at Northwestern University and to the medical school. Two years later, Northwestern was one of three institutions awarded the first NIH Medical Scientist Training Program grants to train physician-scientists. Students in the program earn both an MD and a PhD degree.

## GROWTH, EXPANSION, AND CHANGE

The leadership of the University and its major clinical affiliates seeking “joint and cooperative” clinical, research, educational, and strategic planning activities, created a new not-for-profit membership corporation in 1966, the Northwestern University Medical Center. Its member institutions included the University, three general hospitals (Wesley, Passavant, and Evanston Hospitals), Children’s Memorial Hospital, the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, and VA Chicago Health System.

In 1972, the corporation was renamed the McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University in recognition of a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Foster G. McGaw. Today, the center focuses solely on managing General Medical Education for the medical school and its affiliates.

The University first established a faculty group practice in 1972. Known since 1982 as the Northwestern Medical Faculty Foundation, the multi-specialty academic group practice provides major financial support



to the academic mission of the medical school each year, in addition to its members' in-kind contributions to the teaching and mentoring of medical students, residents, and fellows.

As the 1980s continued, Dean Harry Beaty began to work on developing a learner-centered curriculum. This curriculum included several new innovations, including one of the first courses in professional skills and perspectives and a focus on medical decision-making. Launched in 1993, this curriculum served the school for two decades, until a new approach based upon longitudinal, portfolio based competency assessment, opportunities for further integration of research, science, clinical medicine, professional development, and societal perspectives led to the creation of a new curriculum unveiled in the fall of 2012.

In the early '90s, the Tarry Research and Education Building opened and Method Atrium construction is completed, uniting the Searle, Morton, Ward, and Tarry Buildings. In 1990, the Graduate Program in Life Sciences was established as an umbrella program for PhDs in both the basic sciences and clinical departments at the medical school. In 2012, it was renamed the Driskill Graduate Program in Life Sciences (DGP) in honor of a \$10 million gift from the Walter S. and Lucienne Driskill Foundation to fund student training. 2012 also included the move of Children's Memorial to Northwestern's Streeterville campus in order to make care more efficient for its patients through collaboration with its academic and clinical partners including Feinberg, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, and the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. Children's Memorial was renamed Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago in recognition of Chicago philanthropist Ann Lurie's \$100 million gift.

## A NEW VISION

In 2000, Lewis Landsberg, MD, became the dean, and over the course of seven years he created three new centers and one new institute. Landsberg was instrumental in the development of a greatly enhanced and mutually supportive relationship with Northwestern Memorial Hospital, the medical school's primary teaching hospital. Research space grew by more than 70 percent under his tenure, with the opening of the Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center in 2005.

In 2007, J. Larry Jameson, MD, PhD, became dean. During Jameson's three-year tenure, he led significant strategic efforts within Feinberg and across the University and its partners. This work included OneNorthwestern, the vision of an integrated life and biomedical sciences enterprise across Northwestern's two campuses, and the development of the strategic vision and plan for Northwestern Medicine, a shared commitment between Feinberg, Northwestern Memorial HealthCare, and Northwestern Medical Faculty Foundation.

The current dean, Eric G. Neilson, MD, started at Feinberg on September 1, 2011. Neilson previously chaired the Department of Medicine at Vanderbilt University from 1998 to 2010. He led the largest department at Vanderbilt through a growth strategy that helped triple the size of its medical center. In 2010, Neilson was awarded the Robert H. Williams Award from the Association of Professors of Medicine for outstanding leadership as the chair of an academic department of internal medicine. Neilson's vision for the future includes plans to renovate lab space and build a new research pavilion that will generate tens of millions of dollars in new research funding.