THE
FOUNDERS
SOCIETY

at Northwestern University
Feinberg School of Medicine

IMPACT STORIES 2022
Dear Fellow Members of The Founders Society:

The Founders Society was created to recognize Feinberg’s most dedicated supporters. Our connections to the medical school are many: We are alumni, students, faculty, friends, and staff. Our members hail from across our nation and world—from Chicago’s Streeterville neighborhood to Hong Kong. Our experiences and backgrounds are diverse.

We all have at least two things in common: Our commitment to better human health through medical education and discovery, and our confidence that an investment in Feinberg will improve the lives of people around the globe.

Within these pages are stories of your impact. I hope they serve as a reminder of what we can achieve as a community. Together, we train promising physicians of the future. We fight cancer, heart disease, and dementia. We teach partners worldwide how to use augmented intelligence to read fetal ultrasounds, and we respond to a global pandemic. Our successes as a medical school are also your successes. We count each of you as a partner and friend to Feinberg.

Your deep commitment to our mission fuels today’s innovations and lays the foundation for tomorrow’s breakthroughs. Thank you.

Warmest regards,

Eric G. Neilson, MD
Vice President for Medical Affairs
Lewis Landsberg Dean
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

Eric G. Neilson, MD, with members of the Mumford family and the Earl M. Mumford, MD Family Scholar at the April 2022 Commitment to Scholarships Luncheon.
JOINING THE FOUNDERS SOCIETY

Through both philanthropy and service, members of The Founders Society are remarkable in their steadfast support of the medical school. There are many ways to join The Founders Society. In fact, many of our dedicated supporters are members of more than one of our recognition societies, as you’ll see in the following pages.

We proudly recognize the following groups with membership in The Founders Society. Northwestern University’s fiscal year runs from September 1 through August 31.

**CUMULATIVE GIVING**

As the medical school’s champions, you help us pursue our vision: a healthier future for all.

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**LEADERSHIP ANNUAL GIVING**

Each year, your collective investment has a critical and community-wide impact.

**ANNUAL GIVING—NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY LEadership Circle (NULC)**

Supporters at these levels are also recognized with membership in NULC, a University-wide program.

**Gifts within a fiscal year:**

- Founders’ Circle: Annual gifts totaling $50,000 or more
- President’s Circle: Annual gifts totaling $25,000–$49,999
- Deans’ Circle: Annual gifts totaling $10,000–$24,999
- Sustainer: Annual gifts totaling $5,000–$9,999
- Fellow: Annual gifts totaling $2,500–$4,999
- Member: Annual gifts totaling $1,000–$2,499

**YOUNG ALUMNI SOCIETY**

Gifts within a fiscal year, by years since earning MD, PT, and PA degrees:

- 5–9 years: $250
- 2–4 years: $50
- 0–1 year: Any amount

**PLANNED GIVING**

Your legacy gift demonstrates your belief in our future and your dedication to our long-term success.

**HENRY & EMMA ROGERS SOCIETY**

Donors who have notified Northwestern and documented an estate or deferred gift commitment to benefit the medical school, becoming members of both The Founders Society and The Rogers Society, a University-wide program.

**SERVICE**

Your generosity of spirit and advocacy for the medical school are unmatched.

**SERVICE SOCIETY**

Recognizing those who are actively engaged in volunteer activities benefiting the medical school, such as advisory boards, student mentorship, hosting regional events, and alumni-related activities such as board membership, reunion participation, and class giving efforts.
Lee Rogers, ’59 MD
Member of the Benefactor Society and
The Founders Society—NULC (President’s Circle)

Lee Rogers, ’59 MD, credits his long history of giving back to Northwestern to his earliest days as a student. Dr. Rogers was roommates with the famed director and producer, the late Garry Marshall ’56. Their camaraderie and shared love of Northwestern made an impact on Dr. Rogers, who has been supporting Northwestern ever since.

“It isn’t common for a department chair to also be an alumnus,” says Dr. Rogers, who served as chair of the Department of Radiology and held that position for 22 years. “It deepened my connection and my commitment to see the department grow.”

“Lee was the consummate teacher and role model,” says Eric Russell, MD, former chair of Radiology and current professor of Radiology (Neuroradiology), Neurological Surgery, Neurology, and Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery. “In the midst of a brilliant career, he always found time to make substantial contributions to the education of our residents, fellows, and medical students.”

In 2006, Dr. Russell approached Dr. Rogers with the suggestion of expanding the number of endowed professorships in the department, with a focus on education. Dr. Rogers enthusiastically agreed to provide substantial philanthropic support. The result was the first endowed professorship in Medical Education at Northwestern University: The Lee F. Rogers, MD Professorship in Medical Education. Many of Dr. Rogers’s former students and friends also contributed to the professorship.

“Both holders of the Rogers Professorship were former trainees of mine,” Dr. Rogers explains, referring to Ellen B. Mendelson, MD, professor emeritus of Radiology (Breast Imaging), and the current holder, Frank H. Miller, MD, chief of Body Imaging in the Department of Radiology, professor of Radiology (Body Imaging).

“Dr. Rogers was my first radiology mentor when I was a resident and encouraged me to become an academic radiologist,” says Dr. Miller. “I am honored to be the recipient of the Lee F. Rogers, MD Professorship in Medical Education.”

In addition to being chief of Body Imaging, Dr. Miller has trained more than 100 fellows as director of the Body MR fellowship. He has been deeply involved in radiology education at the national level and will become president of the Society of Abdominal Radiology in 2025.

“The endowment has allowed me to write papers and obtain grants for new and exciting initiatives for which we are considered leaders in the field. This professorship has been key to my success and has helped to educate other radiologists,” says Dr. Miller.

Dr. Rogers also jumpstarted efforts to develop an endowed professorship in Interventional Radiology, resulting in the Albert Nemcek Education Professorship in Radiology, held by Robert L. Vogelzang, MD. Dr. Rogers’s annual support to Feinberg includes his class scholarship as well.

“The Class of 1959 Scholarship was an endeavor organized by my peers, and I knew it was important to support that effort.”

For more information on the Department of Radiology, contact Dave McCreery at david.mccreery@northwestern.edu. For information on scholarships, contact Larry Kuhn at larry-kuhn@northwestern.edu.

“I chose to attend Feinberg because I knew I would be able to do all that I love while learning medicine. The students and faculty are warm, welcoming, and passionate. There are endless opportunities to get involved in research that inspires me, and to work in a variety of clinical settings. Our outstanding alumni participation in teaching, mentoring, and generally supporting students reflects how unique the Northwestern community is. I am so happy to be attending Feinberg, and I cannot thank you enough for your fantastic support.”

Dr. Frank Miller, (left) with
Dr. Rogers
at Dr. Miller’s investiture in
July 2015.
Jim Lowry has long been a friend and supporter of Northwestern. At Kellogg School of Management, he serves on the Global Advisory Board and teaches a course focusing on minority and women-owned businesses. He also has served on the board of Northwestern Memorial Hospital. But it was at a small, community-driven event outside of Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, where he first learned of the important work being done at Feinberg to understand and treat Parkinson’s disease.

“It was a musical event, featuring the work of Neil Diamond,” Mr. Lowry explains. “I didn’t realize that Neil Diamond has Parkinson’s disease.”

The wife of the director of the event also was suffering from Parkinson’s disease and had been treated at Northwestern. That evening, attendees watched a film of a Feinberg physician and faculty member speaking about the research and care advancements being made here.

The physician turned out to be Tanya Simuni, MD, director of the Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorders Center and the Arthur C. Nielsen, Jr., Research Professor of Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorders.

“I felt so much pride,” Mr. Lowry says. “Northwestern was doing great things! I was moved right then to do what I could to support the research.”

Shortly after, Boston Consulting Group, where Mr. Lowry has been affiliated for 20 years, honored him with its DEI Alumni Award. The award recognizes Boston Consulting Group alumni who are promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in their community.

“Part of my purpose in life is helping minority businesses and women-owned businesses, and I’ve done so throughout my career. So, this award was very moving,” he says.

The Boston Consulting Group Award included a generous contribution to an organization of the awardee’s choice. Mr. Lowry chose to direct his award to Parkinson’s disease research at Feinberg.

“The statistics of people who are dealing with a Parkinson’s disease diagnosis are staggering,” he explains. “We have got to do more for our friends who are dealing with this disease.”

Mr. Lowry quotes three main reasons for his gift to Feinberg. He was impressed by the uniqueness of the research being done here and by the impact that research has made on individuals with movement disorders and their families. Most importantly, he wished to honor a dear friend, Bob Holland, who suffered from Parkinson’s disease.

“One person asks, do you die of Parkinson’s disease?” says Mr. Lowry. “The answer is, no, you just die with it. That’s a powerful message. I want to learn more, make whatever contribution I can, and most importantly help tell the story of Parkinson’s disease and what Northwestern is doing to combat it.”

For more information on Parkinson’s disease research, contact Jordan Sund at jordan.sund@northwestern.edu.
Tell us about your Northwestern story and connection to Lewis Landsberg, MD.

I did my medical residency at Northwestern. I was chief resident and stayed on board after that. Dr. Landsberg brought my co-chiefs and my residents under his wing. He was what we refer to as a triple threat: a phenomenal educator, clinician, and researcher. That’s hard to do these days. He continued to be an incredible leader as chairman of the Department of Medicine, then as dean. For me, he was an inspiration.

How did the Landsberg Society get started?

Dr. Douglas Vaughan, our current chair of Medicine, kept hearing stories of residents who trained with Dr. Landsberg. He wanted to create something to honor Dr. Landsberg and maintain the traditions and loyalties that flourished under his leadership. Dr. Vaughan, Dr. John Pandolfino, Dr. Micah Eimer, and I got together and decided to start the Landsberg Society.

What are the goals of the Landsberg Society?

As former Medicine housestaff who trained under Dr. Landsberg, our vision is to create an educational environment as close to the one we had as we can reproduce. We hope to provide important resources for residents, fellows, and young attendings. Things get tough these days, and we want to make sure trainees have support to help them grow. We also want to reconnect previous residents from years past. There are a lot of programs for medical school alumni but not as many for residency alumni. That network is beneficial for patients, too. If I have a patient moving to Arizona, I’d love to refer them to a physician who was also trained at Northwestern. All these activities help keep and create ties back to Northwestern.

What has the Landsberg Society accomplished to date?

During the 2020 holiday season, we provided meals to residents who were working and caring for patients and who couldn’t go home and be with their families during the peak of the COVID-19 crisis. We’re also working on awards to residents who went above and beyond during the pandemic. We’re seeking support for grants for young attendings. When you are just starting out, it’s hard to get financial support for your research, even for simple things, like making photocopies. We all have to start somewhere.

We created a dinner program, Late Night Morning Report, inspired by Dr. Landsberg’s famous morning reports. You’d present a case to him and he’d tell you what he knew—which was everything. It’s a chance for former residents to reconnect and network with current residents and young attendings. Dr. Landsberg was there for the first of these dinners. Chief residents had the chance to present cases to him in front of the whole room.

In April 2022, we hosted our first Late Night Morning Report since his passing. Since one single doctor can’t replace Dr. Landsberg, we created a panel: Dr. Vaughan, Dr. Sadiya Khan, and Dr. Robert Hirschtick.

Why is it important to you to give back through the Landsberg Society?

I’ve always wanted to give back, and now I’m in more of a position to do so. My hope is to inspire other people to do what they can, whether it is financially, by giving time, or getting the word out.

We tend to honor people after they’ve passed. I’m so glad Dr. Landsberg was around in the first few years of the Landsberg Society to see how many people appreciated and respected him. Now our job is to maintain the legacy.

For more information on the Landsberg Society or the Department of Medicine, contact MaryPat Mauro at marypat.mauro@northwestern.edu.
Lori Post, PhD, is a dedicated faculty member and supporter of Feinberg. In 2021, Dr. Post tragically lost her father, Eugene, to COVID-19. In an effort to prevent other families from losing a loved one to COVID-19, she decided to support an initiative at Northwestern called COVID-19 Vaccine Communication and Evaluation Network (CoVAXCEN).

CoVAXCEN brings together a panel of experts in immunology, infectious disease, epidemiology, regulatory science, and health communication. CoVAXCEN is headquartered in the Robert J. Havey, MD Institute for Global Health’s Center for Global Communicable and Emerging Infectious Diseases.

A primary goal of CoVAXCEN is to produce and disseminate written materials for scientists, healthcare professionals, and the general public about the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines. Here, Dr. Post reflects on the loss of her father to COVID-19 and on her support of CoVAXCEN.

“We placed our father, Eugene Post, in a long-term care facility in December 2020. Even though COVID-19 was killing older adults in long-term care settings, I believed that mRNA vaccines would protect him. I was stunned when the nursing home administrator said, ‘We are not required by law to disclose whether or not the staff are vaccinated.’

I asked again, ‘I understand you are not required to disclose, but can you tell me if my father is safe?’

In fact, he wasn’t safe. In the aftermath of my father’s senseless and preventable COVID-19 death, I felt helpless and guilty that my dad died alone and afraid because healthcare workers refused to vaccinate. Soon thereafter, I learned about the CoVAXCEN initiative, led by Dr. Robert Murphy, aimed at increasing vaccinations to combat the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. Donating to CoVAXCEN gave me a way to honor my father. My contribution helped to prevent others from losing a parent to COVID-19.”

As a former communication science research dean and professor, I am keenly aware of the power of communication science to change hearts and minds and ultimately behavior. Health communication campaigns educate people about sickness and death, as well as influence people to adopt healthier behaviors. After all, it was health communication campaigns that turned the tide on seatbelt use, reframed AIDS from ‘gay cancer’ to HIV prevention, and even convinced people to wear sunblock to stop skin cancer. These same strategies are used to communicate why vaccines are needed, their efficacy, and safety.”

—Lori Post, PhD, Director of the Buehler Center for Health Policy and Economics, Professor of Emergency Medicine and Medical Social Sciences, and the Buehler Professor of Geriatric Medicine

For more information about the Robert J. Havey, MD Institute for Global Health, contact Jenn Burke at jennifer.burke@northwestern.edu.
Young Alumni Give Back through Scholarships

In fiscal year 2021, 32 percent of all The Founders Society-NULC members gave back to Feinberg through scholarship funds. Increasingly, many scholarship supporters are young alumni who recognize the power of scholarships to attract top prospective students with diverse backgrounds and to expand career horizons for current students.

We asked four young alumni members of The Founders Society why they choose to give back through scholarships.

“I chose to support the Feinberg Promise Scholarship because data show that outcomes improve when patients are cared for by providers who look like them. Increasing the diversity of our medical students and ultimately of the physician workforce is one way to work toward dismantling health disparities.”

—Daniel Pellicer, ’18 MD, The Founders Society-Young Alumni Member

“I give back to the Physical Therapy Scholarship Fund because Northwestern Physical Therapy & Human Movement Sciences is committed to their students’ personal and professional growth. If I can help lessen the financial burden for others to help them pursue their goals, then I want to be a part of that. Everyone deserves access to a high-quality education.”

—Christina Ronson, ’20 DPT, The Founders Society-Young Alumni Member

“I have been associated with the Northwestern Physician Assistant (PA) program for the past three years—as both a student and now as a young alumna. It is clear to me that the program is dedicated to turning feedback and suggestions into tangible changes for the benefit of the program, its current and future students, and its alumni. I wanted to support the PA Scholarship Fund to show my gratitude for the continued efforts of the program and facilitate progress moving forward.”

—Maggie C. Schiffhauer, ’21, The Founders Society-Young Alumni Member

“I was grateful to receive plenty of resources from Northwestern Physical Therapy & Human Movement Sciences when I was a student, which enriched my knowledge and shaped who I am as a clinician. I would like to pay it forward to help smooth a pathway for students as they continue their education in one of the best PT programs.”

—Sean Kang, ’17 DPT, The Founders Society-Young Alumni Member

For more information about supporting scholarships, contact Larry Kuhn at larry-kuhn@northwestern.edu.
Ralph Friedenberg, ’63 MD, ’69 GME
Member of the Henry & Emma Rogers Society, The Founders Society—NULC (Founders’ Level), and Lifetime Giving Society

Though he grew up in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Ralph Friedenberg, ’63 MD, ’69 GME, had early exposure to Northwestern when his father, Robert Friedenberg, MD, joined the practice of Ralph Mendelson, ’11 MD. One of New Mexico’s first specialists in internal medicine, Dr. Mendelson sang the praises of his alma mater and inspired the younger Dr. Friedenberg to pursue an education in Chicago. Dr. Friedenberg earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees at Northwestern in 1959 and 1963, respectively, and returned for a fellowship in endocrinology that he finished in 1969. He ultimately returned to Albuquerque but has always been a loyal Northwestern alumnus, serving as the founding president of the NU Club of New Mexico. For decades he has generously supported the medical school through outright gifts to Feinberg’s annual fund and MD Class of 1963 Scholarship. He also recently documented an estate gift to fund endocrinology research and education.

“My experiences as a student and an endocrinology fellow at Northwestern were positive. There were tough times—I remember leaving the chemistry lab as an undergrad one icy, windy night, and I’d never been so freezing cold before—but I learned a lot and met people that shaped my career. So I feel I owe a good deal to the school.”

“Dr. Friedenberg’s investment will help us train specialists in endocrinology and new investigators to innovate and lead in our field. I am deeply grateful for his generosity and commitment, which will ultimately improve the health of countless patients living with endocrine and metabolic disease,” says Joseph Bass, MD, PhD, chief of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Molecular Medicine and the Charles F. Kettering Professor of Medicine.

What stands out to you about your medical education at Northwestern?
It’s the people I remember most. Several faculty members influenced me greatly: Ralph Dolkart and Oglesby Paul, who were my attendings at Passavant Hospital, and James Linman, at the VA Research Hospital. Arthur Colwell, a well-known diabetologist, was chair of the Department of Medicine. I also spent a quarter doing research on rheumatic fever with Gene Stollereman. During my fellowship, I worked with Robert Metz in his laboratory and continued to experience clinical medicine and research side by side. Along with my father and Dr. Mendelson, those faculty were models to me—they showed me how a physician should practice medicine.

Why have you chosen to support Northwestern year after year?
Supporting charities is an act of faith to some extent—you don’t always know what’s going on. But I have a good idea of what Northwestern has accomplished, how far the school has come, and where it’s going. Northwestern has changed tremendously since I was there and built a strong reputation. The deans and other leaders at the medical school have done an excellent job and continue attracting successful faculty and students. I know that Northwestern has used the philanthropy it’s been given to really improve its stature and contribute to healthcare.

Why did you focus on endocrinology in your estate gift?
Diabetes and endocrinology, what I specialized in throughout my career, don’t get as much attention as some other areas, perhaps because they’re chronic diseases. But they affect patients deeply and require high quality clinical care. I want to help the Division of Endocrinology conduct research and train fellows in this important area.

Here, Dr. Friedenberg shares more about his experience at Northwestern and why he gives.

For more information about the Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Molecular Medicine in the Department of Medicine, contact Kathleen Praznowski at kathleen.praznowski@northwestern.edu.
Every year, many members of The Founders Society give leadership-level contributions to the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University. These gifts fuel success on a grand scale at Lurie Cancer Center, enabling innovative research, recruitment, and training. But at the heart of every gift is the story of an individual life and a family touched by cancer.

Here, one Lurie Cancer Center supporter, Lynn Hammer, shares the story of his wife, Penny, who passed away in January 2021.

“15 years ago, my wife, Penny Hammer, developed Hodgkin’s lymphoma and our world changed. Penny was always a very giving person. Often, she would go above and beyond her responsibilities as a speech pathologist at our local hospital. It was her wish to make sure her patients received the best care possible even if there were financial or personal hurdles to cross.

“Words and dollars cannot adequately express our gratitude for how Penny (and myself as well) were treated during the 13 years of her treatments. Dr. Leo Gordon and his entire staff exemplified professional expertise and personal concerns. Sarah Miyata, acute care nurse practitioner, would answer all questions about appointments, tests, side effects, treatments, and anything else. She even made phone calls just to see how Penny was doing, and the most amazing phone call of all in January 2022 on the anniversary of Penny’s death.”

“It is our hope that this gift to benefit the Supportive Oncology program will help others who are navigating their cancer journey and who may benefit from grants to help with everything from transportation to appointments to the cost of prescription drugs, allowing all cancer patients to receive the same great care that Penny received. Our gratitude goes to everyone involved from nurses to cleaning staff. These amazing efforts allowed Penny many years of good health and the chance to see our kids get married, grandchildren born, and many memories for all of us to share.”

—Lynn Hammer

For more information on the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University, contact Terri Dillon at terri-dillon@northwestern.edu.
A true Feinberg Founders story, the origins of the Tripartite Legacy Faculty Prize in Translational Science and Education began early in the life and career of RAMC Captain Geoffrey Kent, MD, PhD. More than 75 years ago, following the devastating early aerial bombing over Manchester and London during World War II, Dr. Kent, then a young physician, left his position at a teaching hospital to join the United Kingdom’s Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC). He served from 1945–1947, volunteering for the UK Desert Rats Division. This famed legion installed essential field hospitals and vital field laboratories that cared for the wounded in Belgium and Holland.

Photos of Dr. Kent at that time show him in his officer’s uniform wearing the classic RAMC beret with its famous silver pin and insignia. Portrayed on the RAMC pin are emblems of the physician’s healing serpent and rod, as well as wreaths of wheat, recognizing courage in the face of adversity, confidence in healing, and devotion in saving the lives of others.

In the 1970s, Dr. Kent served as a professor and chief of Pathology for Northwestern Memorial Hospital and its affiliate hospitals. He was a pioneer in medical research and education, a beloved mentor, and an international leader in the study of liver disease. Today, Dr. Kent’s legacy lives on through the Tripartite Legacy Faculty Prize.

Recipients of the prize will be familiar with the symbols from the RAMC pin, which are mirrored on the medallion given to Tripartite Prize honorees. Feinberg presents the award—now in its 13th year—annually to a faculty member who has demonstrated excellence in research that emphasizes translational approaches, teaching, mentoring, and leadership.

The award is made possible through the generous support of family members and friends of Dr. Geoffrey Kent.

Paul and Fran Kent, son and daughter-in-law of Dr. Geoffrey Kent, share, “As the world today continues to cry for brave leaders and selfless donors of talents and teaching, we remain committed to continue the iconic Tripartite Legacy Prize with celebration of exceptional leaders developed at Northwestern for years to come.”
Benefits of Membership in The Founders Society

- Annual cocktail reception
- Dedicated Feinberg staff liaison
- Early bird registration to special events throughout the year
- The Founders Society–NULC Members ($1,000 or more given in a fiscal year) also receive the annual benefits of Northwestern University Leadership Circle
- Rogers Society members also receive the benefits of the Henry & Emma Rogers Society

Your investment helps us improve human health worldwide and builds the foundation for tomorrow’s medical school. Thank you.

For more information about The Founders Society, please contact Sarah Kalsbeek at 312-503-3459 or s-kalsbeek@northwestern.edu.

For information on the benefits of membership in The Founders Society, please visit feinberg.northwestern.edu/tfs.

If you do not wish to receive fundraising materials from Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, please call 312-503-8933.