Bequest Gives Future Students a Chance in Medicine

ALUMNUS MAKES PLANNED GIFT TO SUPPORT MEDICAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

In fall 1967, James Sander, ’71 MD, a freshly-minted medical student at Northwestern, joined his classmates for a meeting with Merrel D. Flair, EdD, then assistant dean and director of Admissions.

“Dean Flair said, ‘Northwestern is a family. Medical school is not going to be easy, but we want everybody here to finish. We’ll do whatever we can to help you accomplish that,’” recalled Dr. Sander.

Later that year, the unexpected happened: Dr. Sander’s father died suddenly after a heart attack. His roommate had a car and drove him home to Toledo, Ohio, for the funeral and to take care of the family’s affairs. His mother had passed away five years earlier.

“While I was home, I got a call from Dean Flair. He checked my records and saw that I had a brother five years younger,” Dr. Sander said. “He asked if I needed to take care of my brother. Then he said, ‘If need be, he can come and live at my family’s house and finish high school here so that you can stay in medical school.’”

Dr. Sander has never forgotten that conversation. “I was blown away. It was an incredible offer from someone who barely knew me,” Dr. Sander said. “Dean Flair stood by what he had said earlier. When I potentially needed help, he was there. I thought that was pretty incredible.”

Dr. Sander did not have to take Dean Flair up on his kind offer—he had an aunt who was able to take care of his brother. Dr. Sander was able to complete

—James Sander, ’71 MD

LEGACY

A Planned Giving Newsletter from Northwestern’s Medical School

“Northwestern gave me the chance to have a great career—I’ve loved every minute of it. Now I want to give some other kids that same chance.”

—James Sander, ’71 MD

Dr. Sander with his wife, Margaret, on Lake Erie’s Rattlesnake Island.
medical school at Northwestern and went on to pursue pediatrics and, later, a specialization in child neurology. After a long career, he recently retired and decided with his wife, Margaret, to make a bequest to support the Class of ’71 Medical Student Scholarship fund at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

He says his encounter with Dean Flair is only one reason he decided to make Northwestern a beneficiary of his individual retirement account through his estate plan.

“The main reason is that Northwestern gave me the chance to have a great career—I’ve loved every minute of it. Now I want to give some other kids that same chance,” Dr. Sander explained. “I’ve had great opportunities in my life, and I’m eternally grateful.”

Looking back, what he remembers most fondly about his time in medical school at Northwestern is the people he met, from Dean Flair, to the roommate who drove him home, to Jacob Suker, ’56 MD, the team physician for the Chicago Cubs baseball team whom Dr. Sander got to work with during rotations at Wesley Memorial Hospital.

“It’s always been about the people,” he said.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS SAY THANK YOU

During the medical school’s annual Commitment to Scholarships Luncheon this spring, current students shared how thankful they are for receiving scholarship support to pursue their medical educations.

“Because of your generous donations, I have been able to develop lasting relationships with world-renowned mentors, engage in an abundance of research opportunities, and gain fulfillment through community service projects in one of the most vibrant cities in the world,” said Ramael Ohiomoba, now a second-year medical student who holds the Medical Alumni Scholarship.

“I realize how fortunate I am to be able to focus on taking advantage of these opportunities without having to constantly worry about my personal financial limitations. I thank you for giving me this freedom and the gift of education,” she added.
Change Students’ Lives and Keep Feinberg Competitive

FUND A MEDICAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP THROUGH YOUR WILL OR ESTATE PLANS

At Feinberg, we want to offer the choice of a medical education to students who dream of helping others through a career as a physician—regardless of their financial means.

Scholarship funds allow us to offer tuition assistance to prospects with diverse backgrounds and experiences, ensuring that financial barriers will not deter top applicants from pursuing a Northwestern University medical degree. We are working to significantly grow scholarship dollars as we compete for the best medical students nationally with peer institutions that are offering considerable financial support.

A Flexible Way to Give
Scholarships enable students to choose a medical specialty that is their true calling, without worrying about debt after graduation. If you would like to provide a scholarship for a student going into a specific field, your scholarship can be awarded to a fourth-year medical student who has matched to a specialty of your choice.

Some things to consider:
• An endowed scholarship will establish your legacy in perpetuity at the medical school. Your gift will be invested, and the principal will remain intact. The income from the fund will be used to support students now and for generations to come.
• You can be a leader by helping to establish or grow an endowed class scholarship jointly funded by you and your classmates.
• An immediate-use scholarship will benefit our students until the entire amount of the gift is spent.
• You can create a scholarship in your name or to honor someone. This is a heartfelt way to commemorate a loved one, or someone who has had a significant impact on your life.

THE IMPACT OF A SCHOLARSHIP
When you give the gift of a scholarship, you:
• Put a quality medical education within reach of deserving students
• Help Feinberg attract the best students and maintain its position as a top medical school nationally
• Can honor someone important to you
Welcome New Rogers Society Members

We are so grateful to the alumni and friends who informed us over the last year that their estate plan includes Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, and we are pleased to recognize them as members of the Henry and Emma Rogers Society. Through charitable bequests, gift annuities, insurance policies, and other forms of planned gifts, members of the Rogers Society have created a lasting legacy for Northwestern students, faculty, and university programs.

Anonymous
Irena H. Chen, MS, and Kuo Ching Chen, MD
Stephanie N. Chun, MD, and Ralph Daigle
Henry R. Gross, MD, and Patty J. Gross
Andrew P. Klaus, MD
Robert S. Martino, MD
Constance K. Nunnally
John B. Schrock, MD, and Mary J. Berube

This list reflects individuals who have shared their estate plan with Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine between July 27, 2018, and July 31, 2019. We have made every effort to provide accurate information. If you note an oversight, however, please call Sarah Kalsbeek at 312-503-3459.