

The Philanthropist

A publication for supporters and friends of Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and Northwestern Memorial Foundation



Grateful to You

Throughout the course of **We Will. The Campaign for Northwestern Medicine**, we have been privileged to share many tremendous stories here in *The Philanthropist* about our community of supporters. Patients, families, alumni, faculty, staff, foundations, corporations and other friends are helping us make great strides to improve human health today and into the future, here in Chicago and all over the world. In fact, together you have contributed an astounding \$2.5 billion and counting to support our efforts. We are so grateful for your altruism, your optimism and your trust in our expertise. Thank you again for your enduring and impactful partnership with us.



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Innovation Spotlight: Empowering Feinberg's Unsung Heroes

Half Century Club Alumni Make Big Impact on Medical School and Its Mission



Members of the MD Class of 1971, some of the newest inductees to the Half Century Club, pictured at their 45-year reunion in 2016. Together, alumni from this year have generously endowed the Class of 1971 Scholarship.

“We owe them a debt of gratitude, not only for their contributions to the field but also for their steadfast support...”

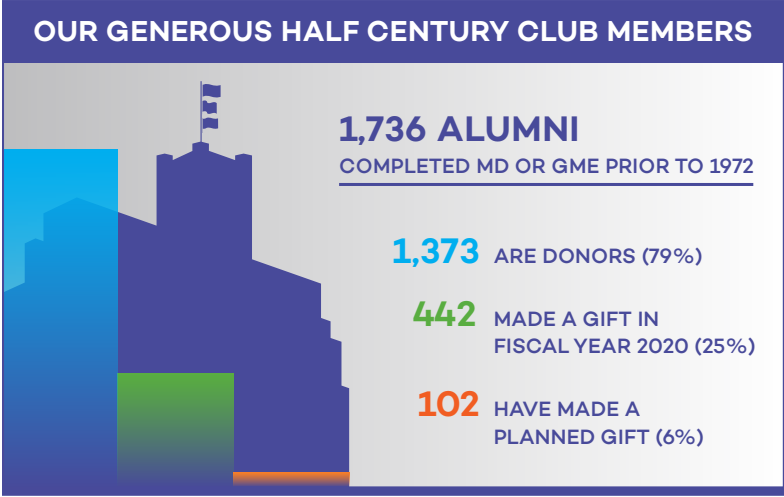
— Alan M. Krensky, MD

Last fall, Northwestern’s Medical Alumni Relations team introduced a new club to commemorate alumni who earned their degrees or completed graduate medical education (GME) here 50 or more years ago. The Half Century Club was created to honor and preserve their role not only in Northwestern’s history but also in the ever-evolving field of medicine. In Chicago and across the world, members have made Northwestern proud through their service to patients, research discoveries and teachings to the generations of physicians who followed them.

They’ve also made a big impact on Northwestern, giving back to their alma mater through their time and philanthropy over many years.

“This dedicated community of alumni serves as inspiration to all of us who have followed in their footsteps,” said Alan M. Krensky, MD, executive for Development at Northwestern Medicine and vice dean for Development and Alumni Relations at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. “We owe them a debt of gratitude, not only for their contributions to the field but also for their steadfast support of our medical student scholarships, research and training programs, and, ultimately, our mission to improve the future of human health.”

In fact, more than three-quarters of our Half Century Club members have donated to the medical school. Their outright gifts have immediately benefited our students and programs, while planned gifts have helped ensure Northwestern’s success into the future. To date, more than 100 of these alumni have made bequests through their will or trust to the medical school.



Giving Back After a Successful Career in Medicine

Among these generous alumni is recently retired surgeon Pon Satitpunwaycha, MD, '69 GME. This fall, he contributed a remarkable \$500,000 to the medical school through his charitable trust.

Born and raised in Thailand, “Dr. Pon” came to Chicago for his internship and residency. “I have very nice memories of Northwestern. Dr. Harold L. Method was an excellent teacher and very caring. I am grateful to lots of people who helped me overcome barriers and become who I am today,” he said.

Afterward, Dr. Pon returned to Thailand and spent eight years teaching at Chulalongkorn University’s medical school. He then moved to Houston for a fellowship and decided to stay, practicing general surgery there for 42 years.

A loyal donor and proud member of the medical school’s giving society, Dr. Pon previously funded a resident research program in the Department of Surgery. He always intended to make another gift but wasn’t sure about the right time.

“As of October 30, 2020, I am officially retired,” he shared. “It has been a long journey and now it’s time to celebrate!”

His recent gift will support research in the Division of Thoracic Surgery and help lead to innovations in lung transplant surgery. Last June, Ankit Bharat, MBBS, chief of Thoracic Surgery and the Harold L. and Margaret N. Method Research Professor of Surgery, and his team at Northwestern performed the first double-lung transplant on a COVID-19 patient in the U.S.

“Dr. Bharat has a great head start in creating a program that will be a leader in fighting ongoing and emerging battles with lung disease,” said Dr. Pon. “I hope this fund will help to facilitate the program’s success.”

When asked about the impact he hopes his gift will have, Dr. Pon had a simple answer, perhaps one that drives everyone who pursues a career in medicine: “I hope the impact is on the patients — it’s always about them.”

For more information about making an alumni gift, please contact **Larry Kuhn** at **312.503.1717** or **larry-kuhn@northwestern.edu**.

MEDICAL SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL CAMPUS

1965



Dr. Marlene Goodfriend

Why I Give

“Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine prepared me to care for people anywhere and everywhere, which I have done in my 50-year career as a pediatrician and psychiatrist. I have worked in the U.S. and in the resource-poor world, recently as a mental health advisor for Médecins Sans Frontières. Even with the changes in medical care over 50 years, the core components of diagnosis and treatment that I learned at Northwestern continued to guide my work. Northwestern enabled me to have a gratifying career in caring for people, often those most vulnerable and marginalized. I hope my continual involvement with Northwestern will help others do the same.”

—Marlene Goodfriend, '69 MD



Dr. Courtland Munroe

Why I Give

“I consider Northwestern my home. The medical school gave me a quality education that opened so many doors. I practiced internal medicine at a physician group in Carbondale, IL, and was a clinical associate professor in the Department of Medicine at Southern Illinois University. I am now retired and living in central Florida. I am still certified in internal medicine and work half a day per week at our local free clinic, where we see homeless and uninsured patients. I have supported the medical school for many years through an annual gift, and I have included Northwestern in my trust to provide future scholarships. A scholarship put me through medical school, and I was very grateful for that help. I’ve been given so much, and I think I have an obligation to give some back now.”

— Courtland Munroe, '65 MD

“I hope the impact is on the patients —it is always about them.”

— Pon Satitpunwaycha, MD, '69 GME

Gifts to Institute for Global Health Support Northwestern's Response to Pandemics at Home and Worldwide



In early 2020, as the coronavirus began to spread to every corner of the world, the leadership at Feinberg's Institute for Global Health knew they needed to pivot all of their efforts to combating the pandemic.

The relentless work that followed took center stage at the 13th Annual Institute for Global Health/Global Health Initiative (GHI) Event, presented virtually in November. Attendees heard from Northwestern scientists who defined the structural biology of COVID-19; infectious disease experts studying its mutations in Chicago and Nigeria; engineers designing faster, more sensitive COVID-19 tests; geneticists developing better antibody screening; and others working hard to bring advancements like these to people living in low-resource countries where the pandemic has exacerbated existing health inequalities.

"It remains a disappointing and dangerous reality that more than half the world's population of nearly 8 billion people today still has poor access to basic and essential healthcare," said Robert J. Havey, MD, founder of the GHI and deputy director of the institute.

Thanks in large part to donor support, the institute has funded projects that empower Northwestern faculty and their colleagues across the world to help change this reality in the COVID-19 era.

Some are measuring exposure to infection among healthcare workers in Tanzania and Nigeria, while others build wearable devices that monitor vital signs and detect the virus earlier in essential workers. One project has provided personal protective equipment to the drivers who transport test samples from remote villages to central laboratories. Another launched a public health campaign to educate people in Liberia about COVID-19 and the precautions people need to take to protect themselves.

And at home at Northwestern, a network of collaborators is focusing on the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines.

Preventing the Next Pandemic

Institute for Global Health executive director Robert Murphy, MD, '81 '84 GME, began his career in infectious diseases during the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Over the years, he has been in the trenches of Ebola, SARS and other pandemics. More recently, he's taken on an important role informing the public about COVID-19, appearing on *WGN Morning News* every weekday to do so.

In honor of Dr. Murphy, the John R. Flanagan Charitable Foundation has made a five-year, \$3 million commitment to establish the Dr. Robert L. Murphy Professorship in Emerging Infectious Disease. It's the largest gift made to the institute since its establishment in the spring of 2019.

The new professorship celebrates the decades-long relationship between Dr. Murphy and the late John Flanagan, a 1958 graduate of Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management and one of the university's most loyal benefactors over more than 40 years. When filled, the professorship will fund the research priorities of a faculty member in the institute's Center for Global Communicable and Emerging Infectious Diseases.



John Flanagan

"The John R. Flanagan Charitable Foundation is privileged to make this gift in celebration of John's life, his commitment to Northwestern Medicine and his personal relationship with Dr. Murphy," said John Boyle, '11 MD, a member of the foundation's board. "In 2020 and beyond, the work of the Center for Global Communicable and Emerging Infectious Diseases is of critical importance and we couldn't feel better about making this gift at this time."

"One of the institute's core missions is to prevent the next pandemic," said Dr. Murphy, the John Philip Phair Professor of Infectious Diseases. "That's why we are very fortunate and so grateful to receive funding from the Flanagan Foundation for a full-time position in molecular epidemiology. The person ultimately filling this role will help us study how viruses like COVID-19 transmit and how to stop them."





Terry Lynch

Challenges Beyond COVID

The institute’s leadership has stressed that COVID-19 is not the only global health issue that needs attention today. Heart disease, diabetes, cancer and neurodegenerative diseases disproportionately affect people in low- and middle-income countries. HIV, tuberculosis and malaria are still out of control.

Aware of these ongoing needs, Terry Lynch has loyally supported global health at Northwestern since 2008, shortly after Dr. Havey started the Global Health Initiative to send medical students, residents and faculty to underserved countries to provide care and conduct research.

“Dr. Havey is a humble, talented, giving and compassionate physician, who is there for his patients 24/7,” shared Mr. Lynch, who spent his career defending members of Chicago’s Asbestos Workers Union and their families. Dr. Havey has been a trusted physician to Mr. Lynch and his family, as well as many friends and union members over the years. “He is truly an unsung hero, who has dedicated his life to making the world a better place for all of us.”

The Institute for Global Health hopes to raise \$75 million to fully fund its efforts.

“In the United States, it all starts with philanthropy,” Dr. Murphy explained. “We can get lower-level grants from the government, but we can’t grow to the next level — make even greater contributions to health worldwide — without a significant philanthropic effort. I am extremely grateful to all of our supporters, who have become such crucial partners.”

“We wouldn’t be sitting here today without philanthropy,” Dr. Havey agreed. “We’re accomplishing great things because generous donors believe in the importance of our work.”

For more information about supporting global health, please contact **Jenn Burke** at **312.503.4635** or **jennifer-burke@northwestern.edu**.



A Holistic Approach to Global Health

While infectious diseases are a vital focus for the institute right now, the field of global health touches many areas of medicine. Northwestern’s Institute for Global Health has experts across disciplines pursuing research, training and outreach within five centers:

- Global Cardiovascular Health
- Global Communicable and Emerging Infectious Diseases
- Global Health Education
- Global Oncology
- Global Surgery





The Huebner family on the day Mr. Huebner was discharged from the hospital. From left to right: George, a junior at Walter Payton College Preparatory High School, Charlie, Caroline and Julia, a new Dartmouth College graduate.

Huebners Thank Their Care Team with Heart Failure, Myocarditis Fund

In July 2020, Charlie Huebner was admitted to Northwestern Memorial Hospital with giant cell myocarditis, a rare disease involving inflammation of the heart muscle with unknown causes and no cure. A week later, he received a heart transplant.

Grateful for the care he received, Mr. Huebner and his wife, Caroline, made a generous gift to the Feinberg School of Medicine to create a new fund for research and education in heart failure and myocarditis. They hope to spur new investigations into heart failure and lesser known cardiovascular diseases while also honoring Mr. Huebner’s physicians, including Esther Vorovich, MD, the heart failure lead on his care team, and Amit Pawale, MD, the surgeon who performed his transplant.

“Part of why giant cell is so deadly is that it is so rare, unknown and misdiagnosed,” shared Mr. Huebner, who is the founder of a private equity investment firm in Chicago. “That’s why I was really lucky that I landed at Northwestern and with this team.”

“What sets Northwestern apart is collaboration,” added Mrs. Huebner. “Dr. Vorovich used everything she had in her arsenal — not just book knowledge but also her network of other physicians — to consult other experts inside and outside Northwestern. So many people came together to make our experience great, from the nurses to the students to the people who clean the room and deliver the meals.”

Mr. Huebner is well today, but he believes more research needs to be done so that treatments less severe than a heart transplant can help future patients with myocarditis.

“We are incredibly thankful for Charlie and Caroline’s philanthropy,” said Jane Wilcox, MD, ’10 ’11 GME, assistant professor of Medicine in the Division of Cardiology and chief of its heart failure section. “This funding is a vital catalyst that allows us to grow our research and training programs and, we hope, improve how clinicians diagnose and treat patients with myocarditis, cardiomyopathy and other conditions that can lead to heart failure.”

Here, Mr. Huebner further describes his experience at Northwestern and why he and Mrs. Huebner decided to support a new research fund.

Please share a bit about your care at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

I was otherwise healthy, and the onset of my disease was very quick. This was my first inpatient experience since the day I was born 59 years ago! Considering such an abrupt change in circumstances, my experience at Northwestern was exceptional across the board. There were numerous teams that were, without exception, supremely competent and caring.

In particular, I owe my life to Drs. Vorovich and Pawale and their teams. Because giant cell myocarditis is so rare and misdiagnosed, I am certain that I would not be here today if not for Dr. Vorovich’s knowledge, tenacity and network of expert contacts that allowed her to identify the problem before it was too late. Dr. Pawale is an outstanding cardiac surgeon. What sets him most apart besides his expertise and competence in the operating room is his care and compassion in helping navigate the difficult days and weeks following surgery. He seemed to be ever-present, and he is held in the highest of regard by everyone at Northwestern who knows him. He is a role model for true dedication.

Why did you choose to create a heart failure and myocarditis fund at Northwestern? What kind of impact do you hope your gift has?

Philanthropy is important to us. First and foremost, this is personal expression of gratitude for an institution and team of people that saved a life and a family, and is doing so much good for the world. We have learned a lot about heart failure and myocarditis in the past six months. Even with all of the resources and advances in cardiology in general, we see that there is much to be done in terms of awareness and research in certain niches, such as myocarditis.

What would you tell others who are thinking about contributing to the fund?

Giant cell and other forms of myocarditis are serious and deadly diseases. Yet, they remain somewhat in the shadows since (outside of centers of cardiac excellence, like Northwestern) awareness is low and the diseases are often misdiagnosed. The fund that we established is named for the disease, not us. It can only have a real impact if others are similarly moved to contribute to research in this field. Therefore, we hope that this will grow through contributions from others who share our hopes for better outcomes. There is much to be done, and we believe there is no better cause and no better place to seek a solution than at Northwestern.

For more information about supporting cardiology, please contact [Tiffany Scaparotti](#) at [312.503.3088](tel:312.503.3088) or tiffany.scaparotti@northwestern.edu.



Diana's Fibroid Foundation Fights for Women Through Research, Education



Diana with her husband Blake.

To honor Mrs. Tomkinson — and to enable research that may contribute to better care for women suffering from fibroids and their most dire consequences — her family established Diana's Fibroid Foundation last year, shortly after Mrs. Tomkinson's death in February 2020. This fall, the foundation made a generous \$100,000 commitment to Feinberg's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology to fund a new laboratory study investigating this area that needs more exploration and answers.

"Through our foundation, we hope to help lay the groundwork so that malignancies associated with fibroids can be better understood and detected early enough to make an impact," said Blake Tomkinson, PhD, Mrs. Tomkinson's late husband and president of the foundation. "Even if only a small fraction of women have these malignancies, fibroids are so common that we can potentially help many women avoid going through the struggles that our family did."

Currently, it is difficult to distinguish between fibroids and cancerous tumors that look like fibroids, or to identify fibroids that have the potential to turn cancerous.

"Although pathologists define uterine fibroids as benign, non-malignant tumors, they are not always benign to women and their families," said Serdar Bulun, MD, chair and the John J. Sciarra Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Dr. Bulun directs the only National Institutes of Health-funded basic science research program focusing on fibroids in the country.

"Despite their very high prevalence and effects on women's lives, uterine fibroids do not represent a common topic for research in the United States," he added. "We are so grateful to Diana's Fibroid Foundation for this opportunity to investigate how fibroids can be confused with or transform into dangerous malignancies. We hope this work will contribute to more impactful clinical care for women in the future."

Up to 80 percent of women have a uterine fibroid by middle age. Though these growths are usually benign, about 20 percent of these women experience severe side effects, such as pain, excessive bleeding and fertility problems. In rare situations, fibroids can even mask cancer. This was the case for Diana Tomkinson, who lost her life to cancer at age 60 after spending two decades fighting to control her fibroids.



A Partner in Northwestern

The Tomkinson family is well equipped to make a difference through their foundation — they have a lot of experience in the medical research field. Mr. Tomkinson has a doctorate in immunology and is a leader in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry; older daughter Heather Vital leads drug development programs; and younger daughter Kaleigh Tomkinson, DO, is a first-year resident in pediatrics at Tufts Medical Center.

"We recognize that grants like ours are absolutely critical," explained Dr. Tomkinson. "They provide the seed money that allows scientists to study things the government and others won't fund yet. Hopefully, our gift will lead to those larger grants."

Though Mrs. Tomkinson did not receive her care at Northwestern — the family lives on the East Coast — Dr. Bulun and his colleagues caught the Tomkinsons' attention because of their unique commitment to discovering more about fibroids.

The foundation's mission resonated with the Northwestern team, including molecular biologist Ping Yin, PhD, and gynecologic pathologist JianJun Wei, MD. They will conduct the study being funded by Diana's Fibroid Foundation, which focuses on identifying the genetic pathways that can lead to malignant tumors in the uterus called leiomyosarcoma. The research may help clinicians identify leiomyosarcoma or uncover risk factors for the cancer, opening the door for earlier or even preventive interventions.

"Dr. Bulun and his group are some of the few that really call out the fact that fibroids might not always be as benign as is generally understood," said Mrs. Vital. "One of our foundation's goals is to understand the biology and the relationships between fibroids and malignancies, and Northwestern is clearly a leader in this research."

Diana's Fibroid Foundation knows that their task is not easy — raising funds to get research off the ground, educating the public about fibroids and malignancies, and honoring their loved one's legacy. But they believe it is a challenge worth investing in.

"While Diana will not benefit from our efforts, we hope to honor her by supporting Northwestern's leadership, and other institutions in the future, to educate and help find solutions to a potentially devastating disease," said Dr. Tomkinson.

For more information about supporting obstetrics and gynecology, please contact **Jordan Sund** at **312-503-2706** or **jordan.sund@northwestern.edu**.

For more information about Diana's Fibroid Foundation, please visit **dianasfibroidfoundation.org**.



Diana with her daughters Kaleigh (left) and Heather (right).



Diana Tomkinson

Diana's Legacy

Diana was a much beloved wife, mother, grandmother and friend. She was Blake's high school sweetheart and lifelong partner, Heather and Kaleigh's constant supporter, and represented home to this tight-knit family. An electrical engineer by training — one of just a few women in her class — she was gentle, generous, warm and nurturing. "Diana's smiling in every photo," shared Blake. "She was always there for us in all aspects of our lives," said Kaleigh. "She was always helping — that's just what she did," added Heather. "We hope that her spirit comes through in our foundation."

Breslers' Generosity to Lake Forest Hospital Oncology Program Honors Loved Ones



Last fall, the Breslers visited the plaque that honors Mr. Bresler's parents, Jeannie and Stanley Bresler. From left to right: Andrew Bresler, Sharon Bresler, Dr. Michael Bauer and Dr. Dean Tsarwhas.

Andrew and Sharon Bresler experience every peak and valley with open hearts and a desire to give of themselves. Recently, they made a significant gift to support oncology programs at Northwestern Medicine Lake Forest Hospital in memory of Mr. Bresler's parents.

Their philanthropy establishes the Bresler Family Cancer Center Waiting Area and helps ensure that oncology programs and services continue to thrive and improve the health and well-being of patients and families experiencing a journey through cancer.

"Our family has been touched by different cancers — prostate, pancreatic and breast cancer," Mr. Bresler said. "We wanted to honor my parents' memory with a gift that will make a positive impact on the community, and that will help others benefit from the kind of care and support that we have been fortunate to receive at Lake Forest Hospital."

Mrs. Bresler underwent surgery five years ago at Lake Forest Hospital with Alok Pant, MD, '13 GME, health system clinician in Feinberg's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

"The care I received from Dr. Pant and the nursing staff was wonderful," remarked Mrs. Bresler. "Their skill and the compassion they showed our family truly helped with my whole treatment and recovery process."

Thanks to generous support from the Breslers and others, Lake Forest Hospital's cancer program continues to expand its outreach and services. In the past year, the program experienced a 25 percent growth in patients served through the leadership of Dean Tsarwhas, MD, director of Cancer Services for Northwestern Medicine's North Region and a health system clinician in Feinberg's Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology and Oncology.

The cancer program's supportive services are important facets of each patient's care. Designed to address not only physical symptoms of cancer, but also the emotional and psychological aspects of illness and treatment, these services range from complementary therapies, such as massage, to psychosocial support and nutrition counseling. The program's "Look Good... Feel Better" initiative helps patients manage some of the difficult side effects of cancer treatment.

"Going through cancer as the patient or with a loved one is a scary, stressful experience. Our family understands that first hand, and we are happy to help others who are going through these challenges," added Mr. Bresler.

The Breslers recently met with Dr. Tsarwhas and Michael Bauer, MD, medical director of Lake Forest Hospital, while visiting the Cancer Center to view the plaque that pays tribute to Mr. Bresler's parents.

"It was a chance for us to bring together, and to honor, all the people and memories and inspirations that mean so much to our family — everything that motivated us to make this gift," Mr. Bresler said. "It's our pleasure to make a donation that will help this great hospital to keep doing what it does best: Caring, in a truly special way, for everyone who comes through its doors."

To learn more about supporting patient care programs at Northwestern Medicine Lake Forest Hospital, please contact **Marleana Cross** at **847.535.6933** or **mcross@nm.org**.

Daytons' Gift to Gastroenterology and Cancer Research Inspired by Loss and Gratitude



John and Janice Dayton

John and Janice Dayton have a deep sense of gratitude and a desire to honor loved ones and care providers alike. With these intentions, they made a generous estate commitment to Northwestern Memorial Hospital that will support research in gastrointestinal disorders and cancer — two illnesses that have profoundly affected their family.

"I lost both my mother and my father to cancer relatively early in my life, and then I lost my brother to cancer, as well, in 2004," Mr. Dayton shared. "Those losses motivated me to do something in the area of cancer research. I wanted to make a difference for other people and families affected by cancer. With this gift, Janice and I hope we can make that difference."

A lifelong Chicago area resident, Mr. Dayton earned both his undergraduate and MBA degrees at Northwestern University. Through the years, his appreciation of and loyalty to Northwestern has expanded to include Northwestern Medicine — and, specifically, Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

"I was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis in my early to mid-20s," Mr. Dayton recalled. Ulcerative colitis is an irritable bowel disease that causes long-lasting inflammation and ulcers in the digestive tract. The condition can be quite debilitating and may lead to a host of serious complications.

Mr. Dayton continued, "I received ongoing care and treatment at Northwestern Memorial and was fortunate to have Dr. Howard Schachter as my doctor. He took such great care of me. I was able to turn to him about any and every issue."

A specialist in gastroenterology and associate professor emeritus of Medicine at Feinberg, Dr. Schachter helped Mr. Dayton manage his ulcerative colitis for years. He also referred Mr. Dayton to Steven Stryker, MD, clinical professor of Surgery at Feinberg, who performed the surgery that Mr. Dayton credits with transforming his health and quality of life 27 years ago.

"From the moment I met him, Dr. Stryker was extremely nice and made me feel very comfortable. Both he and Dr. Schachter have helped me through many challenges," said Mr. Dayton. "Janice and I realized that we wanted to do something to truly thank them, something that could help other people with GI conditions."

By making this gift through their estate, the Daytons are creating a legacy that will touch many lives for years to come. "We just want to show how much we appreciate everything," said Mr. Dayton. "That's really what this gift is all about."

To learn more about supporting research in gastroenterology or cancer, please contact **Debbie Edwards** at **847.535.6975** or **dedward1@nm.org**.

Moceris Partner with Malnati Brain Tumor Institute, Make Forward-Looking Gift

"We hope to shine a light on the importance of philanthropic support."

—Dan Moceris



Dr. Roger Stupp

"I am moved by, and very grateful for, the remarkable support and trust of Dan and Sharon Moceris. It is an honor to know them and to play a role in Sharon's care and their family's journey. Through their generosity, the Moceris are helping our team at the Malnati Brain Tumor Institute continue to make important strides toward further revolutionizing treatment for glioblastoma. They are true partners in our ongoing quest to improve length and quality of life for patients here at Northwestern and far beyond."

—Dr. Roger Stupp



Dan and Sharon Moceris strive to help others and contribute to a future of hope and promise. Inspired by these goals and personal experience, they made a substantial gift to support clinical research at the Northwestern Medicine Lou and Jean Malnati Brain Tumor Institute of the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

In 2018, Mrs. Moceris was diagnosed with a glioblastoma, an aggressive malignant brain tumor historically resistant to many therapies. The Moceris are dedicated to changing this reality. At the Malnati Brain Tumor Institute, they have found a true partner in their efforts: world-renowned neuro-oncologist Roger Stupp, MD, the institute's co-director. Dr. Stupp also is chief of Neuro-oncology in the Ken & Ruth Davee Department of Neurology and the Paul C. Bucy Professor of Neurological Surgery at Feinberg.

"When Sharon was diagnosed, we were so fortunate to find Dr. James Chandler [co-director of the Malnati Brain Tumor Institute and the Lavin/Fates Professor of Neurological Surgery], who successfully re-sectioned her tumor. One week after Sharon's surgery, Dr. Chandler introduced us to Dr. Stupp, and we could immediately tell that there was something special there," Mr. Moceris remarked. "We always say, 'Things happen for a reason,' and, in terms of Sharon's care, that is absolutely true."

Before joining Northwestern in 2016, Dr. Stupp established the "Stupp Protocol," a breakthrough treatment that increased the two-year survival rate for patients with glioblastoma. It remains the global standard of care today. In 2017, he and colleagues helped to validate another groundbreaking treatment option, a medical device called Optune that transmits low-intensity electrical fields to tumors, destroying cancerous cells and increasing survival rates for patients with glioblastoma. Both the Stupp Protocol and Optune have been important components of Mrs. Moceris's treatment.

"We understand the difference Dr. Stupp makes every day in the lives of others," Mr. Moceris said. "Also, we believe that history is a good predictor of the future, and we see the outstanding track record that he has established in treating patients with brain cancer. We want to do our part to help him and his team continue to increase longevity and improve quality of life for people with glioblastoma."

The Moceris' philanthropy is supporting a pioneering clinical trial led by Dr. Stupp and Adam Sonabend, MD, assistant professor of Neurological Surgery. The trial addresses a great challenge in treating glioblastoma: the presence of the blood-brain barrier, a coat of cells that surrounds the brain, protecting it from toxins in the blood. The blood-brain barrier also prevents chemotherapy medications from reaching the brain, meaning that glioblastoma patients have been unable to fully benefit from potential treatments, until now. The trial is testing a novel form of ultrasound technology to deliver chemotherapy across the blood-brain barrier to a patient's tumor.

The Moceris also are funding a clinical research nurse position that will connect numerous aspects of research and care within the institute.

"With our gift, we were looking to support endeavors that could ease the burdens and improve the quality of life for everyone going through this cancer," Mrs. Moceris said. "We have so much confidence in Dr. Stupp and everyone at the institute. I feel totally blessed to have found such compassionate, knowledgeable doctors and nurses."

Mr. Moceris added, "Dr. Stupp and his team are doing such outstanding work, and yet, even as they keep breaking new ground, funding is always a challenge. Especially in the research arena, it is so important for an initiative to have support across the full trajectory: from basic science research, to clinical trials, to proof-of-concept studies. We hope to shine a light on the importance of philanthropic support."

The Moceris draw encouragement from all the positive chapters that have unfolded, thus far, in their story—the chapters that led them to Northwestern Medicine; to Drs. Chandler and Stupp; and to opportunities that make a difference for others.

"I'm so thankful for my husband and our children. Every day, they keep me going," Mrs. Moceris said. "And I'm so thankful for Dr. Stupp. Every time I go for my treatment, I look at the other patients, and I send them a wish: 'I hope you all get to meet Roger Stupp.'"

To learn more about supporting the Malnati Brain Tumor Institute, please contact [Jim Higley](#) at [312.926.4216](tel:312.926.4216) or james.higley@nm.org.

Scholarship for Future Neurosurgeons

Honors Beloved Wife, Mother and Friend



Vince Cozzi with his family: Aidan, Maureen and Cameron.

Vince Cozzi and Maureen Rogan had supported the Northwestern Medicine Malnati Brain Tumor Institute for many years when the unthinkable happened: In August 2018, Maureen was diagnosed with glioblastoma, one of the most aggressive malignant brain cancers. Over the next 16 months, she underwent three surgeries for two tumors, chemotherapy, radiation and multiple recoveries at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and Shirley Ryan AbilityLab. The disease progressed despite these valiant efforts, and Maureen passed away in December 2019 at age 54.

For Ms. Rogan’s memorial, her family asked loved ones to consider a donation to the Malnati Brain Tumor Institute, a top neuro-oncology program in the U.S. More than 100 kind friends, family members and colleagues collectively contributed \$25,000 to the cause. Overwhelmed by the generosity, Mr. Cozzi and his children pledged to donate an additional \$75,000 in memory of their wife and mother, to establish and endow a permanent scholarship for a fourth-year Feinberg medical student pursuing a residency in neurosurgery.

“Maureen received amazing care during her many extended stays at Northwestern from the doctors, nurses and other members of the team supporting her,” said Mr. Cozzi. “One of the most comforting aspects was the consistent presence of the neurosurgery residents, who got to know her personally and were always available for our questions or concerns.”

One of the most challenging medical specialties, neurosurgery requires a grueling seven-year residency.

“We are humbled that the Cozzi family has chosen to honor Maureen’s life with this marvelous gift to future leaders in neurosurgery. They will carry on her legacy as they care for future patients with skill and compassion,” said Maciej Lesniak, MD, chair and the Michael J. Marchese Professor of Neurosurgery.

The scholarship will be a lasting tribute to Ms. Rogan and what she meant to her husband, her children and so many others.

“Maureen was a generous friend and a dedicated mom. She was an avid runner, who ran the Chicago Marathon, and she loved to travel, both domestically and internationally. She had studied in both the UK and Greece,” shared Mr. Cozzi, a real estate investment executive in Chicago. He and Ms. Rogan’s son, Aidan, is a recent college graduate working as a capital markets analyst, and their daughter, Cameron, is a sophomore at Northwestern University following a pre-med track.

For more information about supporting cancer research, education and training, please contact [Nicole Langert](#) at **312.503.1656** or nicole.langert@northwestern.edu.

Thankful for Our Residents

The Cozzi family’s gift is inspired by three fourth-year residents who helped care for Ms. Rogan throughout her treatment. “We were so thankful for their dedication and detailed knowledge of Maureen’s case and needs, and wanted to show appreciation to them by helping to support the next generation of neurosurgery residents,” shared Mr. Cozzi.



Aaron Palmer, MD

“Dr. Palmer was the first neurosurgeon we met, and he really helped us understand what Maureen was facing. He was also there 16 months later, when she was discharged to home and hospice care.”



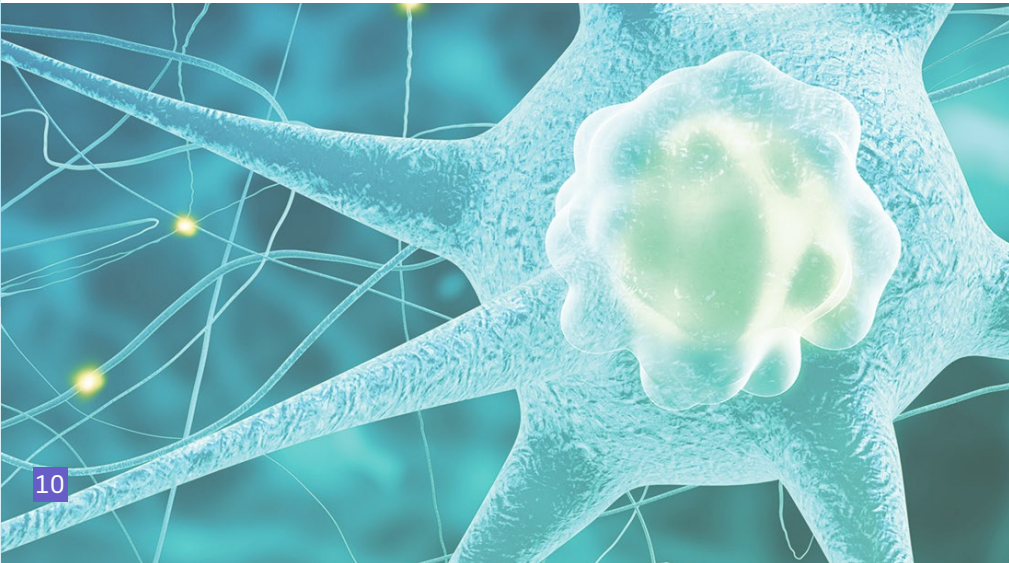
Joy Trybula, MD

“Dr. Trybula seemed to live in the hospital. I can’t remember many days when we didn’t see her, even though I know she was raising a young family of her own at home. Her calm, detailed manner helped us immensely through the many phases of Maureen’s care.”



Constantine Karras, MD

“Dr. Karras was a patient, thorough source of information who always took time to answer questions and consider options for Maureen’s care. He even came to visit her during one of her rehab stays down the street at Shirley Ryan AbilityLab.”



INNOVATION SPOTLIGHT

Empowering Feinberg's Unsung Heroes

Each day, our faculty, students and trainees at Feinberg are innovating and dedicating time to bold new ideas and programs that will move the needle in medicine and science. Here, we spotlight just a few of these exciting efforts that often happen behind the scenes and beyond daily clinical care. They embody and strengthen Feinberg's mission to have an impact on the practice of medicine through discovery and education.

Thank you to all of the donors who contribute to these efforts, now and in the future. Your philanthropy fuels these projects and programs — enabling their very existence and empowering them to grow for the benefit of patients today and tomorrow.



Dr. Mercedes Carnethon

Assessing COVID-19 Risks in Chicagoland Schools

Teachers, school administrators and parents are desperately in need of factual information on COVID-19 risks to guide planning for their students and children. Mercedes Carnethon, MD, the Mary Harris Thompson Professor of Preventive Medicine and Medicine, and her team hope to secure funding to conduct serology testing and data-based analyses to provide decision-makers with school safety statistics and projections.

Monitoring Variants of COVID-19 and Other Pathogens

Northwestern infectious disease experts were the first to identify the more contagious U.K. variant of COVID-19 in Illinois. The team, led by Egon Ozer, MD, PhD, '08 '12 GME, assistant professor of Medicine, continues to sequence the genomes of COVID-19 samples to monitor for new variants as the virus mutates. The team is also preparing to fight future threats, such as drug-resistant bacteria and fungi.



Dr. Egon Ozer



Dr. Abel Kho

Institute for Augmented Intelligence in Medicine

Wearable technology, AI-assisted imaging, smart stethoscopes, digital apps and machine learning can transform the practice of medicine, but medical professionals and biomedical scientists are critically needed to help shape the development of these next-generation biomedical tools. Launched in 2020 by director Abel Kho, MD, the Institute for Augmented Intelligence in Medicine aims to do just that.

For more information about supporting these efforts, contact Dave McCreery at 312.503.6099 or david.mccreery@northwestern.edu.



Dr. Minoli Perera

Precision Medicine for African Americans

Pharmacogenomics — using a patient's genome to predict how well they will respond to medication — is a hot area of medicine today. But 85 percent of all genome-wide studies are in people of European ancestry, even though people of African ancestry have more genetic variation. Minoli Perera, PharmD, PhD, associate professor of Pharmacology, and her laboratory are leading studies to bring the benefits of precision medicine to all U.S. populations.

Scaling Intervention Studies in the Real World

Implementation science explores how research findings can be carried out most effectively in real world settings. Hendricks Brown, PhD, professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and of Medical Social Sciences, focuses on developing implementation methods to prevent HIV transmission, the misuse of opioids, and suicide in youth and young adults. His team also helps investigators, policymakers and practitioners worldwide address challenges they face when scaling up evidence-based interventions in all areas of health and medicine.



Dr. Hendricks Brown

For more information about supporting these efforts, contact Andrew Christopherson at 312.503.3080 or andrew.christopherson@northwestern.edu.



Expanding Student Resources

Medical education has become more demanding than ever and for Northwestern to lead the way, crucial funding support is needed in several key areas. Increased **mental health and wellness support** services would help our students cope with the rigors of their education in the context of their personal lives and the greater world around them. **Medical Spanish** instruction to all of our medical students would give them a competitive advantage in their residency programs and careers, and help them provide safe, quality care to the communities they will serve. Simulated learning is essential for a 21st century medical education, with students entering clinics in their first year of medical school. **Northwestern Simulation** provides students with a state-of-the-art education by teaching them skills and procedures on responsive mannequins and 3D-printed models in fully-equipped hospital and surgical rooms prior to entering the clinical setting. This learning model improves the proficiencies of trainees, enhances their long-term skill retention and positively impacts clinical performance to improve patient care.



Students use laparoscopic surgical equipment in the Northwestern Simulation Lab.

For more information about supporting these efforts, contact Meghan Monaghan at 312.503.1091 or meghan.monaghan@northwestern.edu.

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Save the Date for Upcoming Events

Health Equity Week

April 26-30

Info: medevents@northwestern.edu

www.mcga.w.northwestern.edu/health-equity-week

