

# The Philanthropist

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



## Thank You

We have much to celebrate in 2021: The conclusion of **We Will. The Campaign for Northwestern Medicine**, the 30th anniversary of our Lurie Cancer Center, new professorships and scholarships, and more. In this issue of *The Philanthropist*, we also celebrate all of you who so generously give outright and planned gifts to support our ongoing mission to improve human health. Contributions from our loyal and compassionate donors provide critical resources to our physicians, scientists, students and trainees, enabling them to serve patients here in Chicago and across the world. We are eternally grateful for your partnership with us in this critical work.



We Did: Commemorating All We Achieved Together During We Will. The Campaign for Northwestern Medicine



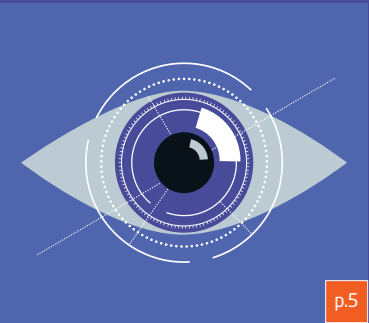
Campaign Gifts Contribute to Better Human Health



What Comes Next: Our Goals for the Future



A Special Thank You to Our Giving Society Members



Thankful Patients Establish Ryan-Pusateri Professorship in Ophthalmology



Celebrating 30 Years as Lurie Cancer Center



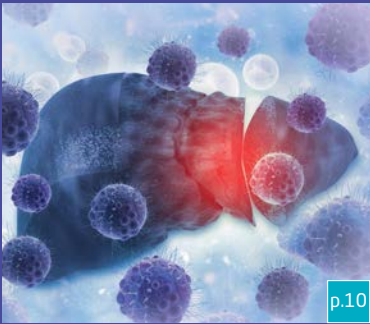
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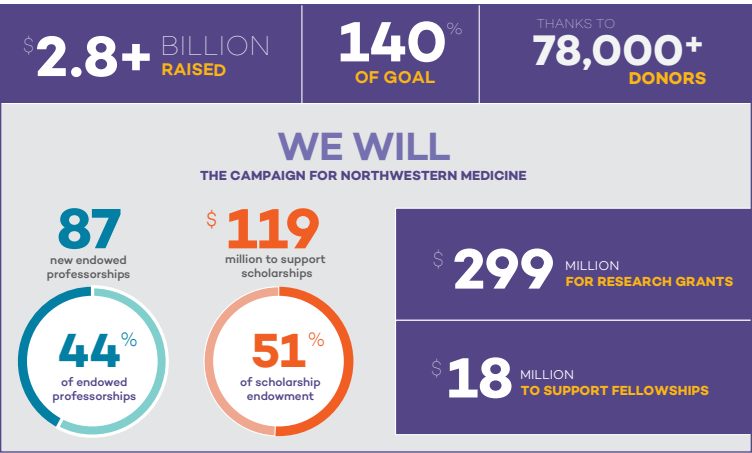
Innovation Spotlight



# We Did: Commemorating All We Achieved Together During We Will. The Campaign for Northwestern Medicine



This summer, **We Will. The Campaign for Northwestern Medicine** concluded after more than seven triumphant years. Publicly launched in March of 2014 through the partnership of Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and Northwestern Memorial Foundation, our campaign aimed to raise \$1.75 billion to create a national epicenter for healthcare, education, research, community service and advocacy. Thanks to thousands of generous donors — alumni, patients, faculty physicians and scientists, students, trainees, foundation and corporate partners, and many friends — we increased our goal to \$2 billion and raised more than \$2.8 billion by the campaign’s end in June 2021.



We are enduringly grateful for this incredible support, which not only helped us solidify our standing as a top academic medical center but also provided a firm foundation for our continuing efforts to improve human health.

**With the partnership of new and longtime benefactors during the campaign, we raised crucial funds to:**

- Establish and strengthen core institutes, centers and programs at Northwestern Medicine, bringing together patient care, research, education, community service and advocacy
- Build the new Louis A. Simpson and Kimberly K. Querrey Biomedical Research Center
- Construct a centerpiece hospital and medical office facilities at Northwestern Medicine Lake Forest Hospital
- Create endowed professorships that accelerate the efforts of our most accomplished and promising faculty physicians and scientists
- Establish endowed and expendable innovation grants for breakthrough research
- Create scholarships for our exceptional medical, PhD and physical therapy students, and nurses
- Establish fellowships to support our best and brightest trainees

Photos noted above:

- Thanks to tremendous community support, Northwestern Medicine Lake Forest Hospital raised \$75 million for the construction of a new state-of-the-art facility to serve patients in Illinois’ northern suburbs. The building opened in 2018.
- Suzanne and Brendan Mulshine, supporters of the Robert J. Havey, MD Institute for Global Health. “We are so grateful for the incredible and impactful mission of the institute. We live in a global world with global healthcare challenges. The exceptional talent and leadership of Dr. Havey and Dr. Murphy have allowed the institute to meet these challenges head on for the benefit of all, from the most underserved to all of humanity,” they shared.

- Clyde Yancy, MD, MSc, vice dean for Diversity and Inclusion, chief of Cardiology in the Department of Medicine and the Magerstadt Professor, speaking at the campaign launch gala in 2014. Faculty have been instrumental champions of the campaign, with more than 1,000 members making a gift to the medical school since the launch.
- Donors and leadership unveil the Simpson Querrey Biomedical Research Center in 2019. The new infrastructure has had an immediate effect on scientific collaboration and research funding. “The building has made it possible for us to recruit outstanding investigators, who in turn used their creativity and innovative thinking to bring in research dollars,” explained Rex Chisholm, PhD, vice dean for Scientific Affairs and Graduate Education.



# Campaign Gifts Contribute to Better Human Health



Through their support, donors have touched every corner of Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine during **We Will. The Campaign for Northwestern Medicine**. Gifts of all sizes have funded scholarships, research, and crucial programs and infrastructure that enable our scientists and physicians to make new discoveries and better serve patients today and into the future.

## Impact on Our Students

Compassionate philanthropy directed to scholarships makes a world of difference to our students, providing them with a terrific catalyst to successful and satisfying careers in medicine, science, industry and beyond. In the past academic year, 55 percent of our medical students received at least some scholarship support, enabling them to breathe a little easier as they focused on a demanding medical education.

Understanding this great need, Northwestern University Trustee Muneer Satter and Kristen Hertel, both Northwestern alumni, gave a multi-million dollar gift to support the Satter Foundation Scholarship Fund in 2015. “Kristen and I are committed to the goal of assuring a Northwestern education to promising future physicians and medical scientists,” said Mr. Satter at the time. “These scholarships are investments that will ultimately benefit medical science and humanity.” First established in 2008, the Satter Foundation Scholarship has supported 36 medical students to date.

Former Satter Scholar Anna Briker, ’21 MD, now an internal medicine resident at McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University, recently shared her gratitude to the Satters. “Thank you for your generosity in funding the scholarship and investing in my future and my education. When I look back at my four years and all the opportunities I’ve had and all the mentors I’ve met, I’m so grateful. I’m not sure that I would be here today without your support.”



Kristen Hertel and Muneer Satter



Dr. Anna Briker



Gloria and Dr. Eugene Bauer



Dr. Jaehyuk Choi

## Impact on Our Faculty

Named and endowed professorships provide crucial support to the medical school’s most distinguished and productive physicians and scientists, enabling them to pursue innovative research, educate future leaders and provide exceptional patient care. Professorships help Northwestern attract and recruit world-class investigators to expand our research enterprise and the treatment options we can deliver to our patients.

Knowing this, Gloria and Eugene Bauer, ’67 MD, created the Ruth K. Freinkel, MD, Research Professorship in honor of Ruth Kimmelstiel Freinkel, MD, who served on the faculty of Northwestern’s Department of Dermatology for 34 years. The professorship was bestowed upon Jaehyuk Choi, MD, PhD, in 2016.

“I am so grateful for the Bauers’ support and all that it makes possible for me and my team,” said Dr. Choi, whose laboratory uses innovative genomic and immunological approaches to identify the pathophysiology of aggressive skin cancers. By shedding light on the genetic and epigenetic mechanisms by which these cancers avoid the immune system, his goal is to improve the detection, staging and treatment of aggressive and metastatic skin cancers.

## Impact on Our Patients

Everything we do at the medical school is work toward our ultimate mission of improving human health. In collaboration with our donors and Northwestern Medicine clinical affiliates in Chicago and across the state of Illinois, we are able to enhance the ways we prevent, detect and treat disease, and help thousands of patients maintain happy, healthy lives.

Key partner the Les Turner ALS Foundation made a \$10 million commitment to establish the Les Turner ALS Center at Northwestern Medicine in 2014. The center brings together all ALS disciplines under one umbrella, enabling enhanced collaborations between researchers and clinicians to provide a full spectrum of treatment to patients while facilitating the development of new therapies for ALS. To date, the foundation has directly funded more than \$31 million to Feinberg, and it continues to partner with the medical school to raise \$10 million to endow the center in perpetuity.

“The Les Turner ALS Foundation has fostered collaboration among Northwestern’s leading researchers. But that generosity also directly supports the work they do,” said Robert Kalb, MD, the Joan and Paul Rubschlager Professor and director of the Les Turner ALS Center. “Our team is pursuing enormously important projects aimed at unlocking the causes and mechanisms of ALS. Their creativity, thoroughness and persistence are some of the reasons I am so optimistic that our scientific community will find a cure for our patients.”

Photos noted above:

- 5. Ilma (second from left) and Richard (right) Magnus, with students at the 2019 Commitment to Scholarships luncheon. The Magnuses have generously supported medical education and professorships at Feinberg over the years.
- 6. Michael Tang with Amani Fawzi, MD, the Cyrus Tang and Lee Jampol Professor of Ophthalmology, during her investiture in 2017. The professorship was established by the Cyrus Chung Ying Tang Foundation to honor the contributions of Lee Jampol, MD, the Louis Feinberg, MD, Professor of Ophthalmology, an expert in retinal diseases who cared for Mr. Tang’s father, entrepreneur and philanthropist Cyrus Tang.



Les Turner ALS Foundation leadership Ken Hoffman, chair, Andrea Pauls Backman, CEO, and Bonny and Harvey Gaffen, board member and chair emeritus respectively, at the Foundation’s 2015 Hope Through Caring Gala.



Dr. Robert Kalb

# What Comes Next



Dr. Alan M. Krensky

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, describes our goals for the future.

Northwestern Medicine is on a fantastic trajectory, with Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine currently ranked No. 15 and Northwestern Memorial Hospital No. 10 in national rankings by *U.S News & World Report*. We feel proud and privileged to be able to have an impact on patients worldwide, and we are thankful for the donors who make so much of our work possible.

The campaign that we celebrate in this issue of *The Philanthropist* was a wonderful springboard for all that we still need to accomplish. Despite our remarkable growth over the last decade in particular, our work is still just beginning. The field of medicine and the needs of patients in Chicago and worldwide are constantly evolving, and we have to continue growing and innovating to serve them most effectively.

*We are exceedingly grateful to each and every donor who shares their philanthropy, ideas and time with us. By making outright gifts, establishing endowed funds or adding Feinberg to your estate plans, you are empowering innovative clinical care, cutting-edge research and quality education for the next generation of medical leaders.*

The **coronavirus pandemic** is one obvious example of a healthcare issue that demanded novel ideas and collaboration among experts in science and medicine, but it is certainly not the only example. **Cancer, heart disease and neurological disorders** continue to wreak havoc on the lives of patients and families, as do so many other conditions that affect our bodies and minds, from **gastrointestinal disorders to allergies**.

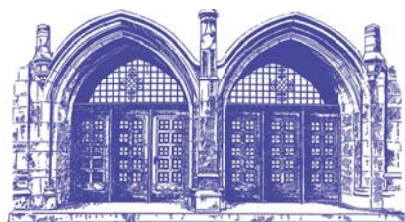
We also need to be prepared to treat every kind of patient, no matter where they live or how they identify. Our **Robert J. Havey, MD Institute for Global Health** and **Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Wellbeing** are focusing on just that. Recruiting students from all backgrounds to our school is another significant priority for us. We aim to build an \$800 million **scholarship endowment** so that finances will never be a barrier standing in the way of exceptional students who dream of a career in medicine.

Someday they will be our leaders in the field, caring for our aging population and driving future transformations. Feinberg's investments in **augmented intelligence** and **longevity research** will give our clinicians — and their patients — a leg up as we prepare for that future.

We are exceedingly grateful to each and every donor who shares their philanthropy, ideas and time with us. By making outright gifts, establishing endowed funds or adding Feinberg to your estate plans, you are empowering innovative clinical care, cutting-edge research and quality education for the next generation of medical leaders. Our donors are critical partners who make it possible for our faculty, trainees and staff to do their noble work every day. We are incredibly thankful for your generosity.

Whether you are an alumnus of our medical school, a faculty member, a patient at one of our hospital affiliates or a new friend to Northwestern, please don't hesitate to contact any of us in Development and Alumni Relations. We can help you direct your gift to the area at Feinberg that is most important to you or provide more information about your options.

For more information about supporting the medical school, please contact **Development and Alumni Relations** at **312.503.8933** or **medical-development@northwestern.edu**.



## THE FOUNDERS SOCIETY

at Northwestern University  
Feinberg School of Medicine

## A Special Thank You to Our Giving Society Members

Members of The Founders Society\* are leaders who continue a long legacy of excellence at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. Since the medical school's beginning in 1859, Feinberg's history includes numerous founders who have established innovative medical education curriculum and high-impact research programs that are contributing to breakthroughs in care for patients across the globe. Many of these contributions to society have been made possible by our philanthropic partners who have likewise founded new scholarships, professorships and fellowships, and invested in state-of-the-art teaching and research facilities at the medical school. Your support today builds the foundation for tomorrow's medical school.

Membership in The Founders Society begins at \$1,000 in total annual gifts for most donors. Read more about our giving levels at [feinberg.northwestern.edu/tfs](https://feinberg.northwestern.edu/tfs).

\*Formerly the Nathan Smith Davis Society



# Thankful Patients Establish Ryan-Pusateri Professorship in Ophthalmology

Eve Pusateri has learned to never take her eyesight for granted. Like her mother in Germany years ago, she was diagnosed with age-related macular degeneration, which causes severe loss of eyesight for people 50 and older. Currently there is no cure for the disease, but skilled ophthalmologists can slow its course and, sometimes, help patients regain their sight.

Grateful for her care at Northwestern, Mrs. Pusateri has made generous gifts to the Feinberg School of Medicine to support the work of her ophthalmologist of nearly a decade, Rukhsana G. Mirza, MD, '06 GME. Mrs. Pusateri's philanthropy contributes to educational programs and research that could lead to better treatments and someday even a cure for macular degeneration.

With additional support from patients William G. and Mary A. Ryan and the Ryan Family Chair Challenge created by Northwestern Trustees and alumni Patrick G. Ryan and Shirley Welsh Ryan, Mrs. Pusateri's gifts also established the Ryan-Pusateri Endowed Professorship in Ophthalmology. Dr. Mirza is the inaugural holder of the professorship, which is named for Mrs. Pusateri and Mr. and Mrs. William and Mary Ryan.



Dr. Rukhsana G. Mirza received a medallion from her department chair Dr. Nicholas J. Volpe, commemorating her investiture as the Ryan-Pusateri Endowed Professorship in Ophthalmology at a ceremony on September 20.  
*Photo by Nathan Mandell.*



Eve Pusateri and Dr. Mirza

"Dr. Mirza helped me very much, and today I still have my eyesight," shared Mrs. Pusateri, a long-time Chicago resident whose family, including five children and her late husband, Justice Lawrence X. Pusateri, have all been Northwestern patients over the years. "Dr. Mirza has been a wonderful physician to me and many other people who have problems with their eyes, and I wanted to do something to help in return."

"We have the utmost respect and confidence that Dr. Mirza and her team will continue to make great strides in research to end macular degeneration," said Mr. and Mrs. William and Mary Ryan. "We are so honored to be part of this groundbreaking research."

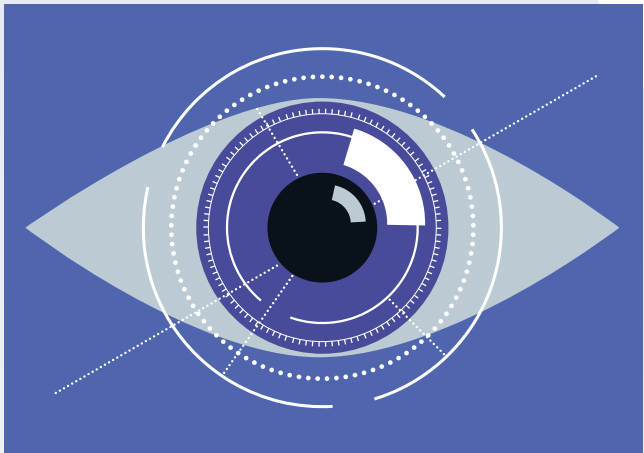
On the medical school's faculty since 2006, Dr. Mirza is a professor of Ophthalmology and Medical Education, and a specialist in medical diseases of the retina. In addition to being a busy clinician, she conducts research focused on ocular imaging and technology, macular degeneration, vascular diseases and medical education. Also a dedicated educator, Dr. Mirza is director of undergraduate medical education in the Department of Ophthalmology and associate program director for the retina fellowships.

"The field of retina is very exciting with cutting-edge developments that allow us to take the best care of our patients. I'm grateful that advances in just the past 20 years have allowed me to treat patients like Mrs. Pusateri, ultimately translating to maintenance of sight and independence," Dr. Mirza said. "I am also very grateful to patients who see us in the context of our academic mission. Mrs. Pusateri's gifts have significantly impacted my career and allowed me to spend time on research and developing educational programs that help us train the next generation of doctors."

A named and endowed professorship, created in perpetuity, represents the highest honor a university can bestow upon its faculty. These positions are reserved for Feinberg's most distinguished and productive physicians and scientists, like Dr. Mirza.

"This professorship is a spectacular example of how generosity from our patients, like Eve Pusateri and William and Mary Ryan, can combine with visionary philanthropists like Patrick and Shirley Ryan, to recognize the unique talents of our faculty and support a department committed to advancing vision care and research into new treatments," said Nicholas J. Volpe, MD, chair and the George W. and Edwina S. Tarry Professor of Ophthalmology. "With this gift, Dr. Mirza and the department can remain steadfast in our goal to treat patients with the best, most novel treatments and create new knowledge to more successfully treat patients for decades to come. We truly appreciate this support and feel empowered to make a difference."

For more information about supporting the Department of Ophthalmology, please contact [Andrew Christopherson, PhD](#), at **312.503.3080** or [andrew.christopherson@northwestern.edu](mailto:andrew.christopherson@northwestern.edu).



## Newly Named Professorships

Thank you to all the generous donors who support endowed professorships at the medical school. The following faculty were recently invested with a professorship made possible by committed philanthropists:

- ♦ **Hasan Alam, MD**, the Loyal and Edith Davis Professor of Surgery
- ♦ **Amy Heimberger, MD**, the Jean Malnati Miller Professor of Brain Tumor Research
- ♦ **Emily Jungheim, MD, MSCI**, the Edmond Confino, MD, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology
- ♦ **Daniel Kim, PhD**, the Knight Family Professor of Cardiac Imaging
- ♦ **Lee Ann Lindquist, '00 MD, '03 '05 GME, '05 MPH, '10 MBA**, the George M. Eisenberg Research Professor of Geriatric Medicine
- ♦ **Rukhsana Mirza, MD, '06 GME**, the Ryan-Pusateri Professor of Ophthalmology
- ♦ **Seth Pollack, MD**, the Steven T. Rosen, MD, Professor of Cancer Biology
- ♦ **Farzaneh Sorond, MD, PhD**, the Dean Richard H. Young and Ellen Stearns Young Professor
- ♦ **Feng Yue, PhD**, the Duane and Susan Burnham Professor of Molecular Medicine

# CELEBRATING 30 YEARS AS LURIE CANCER CENTER

In 1991, the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University was dedicated through a gift of endowment from Ann and Robert H. Lurie. Northwestern proudly commemorates and recognizes this important date in Lurie Cancer Center's history by celebrating the 30th anniversary of its naming.



Robert Lurie

At age 46, Bob Lurie was happy and busy with a wonderful family and career. He was raising six young children with his wife, Ann, and running a successful investment firm in Chicago with his business partner, Sam Zell. Much changed when he was diagnosed with advanced colon cancer in 1987, but he never stopped smelling the roses and thinking of others throughout his treatment at Northwestern's Cancer Center.

Even as the end of his life was imminent, Mr. Lurie considered those who would come after him. He and Ms. Lurie decided to endow the center, giving it the resources it needed to invest in faculty, research and educating the next generation of scientists and clinicians to provide the best care to patients and their families.

Mr. Lurie died on June 20, 1990, but his legacy lives on today at the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University, which was dedicated the following year in 1991. Throughout 2021, Northwestern celebrates the 30th anniversary of Lurie Cancer Center's naming and recognizes the tremendous impact of the Luries' generosity.

"There are thousands of people alive today because of work we have done at Lurie Cancer Center that was made possible by Bob and Ann's commitment," said Leon Platanias, MD, PhD, director of Lurie Cancer Center and the Jesse, Sara, Andrew, Abigail, Benjamin and Elizabeth Lurie Professor of Oncology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

"In the last 30 years, we have been able to translate research discoveries to clinics in Chicago and across the world and build programs supporting patients across the full spectrum of care from prevention and detection to life after cancer," Dr. Platanias added. "Today we can fight every single case of cancer with an innovative arsenal of weapons, and this is thanks in large part to the Luries' compassionate and forward-thinking philanthropy."

## Reflecting on Three Decades of Growth and Discovery for Cancer Patients

Lurie Cancer Center has gone through a remarkable evolution since the Luries made their transformative gift. In 1991, Northwestern's Cancer Center did not rank among the country's top cancer programs. Today, Lurie Cancer Center's clinical care, provided through Northwestern Memorial Hospital, is No. 6 in the nation — No. 1 in Chicago and Illinois — according to *U.S. News and World Report's* 2021–2022 rankings of the best hospitals for cancer.

The center has also grown from about 240 members with approximately \$46 million in external research funding in the early 1990s to almost 400 members with an impressive \$260 million in research funding today.

"To reflect on where we were and what we have become is quite amazing," said William Gradishar, MD, the Betsy Bramsen Professor of Breast Oncology and chief of Hematology and Oncology in Northwestern's Department of Medicine. He joined Northwestern's faculty in August 1990.

"Thirty years ago, the cancer program at Northwestern could affectionately be referred to as an almost 'mom and pop' operation with a small cadre of very good clinicians and individual scientists," Dr. Gradishar recalled. "Lurie Cancer Center is now one of the premier cancer programs in the U.S. with an integrated research enterprise. Our scientists have made important contributions to the understanding of the genesis of cancer, its progression and strategies to treat and prevent it. Our clinical investigators have led innumerable clinical trials over the years that introduced new drugs, therapies and technologies that have changed the standard of care for cancer treatment."

Kathleen Green, PhD, the Joseph L. Mayberry, Sr., Professor of Pathology and Toxicology, and associate director of Basic Science Research at Lurie Cancer Center, has also seen the center's incredible progress first hand.

"I joined Northwestern's faculty in 1987, so I had the honor of being here for the naming of Lurie Cancer Center and witnessing the subsequent

- This spring, Ms. Lurie sat down with Dr. Platanias, director of Lurie Cancer Center, to discuss her and Mr. Lurie's extraordinary gift and how it has transformed cancer care in Chicago and beyond.

"When Bob was asked if it was alright if his name was put on the cancer center, he thought for a bit about that question. And then he said, 'Yes, because I feel that I can personify the individual and that's what this cancer center is all about: the individual,'" shared Ms. Lurie, emphasizing the very personal toll cancer takes on each patient and their family.

Watch a video of the interview online at [bit.ly/3j85J75](https://bit.ly/3j85J75).







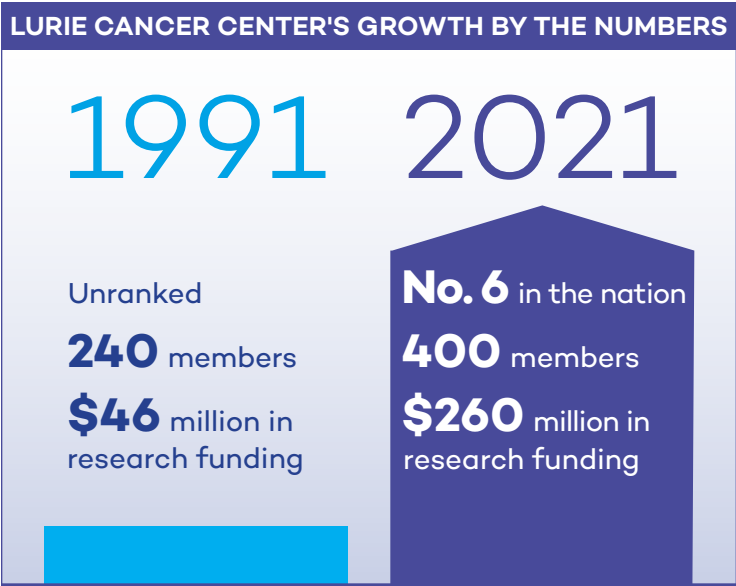
growth of our research enterprise and steep trajectory in the impact and translational nature of our research,” she shared. “New eras of cancer metabolism, cancer epigenetics and tumor immunology and immunotherapy have emerged over this time changing the face of clinical treatments. Particularly impressive has been progress in targeted therapies to re-activate immune system T-cells and increase anti-tumor immune response in multiple types of cancer.”

Dr. Green added that collaboration between basic science and clinical teams, across Northwestern’s Chicago and Evanston campuses, is key to Lurie Cancer Center’s ability to bring scientific advances to patients. One example is the development of spherical nucleic acids (SNAs), very small particles that can be functionalized with nucleic acids to change gene expression and stimulate immune cells to target cancer. Collaboration between Alexander Stegh, PhD, associate professor of Neurology and Medicine in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, and Chad Mirkin, PhD, the George B. Rathmann Professor of Chemistry, and their teams led to the first in-human clinical trial of SNAs to treat recurrent glioblastoma brain cancer. The successful results of that trial, headed by Priya Kumthekar, MD, associate professor of Neurology and Medicine in Hematology and Oncology, were published this year in the journal *Science Translational Medicine*.

Philanthropy is the fuel behind much of Lurie Cancer Center’s success. Gifts from thousands of generous donors, with the Lurie family leading the way, have enabled the center to fund seed grants for innovative new research ideas, recruit top faculty to Northwestern and develop training programs for students, residents and fellows who will be future leaders in the field of oncology.

“I know I speak on behalf of our whole team at Lurie Cancer Center when I say that I am deeply grateful for Bob and Ann’s support back in 1991, and for Ann’s continuing involvement in our mission today,” shared Dr. Platanias.

For more information about supporting Lurie Cancer Center, please contact [Terri Dillon](#) at 312.503.4837 or [terri-dillon@northwestern.edu](mailto:terri-dillon@northwestern.edu).



# IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Thousands of donors have contributed to the cancer center’s success in the last 30 years.

Thank you for everything you do to empower our team of physicians, scientists, nurses, and staff and the patients they serve.

# A CAMPAIGN FOR OUR FUTURE

Lurie Cancer Center is on a path to become a global leader in cancer care and research. In addition to treating patients, our team is spearheading high-impact laboratory, translational “bench-to-bedside” and clinical trial studies, as well as training a new generation of experts in oncology.

To support this important work, Northwestern has launched a new campaign with the big, bold goal of raising \$100 million in philanthropic dollars. This investment will help Lurie Cancer Center bring its highly innovative research, training and community impact efforts to the next level for our patients in Chicagoland and worldwide.

Learn more about Lurie Cancer Center and its goals for the future online at

[bit.ly/3xCBfOy](https://bit.ly/3xCBfOy)

# Stellings Make Extraordinary Bequest to Future Physicians



Michael W. Stelling, '71 MD, and Carol B. Stelling, '72 MD

## A Word of Advice

*"It's never too soon to start thinking about estate planning," Carol shared. "Getting something down on paper offered us peace of mind, as you never know what might happen. Then revisit your intent every 10 years. Reviewing our trust recently gave us the opportunity to update the name of 'Northwestern University Medical School,' or 'NUMS' as it was known to many of us alumni, to its current name 'Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine' and to direct our bequest to a scholarship fund."*

Carol Boyer was a serious first-year medical student at Northwestern when she officially met Mike Stelling in the fall of 1967. Focused on her studies, she had declined when a friend tried to fix them up earlier in the term, but when he asked her one day if she liked to dance, she couldn't say no. She agreed to join him at a crowded and noisy party, where they ended up talking all night in the stairway.

The rest, as they say, is history. Spontaneous and warmhearted, Mike helped Carol loosen up and enjoy medical school despite its rigors. They married the week after Mike graduated in the spring of 1971. Over the next 50 years the two were partners on the dance floor and well beyond, supporting each other as job opportunities brought them to Nebraska, Virginia, Kentucky and ultimately Houston, Texas. After retiring from their busy and successful careers as physicians — Carol as a diagnostic radiologist and Mike as a pediatric endocrinologist — they decided to support the Northwestern students who will follow them in the field of medicine.

This spring, the Stellings worked with Northwestern to update and document their estate plans, which include an extraordinarily generous \$12 million bequest to establish the Carol B. Stelling, MD and Michael W. Stelling, MD Scholarship Fund at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

"We were thrilled to find out that Northwestern had a goal to create an endowment for medical student scholarships," Carol said. "Finishing medical school is stressful enough without being burdened by debt. You're starting a career, maybe a family, and it's important to be able to focus on the people you serve, and the science and learning that is a part of medicine, rather than on money. We hope our gift will have an impact on a few future students and help them become better physicians."

In partnership with forward-thinking donors like the Stellings, Feinberg aims to build an \$800 million endowment to provide tuition support to all of its medical students.

"Every year I meet exceptional medical students whose lives are transformed after they receive scholarships, but unfortunately there are still prospective students who we lose because of anticipated debt," said Marianne Green, MD, vice dean for Education and the Raymond H. Curry, MD, Professor and chair of Medical Education. "We are incredibly grateful for the Stellings' inspiring foresight and generosity, which will enable more students to pursue their passions for medicine without the pressures of debilitating debt."



The *Chicago Tribune* caught Carol and Mike riding bikes in Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood in September 1968.

The Stellings focus their philanthropy on education because they believe it opens doors in life. "Education is the reason we are in a position now to be able to give back," explained Carol.

Carol's father was also a physician (in fact, he had to borrow \$400 from an older sister to pay his own tuition back in the 1930s), and Carol considers herself lucky to come from a family that valued learning and supported her career aspirations. Mike was the first in his family to graduate from college. He was introduced to the field of medicine while working at a hospital in high school.

After building their foundation at Northwestern, both Mike and Carol went on to enjoy challenging but rewarding careers in academic medicine. At the University of Kentucky, Mike got involved in the pediatric curriculum for medical students and worked in clinics in the city of Lexington and beyond, traveling a couple of times a month to rural Appalachia to treat children with juvenile diabetes. Carol, meanwhile, became a leader in mammography, and was eventually recruited to start a breast cancer screening program at MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Though much has changed in medicine since the Stellings began their training at Northwestern, much remains the same: Students with high ambitions and noble goals to innovate and serve patients come to learn on Chicago's lakefront. They spend hours at the library preparing for exams and worry about their finances. They learn from some of the best mentors in the field, make lifelong friends and sometimes, even find love.

"Northwestern will always be there pushing forward," Carol reflected. She's impressed by the ways that the medical school prioritizes the health and wellbeing of its students and encourages them to explore interests like research and travel. "I'm convinced that Northwestern is on the cutting edge of medical education."

For more information about supporting medical student scholarships, please contact [Larry Kuhn](#) at [312.503.1717](tel:312.503.1717) or [larry-kuhn@northwestern.edu](mailto:larry-kuhn@northwestern.edu).



# Brickley Establishes Scholarship to Help Indigenous Communities

After retiring as a general surgeon in Indianapolis, Harry Brickley, MD, '55 GME, became an avid traveler and witness to the diverse cultures of people across the world. Among his adventures were trips to remote Arctic Canada, where he got to know Inuit communities and experience their way of life. He hunted on dog sleds, ate frozen char, borrowed sealskin pants and slept on a bed of Arctic Ocean ice. He also saw the cruel realities of life for many Inuit, including a lack of access to healthcare.

In hopes of helping future physicians who come from indigenous backgrounds or who have an interest in serving those communities, Dr. Brickley established the Richard A. Brickley, MD Family Scholarship with a \$100,000 gift to Northwestern this spring.

Dr. Brickley recalls meeting a physician in his 70s who traveled thousands of miles to visit isolated Inuit villages and provide care once or twice a year. He also met a woman whose son died when he didn't receive the care he needed.

"These are very impoverished, neglected, poorly treated people. They don't have the doctors or resources to meet their needs," said Dr. Brickley. "That is one reason I set up this scholarship."

Dr. Brickley, who trained for part of his residency at Northwestern (then Passavant Hospital), also made the gift in honor of his former mentor Loyal Davis, MD. He named the scholarship after his older brother, who earned his medical degree at Northwestern in 1948.

"When you get older, you think back on the people who helped you along the way," he said. "I may not have thanked them properly at the time, or during their lifetimes, but I'm trying to make up for it now."

Dr. Brickley shares his story in hopes that his scholarship will inspire additional donors to support medical students who need financial assistance.

For more information about scholarships, please contact **Vic Maurer** at **312.503.2417** or **victor.maurer@northwestern.edu**.



Dr. Brickley on a fishing expedition in Panama a few years ago. He returned there this summer, at age 94. Photo courtesy of the Tropic Star Lodge in Piñas Bay, Panama.



Dr. Ana Sofia Moreno-Mesa

## A Recent Graduate Shares Her Story and Gratitude



Through scholarships and awards, donors have a significant impact on our students and their future careers in medicine. Here, Ana Sofia Moreno-Mesa, '21 MD, recipient of the Neil Stone Award for Professionalism and Compassion in Medicine, expresses her appreciation to those who funded her award, including Northwestern University Trustee Newt Minow and his wife, Jo, and Randy L. Berlin and her late husband, Melvin.

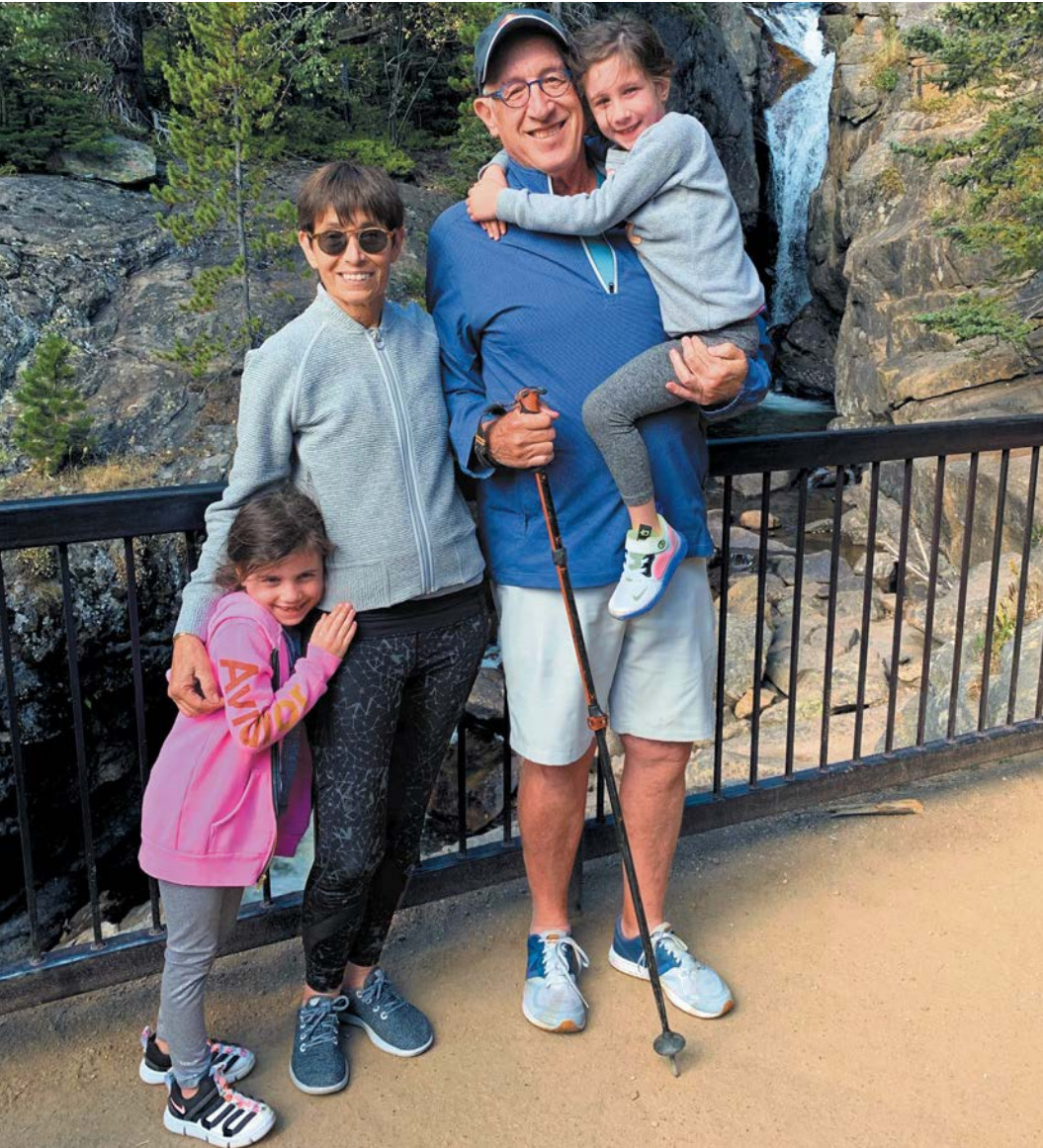
"I was born in Bogotá, Colombia, and immigrated with my family to the United States when I was two years old. When I first began applying to medical schools, I was drawn to Feinberg because of its profile as a premier research institution, its commitment to diversity and its renowned alumni. After interviewing here, it quickly became my top choice, and I was over the moon when I was accepted. However, I had no way to pay for medical school and was wary of committing to hundreds of thousands of dollars of debt. Thankfully, I was accepted into the Army's Health Professions Scholarship Program and commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army in November 2017.

Along with graduating from medical school without adding to my undergraduate debt, I also will have the honor of serving our nation's bravest men and women. After coming to medical school, I continued my research into clinics servicing underserved communities, focusing my efforts on CommunityHealth-Chicago, the largest free clinic in the nation located here. It has been a wonderful but challenging four years. I am looking forward to a career in family medicine and have fallen in love with the holistic field. This broad practice, which allows physicians to care for entire families through all stages of their lives, engenders a deep trust that is essential to quality primary care and lasting change.

Thank you so much for your generosity in providing this award. Please know that you are not only supporting a Northwestern student, but also an immigrant, a child of the American dream, an underrepresented minority in medicine and a future family medicine physician. I am deeply grateful to you."



# Grateful Patient and Alumnus Crane Gives Back to Transplant Program



Jeffrey Crane with his wife, Debra, and their granddaughters.

Jeffrey Crane was born with a hemangioma on the top of his head, a fairly common red birthmark made up of extra blood vessels. Rather than fading over time as most do, Mr. Crane’s hemangioma grew throughout his childhood. At 16, while playing basketball, he sustained an injury that caused his hemangioma to bleed uncontrollably. He needed surgery to repair the damage and received 20 units of blood to recover from the trauma.

Forty years later, during a routine medical examination, Mr. Crane was diagnosed with hepatitis C, a liver infection caused by a virus he received from those blood transfusions as a teen. After attempts to cure his hepatitis with antiviral medications were unsuccessful, he was told that he would need a new liver.

On June 5, 2012, Mr. Crane woke up feeling ill with a slight fever. His wife, Debra, took him to Northwestern Memorial Hospital, and two weeks later, he had liver transplant surgery. By that time, his body was so sick that it took him 10 days to regain consciousness after the procedure.

“I hadn’t realized how bad the deterioration was,” Mr. Crane said. “It happened little by little, over time. When I woke up from that transplant, I could recognize how bad it really had been.”

After the transplant surgery, he received rehabilitation as an inpatient for two weeks, followed by outpatient rehabilitation. He had to relearn how to stand, walk and do most activities.

“I had to physically get myself back in shape,” Mr. Crane said. “But I was back to work by Labor Day. It’s astounding to me how fast my recovery was.”

This summer Mr. Crane and his family celebrated nine years since his transplant. He can hardly believe how healthy he feels in everyday life.

“Last year I played 150 rounds of golf walking,” he boasted. “It’s a miracle, an absolute blessing. The benefits I have been able to see in my life since my surgery: I might have never met my twin granddaughters, who will be eight in September.”

Grateful for the care he received at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Mr. Crane has become a loyal donor to — and advocate for — Northwestern’s transplant program.

In fact, he has long been a devoted fundraiser for organizations that are important to him. Even before he became a transplant patient, Mr. Crane hosted a coffee gathering with some friends to raise nearly \$1 million for hepatology research and training at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. An alumnus of Northwestern’s Kellogg School of Management, he is proud to raise funds for the university.

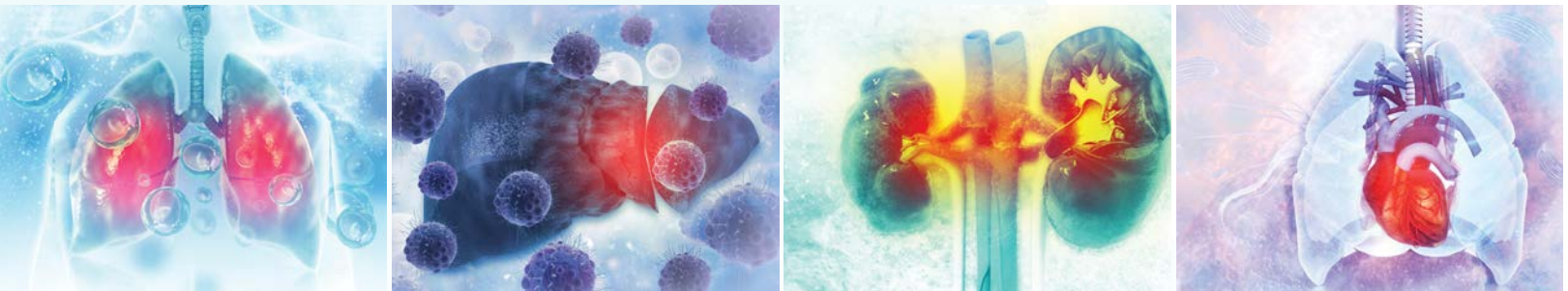
He is also a member of the committee for the Transplant Innovation Endowment. Through the hard work of fundraisers like Mr. Crane, the Transplant Innovation Endowment achieved its goal of raising \$10 million.

“I’ve been incredibly lucky in my life, and I think it’s important to pay it forward,” Mr. Crane said. “If my father or grandfather had the disease I had, they wouldn’t have lived to be 40 years old, and here I was getting a transplant at age 60!”

While luck may have played a small role in his success, Mr. Crane attributes much of his health today to Northwestern Medicine. When people ask him how he survived liver disease, his answer is always the same.

“You’ve got to pick a world-class institution and world-class doctors, surround yourself with a great support system of friends and family, and, if you’re fortunate like I’ve been, create relationships with the doctors who have treated you. I owe a great deal to Northwestern Memorial Hospital and to Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine,” Mr. Crane said.

For more information about supporting the transplant program, contact [Stephanie Ours](mailto:stephanie.ours@nm.org) at 312.926.7073 or [stephanie.ours@nm.org](mailto:stephanie.ours@nm.org).





# 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.

### Uncovering Future Targets for Cancer Treatments Through Laboratory Research



Dr. Navdeep Chandel

Cellular metabolism—a complex set of chemical reactions inside the cell that produce energy—is essential for all of the cell's functions. Navdeep Chandel, PhD, explores how the **metabolism of cancer cells** differs from normal cells. He and his team also have efforts underway to understand whether the metabolism of cancer cells can be manipulated to boost the efficacy of existing cancer therapies like immunotherapy. Dr. Chandel is the David W. Cugell, MD, Professor of Medicine in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care and of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics.



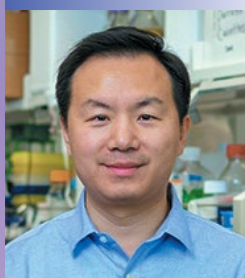
Dr. Leon Platanius

Leon Platanius, MD, PhD, director of the Lurie Cancer Center, is an active physician-scientist in addition to a leader at Northwestern. He and his lab have recently identified a novel gene whose expression is important for the **growth and survival of pancreatic cancer cells**. This gene, SLFN5, may be a promising target for future pancreatic cancer therapies. With colleagues in Northwestern University's Department of Chemistry, the Platanius lab is now working on developing drugs that target this gene for future testing. Dr. Platanius is the Jesse, Sara, Andrew, Abigail, Benjamin and Elizabeth Lurie Professor of Oncology.



Dr. Daniela Matei

Daniela Matei, MD, studies metabolic and epigenetic changes linked to the development of **chemotherapy resistance in ovarian cancer**, the deadliest gynecologic malignancy. Recent philanthropic funds enabled her team to discover that platinum-resistant cancer cells rely on lipid and cholesterol resources to survive and can be eliminated through strategies targeting their antioxidant defense mechanisms. A new collaborative project with Colby Thaxton, '04 MD, '07 PhD, associate professor of Urology, uses nanoparticles to deplete resistant cancer cells of natural sources of cholesterol, leading to their eradication. Dr. Matei is the Diana, Princess of Wales Professor of Cancer Research and chief of Reproductive Science in Medicine in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.



Dr. Feng Yue

In his lab, Feng Yue, PhD, develops state-of-the-art genomic technologies and advanced machine learning methods to discover novel complex **mutations in cancer genomes**. His team investigates how such genetic mutations disrupt the proper folding of DNA in 3D space. Their ultimate goal is to identify drugs to target these deleterious mutations to better treat patients. Dr. Yue is the Duane and Susan Burnham Professor of Molecular Medicine and director of the Center for Cancer Genomics in the Lurie Cancer Center.

For more information about supporting these efforts, contact Nicole Langert at 312.503.1656 or [nicole.langert@northwestern.edu](mailto:nicole.langert@northwestern.edu).

More than 10 percent of adults in the U.S. have a food allergy, according to Northwestern Medicine research.



### Prioritizing Adult-Onset Allergies



Dr. Ruchi Gupta

Although peanut allergies are often thought of as a pediatric concern, recent research led by Ruchi Gupta, MD, MPH, revealed that three out of four Americans with peanut allergy are 18 or older, and one in six of them developed the allergy in adulthood. Despite that reality, there are no FDA-approved therapies for patients with adult-onset peanut allergy. Dr. Gupta, professor of Pediatrics, Medicine and Preventive Medicine, and her team in Feinberg's Center for Food Allergy and Asthma Research, are leading efforts to better understand and treat this potentially life-threatening and growing burden of disease.

For more information about supporting these efforts, contact MaryPat Mauro at 312.503.1090 or [marypat.mauro@northwestern.edu](mailto:marypat.mauro@northwestern.edu).

A violist plays for patients at Northwestern Memorial Hospital as part of a pilot study exploring if music can alleviate the stress and anxiety of hospital stays.



### Studying the Benefits of Music in Medicine



Dr. Borna Bonakdarpour

Borna Bonakdarpour, MD, assistant professor of Neurology, and a group of musicians, music therapists, and auditory neuroscientists at the Mesulam Center for Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer's Disease are studying innovative new interventions to help patients with dementia. Music programs in clinical settings have been shown to improve the brain health of patients and health professionals alike. Such programs are in place in a few academic centers and hospitals across the U.S. but not yet at Northwestern Medicine hospitals.

For more information about supporting these efforts, contact Jordan Sund at 312.503.2706 or [jordan.sund@northwestern.edu](mailto:jordan.sund@northwestern.edu).



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If you do not wish to receive fundraising materials from Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and/or Northwestern Memorial Foundation, please call 312.503.0766.

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On August 6, Feinberg’s first-year medical students donned their white coats for the first time during the Founders’ Day ceremony, an annual tradition that marks the official start of the academic year.