

The Philanthropist

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



Our Vital Partners

Every day, donors help Northwestern Medicine propel its mission forward. Without your partnership, much of the work we do—from providing excellent clinical care to conducting groundbreaking research to educating the next generation of leaders in medicine—would truly not be possible. In this issue, we share stories that show how generous philanthropy is leading to meaningful progress at our medical school and in our hospitals. Read on to find out how your support enabled us to open a magnificent new biomedical research building, jumpstart innovation for patients with a complex and common heart condition, better screen women for breast cancer and more. Our community of clinicians, scientists, educators and trainees is so grateful to have your support.



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WE WILL.
The Campaign for Northwestern Medicine



Top row, from left: Former Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel; Northwestern University Board of Trustees Chair Lanny Martin; Northwestern University President Morton Schapiro; Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker; Northwestern University Trustees Louis A. Simpson and Kimberly K. Querrey; Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine Vice President for Medical Affairs and Lewis Landsberg Dean Eric G. Neilson, MD; Northwestern University Provost Jonathan Holloway; and supporters John and Laura Potocsnak. Bottom row, from left: Ald. Brian Hopkins, 2nd Ward; Northwestern Memorial HealthCare President and CEO Dean Harrison; benefactor Stanley Manne; President and CEO of Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago Patrick M. Magoon; Illinois State Senator Robert Peters; and Illinois Congressman Danny Davis.

Simpson Querrey Biomedical Research Center Opens Its Doors

Made possible by private philanthropy, the building will usher in a new era of scientific discovery at Northwestern.

On June 17, Northwestern University leadership, trustees, faculty and benefactors joined former Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker and local politicians to officially unveil the Louis A. Simpson and Kimberly K. Querrey Biomedical Research Center.

With striking curved-glass exteriors and light-filled laboratories designed for scientific collaboration, the new building on the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine campus provides much-needed biomedical research space to continue Northwestern's growth. The medical school is home to expert scientists in cancer, cardiovascular diseases, neurosciences, epigenetics, nanotechnology and biomedicine, epithelial biology, infectious diseases and more, and some of those programs are moving to the new building.

"This is the largest project in the history of our great university," said Northwestern President Morton Schapiro. "The transformative research that we do at Northwestern will be accelerated within this unbelievable facility, thanks to the incredible generosity and support of Lou and Kimberly and many others."

The building is named in honor of Northwestern Trustees Louis A. Simpson and Kimberly K. Querrey in recognition of their monumental support to advance Northwestern's academic excellence and scientific discovery, including a leadership gift to fund biomedical research programs at Feinberg.

"Our goal, quite simply, is to accelerate the pace of medical science, fuel the local economy and—surrounded by world-class clinical partners in a global city—create an environment unrivaled for biomedical translation and entrepreneurship," said Eric G. Neilson, MD, vice president for medical affairs and Lewis Landsberg Dean of Feinberg, during the dedication. "Nothing remarkable like this happens without purposeful philanthropy. Lou and Kimberly made transformational gifts to the medical school that will change it forever."

Ms. Querrey and Mr. Simpson each spoke at the dedication after receiving a standing ovation.

"Thank you for being here as part of the grand opening of Northwestern's biomedical research building, which we hope will become the epicenter of innovation and research for the Midwest," Ms. Querrey told the audience. "While the building is impressive, the work that will be conducted here is mind boggling."

"Kimberly and I are proud to be associated with the discoveries and the research that will come as a result of this building," added Mr. Simpson.

President Schapiro and Dean Neilson also acknowledged other generous donors with named spaces in the building [see next page], including John and Laura Potocsnak, who made a gift that was recognized with the naming of the lobby atrium and a floor of research labs.

"Sixteen years ago, I started coming to Northwestern hospitals. I've had children born here, children taken care of and back surgeries. And I am just in awe of all of you who work here," John Potocsnak shared. "I hope someday amazing things come out of [this building] because we're counting on you."

For more information on the Simpson Querrey Biomedical Research Center, please contact [Alan Krensky](mailto:krensky@northwestern.edu) at 312.503.1720 or krensky@northwestern.edu.





Kimberly K. Querrey and Louis A. Simpson spoke at the dedication of the building named in their honor.

Named Spaces in the New Building

Simpson Querrey Auditorium

Potocsnak Family Atrium



A capacity crowd filled the Potocsnak Family Atrium for a dinner and program following the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Top right: Laura and John Potocsnak.

Together Under One Roof

The Stanley Manne Children's Research Institute at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago will occupy four floors of the new building, allowing investigators in pediatrics to share the same research space as Northwestern scientists for the first time. The Simpson Querrey Biomedical Research Center brings physicians and scientists from the Feinberg School of Medicine and Northwestern's McCormick School of Engineering together with top-ranked clinical affiliates Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Lurie Children's and the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab – all in one academic medical district.

John Potocsnak Family Laboratories

The Judd A. and Marjorie Weinberg Gallery



Lynne Weinberg and Northwestern University Trustee David Weinberg visited the Judd A. and Marjorie Weinberg Gallery, a space named for David Weinberg's parents that showcases scientific imagery from Northwestern scientists.



Senyei Conference Center

Kabiller Student Lounge

Trienens Conference Room

Carlins Conference Room

Krantz Conference Room



Drew Senyei, '79 MD, in his named conference center. "The Simpson Querrey Biomedical Research Center is more than a beautiful building," he remarked. "It is an embodiment of Northwestern's persistent pursuit of world-class excellence in medical research. It will be the home of many exceptional researchers and scholars whose discoveries will profoundly impact the lives of many for generations to come. As an alum of the medical school and a university trustee, I applaud the vision of those who helped create it."



The labs on each floor were designed around the idea of flexible "research neighborhoods." Each floor, which can house 23 principal investigators and their teams, has deliberate interaction space in the center to promote collaborative cross-talk among the three lab "neighborhoods."

Always Generous, Catherine Harrington Lives by Her Mother's Lessons of Sharing



Catherine Harrington

"One of the best things you can do for yourself and your community is invest in a community hospital."

—Catherine Harrington

When Catherine Harrington thinks about giving, she remembers what her mother used to say: "Share what you have, and you don't have to have a lot in order to share. Just do the best you can." It's a simple philosophy that takes on a deeper meaning once Mrs. Harrington explained that she was the youngest of six children, and lost her father in an accident when she was just four years old. She took her mother's words to heart. Her recent decision to make a planned gift through her will to Northwestern Medicine Delnor Hospital and LivingWell Cancer Resource Center, now part of Northwestern Medicine, illustrates her belief that adversity provides opportunity for improvement. The gift was inspired by her gratitude for the excellent, compassionate care she experienced at both Delnor and LivingWell over the years.

"One of the best things you can do for yourself and your community is invest in a community hospital," said Mrs. Harrington. When each of her five children was born prematurely, she and her husband realized how important it is to have quality care close to home. Her generosity will enable others to access high-quality, state-of-the-art health care focused on helping them live their best life.

"This has been an evolving process over a large number of years," explained Mrs. Harrington. That process was not without hardship. A 22-year survivor of breast cancer, she now refers others seeking healing and wellness in the face of a cancer diagnosis to LivingWell, noting the value of the individualized psychosocial supportive education and care she received.

She felt that same support from caregivers at Delnor Hospital when her husband suffered a massive brain hemorrhage in the middle of the night 15 years ago. Reflecting on his passing, she said, "The people at Delnor Hospital who helped him were phenomenal. I know everyone did everything they could, and I appreciated their kindness and compassion."

For Mrs. Harrington, there is also comfort in knowing that her planned gift will help fulfill the personal and charitable aspirations she and her husband shared. "We knew we wanted to share what we did have," she said. "We started with very modest amounts, and as life improved, so did our philanthropy."

It's her persistence that she insists makes the modest gifts meaningful. "The more you do, the better you feel," said Mrs. Harrington, and she's passed this on to her children, telling them, "Don't think you won't have hardship. It's how you approach the hardship that makes the difference." With her seven grandchildren, she carries forth her mother's determined optimism.

Whether a gift of time, money or a smile, she said, "Imagine what could be if everyone did the best they could to share what they have."

Arnaud Buttin, philanthropy director at Northwestern Memorial Foundation, said, "When donors like Catherine make a gift through their estate, they forever link their life story with the hope and healing of patients and their families far into the future. With donors like Catherine in our corner, we can be assured that the future for Northwestern Medicine is bright."



Northwestern Medicine Delnor Hospital is a proud beneficiary of Mrs. Harrington's philanthropy.

How to Make a Planned Gift



Planned gifts create a lasting legacy of support for Northwestern Medicine hospitals, programs, medical students and trainees, faculty and research.

Bequest Provisions

A bequest intention is a popular, easy and effective way to make a planned gift. By designating a portion of your estate to Northwestern Memorial Foundation or Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine through your last will and testament, you will have a significant impact on the future of patient care, medical education or research without needing to make financial sacrifices during your lifetime.



Individual Retirement Accounts

A gift of retirement assets, such as an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), is another way to leave a lasting legacy. Naming Northwestern Memorial Foundation or Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine as the beneficiary of a retirement plan can generate significant income and estate tax savings. If you are 70½ years or older, making a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA is an easy way to make a gift with potential income tax savings.



Charitable Gift Annuity

If you would like to make a meaningful gift and increase your annual income, consider a charitable gift annuity (CGA) as a vehicle for your planned giving. This approach enables you to accomplish your charitable goals now and receive a guaranteed fixed income for life. Any remaining funds in your CGA will go to support a hospital, department or program at Northwestern Medicine that is important to you.



Gifts of Life Insurance and Real Estate

Naming Northwestern Memorial Foundation or Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine as the beneficiary of a fully paid life insurance policy is another simple way to leave a lasting legacy. Depending on your specific circumstances, you may find that there are favorable income tax benefits associated with the decision to make the Foundation or University both beneficiary and owner of a fully paid life insurance policy. Gifts of real estate can be made in a variety of ways. You can make a specific bequest of your home in your will/trust, or you can make a gift of real estate to fund an income-producing gift, such as a charitable remainder trust that will pay you and/or others an income for a number of years, or for life.

Contact

For more information on making a planned gift to a **Northwestern Medicine hospital**, please contact **Arnaud Buttin** at **312.926.2505** or arnaud.buttin@nm.org.

For more information on making a planned gift to the **Feinberg School of Medicine**, please contact **Larry Kuhn** at **312.503.1717** or larry-kuhn@northwestern.edu.

\$10 Million Endowment Goal Will Create Arrhythmia Research Center



Earlier this year, Dr. Rod Passman was formally invested as the Jules J. Reingold Professor of Electrophysiology at Feinberg. The Reingold Professorship was established in honor of Julius “Jules” Jacob Reingold, a successful jeweler and hotelier who, through hard work and skill, epitomized the American Dream after immigrating to the United States in 1909 from Russia. He passed away in 1958 and left the bulk of his estate for medical research. The Jules J. Reingold trust and new anonymous donors to the Arrhythmia Research Center funded this endowed professorship.

Left to right: Douglas E. Vaughan, MD, the Irving S. Cutter Professor of Medicine and chair of the Department of Medicine; Cybele Ghossein, MD, professor of Medicine in the Division of Nephrology and Hypertension and Dr. Passman’s wife; Dr. Passman; and Dr. Clyde Yancy.

About 6 million people in the United States live with atrial fibrillation, the most common kind of cardiac arrhythmia. This complex condition involving irregular rhythm in the top chambers of the heart is responsible for nearly a quarter of all strokes, and it increases a person’s risk for heart failure, dementia and death. But the symptoms of atrial fibrillation are subtle, and many patients who have the condition don’t realize anything is wrong.

Now, support from numerous generous donors — including a landmark gift from an anonymous benefactor — will enable cardiac electrophysiologist Rod S. Passman, MD, MSCE, and a group of Northwestern Medicine physician-scientists to improve the way cardiologists diagnose and treat patients with heart rhythm disorders. Nearing a \$10 million endowment goal that will create an Arrhythmia Research Center at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, the team plans to focus in part on leveraging technology to change outcomes for these patients.

“As long-time supporters of Northwestern Medicine, the Bluhm Family Charitable Foundation is pleased to support the Arrhythmia Research Center and its mission,” shared Caryn Skurnick, a member of the Bluhm family and a patient in Dr. Passman’s clinic. “I have gotten to know Dr. Passman well through the years and seen first-hand how he and his team are translating what they learn through their research to help patients like me. We all will benefit from their dedication, concern and compassion.”

Digital health has been a constant theme in Dr. Passman’s career. Years ago, he helped develop surgically implantable heart monitors to keep track of cardiac events that suggest arrhythmias over the long term. Today, as wearable technology provides an opportunity for less invasive and less expensive heart monitoring, Dr. Passman has partnered with Apple to find out if the company’s smartwatches could be an accurate tool for detecting and managing arrhythmias.

“We are in the midst of a new frontier in atrial fibrillation. Recent discoveries have made it clear we can dramatically improve the lives of our patients through ablation, wearable technology, cardiac imaging and new drugs and devices to reduce stroke risk. And we believe there are even more innovations to come,” Dr. Passman said. “Donor support will enable us to bring needed research to the next level, and all of the physicians and investigators involved in this important work at Northwestern are so grateful to every contributor that made the Arrhythmia Research Center possible.”

The initial funding for the new center, which will become part of the Feinberg Cardiovascular and Renal Research Institute, will support research projects, faculty recruitment and training opportunities for fellows.

Research will focus on further understanding the molecular mechanisms underlying atrial fibrillation, so investigators can develop new treatments that target those roots. Another major goal is to optimize drug therapies for maintaining normal heart rhythm and preventing stroke, so patients have limited exposure to side effects. Current guidelines recommend life-long treatment with anticoagulation drugs, even during long periods of a normal rhythm. Advances in wearable technology, for instance, might allow physicians to target anticoagulation only around the time of an episode.

“Our Arrhythmia Research Center will be among the first of its kind in the nation,” said Clyde W. Yancy, MD, MSc, chief of Cardiology and the Magerstadt Professor of Medicine. “I am confident it will become a platform for new discoveries.”

For more information about the Arrhythmia Research Center, please contact [Kathleen Praznowski](mailto:kathleen.praznowski@northwestern.edu) at 312.503.0762 or kathleen.praznowski@northwestern.edu.

Bequest Supports Atrial Fibrillation Into the Future



Irena and KC Chen in Seefeld, Austria.

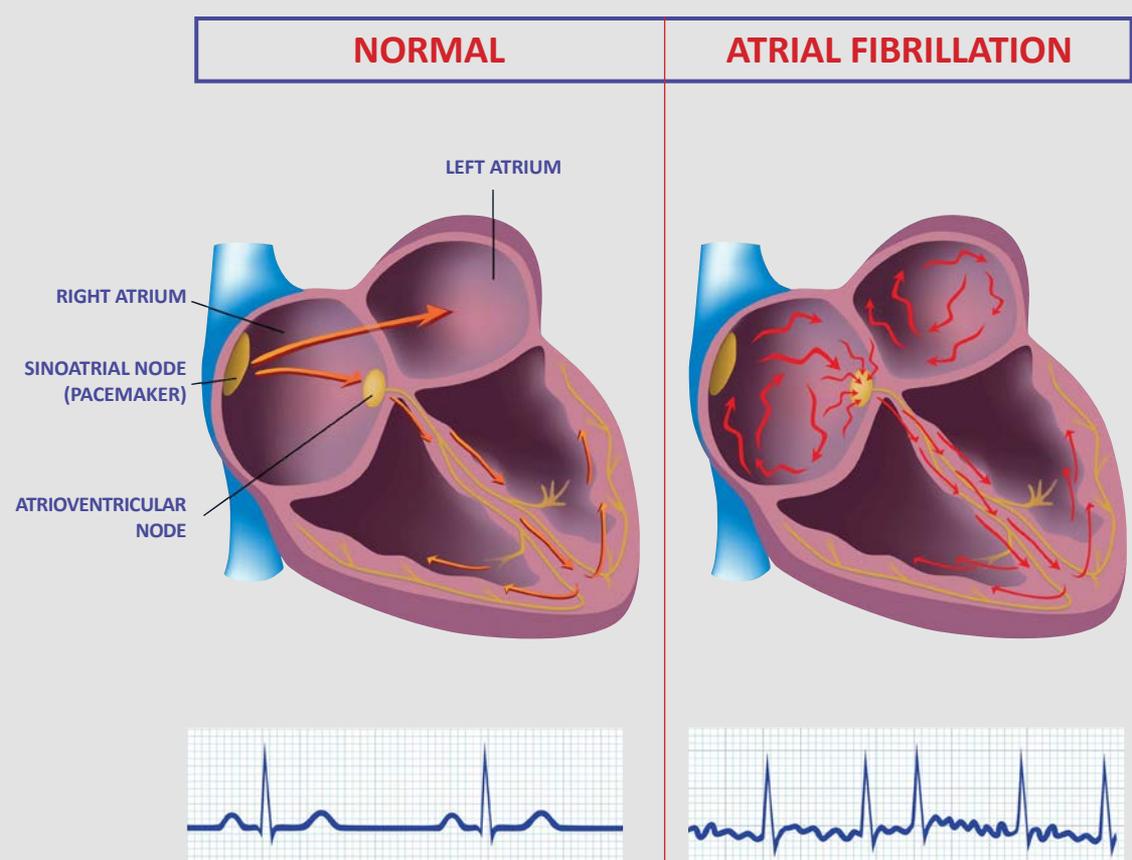
On top of the \$10 million endowment to establish the Arrhythmia Research Center, Irena Chen, a patient of Dr. Passman's for the last decade, has made a significant bequest to support research in the center.

"As a patient who suffered for a long time with atrial fibrillation before being diagnosed, I know how important it is to detect this condition before it is too late," Mrs. Chen shared. "Dr. Passman is not only a great researcher, but also an exceptionally caring doctor. I have a great appreciation for his research and his patient care — this is why I will contribute to his research any way I can."

Originally from Austria and Czechoslovakia, Mrs. Chen worked for many years in Chicago's healthcare sector, as an educational coordinator at the Advocate Christ Medical Center and, later, in the private practice of her husband, KC, a surgeon. The couple retired together in 2000.

Understanding a Complex Heart Condition

In atrial fibrillation, irregular rhythm (arrhythmia) in the top chambers of the heart (atria) causes reduced blood flow that can lead to blood clots in the atria. Those blood clots can travel from the heart to other organs, including the brain, and lead to stroke, heart failure, dementia and even death.



The Woman's Board of Northwestern Memorial Hospital Adds New Chapters to Its Story of Philanthropy and Compassion



Charenton Drake, Carmen Williams and Dr. Jeffrey Dungan

For 122 years, The Woman's Board of Northwestern Memorial Hospital has cultivated a proud legacy of philanthropy and service, earning distinction as one of Chicago's oldest and most venerable charitable organizations. Since its founding in 1897, the group's work and purpose have focused on compassionate, exceptional care for every patient, with an emphasis on women's health issues. By funding projects and programs that enhance the health, well-being and quality of life of countless patients and community members, The Woman's Board and individual board members have contributed more than \$70 million to Northwestern Memorial and one of its predecessor hospitals, Passavant Memorial Hospital.

"We are here today because of the work of so many people who blazed trails for us. The legacy of The Woman's Board — that unwavering commitment to reaching out to others — shapes everything we do and inspires us to keep entering new frontiers through our philanthropy," said Charenton Drake, president of The Woman's Board. "We are always striving to identify and address unmet needs, and to improve people's health, opportunities and lives in meaningful ways."

The board recently made significant gifts in support of two novel Northwestern Medicine projects. Both promise to make positive, enduring differences for many patients and families, healthcare providers and communities.

The first initiative, titled "The Implementation and Evaluation of Collaborative Mental Health Care in Primary Care Clinics," is examining mental health care in Northwestern Medicine's Chicago-based primary care clinics. The Woman's Board made a commitment of \$700,000, over two years, to advance this landmark study as part of a 2016 pledge commitment of \$7 million, over 10 years, to Northwestern Memorial and the broader Northwestern Medicine health system. This multidimensional project is led by John G. Csernansky, MD, the Lizzie Gilman Professor and chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, and chair of the Stone Institute of Psychiatry at Northwestern Medicine.

"The legacy of The Woman's Board — that unwavering commitment to reaching out to others — shapes everything we do and inspires us to keep entering new frontiers through our philanthropy."

—Charenton Drake
President of The Woman's Board

"There is a great unmet need for mental health care in our communities, but, at the same time, there is a national shortage of mental healthcare providers," Dr. Csernansky explained. "Because of this shortage, the responsibility for meeting community mental health needs has shifted to primary care providers. We believe that a collaborative care model — defined by the collaboration of primary care providers, mental healthcare managers in primary care clinics, psychiatrists and psychologists — is the best solution to meeting the mental health needs of patients in our communities. Thanks to the generous support of The Woman's Board, we will be able to evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of collaborative care in 12 of Northwestern Medicine's primary care clinics, located in a diverse set of Chicago neighborhoods."

The central goals of this study are three-fold: (1) to improve mental health care in the many communities served by Northwestern Medicine; (2) to educate the Northwestern Medicine workforce about collaborative care; and (3) to develop new knowledge about the collaborative care model that can be shared with other health systems across the nation.

The second recipient of The Woman's Board's recent philanthropy is an initiative titled, "The EDGe Program: Providing Patients With Access to the Science of Early Detection in Genetics." With a generous gift of \$500,000, the board will provide vital support to this program, which aims to develop clinics that can provide comprehensive, coordinated care to patients at risk for or affected by hereditary cancer conditions. The program is led by Jeffrey Dungan, MD, chief of Clinical Genetics and medical director of Diagnostic Ultrasound at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, and associate professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine; and Carmen Williams, MS, CGC, lead Cancer Genetics counselor at Northwestern Medicine.

"We are so grateful for The Woman's Board's vision, support and belief in the mission of the EDGe Program," said Dr. Dungan. "The board's generosity will help us to provide patients with access to all the care they need for their particular condition — through a single phone call to a single clinic. We also plan to create a patient registry that will enable us to bring front-line medical testing and prevention measures to patients and families as soon as they are available."

Reflecting on The Woman's Board's many contributions and breadth of support through the years, Ms. Drake remarked, "We are fortunate and proud to be a part of so many efforts to transform ideas and plans into actual realities that benefit people's lives. Through our partnership with Northwestern Medicine, we have seen what can be accomplished through imagination, determination and compassion, and we look forward to everything that lies ahead."

For more information about The Woman's Board of Northwestern Memorial Hospital, or the projects discussed above, please contact Carol Cheng at 312.694.1346 or carol.cheng@nm.org.

Generous Gift Establishes Unique Research Program Focused on Behavior and the Law



Left to right: Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke; Dr. James Cavanaugh; his wife, Stephanie Cavanaugh, '67 MD; and their grandson, Tommy, at an event celebrating the inauguration of the Isaac Ray Research Program last October.

Through a recent charitable endowment from James L. Cavanaugh Jr., MD, a unique, multidimensional program — characterized by its commitment to addressing a variety of contemporary, interconnected and often urgent challenges — came to fruition at Northwestern Medicine. The Isaac Ray Research Program in Behavioral Sciences and the Law, housed within the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, has a scope and a mission that extend beyond mental and behavioral health, into areas of intersection and interaction among human behavior, legal systems, public policy and justice.

In 1979, Dr. Cavanaugh, board-certified in both psychiatry and forensic psychiatry, founded the Isaac Ray Center — named for Isaac Ray, the “father of American forensic psychiatry” — in Chicago. From the day the center opened its doors, it was anchored and strengthened by Dr. Cavanaugh’s belief that behavioral science, the law and the justice system could come together to address some of society’s most complex issues, including aggressive behaviors, juvenile justice and treatment of mentally ill offenders.

Through the years, Dr. Cavanaugh established the Isaac Ray Center as a bastion of leading-edge research, education, care and services in areas such as criminal competency, child custody, trauma and its after-effects, and workplace violence prevention. In addition to developing one of the nation’s largest private forensic mental health programs at the center, Dr. Cavanaugh served, over many years’ time, as a psychiatric consultant to the United States Secret Service, FBI, United States Postal Inspection Service, Chicago Police Department and Illinois State Police Department.

“Over the many decades of his career, Dr. Cavanaugh has been a rare kind of leader — someone ahead of his time, unafraid to face great challenges and able to find creative ways to improve the lives of individuals and our shared society,” said John G. Csernansky, MD, the Lizzie Gilman Professor and chair of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, and chair of the Stone Institute of Psychiatry at Northwestern Medicine. “Through Dr. Cavanaugh’s example, we have learned to better understand people, to identify their unmet needs and to improve the well-being of our communities.”

Today, under the auspices of the Isaac Ray Research Program in Behavioral Sciences and the Law, a number of innovative research studies are in progress. Aiming to develop evidence-based interventions, improve public policy and advance justice, investigators leading these studies are exploring a broad array of topics, questions and challenges.

RESEARCH STUDIES INCLUDE:

- Health needs of traditionally underserved populations, such as racial/ethnic minorities, people coping with poverty and homelessness, and incarcerated individuals
- Bio-psychosocial determinants of violence and antisocial behavior in order to develop and then to strengthen effective community interventions
- Psychiatric, neurological and neuropsychological abnormalities that may lead to violent, aggressive behaviors
- Nature and extent of criminal charges that women face for child harm that occurs during pregnancy-related psychiatric illness
- Consistency of child custody evaluations conducted in urban courts, and ensuring that all evaluations meet established standards and guidelines
- Knowledge and utilization of legally relevant mental health information in juvenile justice and child protection proceedings

Michael Brook, PhD, assistant professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, serves as interim director of the Isaac Ray Research Program. Reflecting on Dr. Cavanaugh’s storied career and thoughtful philanthropy, Dr. Brook remarked, “All of us at Northwestern Medicine are so fortunate to know Dr. Cavanaugh, to be the beneficiaries of his knowledge and generosity and, now, to be able to establish one of the few research programs in the nation whose dedicated focus is to elucidate complex questions at the intersection of human behavior and the law. As we continue to build the program, we will always honor Dr. Cavanaugh, his vision and all the ways in which his work and his life have benefited the scientific community and society at large.”

For more information about the Isaac Ray Research Program in Behavioral Sciences and the Law, please contact Marleana Cross at [847.535.6933](tel:847.535.6933) or mcross@nm.org.



Dr. John Csernansky



Liz and Eric Lefkofsky

Lefkofsky Family Foundation Empowers Cancer Researchers to Take Risks

“Liz and I are thrilled to continue to support Northwestern and the amazing work they do through our innovation program that we started in 2010,” shared Mr. Lefkofsky.

Eric Lefkofsky, chairman and co-founder of Groupon, and his wife, Liz, recently renewed their commitment to fund the Liz and Eric Lefkofsky Innovation Research Awards at the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University through 2021. Their new \$500,000 gift, made through the couple’s private charitable foundation, the Lefkofsky Family Foundation, will ensure that Lurie Cancer Center investigators have resources to conduct promising pilot studies that can serve as springboards for larger, nationally funded studies.

“Liz and I are thrilled to continue to support Northwestern and the amazing work they do through our innovation program that we started in 2010,” shared Mr. Lefkofsky.

Each year, the Liz and Eric Lefkofsky Innovation Research Awards are given to four faculty scholars who are leading research projects to help further the study of oncology treatment. The current Lefkofsky scholars are Liming Li, PhD, associate professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics; Marc Mendillo, PhD, assistant professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics; William A. Muller, MD, PhD, professor of Pathology; and Kathleen J. Green, PhD, associate director of basic sciences research at the Lurie Cancer Center and the Joseph L. Mayberry, Sr. Professor of Pathology and Toxicology.

To date, the Liz and Eric Lefkofsky Innovation Research Awards have supported 11 scholars and 10 research projects. In addition to the 10 projects initially awarded, five projects were chosen and granted continuation awards, including Dr. Green and Drs. Li and Mendillo on their joint project.

“We are honored by and immensely grateful to the Lefkofsky Foundation for this high-impact support,” said Leonidas C. Plataniias, MD, PhD, director of the Lurie Cancer Center and the Jesse, Sara, Andrew, Abigail, Benjamin and Elizabeth Lurie Professor of Oncology. “The innovative scientists and projects supported by this program are leading us to important new findings that have the potential to transform the field.”

The Lefkofsky Innovation Research Awards were founded on the idea that investigators need to take risks in biomedical research in order to make new discoveries. With the Lefkofsky Family Foundation’s support, the awardees have been able to take unique approaches to tackle big questions about how cancer forms, and how it can be stopped. Drs. Li and Mendillo are exploring how protein aggregation (much like that which occurs in neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer’s disease) can lead to tumor development, while Dr. Muller is testing a peptide with the potential to block cancer cells from metastasizing. Dr. Green, meanwhile, is developing molecular tools to diagnose and manage atypical moles and early melanomas before they progress into late-stage cancer.

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

Partnerships

Cementing his relationship with Northwestern, Eric Lefkofsky also recently established a health-tech startup called Tempus, which has partnered with the Lurie Cancer Center to advance precision medicine for cancer patients. Tempus performs genomic sequencing and analysis to deliver treatment options and insights for physicians.



The Gavers Community Cancer Foundation Barndance brings together people of all ages in a shared effort to fight and conquer cancer.

“The Gavers Community Cancer Foundation exists to make a difference in the fight against cancer, and we want to make that difference right here in our community.”

—Steve Gavers
President of the Gavers Community Cancer Foundation and cancer survivor

Gift from Gavers Community Cancer Foundation Enhances Breast Cancer Screenings and Care in Northwest Suburbs

Thanks to a generous donation of \$250,000 from the Gavers Community Cancer Foundation to Northwestern Memorial Foundation, women in the Northwest suburbs will have another breast imaging option that is especially effective in screening dense breasts. Automated whole-breast ultrasound (ABUS) will be available at the Northwestern Medicine Gavers Breast Center (a department of Northwestern Medicine McHenry Hospital) to enhance patient care.

ABUS is a painless secondary screening that provides physicians with an additional way to examine dense breast tissue. Breast density is a term that describes the relative amounts of three different types of breast tissue, as seen on a mammogram: (1) glandular tissue; (2) fibrous connective tissue; and (3) fatty tissue. Dense breasts have relatively high amounts of glandular and connective tissue, and relatively low amounts of fatty tissue. Nearly half of all women age 40 and older who undergo mammograms have dense breast tissue, which can hide abnormalities in standard digital mammograms. Moreover, dense breast tissue is an independent risk factor for developing breast cancer.

“The Gavers Community Cancer Foundation exists to make a difference in the fight against cancer, and we want to make that difference right here in our community,” said Steve Gavers, president of the foundation and a cancer survivor. “We know cancer is most treatable when it is detected in its earliest stages, and our partnership with Northwestern Medicine will help women have the best chance to beat breast cancer.”

The generous donation comes from funds raised at the annual Gavers Community Cancer Foundation Barndance, a festive event that marks its 20th anniversary in 2019. Every year, the Barndance brings together individuals and families touched by cancer, as well as care providers, community members and other supporters, in a shared effort to raise funds that will help to fight and conquer cancer.

“People believe in our foundation; they trust us,” Mr. Gavers remarked. “They know that 100 percent of our proceeds go to vital cancer programs and cancer research. In our 20-year history, we have raised nearly \$8 million, and we are always inspired by the generosity of our community.”

Elissa S. Brebach, MD, a radiologist who serves as medical director of breast imaging at the Northwestern Medicine Gavers Breast Center, recommends that all women begin to receive annual screening mammograms at age 40, and that women at increased risk of developing breast cancer begin to receive screenings even earlier. For women with dense breasts, in particular, annual 3D mammograms are essential, and these patients’ physicians will determine whether ABUS is recommended.

Dr. Brebach remarked, “Patients will benefit from the addition of ABUS at the Gavers Breast Center because, as an advanced form of 3D ultrasound technology, ABUS provides another

noninvasive way to screen for cancer. The Gavers Community Cancer Foundation has a deep understanding of the importance of screenings, and this gift will immediately help patients in our community.”

In addition to offering 3D and digital screening mammograms — and, soon, ABUS — the Northwestern Medicine Gavers Breast Center provides follow-up diagnostic care for women who receive inconclusive or abnormal mammogram results. The center also provides education and support for patients who receive a breast cancer diagnosis, as well as close monitoring for women at increased risk of developing breast cancer.

“Regular screenings are the best way for women to prevent a diagnosis of late-stage breast cancer,” said Dr. Brebach. “Many of our patients will find peace of mind in the knowledge that, through ABUS, they will be able to receive even more information about their breast health. We are so grateful to Mr. Gavers and all the members of the Gavers Foundation for giving us another tool for our toolbox as we all work together to fight breast cancer and to save lives.”

For more information about the Gavers Community Cancer Foundation and/or the Northwestern Medicine Gavers Breast Center, please contact [Sarah Theriault at 847.802.7084](mailto:sarah.theriault@nm.org) or sarah.theriault@nm.org.



Events



Members of the advisory council for the Malnati Brain Tumor Institute at the 2019 benefit.

With the theme “Darkness to Light” conveying a sense of hope and optimism, the 2019 *Minds Matter* Benefit Dinner brought together more than 350 supporters on May 17 to raise crucial funds for 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. The benefit took place at Chicago’s Revel Fulton Market and netted more than \$500,000 in support of the institute and the patients and families who are bravely battling brain and spinal tumors.

“Through philanthropic support from our donors, we have made remarkable strides to better serve our patients and their families,” said James P. Chandler, MD, co-director of the Malnati Brain Tumor Institute, surgical director of Neuro-Oncology at

Northwestern Memorial Hospital, and vice chair for clinical affairs and the Lavin/Fates Professor of Neurological Surgery at Feinberg. “Recently, we were able to open a new, state-of-the-art clinic to provide better continuity of care from diagnosis to follow-up appointments, and, [with continued support], we look forward to taking the institute to the next level.” Roger Stupp, MD, co-director of the Malnati Brain Tumor Institute, chief of Neuro-Oncology in the Ken and Ruth Davee Department of Neurology, and the Paul C. Bucy Professor of Neurological Surgery, remarked, “We have one of the leading brain tumor institutes in the country to help bring the highest level of cancer care to our patients. Every bit of support makes an impact to one day cure this disease.”



On May 18, LivingWell Cancer Resource Center, part of Northwestern Medicine, held its 14th Annual Bridge Walk in Geneva, Illinois, along the Fox River. The event brought in more than \$218,000 in support of LivingWell and brought together cancer survivors and those who care for them—family members and friends, neighbors and colleagues, physicians and others. Motivated by the knowledge that nearly 15 million people in the United States are currently living with and beyond cancer, the Bridge Walk’s 900-plus participants—including more than 130 cancer survivors—took powerful steps to ensure that LivingWell will be able to continue to offer its full complement of 120-plus programs and services free of charge. Designed to benefit individuals living with cancer, as well as families and caregivers, LivingWell’s many programs include medical presentations led by medical and radiation oncologists, professionally led support groups and individual counseling, art programs, nutrition and exercise classes, massage therapy and much more.





Medical student scholars and leadership at Feinberg expressed their gratitude to generous alumni, faculty and friends who support scholarships at the annual Commitment to Scholarships Luncheon held April 27 at the Ritz-Carlton in Chicago. This year, 250 people joined in this celebration, including nearly 90 students.

"We remain eternally grateful as each year our scholarship donors continue to provide support while new donors join the scholarship family," said the luncheon's emcee, Diane B. Wayne, '91 MD, vice dean for Education, chair of Medical Education and the Dr. John Sherman Appleman Professor of Medical Education. Dr. Wayne also is a supporter of the Lynda Singhsinsuk Class of 1991 Scholarship.



During the inaugural Discover Feinberg lecture on May 14, three investigators from Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine discussed the potential of precision medicine to improve the diagnosis and treatment of disease. Each described how they incorporate precision medicine—in rheumatology, cancer and sleep medicine—into their research to transform patient care. Precision medicine, sometimes referred to as personalized medicine, is a model for treating health and disease by considering a patient's genes, behaviors and environment. It's the medical community's acknowledgement of the fact that one size does not necessarily fit all.

"Northwestern is not just a place where fantastic clinical care happens, it's also a place where we train the next generation of physicians and scientists and make sure we're generating the new knowledge that is going to lead to tomorrow's cures," explained Rex Chisholm, PhD, vice dean for Scientific Affairs and Graduate Education at Feinberg, the Adam and Richard T. Lind Professor of Medical Genetics and moderator of the event. "With precision medicine, we can do that earlier and better."



Dean M. Harrison (right), president and chief executive officer of Northwestern Memorial HealthCare, thanked representatives from Wintrust, the event's Platinum Sponsor.

On June 3, Northwestern Memorial Foundation hosted the 39th Annual Golf Invitational and Dinner Auction at Medinah Country Club. With more than 300 guests in attendance, the event netted \$373,000 to support the expansion of the Pediatric Outpatient Therapy Center at Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital, part of Northwestern Medicine. In this new space, designed exclusively for Marianjoy's smallest and most vulnerable patients, the exceptional care providers at Marianjoy will be able to deliver world-class rehabilitation care to even more children. In addition to a memorable day of golfing, the invitational featured dinner and a special program, a highly successful silent auction and a raffle.



Left to right: Lana Raines, Kristin McCain, Ashley Yakes, Christine Farrell and Shannon Shader



Left to right: Kristin Wildman, Derby Day Celebration co-chair; Susan Loiacano, president of the Women's Board; and Sam Davie, Derby Day Celebration co-chair

On May 4, approximately 300 guests dressed in Kentucky Derby finery attended the Women's Board of Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital's Derby Day Celebration at Onwentsia Club in Lake Forest. The sold-out event netted an impressive \$450,000 and helped to complete a momentous fundraising effort that the Women's Board launched in 2015—namely, to raise \$4 million to dedicate the Women's Board Pavilion in the new Lake Forest Hospital, which officially opened its doors in March 2018.

"It's a real point of pride for us to make such a significant commitment to that facility," said Susan Loiacano, president of the Women's Board. "We're demonstrating to the community that we are doing significant work as fundraisers and volunteers of the hospital." Dr. Michael Bauer, medical director of Northwestern Medicine Lake Forest Hospital, added: "Not only do the members of the Women's Board support our hospital programs and emphasize the importance of volunteering, but, now, they have added to their lasting legacy by so generously naming the Women's Board Pavilion at our new Lake Forest Hospital. They always have been, and continue to be, truly wonderful partners."



On May 9, donors joined Northwestern Medicine leadership and experts in neurodegenerative disease to celebrate new state-of-the-art space for the Mesulam Center for Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer's Disease, located on the eighth floor of the Tarry Research and Education Building at Feinberg.

"None of this would have come without the dedicated philanthropy of The Davee Foundation, the Arkes family, Mendelson family, Moscow family, Chapman family, Rosenstone family, La Grassa family, Van Cleave family, Miller family, Grannon family, VanderWeele family, Arch Shaw II, Boschan family and so many others. We are enormously grateful—some of these families have been with us for more than 20 years," said M.-Marsel Mesulam, MD, the Ruth Dunbar Davee Professor and director of the Mesulam Center, which was recently named in his honor.



Left to right: Dr. Robert Vassar and his extoller Dr. Sangram Sisodia with Kirk Hoopingarner and Craig Grannon, both representatives of The Davee Foundation.

On June 18, Robert J. Vassar, PhD, was formally invested as the Davee Professor of Alzheimer Research. Colleagues, friends, family and supporters joined Dr. Vassar at the Four Seasons Hotel to celebrate this prestigious academic position, which was endowed through generosity from The Davee Foundation and the Ryan Family Chair Challenge. Dr. Vassar is a professor of Neurology and of Cell and Developmental Biology, as well as scientific director of Behavioral Neurology in the Davee Department of Neurology and director of the Alzheimer's Disease Core Center at Feinberg. He chose to focus on Alzheimer's disease after his mother was diagnosed with the disease in 1996.

"To be able to work toward an understanding of this disease and, maybe in a small way, move it toward a treatment, is a true privilege of a lifetime for me," he shared. "It's my fervent belief that, as a community of patients and families, scientists and physicians, and philanthropists, foundations and governmental agencies, together we are going to defeat this disease if we keep at it and don't give up."



A Special Thank You to The Davee Foundation



Ken and Ruth Davee

The Northwestern Medicine community would like to extend a very special thank you to The Davee Foundation for its incredible support through the years, and wish it a fond farewell as the foundation sunsets at the end of the year. Since the 1990s, The Davee Foundation has given more than \$54 million to support Feinberg and ensured through its philanthropy that the medical



Ruth Davee

school sets a high bar for excellence and innovation, especially in the areas of neurology and Alzheimer's disease. The foundation's giving has funded groundbreaking research, one-of-a-kind fellowship programs to train the next generation of physician-scientists and an astounding five endowed professorships to ensure our leadership continues far into the future. The Davee Foundation's steadfast commitment has made a world of difference at Feinberg and inspired others to follow in its footsteps. We are forever grateful for its generosity and partnership.



On June 2, National Cancer Survivors Day, more than 3,000 cancer survivors and caring supporters laced up their running and walking shoes, and came together in Chicago's Grant Park to participate in the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University's 26th Annual Cancer Survivors' Celebration Walk & 5K. A spirit of camaraderie, as well as a shared commitment to the cause of conquering cancer, marked the event, which brought in more than \$350,000 to support the Lurie Cancer Center's research and patient care at Northwestern Medicine.

Leonidas C. Platanius, MD, PhD, director of the Lurie Cancer Center, welcomed the enthusiastic crowd. "This is an amazing event," Dr. Platanius said, before counting down to begin the Walk. "There are 16 million cancer survivors in the United States. We're making progress, but it is not enough. It is time for us to eliminate this disease once and for all. We are getting there, but it can only happen with research. I want to personally thank all the fundraising teams and donors. Your support makes such a difference!"



On Saturday, April 27, members of the Nathan Smith Davis Society at Feinberg—a group of over 2,000 medical alumni, faculty, friends and staff members—braved April snow for a reception celebrating their commitment to the medical school. Feinberg hosts the yearly Davis Society event at the Arts Club of Chicago to thank those who support Feinberg's growth, excellence and competitiveness through generous philanthropic gifts and volunteer service.

"As Davis Society members, you are an essential part of our community," Alan Krensky, MD, executive for Development at Northwestern Medicine and vice dean for Development and Alumni Relations at Feinberg, said to the crowd. "Together, we've achieved great things. Through your philanthropy and volunteerism, you've helped us mentor students, establish scholarships, endow professorships, fund breakthrough research and so much more."



Left to right: Bonnie Hunt, Michael and Becky Elrad and Mike McCready

Nearly 600 guests attended the fourth annual Digestive Health Foundation (DHF) gala, "Celebrating the Power of Family," on June 8 at the Four Seasons Hotel Chicago. Emceed by actress and Chicagoan Bonnie Hunt, the gala brought in a record-breaking \$2.48 million to support the Northwestern Medicine Digestive Health Center, and featured a powerful speech by Mike McCready, lead guitarist of Pearl Jam, who detailed his personal journey with Crohn's disease. The event also launched the Deborah and Martin Elrad Research Fund for Hereditary Digestive Diseases, which will support the DHF's major research priorities, including the groundbreaking DHF Biorepository.

Serving as co-chairs of the event, Becky and Michael Elrad underscored the vital role philanthropy plays in advancing efforts to prevent, treat and, ideally, cure a variety of digestive disorders: "We are very proud to be part of an organization that will someday, in the not-so-distant future, transform digestive disease into digestive health."

Les Turner ALS Walk for Life

September 15 | 11 am

Soldier Field, 1410 Museum Campus Dr, Chicago, IL
 Info: Lauren Pedi, 312.503.4635, lauren.pedi@northwestern.edu
 lesturnerals.org

The Market: A Girlfriend's Day Out and Luncheon Benefiting LivingWell Cancer Resource Center

September 18 | 11 am

Heritage Prairie Farm, 2N308 Brundidge Road, Elburn, IL
 Info: Molly Freed, 630.262.1111, ext. 56805, molly.freed@nm.org

Institute for Global Health/GHI Benefit Dinner

September 25 | 5:30 pm

The Peninsula Chicago, 108 East Superior Street, Chicago, IL
 Info: Tiffany Scaparotti, 312.503.3088, tiffany.scaparotti@northwestern.edu

Discover Feinberg Lecture Series: Healthy Aging

October 1 | 5 pm

Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center, Baldwin Auditorium
 303 East Superior Street, First Floor, Chicago, IL
 Info: MaryPat Mauro, 312.503.1090, marypat.mauro@northwestern.edu
 feinberg.northwestern.edu/giving/connect/lecture-series.html

Pours with a Purpose

October 10 | 5:30 pm

Boulder Ridge Country Club, 350 Boulder Drive, Lake in the Hills, IL
 Info: Jen Patterson, 847.802.7089, jennifer.patterson@nm.org

Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation Fall Benefit Luncheon with keynote speaker Martin Short

October 25 | 11 am

Hilton Chicago, 720 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL
 Info: Kristyn Eskridge, 312.926.7133, keskridd@nm.org

Friends of Prentice Benefit: An Evening in Oz

October 26 | 6:30 pm

Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel, 221 North Columbus Drive, Chicago, IL
 Info: Kristyn Eskridge, 312.926.7133, keskridd@nm.org

Campaign 2 Save Lives Fundraising Dinner

October 29 | 6:30 pm

Gibson's Bar & Steakhouse, 1028 North Rush Street, Chicago, IL
 Info: Lauren Pedi, 312.503.4635, lauren.pedi@northwestern.edu

Marianjoy Gala

November 2 | 6 pm

Embassy Suites by Hilton Chicago Naperville, 1823 Abriter Court, Naperville, IL
 Info: Tara Carlson, 630.933.6989, tara.carlson@nm.org

Northwestern Medicine Breast Cancer Research Panel Discussion

November 12 | 5:30 pm

Louis A. Simpson and Kimberly K. Querrey Biomedical Research Center, Simpson Querrey Auditorium, 303 East Superior Street, Chicago, IL
 Info: Nicole Langert, 312.503.1656, nicole.langert@northwestern.edu

420 East Superior Street
Arthur J. Rubloff Building, 9th Floor
Chicago, IL 60611

If you would like to receive future issues of this publication electronically, or if you would like more information about any of the stories in this issue, please email Nora Dunne at nora.dunne@northwestern.edu.

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