

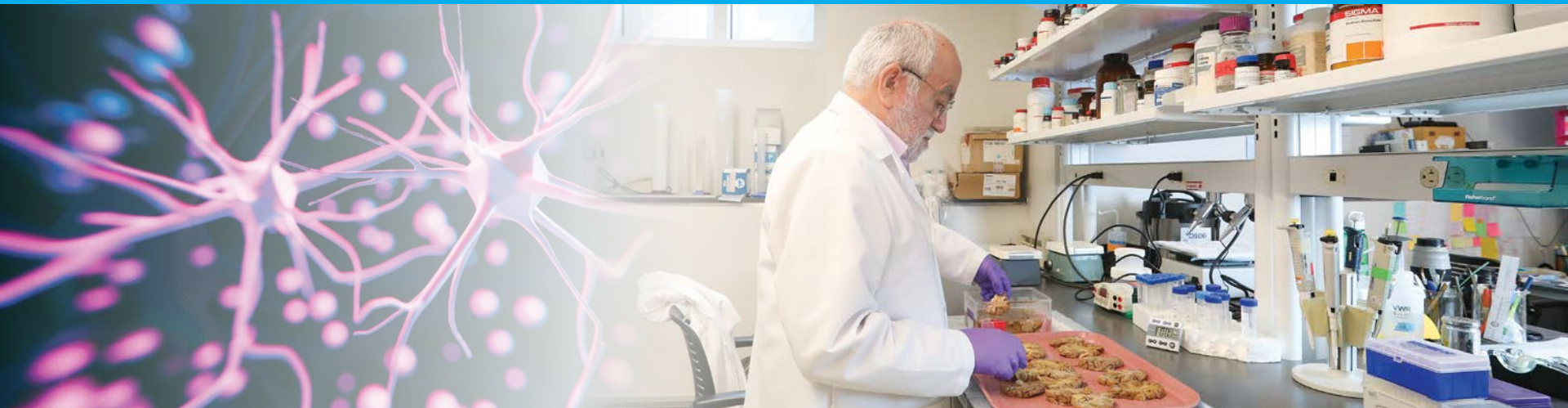
THE PHILANTHROPIST



Generous Donors Empower Us to Improve Human Health

By investing in our talented physicians, scientists, students, and trainees at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, you are supporting the people who ultimately make a difference in the lives of patients and families in Chicago and across the globe. You are providing essential resources to investigators who are exploring new ideas, testing novel therapies, and translating findings to help people suffering from neurodegenerative diseases, cancers, and other challenging health conditions. You are also making it possible for bright and ambitious students to pursue their dreams of becoming physicians and scientists. Your gifts truly push forward our mission to impact the practice of medicine through discovery and education. *Thank you* for so generously partnering with us to improve human health.

Mesulam Supporters Propel Innovative Dementia Research and Programs



Changiz Geula, PhD, research professor in the Mesulam Center, studies brain tissue in his laboratory.

Dedicated scientists, physicians, and social workers at Feinberg’s Mesulam Center for Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer’s Disease are tackling dementia disorders from all angles. They are treating patients’ symptoms in creative ways, while studying the underlying factors that allow these devastating diseases to affect the mind and behavior. Better understanding of the complex neurobiology of the brain may someday lead to cures. As part of an academic health center, the Mesulam Center team translates what they learn through research to patients and families, as well as trainees who will carry this work forward to treat a rapidly aging US population.

The Mesulam Center is named in honor of its director, Marsel Mesulam, MD, the Ruth Dunbar Davee Professor of Neuroscience. Dr. Mesulam joined Northwestern 28 years ago to start a unique program focused on the neurobiology of brain aging and dementias that has flourished into today’s robust center.

SuperAging Study Turns Dementia Research Upside-Down

Scientists believe the average person’s memory peaks in their 30s and begins to decline thereafter. SuperAgers follow a different trajectory. These men and women over the age of 80 have the mental faculties of people 20 to 30 years younger. How? Emily Rogalski, PhD, has been studying SuperAgers for over a decade and revealed fascinating findings about their brains and lives.

For example, Dr. Rogalski has found that SuperAgers vary in education, wealth, and lifestyle factors like alcohol use or exercise. But they all have more Von Economo neurons—specialized brain cells thought to be important for social interaction—and slower cortical thinning compared to normal aging adults. SuperAgers also report more positive relationships with others than other peers their age.

“Understanding the biology, psychology, and social aspects of SuperAging may provide practical leads for avoiding or treating dementia and Alzheimer’s disease and living well into older age,” explained Dr. Rogalski, the Ann Adelman Perkins and John S. Perkins Professor of Alzheimer’s Disease Prevention. “We’re turning a complex problem on its head and looking at it from a different perspective.”

Dr. Rogalski’s work is funded by the National Institutes of Health and through philanthropy, including her endowed professorship. John Perkins made a generous gift to establish the Perkins Professorship last year to honor his wife, Ann, who passed away from Alzheimer’s disease in early 2021. The couple met as undergraduate students at Northwestern.

Endowed professorships established by committed philanthropists create reliable, long-term support for faculty to initiate pioneering research, develop stronger teaching programs, invest in new technologies, and maintain laboratories and other physical assets.

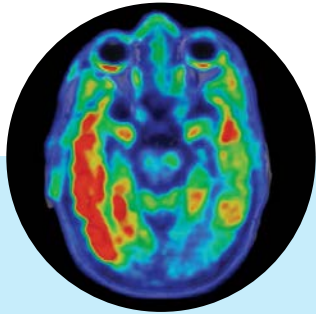
“I am humbled by Mr. Perkins’ support—and inspired by Ann’s story and the experiences of so many SuperAgers and people living with Alzheimer’s and related dementias who I have met through my work,” said Dr. Rogalski, also a professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and associate director of the Mesulam Center.

Mr. Perkins traveled to Chicago from California in May to celebrate Dr. Rogalski’s appointment as the inaugural holder of the Perkins Professorship.

“I enjoyed meeting Dr. Rogalski and learning more about her important work within the Mesulam Center,” Mr. Perkins said. “It is my hope that funding a professorship at Feinberg will be a lasting and meaningful way of honoring my late wife, Ann, and our mutual alma mater while also contributing to progress in fighting Alzheimer’s disease.”



The Perkins and Rogalski families at Dr. Rogalski’s investiture as the Ann Adelman Perkins and John S. Perkins Professor of Alzheimer’s Disease Prevention. Mr. Perkins and Dr. Rogalski pictured third and fourth from left.



Dr. Emily Rogalski’s research recently revealed that the buildup of tau protein in the brain predicts the amount of future cognitive decline over one year in individuals with Alzheimer’s disease. In this brain scan from a participant in the study, red indicates high Alzheimer’s disease tau pathology.

Buddy Program Fosters Relationships Between Patients and Students

In addition to conducting research and treating the clinical characteristics of neurodegenerative diseases, the Mesulam Center focuses on quality of life for people diagnosed with dementia and their families. In 1997, Darby Morhardt, PhD, developed the Buddy Program based on the premise that individuals with dementia can still have meaningful social relationships, and even serve as mentors. Today known as the Glen and Wendy Miller Family Buddy Program, the program pairs first-year medical students at Feinberg and people living with early- stage dementia for a mutually-enriching experience.



Dr. Darby Morhardt

Glen and Wendy Miller and their daughter, Lauren, know the effects of dementia well. Mrs. Miller was the primary caregiver for her mother, Marcy Raftenberg, for 17 years after she was first diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease. After Mrs. Raftenberg passed away, the Millers wanted to improve quality of life for others suffering from the disease and their families. They began supporting the Buddy Program in 2008 through the Glen and Wendy Miller Family Foundation.



Glen and Wendy Miller speaking at the Mesulam Center’s 2022 Alzheimer Day.

“Exposing young and upcoming doctors to Alzheimer’s patients and their families has long-range benefit for the doctors, the patients, and the patient’s family,” said Mrs. Miller during a speech at this year’s annual Alzheimer Day symposium. “With the increasing numbers of individuals living longer, we know that Alzheimer’s will increasingly affect our world. Thanks to Darby, future doctors will be better prepared to address the challenges of this dreaded disease. We are very proud to be associated with the Buddy Program and with the Mesulam Center.”

Through the Buddy Program, students get to know someone with dementia, while that person and their family get to share their experiences with the illness through regular meetings and activities together.

“I think the Buddy Program excels at emphasizing the humanism of medicine. It’s important to always keep in mind that we should see patients as people first, before diagnoses,” shared Brynn Carlson, a second-year medical student who participated in the program last year.

The Millers’ support to the Mesulam Center has had a wide impact at Northwestern — and beyond.

“The Millers embrace the spirit of the Buddy Program. Among their many contributions, they were instrumental in our ability to engage 15 different universities in replicating the program,” said Dr. Morhardt, a research professor in the Mesulam Center, during Alzheimer Day. “Thank you for the very special light that you give to this work and for your dear friendship.”



Medical student Brynn Carlson with her Buddy Program partner Tom during an outing together at the Art Institute of Chicago.

Music Therapy Brings Remarkable Benefits to People with Cognitive Impairments

A classically trained pianist, Borna Bonakdarpour, MD, started exploring how music interventions could help his patients with cognitive impairments early in his medical career.

Today, he runs the Northwestern Music and Medicine Program, providing and studying music therapies for patients diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease, dementia, aphasia, and other neurological conditions. It’s a unique premise that has drawn national media attention, though more research is needed to understand how music affects the brain and the best ways to deliver the therapy.

Gail Belytschko, ’71 MD, ’75 ’76 GME, a retired neurologist active in Chicago’s music community, understood the potential benefits of music therapy as soon as she heard about it and decided to make a generous donation to support Dr. Bonakdarpour’s work.

“So much funding is directed toward pharmaceuticals and other therapeutic modalities,” said Dr. Belytschko. “Borna is taking an unconventional, creative approach that could be very beneficial for patients. Our world needs therapies besides drugs with potentially harmful side effects to help people with dementia.”

In one study conducted in 2020, the team tested music therapy for 87 hospitalized neurology patients who were not allowed visitors because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Bonakdarpour’s partner, violist, and music practitioner Clara Takarabe, played private performances for each patient via FaceTime. Ninety-eight percent of participants highly agreed that the intervention improved their emotional state, and electroencephalograms that measure brainwaves connected to five of the patients confirmed that their brains relaxed.

“For many patients with dementia or other neurologic diseases, the areas of the brain dedicated to music processing are undamaged. We can use music and those unharmed areas of the brain to help patients recover some of the abilities they’ve lost, like speech or movement, and to improve the psychological effects of their diseases,” said Dr. Bonakdarpour, assistant professor of Neurology and a member of the Mesulam Center. “I am truly grateful to Dr. Belytschko for enabling me and my team to harness the power of music to help patients.”

For more information about supporting the Mesulam Center for Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer’s Disease, please contact **Jordan Sund** at jordan.sund@northwestern.edu or **312-503-2706**.



Dr. Borna Bonakdarpour

Clara Takarabe plays live music to a patient at Northwestern Memorial Hospital as part of the Northwestern Music and Medicine Program.

Dr. Gail Belytschko

Visionary Philanthropists Help Northwestern Usher in a New Era in Psychiatry

“Life expectancy in the US has gone down for the first time ever because of suicides and substance abuse. While many serious mental illnesses are inherited, anyone can become addicted to drugs. This is a brain disease that we really have no treatments for. Meanwhile, 60 percent of psychiatrists are over 60, and we’re not being replaced as fast as we’re leaving. We are in a crisis but poised for a revolution with the right talent and the resources.”

— Dr. Stephen M. Stahl

Stahl Plans Professorship and Research Fund in Psychopharmacology

One in 5 adults in the US experiences mental illness each year, and 1 in 20 experiences serious mental illness — severely disabling conditions like bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, or major depressive disorder. Suicide, meanwhile, is a leading cause of death in the US — the second most common cause for people ages 10 to 34.*

Despite these tragic numbers, “psychiatry has always been the ugly stepsister in medicine,” said Stephen M. Stahl, ’75 MD, PhD. “Serious mental illness is still one of the most stigmatized illnesses. Many people are ashamed of it and don’t want to talk about it.”

But Dr. Stahl wants to talk about it. He has devoted his career to fighting serious mental illness, and now he has planned a \$3 million gift to Feinberg to carry on that fight. Dr. Stahl’s generous gift will endow the Stephen Stahl Professorship in Psychiatry and Psychopharmacology and establish a new research and education fund in Feinberg’s Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences.

A leader in psychopharmacology — the study of drugs and behavior — Dr. Stahl has published more than 500 scientific papers and written dozens of textbooks including a best-selling prescriber’s guide with over one million copies sold. He is an adjunct faculty member at University of California San Diego, a fellow at University of Cambridge, and director of psychopharmacology services and academic programs at the California Department of State Hospitals. He’s served on numerous medical and scientific advisory boards for the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and medical information industries, nonprofits, and public service organizations. On the side, he founded the Neuroscience Education Institute and the medical education company Arbor Scientia and advocates for decriminalizing mental illness through programs that mandate treatment instead of jail time for people with mental illnesses who commit crimes.

Though he has experience in psychiatry from all angles, Dr. Stahl believes that investing in academic medicine is one of the best ways to help patients on a broad scale.

“We still don’t understand the brain well enough and as a result don’t have enough satisfactory treatment options,” he said. “Fundamental neuroscience that happens at universities like Northwestern is where new ideas will come from, where we will discover new targets for better psychiatric drugs.”



Dr. Stephen M. Stahl



Dr. Sachin Patel, new chair of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

A proud alumnus of Northwestern’s medical school, Dr. Stahl has kept an eye on his alma mater. He watched the late John Csernansky, MD, lead the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences for nearly 15 years. During this time, the department tripled its research grants and outpatient care, recruited a more diverse faculty, and launched specialty clinical programs in Women’s Behavioral Health, Neuropsychiatry, and Recovery from Psychosis. Last year, Sachin Patel, MD, PhD, was named new chair and the Lizzie Gilman Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. An internationally recognized expert in psychiatric neuroscience, Dr. Patel combines a deep background in cellular, molecular, and behavioral neuroscience with clinical expertise in psychiatry and addiction medicine.

“Northwestern has the space, the leadership, and the scientific and intellectual atmosphere for collaboration. The medical school is primed to grow and make significant contributions to psychiatry,” Dr. Stahl explained. “My vision is to help the department recruit rockstar faculty to bring the field to the next level.”

Dr. Stahl will make a portion of his gift during his lifetime through a qualified charitable distribution from his IRA — rolling over his required minimum distribution to Northwestern — and will give the rest through his estate.

“Establishing endowed professorships is one of my top priorities as I grow the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences,” said Dr. Patel. “I am so grateful to Dr. Stahl for his dedication to our field — through his professional achievements and now this visionary philanthropy.”

Dr. Stahl hopes that his gifts will help inspire other donors to support psychiatry at Northwestern.

“I realize that I’m on the inside of this field and feel loyalty to Northwestern as an alumnus, but the reality is that psychiatric disorders are incredibly prevalent, devastating diseases,” he said. “I hope other alumni, grateful patients, and members of the community will consider setting up an endowed professorship or laboratory or research program, because these funds will grow and support important change over time.”

**Data from the National Institute of Mental Health*

Land Supports Trainees and Forensic Psychiatry in Multifaceted Gift

To show appreciation for the medical education he received at Northwestern and the foundation it set for his career as a forensic psychiatrist, William Land, '87 MD, '88 GME, has committed to supporting the students and residents who will follow in his path.

"I have always been grateful for the outstanding education I received at Northwestern," Dr. Land said. "As I approach retirement and hang up my white coat, I am inspired to help out the next generation of physicians as they put on theirs."

In addition to participating in Feinberg's annual white coat campaign, Dr. Land recently gave a multifaceted gift to support commencement regalia and tassels for fourth-year medical students; scholarships in honor of Jack Snarr, '67 PhD, and James Webster, '56 MD, '60 '64 GME (a former classmate of Dr. Land's father, Richard Land, '56 MD); and luncheons for residents and rotating medical students in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. Dr. Land has also documented a generous bequest to Feinberg to establish a fellowship or professorship in forensic psychiatry.

It was during a psychiatry rotation at Chicago's West Side VA Medical Center (today known as the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center) that Dr. Land realized he wanted to specialize in psychiatry. After an internship in internal medicine at Northwestern, he went on to a psychiatry residency at Harvard Medical School and the Massachusetts Mental Health Center in Boston. He then completed a fellowship in forensic psychiatry through Harvard and the Massachusetts Department of Corrections at Bridgewater State Hospital, where he learned to conduct forensic mental health evaluations for the court system. In the 30 years since, he has practiced forensic psychiatry working on various types of civil and criminal cases and developed a particular interest in the geriatric population and evaluating their decision-making capacity.

"You don't know what career path you're going to land on when you're a medical student, but you can count on being constantly amazed and challenged and rewarded for doing the work that you do, even if it's not the path that you originally thought you would take," Dr. Land shared.

Dr. Land said that the dedication he witnessed in the Northwestern faculty stuck with him throughout his career. "They worked so hard to deliver the best care to their patients, and they inspired me to work hard."

At the same time, Dr. Land believes in the importance of taking breaks — slowing down to refuel so you can provide the best care. Dr. Snarr, former dean of students, encouraged Dr. Land to travel to India during his third year of medical school, instilling Dr. Land's lifelong love of travel. Through his gift to psychiatry trainees, Dr. Land hopes to encourage residents and students to take a break from their busy schedules to learn, socialize, and focus on their own well-being.

"I am touched by Dr. Land's thoughtful generosity to our students, residents, and department," said Dr. Patel. "Through his impactful career and his philanthropy, Dr. Land sets a wonderful example for us all."

For more information about supporting Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, please contact [Andrew Christopherson](mailto:andrew.christopherson@northwestern.edu) at andrew.christopherson@northwestern.edu or [312-503-3080](tel:312-503-3080). For more information about supporting Feinberg students, please contact [Vic Maurer](mailto:victor.maurer@northwestern.edu) at victor.maurer@northwestern.edu or [312-503-2417](tel:312-503-2417).

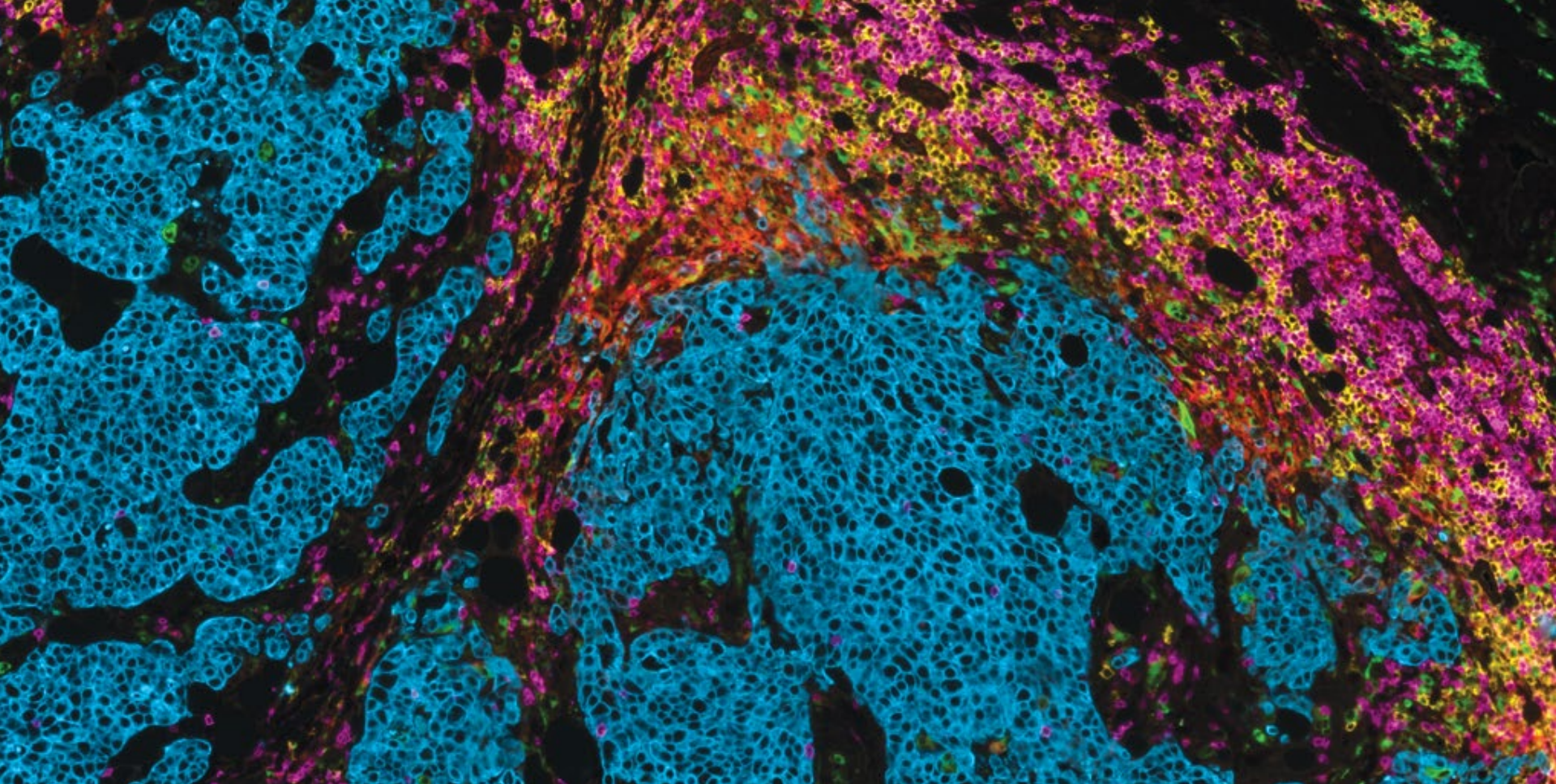


Dr. William Land

"You don't know what career path you're going to land on when you're a medical student, but you can count on being constantly amazed and challenged and rewarded..."

— Dr. William Land





A detailed visualization of cancer tissue produced by the COMET device. Image courtesy of Lunaphore.

Coffman Charitable Trust Brings Cutting-Edge Technology to Brain Tumor Research

Biomedical research is an arduous process, requiring not only scientific expertise and innovative thinking, but also staff, space, specialized equipment, and time. With the stakes so high for patients with cancer and their families, anything that can be done to streamline that process is invaluable.

With a personal understanding of those stakes, the Stephen M. Coffman Charitable Trust recently made a generous \$750,000 gift to fund laboratory technology that will allow Feinberg scientists to study cancer cells faster, and in more detail.

Since 2010, the Coffman Charitable Trust has given more than \$1.9 million to support research in the Lou and Jean Malnati Brain Tumor Institute (MBTI) of the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. Stephen M. Coffman, a former Northwestern Medicine patient who passed away in 2008 from a glioblastoma brain tumor, set up the charitable trust before his death.

“After his diagnosis, Steve transferred all of his energy to raising funds and awareness about brain tumors,” said Mark Hutchison, Mr. Coffman’s partner of 25 years who administers the trust. “He did all he could for the people who would come after him — that’s how he chose to live his last four years. He started a nonprofit and later set up this trust so that his mission would carry on.”

The Coffman Charitable Trust’s support over the years has helped MBTI scientists make important discoveries, including the identification of a key enzyme in glioblastoma progression, IDH1, and molecular compounds to suppress it. With the new gift, which funded the purchase of a device called the Lunaphore COMET, the team can take its research to the next level.

“Because of Steve’s foresight and Mark’s thoughtful stewardship of the Coffman Charitable Trust today, our scientists have technology they need to give patients with brain tumors hope that better treatments are on the way,” said James P. Chandler, MD, co-director of MBTI and the Lavin/Fates professor of Neurological Surgery.

“Steve’s legacy — not only his philanthropy but also his determination, altruism, and compassionate spirit — drives our present and future research,” added Jeffrey Raizer, MD, former co-director of MBTI and an adjunct professor of Neurology in the Division of Neuro-oncology, who first treated Mr. Coffman at Northwestern after his diagnosis.

The new COMET device was installed in an MBTI laboratory this July with much excitement from the MBTI team.

“Ultimately our hope is that a cure is discovered someday,” Mr. Hutchison said. “But we also support whatever can be done to make people’s lives better between now and then.”

For more information about supporting Malnati Brain Tumor Institute, please contact Terri Dillon at terri-dillon@northwestern.edu or 312-503-4837.



Dr. Amy Heimberger

A GIFT WITH WIDE IMPACT

“Biomedical research traditionally had to focus on a single gene or a single cell type. But such an approach is completely insufficient for cancer, as cancer is a disease of interactions among a diverse array of tumor and non-tumor cells. The Lunaphore COMET device, which we were able to purchase because of the Stephen M. Coffman Charitable Trust, allows our scientists to better characterize cellular interactions and to use that knowledge to develop therapeutics focused on reshaping those interactions.

The device allows us to simultaneously evaluate multiple markers, in a single tissue section, at single cell resolution. Extracting so much spatial information in such a small amount of tissue is especially important, since many diseases of the central nervous system can only be sampled with a small biopsy, and thus would not be studied otherwise. With this technology, Northwestern investigators will be able to greatly increase the impact of their projects, research papers, and grant proposals.”

— Amy Heimberger, MD, scientific director of the MBTI and the Jean Malnati Miller Professor of Brain Tumor Research in the Department of Neurological Surgery

THE H FOUNDATION CELEBRATES 20 YEARS FUELING CANCER RESEARCH



The H Foundation board at one of their first events 20 years ago. This year's record-breaking Goombay Bash held July 23 at Navy Pier's Aon Grand Ballroom raised more than \$1 million to support basic science cancer research at Lurie Cancer Center.

"The H Foundation is continuing to lead the way to a world without cancer.... Together we are making a difference in the fight against cancer."

—Cortney Frahm,
executive director of The H Foundation

For more than two decades, The H Foundation has donated crucial funding to the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University. Their support is specifically earmarked for basic science research—the fundamental laboratory studies that lead to new scientific knowledge and ultimately fuel ideas for better therapies for patients.

Founded by a group of friends in 2001 as a tribute to their friend Pam Herts, who lost her battle with breast cancer that February at the age of 31, The H Foundation has grown into a true fundraising powerhouse. In the last 20 years, the foundation has raised more than \$11 million for Lurie Cancer Center through its annual Goombay Bash and other events.



Pam Herts

"Since our founding in 2001, a wonderful community has celebrated and supported The H Foundation and our annual Goombay Bash," shared John Rot, one of the foundation's founders. "This grassroots spirit has underscored the message that 'Cancer is Personal,' affecting real people—families, friends, and neighbors. We, at The H Foundation, are united by the common goal to make a difference in the fight against cancer. We commit our time and resources because cancer is personal to each of us."

Staying true to the foundation's focus on basic science research, Lurie Cancer Center has used much of its support to provide seed funding to investigators pursuing new ideas in their labs. With this financing, the scientists are able to gather the preliminary data they need to obtain bigger grants from agencies like the National Institutes of Health (NIH). In fact, Lurie Cancer Center members have been able to leverage the H Foundation's \$11 million into more than \$150 million in private and government grants.

"We are incredibly grateful to The H Foundation for more than 20 years of remarkable support and all that it has made possible," said Leonidas C. Platanias, MD, PhD, director of Lurie Cancer Center and the Jesse, Sara, Andrew, Abigail, Benjamin and Elizabeth Lurie Professor of Oncology. "We need high-quality basic science research to develop the next breakthroughs in cancer care. The H Foundation's investment in this essential stage of research has funded important studies on the mechanisms of cancer growth and approaches to stop it, which our scientists are building on to improve treatment options for our patients."

Navdeep Chandel, PhD, was one of the first scientists at Lurie Cancer Center to receive support from The H Foundation. He studies an emerging area of biomedical research known as cancer metabolism, the process in which cancer cells make energy to grow and spread. Thanks to seed funding from The H Foundation, Dr. Chandel was able to successfully compete for NIH grants and purchase equipment to launch Lurie Cancer Center's Metabolomics Core, which enables scientists across Feinberg School of Medicine to get involved in this type of research.



Dr. Navdeep Chandel

"Many efforts have been made to target metabolic enzymes as potential liabilities for many cancers. The H Foundation has provided critical support to expand our efforts and train new generations of scientists in this exciting field," said Dr. Chandel, who today serves as the David W. Cugell, MD, Professor of Medicine and Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics.

Over the years, Lurie Cancer Center has also used gifts from The H Foundation to offer symposiums, conferences, and other educational programs to its scientists.

"The H Foundation is continuing to lead the way to a world without cancer," said Cortney Frahm, the foundation's executive director. "We've had an ambitious goal to raise \$1 million in 2022, funding basic science cancer research. With the help of our many supporters, we can provide the top minds in cancer research with the funding to pursue new ideas and compete for grants that lead to millions of dollars from additional private funding. Together we are making a difference in the fight against cancer."

For more information about supporting Lurie Cancer Center, please contact [Nicole Langert](mailto:nicole.langert@northwestern.edu) at nicole.langert@northwestern.edu or 312-503-1656.

Bradbury Partners with Northwestern to Fight LGBTQ Health Disparities



Louis Bradbury

“Everyone should be concerned about LGBTQ health, whether you are a member of this community, know somebody who is, or are an ally.”

— Louis Bradbury

Since the late 1980s, Louis A. Bradbury has advocated for the fundamental human right to health, serving on boards and advisory councils for Gay Men’s Health Crisis, Planned Parenthood of New York, and Save the Children. While much has changed in the last 30 years — especially progress made in the HIV/AIDS epidemic — this work is far from over.

“We can prevent and treat AIDS and HIV, but they have not gone away,” said Mr. Bradbury, a Class of 1968 alumnus of Northwestern’s Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences who worked in law and finance before retiring. “HIV continues to be an issue here in the United States, particularly for minority groups who lack information or access to affordable medication. The LGBTQ community also faces a host of other healthcare issues that we need to do something about.”

With this reality in mind, Mr. Bradbury has chosen to support Northwestern’s Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Wellbeing (ISGMH). Founded in 2015 — the same year the US Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage in all 50 states — ISGMH was the first university-wide institute in the country focused exclusively on research to improve the health of the sexual and gender minority population.

ISGMH faculty and trainees are studying questions like: How does discrimination affect healthcare and outcomes? How can clinicians and public health programs better address health inequities in the LGBTQ community using new technology? How can medical schools encourage more LGBTQ people to consider careers in science and medicine, and to participate in research?



Dr. Brian Mustanski,
director of ISGMH

“Dismantling health disparities is the next frontier for the sexual and gender minority community,” said Brian Mustanski, PhD, founding director of ISGMH and professor of Medical Social Sciences and Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Feinberg. “The support of passionate donors, like Mr. Bradbury, gives our institute vital resources for pilot projects, training programs, and interdisciplinary collaboration.”



Dr. Jagadīśa-devaśrī Dācus,
associate director of ISGMH

RESEARCH IN ACTION

- ❖ ISGMH investigators created a **novel online HIV prevention program** and showed that it can reduce sexually transmitted infections in gay young men by 40 percent. The team is now working to scale the program in community-based clinics across the US.
- ❖ Transgender and gender-diverse people have **higher rates of heart disease** linked to the stress of experiencing discrimination — including transphobia, violence, and public policies specifically targeting this population—according to an analysis of research led by the American Heart Association and ISGMH faculty.
- ❖ Projects focused on the LGBTQ population can have a broad impact, even beyond this communication. ISGMH scientists recently helped develop a novel at-home test to determine whether patients have immunity to the COVID-19 virus. They **adapted technology** used to study at-home tests for HIV and sexually transmitted infection for young gay and bisexual men.

An important aspect of the team’s work is translating their findings into practical interventions and policies that can be carried out across the country. ISGMH founded and hosts the National LGBTQ Health Conference, which brings together scientists, public health professionals, and healthcare providers to discuss issues affecting the health and well-being of the LGBTQ community. Mr. Bradbury’s philanthropy supports the conference, which he attended this July. The event opened with welcome remarks from Admiral Rachel Levine, MD, assistant secretary for health for the US Department of Health and Human Services and the highest-ranking transgender person in US history.

“Everyone should be concerned about LGBTQ health, whether you are a member of this community, know somebody who is, or are an ally,” said Mr. Bradbury. “This research and the exchange of ideas at the conference help men, women, people of color. We all share the same DNA after all.”

For more information about supporting the Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Wellbeing, please contact **Larry Kuhn** at **312-503-1717** or **larry-kuhn@northwestern.edu**.



Donors Contribute to a Decade of Innovation in Public Health

At many universities, public health research and education are largely conducted in a separate school of public health. At Feinberg, the approach is not isolation, but integration.

Within Feinberg’s Institute for Public Health and Medicine (IPHAM), investigators spanning 50 Northwestern University departments are working together — and partnering with public agencies, community- and faith-based organizations, employers, health payers, and healthcare delivery systems to impact the health of diverse individuals and populations.

“Philanthropists, too, are vital partners in our work,” said Ronald Ackermann, MD, MPH, director of IPHAM and the James Roscoe Miller Professor of Medicine. “Compassionate donors provide us with much needed funding to develop, test, and scale new ways to address the obstacles to health facing all kinds of populations — and to train students and fellows to take on these challenges in the future.”

Since its launch in 2012, IPHAM has expanded from 9 to 16 centers that focus on traditional public health specialties like epidemiology and health policy, as well as more unconventional areas like engineering and bioethics. On IPHAM’s 10th anniversary, donors shared why they support the far-reaching public health efforts at Northwestern.

“Perigee Fund has partnered with Northwestern’s Mothers and Babies program in the Center for Community Health because of the importance of meeting birthing people with risk factors for postpartum depression with prevention. The program’s model is compelling because it is designed for families affected by poverty, racism, and trauma, and because it can be delivered through both home-visiting programs and clinics. Among other aims, Perigee’s funding will help keep training resources and relationships fresh, effective, and accessible as demand for Mothers and Babies spreads in communities.”

— Becca Graves, executive director of Perigee Fund

“I donate to the Center for Patient-Centered Outcomes and the Department of Medical Social Sciences because I feel research is the foundation of the future of public health. Health is on everyone’s mind in this day and age, and research is where my heart is.”

— Jo Ann Paffenbarger

“We learned about Feinberg’s Center for Health Equity Transformation at the *Beauty is Me* event hosted by television actress, Yolonda Ross, and philanthropist, Rhonda Feinberg. The center is doing amazing work on behalf of women of color who are battling breast cancer. This initiative and the center’s broader mission to lift health for all people regardless of background represent principles we are thrilled to support.”

— Diana and John Raitt

“I support the Julia and David Uihlein Professor of Bioethics and Medical Humanities because humanism in medicine is of the utmost importance. Fiscal responsibility is essential, but when patients become ‘clients,’ we have lost one of the doctrines of medicine. The Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities uses literature, philosophy, history, social science, and the arts to help the field of medicine understand and respond to the complexities of human needs and values.”

— Julia Uihlein

Gratitude from Our Faculty and Students

“Dr. Arthur Reynolds’ generous donations helped launch our research investigating how to promote cardiovascular health in childhood. Based on the findings that he supported, we now know that heart disease begins much earlier in childhood than we would have thought. This understanding has prompted healthcare providers and public health officials to focus on helping parents and families live a more heart healthy lifestyle to reduce the burden of heart disease in our communities.”

— Norrina Allen, PhD, ’11 GME, director of the Center for Epidemiology & Population Health and the Quentin D. Young Professor of Health Policy

“I am grateful to have completed my medical degree and my master’s in public health at Northwestern. It has opened my mind to the world of medicine and helped me become the first physician in my family. I have had countless unique experiences with patients, faculty, and other students that will always stay with me, like being able to write and speak about inequalities and policy in mental health and healthcare systems. Like most medical students, I graduated with a significant load of student loan debt. However, medical alumna Dr. Betty Hahneman’s support significantly reduced these loans and the burden to my family. Her generosity has made it easier for me to focus on the service I want to provide and the communities I want to help.”

— Robert Tessier, ’21 MD, ’21 MPH, former Betty M. Hahneman, MD, MPH Scholar

Our Community in Action



On April 30, the medical school hosted donors at a special Commitment to Scholarships luncheon at the Ritz-Carlton, Chicago, where medical school students (*pictured*) and leadership celebrated and thanked these generous alumni and friends for their life-changing support to future clinicians. Today, Feinberg’s scholarship endowment is approximately \$235 million, with 67 percent of medical students receiving scholarship assistance thanks to thousands of donors who have made outright and estate gifts. The medical school hopes to someday provide full tuition support to all of its medical students, which will require quadrupling the current endowment.



On May 20, 230 friends and philanthropists celebrated and supported progress being made in brain tumor research and care at the Minds Matter Benefit. The annual event supports the Lou and Jean Malnati Brain Tumor Institute (MBTI) of the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. The 2022 fundraiser, held at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, raised nearly \$360,000 to help MBTI scientists and clinicians develop and deliver better treatments for patients affected by brain and spinal tumors.



Pictured top left: Dianne Risch and Joanie Bayhack, co-chairs of the MBTI Advisory Council. Middle: Cameron Batis with council members Laura Kofoid and David Ricci. Bottom left: Council Members Viviane and Bill Evanoff. Mr. Evanoff paid tribute to the late Darren Latimer, a leader and advocate for patients with brain tumors during the benefit.



On May 21, more than 400 people in the ALS community—including patients, friends, family, advocates, clinicians, and scientists—gathered in-person and virtually to support the Les Turner ALS Foundation and its mission to improve treatments and outcomes for ALS patients worldwide. Together, they contributed nearly \$550,000 at this year’s Hope Through Caring Gala, held at the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel, Chicago.

Pictured above: Anita Forté, a person living with ALS, and her family at the gala. Below: Andrea Pauls Backman, chief executive officer of the Les Turner ALS Foundation, and Lisa Wolfe, MD, ’95 ’98 GME, a pulmonologist at the Les Turner ALS Center’s Lois Insolia ALS Clinic and recipient of this year’s Hope Through Caring Award.



The new Associate Board of Lurie Cancer Center held a cocktail reception on July 14 at Woodwind restaurant in Chicago. Throughout the year, these dedicated young professionals raised \$115,000 to support cancer research at the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University. The event celebrated the recipient of the first Associate Board Innovative Research Award: Marcelo Bonini, PhD (*pictured center*), professor of Medicine in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, whose laboratory studies how changes in the electrochemical balance of the nucleus alter gene expression patterns and affect cancer growth.

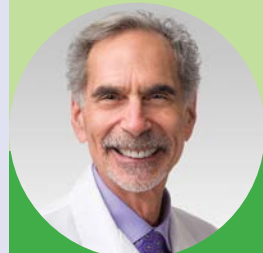


INNOVATION SPOTLIGHT

Empowering Feinberg's Unsung Heroes

Each day, our faculty, students, and trainees at Feinberg dedicate time to innovative new ideas and programs that will move the needle in medicine and science. Here, we spotlight some of the exciting work that often happens behind the scenes and beyond daily clinical care.

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



Dr. Robert Kushner

Tackling the American Obesity Epidemic

Obesity contributes to the development of the most common and serious medical problems, including diabetes, heart disease, and some cancers. **Robert Kushner, MD, '80 '82 GME**, professor of Medicine in the Division of Endocrinology, is working to develop safe and effective pharmacological treatments for obesity. Through a multi-site study with nearly 2,000 participants, Dr. Kushner and his collaborators found that a new anti-obesity medication, semaglutide, was almost twice as effective at helping individuals lose weight than many weight-loss drugs currently on the market. It was FDA approved in 2021. Dr. Kushner has authored a top-selling weight loss book, *Six Factors to Fit*, and received the Herbert Pardes Clinical Research Excellence Award from the Clinical Research Forum.



Dr. Eve Feinberg

Empowering Women in Medicine and Beyond

Eve Feinberg, MD, '04 GME, helps young women make informed and empowered decisions about fertility and family building to minimize the risk of age-related infertility, focusing on egg freezing as a means of fertility preservation. A strong advocate for the next generation of physicians, Dr. Feinberg hopes to help minimize the gender gap in the field of medicine and highlight how fertility and family-building influence career trajectory. As part of this work, she recently conducted a nationwide survey of women in medicine. Her ultimate goal is for women to have the ability to maintain a thriving career and build the family that they desire, without having to compromise either one. Dr. Feinberg is an associate professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility and the division's fellowship program director.

For more information about supporting the efforts above, contact **Kathleen Praznowski** at **312-503-0762** or **kathleen.praznowski@northwestern.edu**.

For more information about supporting the efforts above, contact **Jordan Sund** at **312-503-2706** or **jordan.sund@northwestern.edu**.



Dr. Huiping Liu

Making Strides Toward a Cancer-Free Future

Huiping Liu, MD, PhD, associate professor of Pharmacology and Medicine in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, is studying metastasis, the process through which cancer cells migrate from primary to secondary tumor sites. Because metastasis causes 90 percent of the mortality associated with solid tumors, Dr. Liu and her laboratory are focused on finding ways to control metastasis and eliminate the mortality associated with breast cancer and other cancers. Specifically, the team is using novel therapies to target cancer stem cells — a subpopulation of cancer cells that can be resistant to conventional therapies and escape from immune attacks — and to better understand how these cells play a role in cancer relapse and spread.



Dr. Patricia Garcia

Building a Curriculum for Future Healthcare Leaders

Patricia Garcia, MD, MPH, '91, '93 GME, associate dean for Curriculum, and her team in the Department of Medical Education, continue to expand the physical spaces and programs that make a Feinberg education extraordinary. They are building an anatomy lab of the future with medical imaging, ultrasound, and augmented reality technology, while preserving the humanity and emotion of working with donated bodies. The team is also developing robust interprofessional education with the understanding the medicine is the ultimate team sport — especially when treating patients with complex health problems and those who are traditionally underserved. Another priority is Feinberg's Education-Centered Medical Home, where students function as healthcare providers, patient navigators, and community health advocates at clinics across Chicagoland, including Federally Qualified Health Centers.

For more information about supporting the efforts above, contact **Andrew Christopherson** at **312-503-3080** or **andrew.christopherson@northwestern.edu**.

For more information about supporting the efforts above, contact **Larry Kuhn** at **312-503-1717** or **larry-kuhn@northwestern.edu**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

15th Annual Robert J. Havey, MD Institute for Global Health Benefit Dinner

September 21, The Peninsula Chicago
Info: **312-503-4635**, **jennifer.burke@northwestern.edu**

Les Turner ALS Foundation's 2022 ALS Walk for Life

September 24, Soldier Field
Info: **312-503-3080**, **andrew.christopherson@northwestern.edu**

7th Annual BrainUp 5K Run/Walk

September 24, Maggie Daley Park
Info: **312-503-0759**, **ashleymay@northwestern.edu**

Lynn Sage Foundation's In Good Taste: Wine & Dine to Support Breast Cancer Research

October, 200+ Participating Chicagoland Restaurants
Info: **312-503-1656**, **nicole.langert@northwestern.edu**

A Long Swim's Chicago River Swim to Support ALS Research

October 2, Ping Tom Memorial Park
Info: **312-503-2706**, **jordan.sund@northwestern.edu**

Washington, DC, Alumni and Donor Dinner

October 20, BLT Steak, Washington, DC
Info: **312-503-0855**, **babette.henderson@northwestern.edu**

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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