Investing in Our People: Changing Lives, Making a Difference

Donors who make gifts to Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and Northwestern Memorial Foundation are supporting the very heart of Northwestern Medicine—our people. By investing in our talented physicians, nurses, scientists, medical students, fellowship trainees and other devoted health professionals, you are changing lives and shaping the trajectory of Northwestern Medicine. In this issue, we feature supporters who believe that the greatest impact can be gained by supporting the people who ultimately make a difference in the lives of patients and families, here and across the globe. Donor generosity takes action through the patient care efforts, breakthrough research and innovative medical education and training programs led by Northwestern Medicine’s finest. We are proud to share just a few examples of that generosity in action here.
Magnanimous Gift from the Polsky Family Creates a Urologic Cancer Institute to Transform How Urologic Cancers are Treated in Chicago and Worldwide

Northwestern Medicine received a $10 million gift to fund the creation of a new multidisciplinary institute dedicated to treating urologic cancers, including prostate, bladder, kidney and testicular cancers. The Polsky Urologic Cancer Institute of the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University at Northwestern Memorial Hospital (Polsky Urologic Cancer Institute) was made possible by the philanthropy of longtime friends to Northwestern Medicine, clean energy entrepreneur Michael Polsky, founder & CEO of Invenergy, and Tanya Polsky, philanthropist and former finance executive, and their children.

“[This gift to create a Urologic Cancer Institute at Northwestern Medicine] symbolizes my family’s commitment to help others facing cancer come out on the winning side—and to ultimately eradicate the disease. With this gift, we support Northwestern Medicine’s vision to be the world’s leader in diagnosing, advancing research breakthroughs and creating revolutionary treatments for urological cancers,” —Michael Polsky

Led by Edward “Ted” Schaeffer, MD, chair of Urology at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and Edmund Andrews Professor of Urology at Feinberg, the institute will provide personalized, integrated and innovative care to individuals with urologic cancers through a disease-centric program of research, education and discovery. “We are extremely excited to partner with the Polsky family in forming this institute to transform how we treat urologic cancers in Chicago and worldwide. We believe that a patient-centric program that inspires leading-edge research will transform our field,” said Dr. Schaeffer. “The Polsky Urologic Cancer Institute will become a multidisciplinary access point for cancer treatments including surgery, chemo-, radio- and immunotherapy as well as a resource for genetic counseling, nutritional guidance and lifestyle management.”

The Polsky Urologic Cancer Institute will expand its current location in Northwestern Memorial Hospital’s Galter Pavilion, providing patients with streamlined access to specialized treatment, new technologies and one-of-a-kind support programs. The institute brings together a multidisciplinary team of renowned physicians and scientists to leverage their expertise-driving breakthroughs in treatment and acceleration of new discoveries. Patients now have access to some of the country’s leading urologic cancer specialists and a wide range of services—in one central location.

Northwestern Medicine Urology has been the top urology program in Illinois in U.S. News & World Report rankings for 21 straight years and is second in National Institutes of Health (NIH) Urology program funding. The Northwestern Medicine Urology Program at Northwestern Memorial Hospital prides itself on its service to patients. The Department of Urology at the medical school has a longstanding tradition of providing state-of-the-art, multidisciplinary approaches to the evaluation and management of urologic cancers with recognized specialists in each branch of cancer care.

At the Polsky Urologic Cancer Institute, our physicians adopt the personalized, multidisciplinary approach to care that flourishes at Northwestern Medicine, and our scientists are committed to driving transformative new insights and successes in urologic cancer research, education and discovery. It is our goal to give patients the best chance of overcoming urologic cancer and future generations the hope of never developing it.

The National Cancer Institute estimates that over 165,000 new cases of prostate cancer and 81,000 new cases of bladder cancer are diagnosed annually. Men have more than a 15 percent chance of developing a urologic cancer in their lifetime and, in total, urologic cancers result in more than 10 percent of all cancer deaths.

To learn more, contact Dave Sack at dsack@nm.org.
Growing up in the Chicago area in a family of modest means, Ronald Chez vowed that if he ever had the good fortune to help others, he would. So, after launching a successful financial consulting firm in 1979, he created the Chez Family Foundation to give back and make a difference in people’s lives.

In 2018, Mr. Chez and his partner, Ms. Athena Marks, who founded a Spanish language media company, established the Chez Family Professorship in Myeloma Research at the medical school. Inaugural holders of this prestigious professorship, Jayesh Mehta, MD, and Seema Singhal, MD, serve as the Chez Family Professors of Myeloma Research. Endowed chairs enable leading universities to recruit and retain accomplished leaders in medicine and science to direct high-impact programs. “Northwestern should be enormously proud of their people, like Drs. Mehta and Singhal. I invested in this professorship with the same criteria I use for investing in companies—they are the absolute best people to invest in,” said Mr. Chez.

Renowned Leaders in the Field of Myeloma Care and Study
Myeloma is a hematologic cancer that can lead to anemia, bone damage and kidney failure, and is challenging to treat. Drs. Mehta and Singhal have devoted their careers to helping patients live with myeloma by developing new treatments and improving care. Dr. Singhal directs Northwestern’s Multiple Myeloma Program, and Dr. Mehta leads the Northwestern Stem Cell Transplantation and Cell Therapy Program. Before joining the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University and the Division of Hematology and Oncology at Feinberg in 2000, this married couple was part of the small team at the University of Arkansas that serendipitously discovered the activity of thalidomide—which became the first new therapy for myeloma in three decades. They were also the first to use lenalidomide—the biggest-selling cancer drug in the world with multiple applications.

Drs. Mehta and Singhal have helped develop several other new myeloma therapies through clinical trials at Northwestern. During their tenure, the myeloma and stem cell transplant programs have grown to be among the nation’s largest, caring for some 4,000 patients with myeloma, amyloidosis and other plasma cell disorders.

“We are in a great position to make significant contributions to myeloma research because of our access to patients, colleagues and potential collaborators in this great university, and because of the generosity of supporters like Ron and Athena,” said Dr. Singhal. “We hope to continue providing exceptional clinical care for myeloma patients and that our efforts will be a worthy contribution to Northwestern and the myeloma community.”

Because of the Chez Professorship and other philanthropic support, Drs. Mehta and Singhal now have the resources to further accelerate groundbreaking work to transform myeloma care.

Steadfast Supporters of Education, Health Care and Our Veterans
In Chicago and Illinois, Mr. Chez and Ms. Marks have funded a number of initiatives over the years, with a particular focus on education, health care and veterans’ services.

In the 1990s, Mr. Chez helped start the Chicago Youth Success Foundation, which provided funding to Chicago Public Schools for extracurricular activities that broaden students’ school experiences. In 2008, he created the Chez Family Scholarship Program to provide funding for deserving, financially-disadvantaged Chicago public high school students to attend the University of Illinois, his alma mater. Over 90 students have participated in the program, and they have achieved a significantly higher graduation rate than the general student population.

After learning of the tremendous challenges confronting wounded veterans to receive a college education, Mr. Chez partnered once again with the University of Illinois to build the Chez Center for Wounded Veterans in Higher Education. In addition to providing 14 state-of-the-art living suites for veterans who are the most severely disabled, the Chez Center provides a myriad of services, including counseling, academic coaching and rehabilitative help. It has become a model for other programs to emulate.

Now at the medical school, the extraordinary commitment of Mr. Chez and Ms. Marks to “paying it forward” has resulted in the creation of an endowed professorship to advance the care of patients with multiple myeloma.

“I am confident that with the proper funding, Drs. Mehta and Singhal will not only find better ways to manage this disease but will ultimately discover a cure,” said Mr. Chez, when asked why he chose to fund the chair.

To learn more, contact Terri Dillon at terri-dillon@northwestern.edu.
Les Turner Professorship Elevates ALS Leadership and Research

During the past 40 years, the Les Turner ALS Foundation has fostered an extraordinary partnership with Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine by generously contributing more than $27 million toward research, care and education focused on amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). In the 1980s, the foundation embarked on an enduring relationship with Joan and Paul Rubschlager, avid supporters of the organization following the death of Paul’s father to the devastating neurodegenerative condition. In 2014, the foundation established the Les Turner ALS Center at Northwestern Medicine in perpetuity followed by a cornerstone gift of $2 million from the Rubschlagers, founders of the Rubschlager Baking Company in Chicago.

The couple’s generosity was instrumental in creating the Les Turner Professorship at Feinberg to accelerate ALS discoveries and to recruit an inaugural center director. As high-profile, celebrated positions, endowed professorships allow Northwestern and other top-tier academic institutions to further strengthen their ability to conduct high-impact, high-return research to find answers to challenging diseases such as ALS.

Robert G. Kalb, MD, chief of Neuromuscular Disease in the Department of Neurology, is the inaugural holder of the Les Turner Professorship as well as the first director of the Les Turner ALS Center. “The recruitment of Dr. Kalb clearly fulfills and propels our shared legacy forward,” said Andrea Pauls Backman, chief executive officer of the Les Turner ALS Foundation. “There is no doubt he shares our vision and, most importantly, our passion. He genuinely cares about each person living with ALS. We believe that naming Dr. Kalb as the Les Turner Professor cements the legacy of the foundation and its position in the global ALS community. We are exceedingly honored to partner with him on our collective mission.”

This distinguished professorship is notably one of two at Feinberg made possible through the philanthropy of the Les Turner ALS Foundation. Teepu Siddique, MD, renowned neuromuscular medicine clinician-scientist and professor of Neurology and of Cell and Molecular Biology at Feinberg, currently holds the Les Turner ALS Foundation/Herbert C. Wenske Foundation Professorship, established in 2005.

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“Working together we can achieve what we all so desperately want—a cure for ALS.”

—Dr. Robert G. Kalb

“Our accomplishments thus far at Northwestern would not have been possible without the Les Turner ALS Foundation,” said Dr. Kalb. “We are optimistic that we are on the verge of therapies that will bend the arc of disease, and the foundation has played a huge role in getting us here.”

The Les Turner ALS Center at Northwestern Medicine uniquely provides a multidisciplinary clinical setting to influence discoveries in the laboratory. Center clinicians work closely with the Les Turner ALS Foundation’s Support Services Team to provide expert, individualized support to hundreds of families living with ALS in the Chicagoland area. Scientists and patient care providers closely work together to develop therapies that touch patients’ lives as quickly as possible. Finding the right clinical and research leader was paramount.

“By creating an endowed professorship for the center director, we wanted to ensure—now and in the future—the ability to recruit and retain the top echelon of talent for this critically important leadership role,” said Ms. Pauls Backman. Privileged to lead the center during exciting times in ALS research, Dr. Kalb predicts that effective new therapies will be available in the next five years. “Science is risky, and we are going to fail many more times than we succeed, but I ask you all to have faith,” he said. “Working together we can achieve what we all so desperately want—a cure for ALS.”

To learn more, contact Lauren Pedi at lauren.pedi@northwestern.edu.
Years of Giving Builds a Legacy to Last a Lifetime

Since 1972, The Davee Foundation has supported Northwestern Memorial Hospital with gifts totaling $14.1 million and, notably, named Northwestern Memorial’s Ruth D. and Ken M. Davee Emergency Department (ED). Thanks to The Davee Foundation’s partnership, Northwestern Memorial has solved problems that affect not only our patients but that also affects the patients of many EDs around the county. Some examples include the Geriatric Emergency Department Initiative program, improved discharge instructions and software that tracks patient bed availability in real time. The foundation’s latest $5 million gift supports The Davee Innovation Fund in Emergency Medicine and fully endows The Davee Foundation Distinguished Physician in Emergency Medicine.

The Davee Foundation Distinguished Physician in Emergency Medicine Award recognizes a physician who provides leadership in advancing patient-centered care. The first awardee is Sanjeev Malik, MD, whose leadership in developing and implementing innovations in emergency care delivery has brought significant benefits to patients.

Dr. Malik has been a leader in the ED for 10 years, currently serving as the vice chair of Operations after previous work as both medical director and assistant medical director. In 2007, he completed his emergency medicine residency at Northwestern and remained as a physician and faculty member.

“During his years of service, Dr. Malik has worked tirelessly to address the rising numbers of patients with increasing complexity of illness,” Dr. Adams said. “He was the key operational leader in the implementation of the Geriatric Emergency Department Innovations program that was funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid and has become a national model for supportive interventions for elders in the ED. The geriatric program has decreased avoidable admissions by 35 percent and improved patient and caregiver satisfaction, as underlying needs are better recognized and addressed.”

Dr. Malik spearheaded critical operational improvements in recent years that have increased satisfaction, decreased waiting time and reduced patients who leave without being seen by 66 percent. Using detailed operational data, Dr. Malik and his team are augmenting radiology capacity, moving psychiatric services to the mezzanine and repurposing first floor space to serve as an expedited pathway for patients of moderate severity. Patient satisfaction has increased significantly. Further, he is training residents and junior attending physicians in the tools and techniques to improve patient service.

“It’s an honor and a privilege to be the Davee Distinguished Physician,” said Dr. Malik. “With the support of The Davee Foundation, we have been able to foster innovations in emergency medicine to enhance the patient experience and adapt to the ever-changing landscape of emergency care.”

Beyond the creation of the Davee Distinguished Physician in Emergency Medicine Award, the end result is quite significant: Countless individuals will receive greatly improved emergency care, as they benefit from the best and brightest national leaders in the medical and research fields.

“In numerous ways, the continued partnership of The Davee Foundation has helped to ensure that patients who come to Northwestern Memorial from across the nation—and even from international locales—receive the very finest care in our Emergency Department,” said Dr. Adams. “The legacy of Mr. and Mrs. Davee’s philanthropy and their pioneering spirit will be felt by patients today and for decades to come.”

To learn more, contact Catherine Wierz at catherine.wierz@nm.org.

Founded in 1964, The Davee Foundation will soon conclude operations, making this the final gift in support of Northwestern Memorial. Endowing the Distinguished Physician in Emergency Medicine pays fitting tribute to the close relationship Mrs. Ruth Davee shared with James G. Adams, MD, chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Northwestern Memorial and professor of Emergency Medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. Since 2003, The Davee Foundation has supported Dr. Adams and the staff of Northwestern Memorial’s ED in designing and implementing initiatives that provide sustainable change, directly benefit patients and improve the ED patient experience. Due to this successful partnership, the ED staff has made tremendous strides in improving the quality of both communication and patient care, thus, creating an increasingly patient-centered environment.

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—James G. Adams, MD
Honoring a Visionary Leader with a Well-Deserved Award

Philanthropy plays an essential role in Northwestern Medicine’s efforts to develop, support and recognize its dedicated medical and research staff members. Recently, the generosity of more than 100 donors has facilitated the creation of the Northwestern Medicine Distinguished Physician in Vascular Neurology Award, which pays tribute to the extraordinary talent, commitment and leadership of Richard A. Bernstein, MD, PhD, clinical director of Northwestern Medicine’s Telehealth Program and a professor in the Ken and Ruth Davee Department of Neurology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. Philanthropic contributions to the Distinguished Physician in Vascular Neurology Award are making it possible for Dr. Bernstein to further advance his vital research and to continue to deliver outstanding, leading-edge stroke care.

To date, donors to this prestigious award have contributed nearly $1.5 million. This fundraising success has occurred, and continues today, through a philanthropic campaign chaired by Daniel S. Jones, a family member of one of Dr. Bernstein’s grateful patients.

“Thank you to all my patients for your trust in me, and thank you to everyone who has made this award possible. You all give my daily work, and my whole career, such meaning.”

—Richard Bernstein, MD

Mr. Jones remarked, “Through the Distinguished Physician in Vascular Neurology Award, we want to celebrate the career and the many successes of Dr. Bernstein, and we want to establish a means of honoring future leaders in vascular neurology, for years and years to come. Because this is an endowed award, it will live in perpetuity. It will be a lasting tribute to Dr. Bernstein, and it will help to facilitate new discoveries and achievements that will help countless people.”

A 17-year member of Northwestern’s medical faculty and an influential leader at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Dr. Bernstein is highly regarded as an exceptional physician-scientist and as an innovator in the realm of stroke care. Notably, Dr. Bernstein facilitated the creation of the Telestroke program at Northwestern Medicine. Through Telestroke, patients exhibiting stroke symptoms at Northwestern Memorial’s affiliate hospitals receive instant access to world-class neurology specialists downtown, via a state-of-the-art, two-way computer monitor that digitally connects the patient, physicians and nurses.

“Every day, I want to do everything I can to provide the most personalized, most effective treatment to patients who have experienced a stroke, and I am deeply committed to helping to shape the future of stroke care,” said Dr. Bernstein. “I am truly grateful for the support of so many people who have helped to make this Distinguished Physician Award possible. Thanks to such remarkable generosity, my colleagues and I will be able to ensure that every person affected by stroke receives the very finest care at Northwestern Medicine, now and in the future.”

Recent, thoughtful philanthropy enabled Dr. Bernstein to bring RAPID brain imaging technology—the world’s most advanced visualization software for the brain—to Northwestern Memorial and its Telestroke partner hospitals. When a patient experiencing symptoms of a stroke arrives at the Emergency Department, RAPID analyzes data, in less than two minutes, from the patient’s CT scan or MRI, providing results that can be viewed on any computer screen or handheld device. This information enables neurologists to evaluate the amount of brain tissue that has been irreversibly damaged and to determine the amount of tissue that likely can be saved if blood flow is quickly restored to the brain.

Dr. Bernstein’s leadership and vision, as well as his and his colleagues’ commitment to excellence, have elevated Northwestern Memorial’s Stroke Program to No. 1 in Chicago in every quality measure related to stroke. In addition, the program is ranked No. 2 in the nation for stroke survival and is recognized as one of only 100 national Joint Commission and American Heart Association/American Stroke Association-certified Comprehensive Stroke Centers.

Reflecting on the significance of a Distinguished Physician Award—which is designed to shine much-deserved light on physicians who realize the highest standards as leaders, patient care advocates, clinical investigators and medical educators—Dr. Bernstein remarked, “Thank you to all my patients for your trust in me, and thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Distinguished Physician in Vascular Neurology Award for stroke care. You all give my daily work, and my whole career, such meaning.”

Gifts in support of the Distinguished Physician in Vascular Neurology Award are enabling Dr. Bernstein to:

- Continue to provide expert care for patients with complex cerebrovascular problems
- Focus on research regarding stroke of unknown cause and on cardiac conditions such as atrial fibrillation, a leading cause of major stroke
- Increase Northwestern’s stroke clinical trial offerings
- Expand Northwestern Medicine’s Telestroke network

To learn more, contact Leslie Post-Weissinger at lpostwei@nm.org.
Musculoskeletal conditions represent the No. 1 reason for visits to the doctor and are among the most common of human afflictions, affecting people from all age, racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups. In fact, approximately one-third of all adults in the United States are currently living with musculoskeletal signs or symptoms, including limitations of motion and pain in the joints, hands, feet and other extremities.

Orthopaedic Fellowship Targets the Most Common of Human Afflictions

A recent gift from the Sacks Family Foundation is sure to improve mobility and quality of life for orthopaedic patients at Northwestern Medicine and beyond. The gift supports the first Foot and Ankle Fellowship, under the directorship of Anish Kadakia, MD, in the Northwestern Medicine Center for Comprehensive Orthopaedic and Spine Care. Having benefited from Dr. Kadakia’s care, skill and empathy, Cari and Michael Sacks feel that Dr. Kadakia is poised to make many further contributions to the field of Orthopaedics, both today and for years to come. So they chose to express their gratitude by supporting Dr. Kadakia’s clinical and research endeavors. Through this fellowship, the family’s generosity will benefit not only people they love, but also many people they will never know—our patients and their families.

To ensure that Northwestern Medicine continues to recruit and develop exceptional specialists in foot and ankle care, Dr. Kadakia’s competitive fellowship program strives to recruit outstanding national, as well as international, candidates to learn and work at Northwestern. These operative fellows train under the tutelage of Dr. Kadakia, conducting crucial research that potentially could accelerate the development of novel approaches to musculoskeletal care. Musculoskeletal conditions represent the No. 1 reason for visits to the doctor and are among the most common of human afflictions, affecting people from all age, racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups. In fact, approximately one-third of all adults in the United States are currently living with musculoskeletal signs or symptoms, including limitations of motion and pain in the joints, hands, feet and other extremities.

Dr. Kadakia is dedicated to alleviating this type of pain and discomfort, and to reducing the prevalence of musculoskeletal conditions. Therefore, in addition to ensuring that he provides the very finest, most contemporary treatment for foot and ankle injuries, Dr. Kadakia strives to advance the overall quality and effectiveness of orthopaedic care as a whole. Through front-line research pursuits, a passion for medical education and clinical excellence, Dr. Kadakia continues to establish himself as a leader in the field of Orthopaedics and as a trusted, compassionate advocate for his patients.

“My goal is to make Northwestern Medicine the nation’s leading training and teaching site—and, most importantly, the premier treatment center—for conditions of the foot and ankle,” said Dr. Kadakia. “I am very grateful for the visionary support from the Sacks Family Foundation. Their generosity will help train tomorrow’s surgeons to provide the best care. With sports injuries and an aging population, the number of these cases continues to rise, so it is our responsibility to reinforce the pipeline of specialists trained to provide the best care to patients when they need us.”

Exemplifying this mission of multi-faceted and personalized care, Northwestern Medicine’s Center for Comprehensive Orthopaedic and Spine Care, located in the Lavin Family Pavilion on the Streeterville campus in Chicago, serves patients affected by an array of musculoskeletal disorders. Within the Center, patients may seek treatment for mobility and performance issues in areas such as foot and ankle (Dr. Kadakia’s area of expertise), hand, joints, shoulder and elbow, spine, trauma and sports medicine.

To learn more, contact Suzanne Skala at suzanne.skala@nm.org.
Great academic medical centers distinguish themselves by ensuring a vital pipeline of specialists who are trained through rigorous fellowships. Fellows are physicians who have completed residencies and who go on to continue intensive training to become the next generation of specialists and experts. Together, faculty members and the fellows under their mentorship and guidance can significantly contribute to advancing patient care through their collective clinical care and research efforts.

For more than a decade, Irene D. Pritzker and her IDP Foundation, Inc. (IDPF), have supported a broad array of Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine programs and initiatives, from cancer and cardiovascular conditions to Parkinson's disease and neuro-gastroenterology. Always investing for impact, IDPF recently made a generous gift to create and permanently endow the first Cornea, Cataract & Refractive Surgery Research Fellowship fund in the Department of Ophthalmology under the leadership of Surendra Basti, MD, '03 GME, professor of Ophthalmology and director of the Cataract Service. A renowned national and international expert, Dr. Basti has long impressed Ms. Pritzker as her personal physician. Dr. Basti's passion for conducting leading-edge research to enhance visual outcomes, and Ms. Pritzker's ability through the foundation to provide catalytic support for complex global problems—including health care—led to the establishment of the fellowship.

“The idea of losing your sight is horrific,” said Ms. Pritzker, who has a family history of eye disease. “Knowing that research advancements can help prevent blindness or severely impaired vision from ever occurring is a massive impetus for me to support the ongoing work of Dr. Basti and others at Northwestern.”

Northwestern’s highly competitive fellowship programs are supported by the McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University and reflect the full spectrum of medical and surgical disciplines.

Restoring Vision and Preventing Blindness

Poor vision due to cataracts—a clouding of the eye’s natural lens—impacts 35 million individuals worldwide. Caused by damage or disease, corneal blindness affects 10 million people around the globe. Fortunately, ongoing advancements in surgical techniques and technology continue to improve outcomes for these widespread eye disorders. In high-resource countries, such as the United States, eye specialists perform some 3 million cataract surgeries annually, making the procedure one of the most commonly performed surgical procedures in the nation.

“When it comes to eye surgery, we are continually trying to up our game,” said Dr. Basti. “Through research, we can better understand the nuances of treating eye problems and enhancing the accuracy of surgical procedures.” Specializing in routine and complex cataract surgery, corneal transplant and refractive surgery in adults and children, Dr. Basti focuses his clinical research on innovating and advancing surgical methods. In the area of corneal transplantation, for example, he has focused on refining transplant procedures that more selectively address specific layers of the cornea. By reaching this level of sophistication, Dr. Basti hopes to improve upon these complex, yet sight-saving procedures, by reducing the risk of rejection and other complications of using donor organs. To enhance cataract surgery outcomes, he is using his research insights and expertise to advance innovations such as the femtosecond laser and the Zepto Capsulotomy System. Recently introduced into clinical practice, both are new devices that help boost surgical efficiency and precision.

Cultivating Future Research Scientists in Ophthalmology

With the establishment of the new fellowship, the Department of Ophthalmology now has the means to recruit up-and-coming physician-scientists and provide them with highly specialized clinical experiences and intensive research training. “This remarkable philanthropy of the IDP Foundation will provide foundational support to launch the career of an ophthalmologist specifically interested in doing translational research in corneal disease and surgery,” said Nicholas J. Volpe, MD, chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and George W. and Edwina S. Tarry Professor of Ophthalmology.

In this one-year Cornea, Cataract & Refractive Surgery Research Fellowship, the IDP Foundation Research Scientist will actively participate in studies, from preparing protocols and applying for necessary Internal Review Board approval to recruiting participants and publishing papers. The fellow will bring a critical translational research component to this academic department to accelerate the process of taking basic science discoveries to the clinical setting.

“Rarely do young academic ophthalmologists have access to such backing,” said Dr. Volpe. “This fellowship will enhance and amplify the research of Dr. Basti and colleagues, and we are most grateful to the IDP Foundation for this high-impact support.”

To learn more, contact Terri Dillon at terri-dillon@northwestern.edu.
Becoming a physician qualified to treat women with gynecologic cancers requires significant training: four years of medical school, four years of residency in obstetrics and gynecology and then a fellowship for subspecialty training in gynecologic oncology. The fellowship is not only an opportunity to train physicians how to implement the highest standards of care for women with cancer, but also an opportunity to instill best practices in research, so fellows can go on to identify future screening tools and treatments to save more lives.

The field of gynecologic oncology—focusing on any cancer that starts in a woman’s reproductive organs, including cervical, ovarian, uterine, vaginal and vulvar cancer—has advanced greatly, but new discoveries are needed for the thousands of women who suffer from these diseases every year.

A 40-Year Legacy at Northwestern
Since joining Northwestern’s faculty in July 1979, Dr. Lurain, has seen his institution and his field evolve for the better.

“The medical school’s faculty was small back then, but it had made a commitment early on to women’s health,” Dr. Lurain recalled. “There weren’t many cancer patients here at the time, but I saw opportunity for growth and a chance to build on something.”

This vision came to fruition: Today, Northwestern Memorial Hospital is nationally ranked No. 12 for cancer and No. 13 for gynecology by U.S. News & World Report.

Meanwhile, gynecologic oncology has introduced new treatment options thanks to new understandings of disease processes and new techniques for surgery, radiation and chemotherapy, leading to better outcomes for patients. Dr. Lurain has witnessed life expectancy for women with advanced-stage ovarian cancer increase from one year to five years, for example. “The patients not only survive longer, they survive better,” he said.

Among his patients, colleagues and trainees, Dr. Lurain is known for providing superb clinical care, research, teaching and mentoring. While working as a nurse in Labor and Delivery at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Donna Rosin noticed that Dr. Lurain was always called when emergencies presented in the operating room. “Like a superhero, Dr. Lurain would arrive, take charge and save lives,” said Ms. Rosin. When diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2010, she knew who to choose as her gynecologic oncologist.

An Outstanding Fellowship Program
Shortly after finishing a tenure as Northwestern’s chief of Gynecologic Oncology—a role he held from 1985 to 2004—Dr. Lurain became founding director of the division’s prestigious fellowship program, the first of its kind in Illinois. The fellowship begins with one year devoted to performing original research at the Lurie Cancer Center. The final two years focus on clinical training within the Gynecologic Oncology service at Northwestern Prentice Women’s Hospital and John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County, as well as rotations in pathology, radiation oncology, palliative care and surgical critical care.

“We hope that these fellows will go on to be the future leaders in our specialty, providing excellent patient care, teaching and scholarly activity,” said Dr. Lurain, who plans to retire in September 2020. “Educating young people is what I have enjoyed most over the last 40 years. These are the people that are going to take over for me.”

It’s fitting, then, that an endowed fellowship will carry his name and mark his legacy in perpetuity.

“As a nurse and a patient, I have seen Dr. Lurain teach and mentor medical students, residents, fellows and attending physicians. He has a dedicated passion for sharing his knowledge in the clinic and operating room.”

—Donna Rosin

With the momentum of gifts from a number of generous donors, the medical school has launched an effort to create and fully endow the Dr. John Lurain Endowed Fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology. This $1.25 million fundraising effort will provide crucial support needed to train generations of experts in women’s cancers through the Division of Gynecologic Oncology’s existing three-year fellowship program. Importantly, this fellowship will honor the extraordinary contributions of John Lurain, MD, who serves with distinction as the Marcia Stenn Professor of Gynecologic Oncology.
At Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, ramping up our efforts to provide scholarship support has become a necessity. We must stay competitive in our recruitment of the best and brightest students against other top medical institutions nationally that are already providing full tuition support.

“Our ambitious vision of becoming a tuition-free medical school and the top choice for the most gifted and promising students is a priority for us,” said Eric G. Neilson, MD, vice president for Medical Affairs and Lewis Landsberg Dean of Feinberg. “Reaching an $800 million scholarship endowment may seem like a towering ambition, but we are making wonderful progress, one scholarship at a time.”

Taking to heart this bold aim of the medical school, retired orthopaedic surgeon and medical alumnus Joseph Gugenheim, ’72 MD, and his wife, Terri, a former special needs preschool teacher, established the Terri and Joseph Gugenheim, MD, Scholarship in 2013 to fund a Feinberg student’s education for four years. Already, this endowed scholarship (with a preference for an individual who is a graduate of one of the U.S. service academies or has some type of military background) has been held by two students: Kassandra Samuel of the Class of 2021 and Carin Rojas, ’17 MD, a U.S Naval Academy graduate and currently an ophthalmology resident at the University of Michigan. Now the Houston-based Gugenheims have upped the ante on their scholarship giving to move Northwestern even closer to its tuition-free goal. They recently made a new $1.5 million scholarship commitment to be awarded to one or multiple fourth-year medical students. Preference will be given to a first-generation student whose parents never attended college; a first-generation medical student whose parents never attended medical school; or a student with the greatest financial need.

“Education is expensive, especially medical education,” said Dr. Gugenheim. “Tuition is rising more rapidly than inflation. Medical student debt can have a strong influence on the choice of specialty, according to recent studies. Hopefully, through scholarships and eventually a tuition-free environment, students will be able to specialize in areas of medicine that best match their interests and skills rather than ones that will help them repay their loans more quickly.”

Inspired by the Northwestern Community
A native of San Antonio, Texas, Dr. Gugenheim had never been to Chicago until he attended the medical school. He quickly became enamored with the city and Northwestern—a relationship that has not waned since his graduation some 50 years ago. The Gugenheims regularly return to Alumni Weekend, where for the past several years Dr. Gugenheim, a self-described amateur Chicago historian, has given walking tours to attendees. He will host another set of tours at the reunion this April. Long supportive of his alma mater, he was inspired to give to scholarships by the late Clifford Raisbeck Jr., ’53 MD, ’61 GME.

“I had read in an alumni publication about Dr. Raisbeck’s and his wife, Carole’s, extraordinary commitment to scholarships and his passion toward the establishment of a tuition-free medical school,” recalled Dr. Gugenheim, who hopes to inspire others just like Dr. Raisbeck did him. “I thought, ‘Wow, this is a wonderful idea.’ Not only will it ensure Northwestern maintains its competitive edge, but it will also demonstrate to students that we have such confidence in their futures that people who they don’t even know are willing to bet on their Feinberg education and success in the medical profession.”

Making Dreams Come True
The current Gugenheim scholar, second-year medical student Kassandra Samuel, was born on a military base near Tokyo, where her father was serving in the U.S. Air Force. Growing up in Japan, she moved to Maryland during her junior year of high school. Graduating from the University of Miami with a bachelor’s degree in exercise physiology and kinesiology, Ms. Samuel decided to pursue a career in medicine. Like Dr. Gugenheim, she immediately fell in love with Northwestern from the moment she interviewed.

“I would not be sitting where I am today without the help of this scholarship,” said Ms. Samuel. “Thanks to the Gugenheims, I can pursue my medical degree at my dream institution, where the faculty is phenomenal, students are involved, and the quality of academic and clinical education is top tier.”
Newman Family Scholarship Promotes Primary Care Path for MD Graduates

Edward A. Newman, MD, counted among his patients celebrities in politics, entertainment and sports, as well as individuals from all walks of life. A former faculty member in the Department of Medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Dr. Newman relished hands-on patient care. He made house calls into his 70s and retired from practice at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in 2002 at the age of 81. This beloved internist and gastroenterologist with a quick wit and larger-than-life personality endeared himself to many during his distinguished medical career. A number of grateful patients made gifts in his honor to a fund at Northwestern Memorial Foundation (NMF).

Former physician to the late Mayor Richard M. Daley and Chicago Sun-Times columnist Irv Kupcinet, among many Chicago notables, Dr. Newman passed away in 2010. Looking for the best way to celebrate his father’s legacy and make the greatest impact on peoples’ lives, his son, Steven B. Newman, MD, clinical associate professor of Medicine in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, worked with NMF and the medical school to establish the Dr. Edward A. Newman Family Scholarship in 2018. The scholarship supports one or more fourth-year Feinberg students who plan to practice in a primary care field, such as internal medicine, primary care or family medicine—an area of medicine that aligns with the medical school’s goal to create more primary care physicians to meet the nation’s healthcare needs. Recent Feinberg graduate Caitlin Visek, ’18 MD, received the Newman Scholarship in 2018 and is now an internal medicine resident training at Northwestern Memorial.

“My father’s greatest love in life was to practice medicine. An astute clinician and superb diagnostician, and a champion for access to care, he also cared deeply about medical education and trained hundreds of interns and residents,” said Dr. Steven Newman, who practices at Florida Cancer Specialists & Research Institute in Naples. “Deploying the funds by creating this scholarship was, I believe, thoroughly in the spirit of my father’s desires.”

Dr. Caitlin Visek

Helping Reduce Student Debt

Choosing to create a scholarship in his father’s honor also gave Dr. Newman the opportunity to fulfill his personal desire to give back. “My father paid for my medical education, start to finish, giving me the tools to practice medicine and have a successful career. I did the same for my daughter who is now a resident in obstetrics and gynecology at U.C. Irvine,” said Dr. Newman. “I was very lucky and my daughter was lucky. Not everybody, while equally deserving, is so lucky to afford a medical education. By creating this scholarship, my hope is to help those who hold it to exercise their will to do what they want in medicine and go into medical practice in primary care with their debt load relieved.”

‘Empowered to Treat Patients Holistically’

Raised in Chicago’s western suburbs, Dr. Visek graduated from Harvard University with a degree in the history of science. She worked in Washington, D.C., as a strategic planning consultant for hospitals and health systems before coming to Northwestern. She soon gravitated to internal medicine because it offered her a combination of intellectual challenge, never-ending variety and close patient relationships that span decades.

Like many fourth-year students, Dr. Visek weighed many factors when choosing a specialty to pursue. The Newman Scholarship helped to decrease the importance of financial considerations in her final decision. “Scholarships have a huge impact on enabling students to pursue their passions,” she said. “This effect is especially impactful for those with large debt burdens whose interests lie in a field that is relatively low earning.”

Dr. Visek is forever grateful for the financial support she received from the Newman family and how it will help her chosen area of medicine. “I can’t thank them enough for the generous support of the next generation of primary care professionals,” she said.

To learn more, contact Larry Kuhn at larry-kuhn@northwestern.edu.

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Dr. Caitlin Visek

“Listen to your patients and they will give you the answers to their illnesses. That’s what my father truly believed and practiced.”
—Dr. Steven Newman

Helping Reduce Student Debt

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In recognition of the vital role that nurses play in patients’ hospital experiences and health outcomes, the Northwestern Medicine health system recently established new nursing scholarships, all of which will help our dedicated nurses to further their educations and to continue to make powerful, lasting differences in the lives of countless patients.

As a nurse at Centegra Health System for 60 years, Carol Block influenced colleagues by encouraging their professional and personal growth. When she passed away on November 4, 2018, at the age of 82, Ms. Block left a lasting legacy of education and compassion through a special scholarship created in her honor. The Carol Block Scholarship, which is administered by the Centegra Health System Foundation, provides financial assistance to nurses who seek additional education.

Over the course of her storied career with Centegra Health System, Ms. Block served in a variety of roles, including staff nurse, patient advocate, clinical instructor, director of Nursing and coordinator of Performance Improvement and Patient Satisfaction. Embodying a commitment to the needs and well-being of others, Ms. Block touched and inspired countless people—colleagues, patients and community members alike.

Catie Schmit, MSN, RN, CEN, NE-BC, vice president and chief nurse executive at Northwestern Medicine McHenry Hospital, notes that Ms. Block’s character and service bring to mind thoughts of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing: “The reason I think of Florence Nightingale is because Carol Block possessed many of the same qualities. [She was] ahead of her time, a steadfast, scholarly nursing advocate and a quiet servant leader.”

Such admirable qualities and values are central to the purpose and the design of the nursing scholarship that bears Ms. Block’s name. Always a champion of education and professional development, Ms. Block strove to ensure that her fellow nurses would have meaningful opportunities to further hone their nursing skills and to achieve significant personal milestones in their careers. By making contributions to the Carol Block Scholarship, benefactors will help to ensure that Ms. Block’s vision and goals become reality, and that nurses at Centegra Health System receive much-needed, greatly deserved support as they pursue additional education.

To learn more, contact Catherine Wierz at catherine.wierz@nm.org.

As Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee and Valley West Hospitals embark on a “Journey to Magnet Excellence” and strive to earn Magnet status—considered the “gold standard” for nursing quality and achievement—from the American Nurses Credentialing Center, they recognize the importance of providing their nurses with opportunities to advance their educations and to deepen their nursing knowledge and skills. Magnet status emphasizes quality outcomes, nursing engagement, innovation in care delivery, leading-edge research, evidence-based practice and opportunities for continued learning. Equally noteworthy, a significant body of research indicates that care providers with advanced degrees and certifications demonstrably improve patient care outcomes.

In view of these realities, and with the goal of supporting nurses in their efforts to further develop their educations and careers, both Kishwaukee and Valley West recently introduced new nursing scholarships. In 2019, Kishwaukee Hospital will offer four scholarships, each in the amount of $3,000, to current members of the nursing staff who are pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree, while Valley West Hospital will offer two of the same scholarships. Aided by the support of generous donors, these scholarship programs will grow and thrive for years to come, and will help to further establish Kishwaukee and Valley West as trusted sites for superior nursing care.

Reflecting on the need for and the significance of these scholarships, Sue McCoy, DNP, vice president and Chief Nurse Executive at Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee and Valley West Hospitals, remarks, “Currently, 55 percent of Kishwaukee’s nurses, and 54 percent of Valley West’s nurses, have acquired Bachelor’s-level education. Yet, because the cost of a Bachelor’s-level nursing program is typically $26,000 or more, many talented, dedicated nurses are not financially able to pursue a BSN. Through these new nursing scholarships, thoughtful philanthropy has the ability to open new doors for many nurses at Kishwaukee and Valley West. We are so grateful for donor support of our efforts to help our nurses forge career paths filled with personal and professional meaning.”

Remembering and Honoring Carol Block, an Exceptional Nurse, Educator and Leader

Demonstrating a Commitment to Nursing Excellence and Professional Development at Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee and Valley West Hospitals
Throughout their lives, Michael Carbon, MD, a talented nephrologist and a longtime member of the medical staff at Northwestern Medicine Central DuPage Hospital (CDH), and his wife, Dorothy, have been guided by their generosity, their commitment to service and their dedication to others. Caring friends and community members, as well as true philanthropists, the Carbons have offered significant support, over the course of more than two decades, to a variety of initiatives at Northwestern Medicine Central DuPage and Delnor Hospitals. These initiatives include the Douglas L. Johnson Endowed Chair in Neuroscience at Central DuPage Hospital and the Orthopaedic Institute at Central DuPage and Delnor Hospitals—worthy causes that reflect the Carbons’ belief in education, research and training as vital underpinnings of exceptional health care.

Recently, the Carbons deepened their legacy of philanthropy by making a significant gift in support of the Professional Learning Institute (PLI) at Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital, a part of Northwestern Medicine. With this commitment, the Carbons are helping to ensure that the PLI grows and thrives, and serves as a source of valuable education, for years to come, for many physicians, physical therapists and other healthcare professionals at Marianjoy.

“Other than being with my family and being at home, CDH is the place where I spent most of my time for a good share of my life. I loved working at a hospital with a commitment to exemplary patient care, and I feel nothing but pride to have been part of the hospital’s growth—as medical staff president and as a member of various boards—over the years,” said Dr. Carbon. “Now that CDH is part of the Northwestern Medicine health system, Dorothy and I want to expand our support; we want to contribute to different areas of Northwestern Medicine, so that we can reach out to more communities and, we hope, make a difference for more people—people like the extraordinary care providers and patients at Marianjoy.”

As a teaching hospital and a nationally recognized leader in the field of rehabilitation medicine, Marianjoy places a premium on providing its staff members with meaningful opportunities for continuing education and professional development. Within the PLI, physicians and other care providers are able to: (1) learn about the latest advancements in their fields, (2) expand their knowledge base and (3) consistently hone their skills, so that they always provide the most personalized, most contemporary and most effective care to their patients. The PLI incorporates hands-on learning and expert presentations into a collegial, supportive atmosphere.

“All of us at Marianjoy, and across the Northwestern Medicine health system, are so grateful for Dr. and Mrs. Carbon’s caring natures, open hearts and inspiring generosity,” said Suzanne Skala, director of Philanthropy at Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital. “With this most recent gift to the Professional Learning Institute at Marianjoy, the Carbons are adding yet another dimension to their philanthropy and, in doing so, they are demonstrating such support and advocacy for the care providers and patients at Marianjoy. They are truly touching many lives in such a positive and lasting way.”

To learn more, contact Clare Malysiak at clare.malysiak@nm.org.

Deepening a Legacy of Philanthropy . . . Making a Difference in Many Lives

Professional Learning Institute Offers:

- Courses taught by regional, national and international experts
- Diverse educational events for continuing education credit
- Interactive, evidence-based courses that highlight best practices
- Practical tools and strategies to inform everyday practice
- Opportunities to meet, and to network with, peers and other healthcare professionals
Events

On November 3, Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital, part of Northwestern Medicine, hosted its annual Gala at the Embassy Suites in Naperville, welcoming nearly 200 guests and raising more than $170,000 in support of the expansion of the Marianjoy Pediatric Outpatient Therapy Center. Through this expansion effort, a new space is being designed exclusively for Marianjoy's smallest and most vulnerable patients, so that the exceptional care providers at Marianjoy will be able to provide world-class rehabilitation care and services to even more children from DuPage County and beyond. The event, titled "The Journey Home," incorporated a "Wizard of Oz" theme into the evening's festivities, highlighting the power of friendship, generosity and courage, and bringing together many of the area's most prominent philanthropists, as well as business leaders, hospital associates and loyal friends and supporters of Marianjoy. Guests enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, followed by dinner and a program that underscored Marianjoy's commitment to patients, community and progress. With camaraderie and a sense of shared purpose characterizing the evening, guests mingled, participated in live and silent auctions, and danced the night away to the sounds of the Connexion Band.

Sanjiv J. Shah, MD, was formally invested as the Neil J. Stone, MD Professor at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine last August. In addition to serving as the Stone Professor, Dr. Shah serves as professor of Medicine in the Division of Cardiology, director of the T1 Center for Cardiovascular Therapeutics and director of the Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction (HFpEF) Program at Feinberg. The Stone Professorship was established in honor of Neil J. Stone, MD, by his longtime patient and friend, John Flanagan '58 MBA, through the Ryan Family Chair Challenge. Dr. Stone serves as Robert Bonow, MD Professor and professor of Medicine in the Division of Cardiology. He also is a professor of Preventive Medicine.

On September 26, more than 310 attendees—the largest gathering in the event's history—celebrated at the 11th Annual Global Health Initiative (GHI) Benefit Dinner at The Peninsula Chicago. The event raised more than $1 million for Global Health education, research and support for the creation of the Institute for Global Health. Robert Havey, MD, clinical professor of Medicine (General Internal Medicine and Geriatrics) is leading the effort to create a new Institute for Global Health at Northwestern that will expand Northwestern University's role as a preeminent research and education innovator in global health, delivering unprecedented interdisciplinary approaches to addressing global health challenges. The institute's collaborative work will be dedicated to vulnerable patient populations and reducing health disparities, improving healthcare quality and strengthening health systems.

"In the beginning, the goals of the GHI were simple. Over the past 11 years, those goals have become more ambitious, our experience broader and we understand with greater clarity the challenges and opportunities before us," said Dr. Havey.

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Left to right: Douglas Vaughan, MD, chair, Department of Medicine; Irving S. Cutter Professor of Medicine and professor of Medicine (Cardiology); Harris Perlman, PhD, chief of the Division of Rheumatology; Mabel Greene Myers Professor of Medicine and professor of Medicine (Rheumatology); and Eric G. Neilson, MD, vice president for Medical Affairs and Lewis Landsberg Dean.

On November 13, Yvonne C. Lee, MD, MMSc, was invested as the Solovy/Arthritis Research Society Research Professor at a formal ceremony at the Four Seasons Hotel Chicago. Dr. Lee’s research focuses on identifying and characterizing the inflammatory and neural mechanisms of pain in rheumatic diseases. She is the principal investigator of the National Institutes of Health-funded Central Pain in Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) Study, which employs quantitative sensory testing to assess pain mechanisms in over 300 RA patients from five sites around the United States who are starting a disease-modifying antirheumatic drug.

The Solovy/Arthritis Research Society Research Professorship was established in honor of Jack Phillip Solovy. As a longtime sufferer of severe arthritis, Mr. Solovy created the Arthritis Research Society, an organization whose goal was to fundraise on behalf of arthritis research. When Solovy passed away in 1998, his family and friends endowed a research professorship in honor of him and his work with the Arthritis Research Society.