

Medical Alumni Association NEWSLETTER

September 2024 | Issue No. 84



Medical Alumni Association Fall Board Meeting Events

Thank you to our dedicated Medical Alumni Association (MAA) Board members! On September 13, board members from across the country came together in downtown Chicago for our semi-annual meeting. The MAA Board meets every fall and spring to strengthen connections among alumni, promote professional camaraderie, and support Northwestern's leadership in medical education, patient care, and research. Through its committees—Alumni and Student Connections, Half Century Club, Inclusion and Allyship, The Business of Medicine, and Women in Medicine—the Board works to shape the future of the medical school.

At our annual dinner later that evening, the Board proudly recognized our former MAA Board members, current Physical Therapy Board members, Physician Assistant leadership, reunion class representatives for Alumni Weekend 2025, and local 1975 alumni celebrating their 50-year reunion next May.

On September 14, the Board took part in a full slate of exciting events including a Chicago Architecture Boat Tour, a luncheon in Method Atrium, and a home football game at the Northwestern Medicine Field at Lanny and Sharon Martin Stadium. The Northwestern Wildcats secured a commanding 31-7 victory over the Eastern Illinois Panthers!

Thank you to all of our board members for your commitment and dedication to your alma mater and for an outstanding, fun, and productive weekend. Want to learn more about our Board and the work of the MAA committees? Reach out to us at medalum@northwestern.edu.

From the Director's Desk:

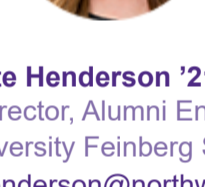
Dear Alumni,

Happy fall! We're already making plans for our Alumni Weekend 2025, which will be held on campus May 2–3. Please save the date! Registration opens on January 6, 2025. Alumni Weekend isn't just for those celebrating a reunion year; we'll have continuing medical education forums, tours of the city and campus, and many activities for our Half Century Club members. Stay tuned for more information later this year. To book your hotel now and take advantage of our discounted room rates, please visit the [2025 Travel and Accommodations](#) portion of our Alumni Weekend website.

As always, feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Babette



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MAA Board Mentoring Events



During our fall Board meeting weekend, the Medical Alumni Association organized several impactful mentoring activities for current students.

On September 13, two intimate luncheons were held. The first, hosted by the MAA Board of Directors' Inclusion and Allyship Committee, allowed students to engage with alumni and discuss the challenges and opportunities facing underrepresented minorities in medicine. Open to students supporting the mission of the Student National Medical Association, this luncheon highlighted the importance of diversity in the field.

The second luncheon was led by the Business of Medicine Committee, where students connected with alumni who have successfully navigated the business side of healthcare, from the C-suite to startups. This event was ideal for students interested in alternative career paths in medicine.

Additionally, MAA Board member **Alice Yeh, '93 MD**, hosted a popular mentoring and pizza event focused on suturing skills for surgery students. Dr. Yeh previously led a similar mentorship opportunity last spring that was extremely well-received by our students.

To cap off the weekend, **Jamie E. Terry, '89 MD**, led an outstanding Alumni Physicians of Feinberg session for our students. The Alumni Physicians of Feinberg is an innovative program that unites alumni and faculty with students who want to learn more about the lives of physicians.

Several MAA Board members also hosted Dinners with a Doc throughout the weekend, offering small groups of students an intimate setting to discuss careers in healthcare and build one-on-one mentoring relationships.

Thank you to all our incredible MAA Board members for providing these invaluable experiences for our students!

Interested in volunteering for similar events? Contact Allison Glibowski, assistant director of Alumni Engagement, at allison.glibowski@northwestern.edu to help support the future of medicine!



Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month!



This month, we honor our remarkable Hispanic alumni in the medical field whose dedication and excellence inspire us all. Your contributions are not only advancing medicine but also enriching our communities with your unique perspectives and passion. Thank you for your hard work, innovation, and commitment to improving lives. Here's to the bright future you're shaping!

Honoring Women in Medicine



September is Women in Medicine Month, a time to honor the contributions and achievements of our alumnae. This annual celebration highlights the pivotal role women play in advancing healthcare and shaping the future of medicine. Join us in recognizing and supporting the outstanding women in our Medical Alumni Association community.

MAA in the Emerald City



Northwestern medical alumni and supporters gathered in Seattle for a weekend of camaraderie and Wildcat spirit ahead of the Northwestern Wildcats' game against the Washington Huskies. The weekend kicked off with a Medical Alumni Association Luncheon on September 20 at Cortina, where alumni reconnected over a delicious meal and shared memories of their time at Northwestern.

On Saturday, September 21, the festivities continued with a Northwestern Alumni Association Brunch at Ivar's Salmon House, where alumni from across various fields and class years came together to celebrate their Northwestern pride before heading to Husky Stadium.

Many of our attendees joined the Northwestern section at Husky Stadium for the big game, cheering on the Wildcats alongside fellow alumni. The energy and excitement throughout the weekend highlighted the strong and lasting connections within the Medical Alumni Association community.

Thank you to everyone who attended, and we hope to see you at future alumni events! Go 'Cats!

Check Out Our Upcoming Events

Have Coffee and Conversations: Diet and Aging



The "Have Coffee and Conversations" series continued on September 10, with a special virtual event featuring Linda Van Horn, PhD, RDN, professor emeritus and chief of the Nutrition Division in the Department of Preventive Medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. Dr. Van Horn led an engaging discussion on diet and healthy aging, focusing on practical strategies to maintain a healthy weight and the importance of nutrition in promoting longevity.

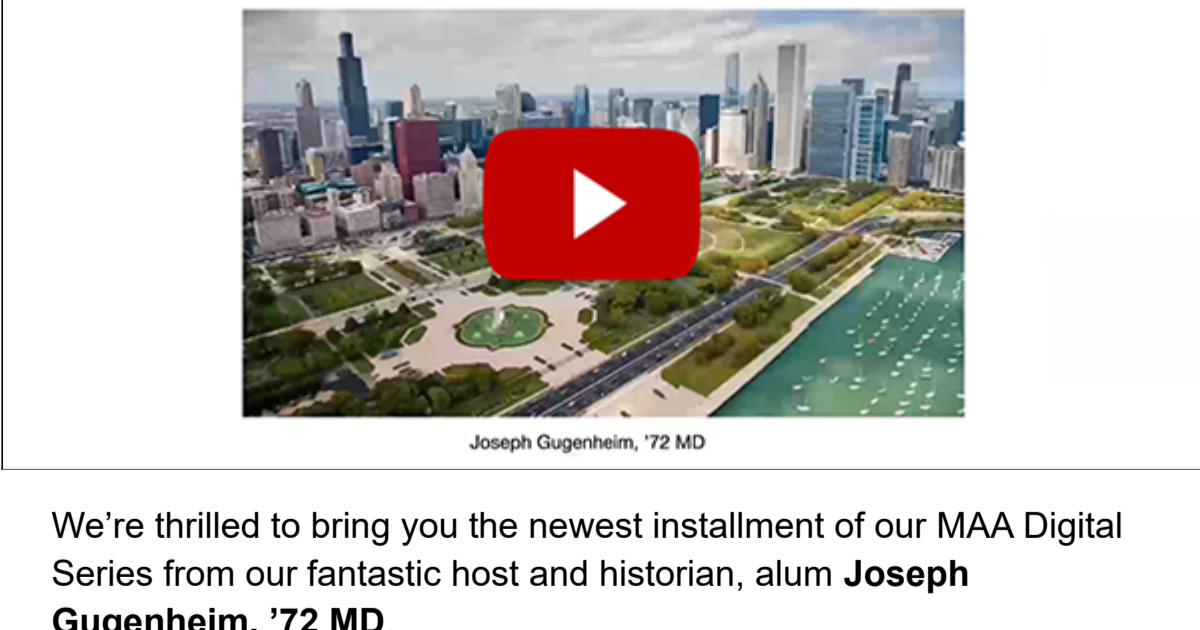
Attendees had the chance to hear Dr. Van Horn share key insights from her extensive research on cardiometabolic health and dietary interventions across the life course. She also provided valuable takeaways on the role of healthy eating in aging well, emphasizing the long-term benefits of making mindful food choices.

This event was part of our [Half Century Club \(HCC\)](#) programming. The HCC celebrates alumni who graduated 50+ years ago and provides unique benefits, including free parking on the Chicago campus for alumni events, discounted/early registration for alumni gatherings, and special opportunities to share your stories in the "Pearls of Wisdom" feature of this newsletter.

To learn more about the HCC and stay connected with your fellow alumni, contact Meghan Monaghan at meghan.monaghan@northwestern.edu.

MAA Digital Series: Hosted by Joseph Gugenheim, '72 MD

"Chicago's Front Yard"



We're thrilled to bring you the newest installment of our MAA Digital Series from our fantastic host and historian, alum **Joseph Gugenheim, '72 MD**.

In this month's episode, Dr. Gugenheim takes a stroll through Chicago's Front Yard—historic Grant Park. With over 300 acres, Grant Park is home to Buckingham Fountain, Millennium Park (featuring Cloud Gate, also known as "The Bean"), the Museum Campus, the Art Institute of Chicago, Maggie Daley Park, and more. In recent years, the park also has hosted several major events, such as the NFL Draft, Lollapalooza, and the Taste of Chicago. After a major revitalization, Grant Park has undergone a vibrant transformation, becoming the centerpiece of Chicago's landscape.

Dr. Gugenheim presents "Chicago's Front Yard."

Thank you, Dr. Gugenheim!

Stream "Chicago's Front Yard"

COMING SOON: In October, delve into the origins of another one of Chicago's famed

parks with Dr. Gugenheim as he launches a special two-part series on Lincoln Park. Once a city cemetery, Lincoln Park is steeped in legend. Its haunting history is marked by everything from ghost sightings, grave robberies, and a 50-ton unmarked mausoleum, to eerie discoveries such as human bones, and coffins and bodies floating down the Chicago River. Do bodies still remain under the grounds of the park? Tune in next month to uncover the spine-chilling secrets of Lincoln Park's transformation from cemetery to city playground.

Catch up on all previous episodes of our MAA Digital Series on our [MAA website](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

Our Alumni Engagement Opportunities



We are excited to introduce our 2024 engagement offerings! Inside this year's [four-page brochure](#), you will discover a variety of alumni programs and events hosted by your Medical Alumni Association. These initiatives provide opportunities to connect with fellow alumni and share your expertise with our current students.

We encourage you to take a moment to explore how you can stay involved with your alma mater.

[View the 2024–2025 Alumni Engagement Brochure](#)

Game Day at the Lake



Left Photo: Matt Jones, MD; Emily Jones, '08 MD, '11 GMER; and their littlest Wildcat
Right Photo (pictured left to right): Melvin V. Gerbie, '60 MD; Diane Bronstein Wayne '88, '91 MD ('18, '20 P); and Patti Steinberg Gerbie '60
Bottom Photo: Northwestern Medicine Field at Lanny and Sharon Martin Stadium

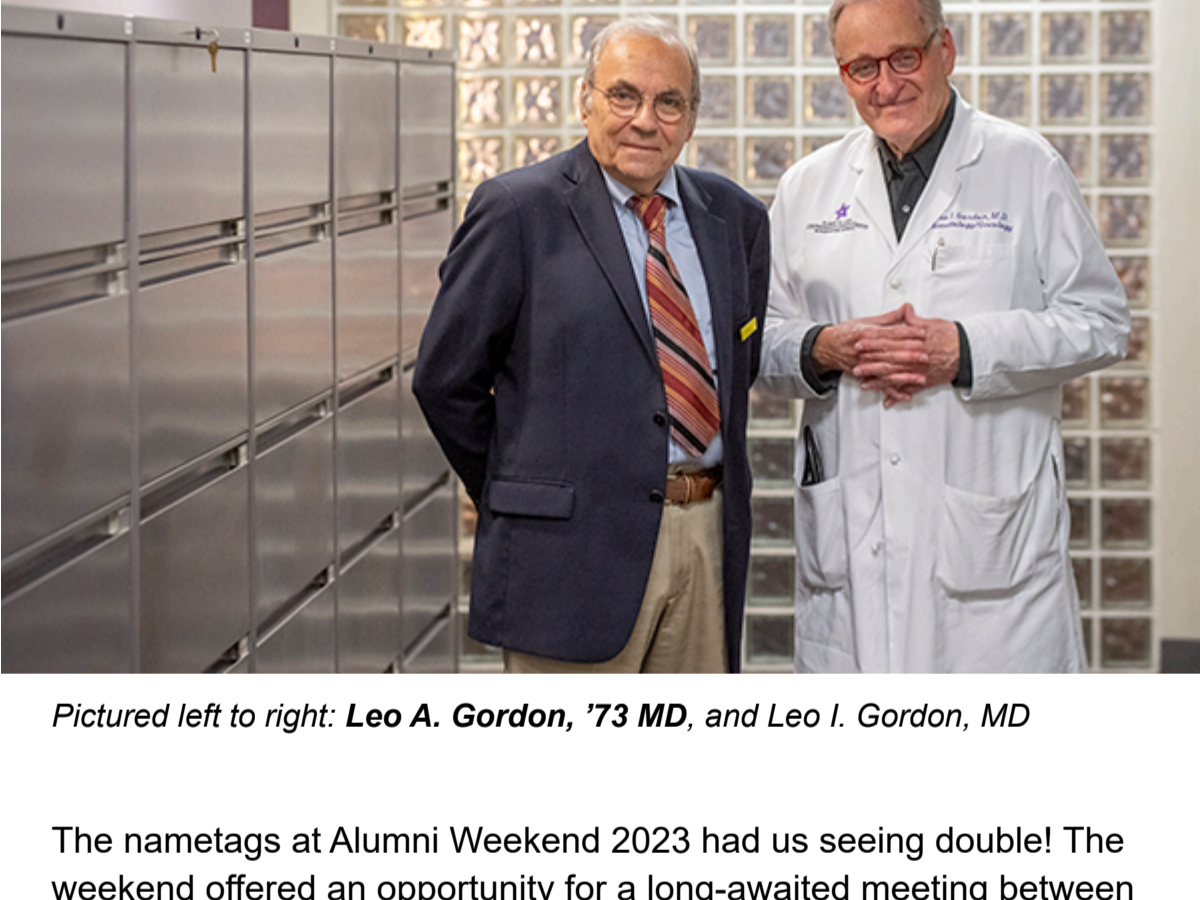
On August 31, Northwestern kicked off the 2024 football season, with its first home game at Northwestern Medicine Field at Lanny and Sharon Martin Stadium. The temporary facility on the north end of the Evanston campus is a huge draw for football fans and the site of five fall home games.

On this new turf, the Northwestern Wildcats led us to a 13-6 victory over the Miami University (Ohio) RedHawks!

Several of our M' Cats were in attendance for the big game, supporting the team as they began the season on a high note. We invite you to check out some beautiful pictures from the game!

[Gameday at the Lake Photo Album](#)

This Time Last Year: A Tale of Two Gordons



Pictured left to right: Leo A. Gordon, '73 MD, and Leo I. Gordon, MD

The nametags at Alumni Weekend 2023 had us seeing double! The weekend offered an opportunity for a long-awaited meeting between two distinguished Dr. Gordons from Northwestern University. Leo I. Gordon, MD, the Abby and John Friend Professor of Oncology Research and professor of Medicine in the Divisions of Hematology and Oncology is a pioneer in lymphoma research at Feinberg. Our alum, **Leo A. Gordon, '73 MD**, is professor of Surgery at Cedars-Sinai in Los Angeles, California, and senior consultant in Clinical Surgery at the Surgery Group of Los Angeles. Despite never having met, the two have experienced several humorous miscommunications and been confused for one another over the years. Dr. Leo A. Gordon has fielded everything from Northwestern committee meeting invitations to phone calls meant for Dr. Leo I. Gordon.

Our alum, Dr. Leo A. Gordon, shared one particularly memorable incident when he received a call inviting him to deliver a keynote address at a lymphoma conference. As he playfully negotiated first-class tickets, a private driver, and a luxurious hotel suite, the caller paused, asking if he was indeed the Dr. Leo Gordon from Northwestern. With a chuckle, he affirmed, only to be met with confusion when she realized his requirements might be a bit excessive. He then clarified the mix-up, leading to a good laugh and the caller's relief as she connected with the correct Dr. Gordon.

Alumni Weekend provided a perfect opportunity for both doctors to finally meet in person and share a laugh over the humor of their mistaken identities. Thank you to alum Dr. Leo A. Gordon for sharing this story with us!

Congrats Are in Order!



Mark Nolan Hill, '77 MD, FACS (pictured in uniform and top left in red shirt), a Navy veteran (Ensign) and surgeon, was selected as the Medical Guardian for the 117th Veterans Honor Flight from Chicago to Washington, D.C. This flight, the largest so far, included 116 WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans. Dr. Hill was thrilled to discover that his favorite surgical professor from Northwestern, Stuart Poticha, MD (pictured top left with Dr. Hill and top right), a Vietnam Army captain and MASH chief of surgery, was also on the flight. It was their first meeting since the 1970s. Initially expecting a polished

tour of military memorials, Dr. Hill shared that the public's overwhelming gratitude moved him. The journey included visits to military memorials, a police escort, and a special Mail Call with personalized letters for each veteran. Dr. Hill, who led a medical team of 13 nurses, later presented the experience to the Highland Park mayor and City Council. Congratulations, Dr. Hill!



Kathryn Brito, '15 DPT, has been honored as an emerging leader by the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) and APTA Acute Care. This award recognizes physical therapists' exceptional leadership potential and early career contributions to acute care. A cardiovascular and pulmonary clinical specialist, Dr. Brito serves on the NUPTHMS Alumni Association Board. She also is the Northern District chair for the Illinois Physical Therapy Association and executive producer of *Acute Conversations*, the official podcast of APTA Acute Care. Congratulations, Dr. Brito!



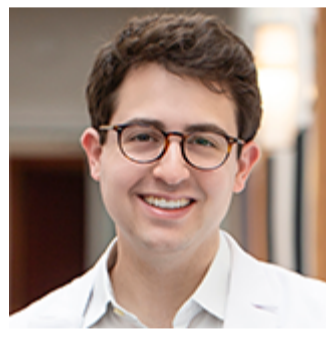
Diana Farid Leppert, '00 MD ('28 P), is celebrating several achievements in children's literature. Her picture book, *The Light of Home* (Scholastic), was released on September 17, 2024. It tells the poignant story of leaving behind a familiar home and finding belonging through creativity. On December 3, 2024, her board book *Already All the Love* (Little Bee Books) will also be released—a heartfelt ode to new life, perfect for baby showers. Dr. Farid Leppert's previous works have garnered numerous accolades. Her book *Wave* was named a 2022 School Library Journal Best Middle Grade Book, won a Cybils Award for Novel in Verse, and was honored by the Middle East Book Award. *When You Breathe* received the 2021 National Council of Teachers of English Notable Poetry Book award and the 2022 EUREKA! Gold Award for nonfiction. Dr. Farid Leppert is a poet, physician, and faculty member at Stanford University. Congratulations, Dr. Farid Leppert!



Priya U. Kumthekar, MD, '08 GMER, '11 GMER, '12 GMEF, associate professor of Neurology (Neuro-oncology) and Medicine (Hematology and Oncology) at Feinberg, was the recipient of two notable awards this year. She was honored with the Women in Neuro-oncology Mid-Career Exemplary Physician Award from the Society for Neuro-Oncology. This prestigious award recognizes her significant contributions to the field. In addition, Dr. Kumthekar was awarded the "Excellence in Physician/APP Collaboration" award from Northwestern Medicine, celebrating her local impact and leadership. Congratulations, Dr. Kumthekar!



Brian W. Patterson, '09 MD, MPH, '13 GMER, has been appointed as the inaugural physician administrative director of Clinical Artificial Intelligence (AI) at the University of Wisconsin—Madison (UW) Health. In this role, Dr. Patterson will provide leadership and oversight for AI initiatives at UW Health, including generative AI and large language models. Dr. Patterson has previously led studies focused on improving patient outcomes through the analysis of electronic medical records in emergency departments. His appointment underscores his previous accomplishments as medical informatics director of Predictive Analytics for UW Health. Congratulations, Dr. Patterson!



Daniel I. Schlessinger '15, '19 MD, a leader in dermatology, cosmetic surgery, and Mohs surgery in Omaha, Nebraska, is joining his father's practice, Schlessinger MD. This father-son collaboration enhances the practice's dermatology and cosmetic surgery offerings for the Omaha community. A national expert on artificial intelligence (AI) in dermatology, Dr. Schlessinger has published numerous articles and co-authored book chapters on dermatology, dermatologic surgery, and AI. Starting in 2025, he will serve as adjunct faculty in the Department of Dermatology at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, teaching residents. Dr. Schlessinger will also serve as medical director of LovelySkin.com. Congratulations, Dr. Schlessinger!

Do you have news to share with us or know of an alum we should recognize in the newsletter? Post it on our [Facebook](#) page, tag us on [Instagram](#), or email us at medalum@northwestern.edu.

Upcoming Events



Medical Alumni Association: Plan It Purple Calendar

Did you know that the MAA has its very own [Plan It Purple calendar](#)?

With the Plan It Purple calendar, you'll never miss a Medical Alumni Association event!

You can register for events, download a save-the-date reminder to your calendar, and learn more about other University-wide events and offerings.

Bookmark the MAA calendar or visit the [MAA home page](#) to keep tabs on all of our upcoming events.

Visit the MAA Plan It Purple Calendar

Wellness Walks | Chicago, Illinois

Spring–Fall 2024

Chicago Parks Foundation (CPF) presents Wellness Walks, a seasonal walking program where medical professionals lead 45-minute park walks and informal discussions on health-related topics like sleep, nutrition, and exercise. CPF is partnering with students and healthcare providers from local medical institutions including Northwestern Medicine to lead their walking program.

CPF's Wellness Walks are a free, low-pressure way to get some movement, connect with fellow community members, learn about your health, and enjoy your beautiful parks. Get outside and join us!

Visit the Wellness Walks Website

Conversations and Connections in the Beautiful Coachella Valley | La Quinta, California

Saturday, October 26, 2024 | 1-4 p.m.

Thanks to our generous host Steve Rosen, MD, the Northwestern University Medical Alumni Association welcomes alumni, friends, patients, donors, and Dr. Rosen's classmates from across the country to join us for Conversations and Connections in the beautiful Coachella Valley.

Please join us for brunch and lively conversation at the home of Dr. Steven Rosen this fall—back by popular demand! Dr. Rosen will host our fall meet and greet, "One Northwestern Family," and provide an opportunity for you to reconnect and swap stories with alumni and friends of the medical school.

This private event will be graciously hosted in the home of **Steven T. Rosen '72, '76 MD, '79 GMER, '81 GMER ('01, '05 P)**.

RSVP for Conversations and Connections in the Coachella Valley



A Night with Northwestern in Chicago | Chicago, Illinois

Tuesday, October 29, 2024 | 5:30–8 p.m.

The Northwestern Alumni Association invites you to a panel discussion exploring how interdisciplinary research is shaping local, regional, and international policies with a goal of ending water insecurity.

Addressing global challenges through scholarship and innovation is a hallmark of a great academic institution, and nowhere is that more evident than at Northwestern. Join us to learn from University research institutes and centers faculty who are leading research to ensure a future in which clean and safe water is accessible to all.

Simpson Querrey Biomedical Research Center
303 East Superior Street
Chicago, Illinois

Register by October 28.

Please email alumnieducation@northwestern.edu with any questions.

RSVP for a Night with Northwestern in Chicago



Phoenix Art Museum Exhibit and Lunch | Phoenix, Arizona

Saturday, November 2, 2024 | 11 a.m. Tour; 12 noon Lunch

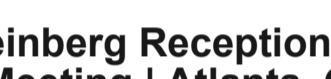
Please save the date and plan to join us at the Phoenix Art Museum for a docent tour of the installation *The Collection: American Modern*.

From the Phoenix Art Museum: “American Modern broadly explores how artists of the first half of the 20th century, including artists based in the US Southwest and a significant cohort of women artists like Georgia O’Keeffe and Marguerite Zorach, used abstraction and experimentation to spark new perceptions of modernity and novel modes of expression.”

Lunch to follow in Singer Hall.

Advance registration is required. For questions or to RSVP, contact Meghan Monaghan at meghan.monaghan@northwestern.edu.

RSVP for Phoenix Art Museum Event



SAVE THE DATE: Feinberg Reception During the AAMC Medical Education Meeting | Atlanta, Georgia

Sunday, November 10, 2024 | 6:30–8 p.m.

Please save the date and plan to join us for drinks and appetizers during the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) annual meeting. Mingle with fellow Northwestern alumni, Feinberg faculty, and friends. All alumni are welcome, whether you’re in town for the AAMC annual meeting or live locally in the Atlanta area!

Advance registration will be required.



SAVE THE DATE: Northwestern Leadership Symposium | Chicago, Illinois

Wednesday, November 13–Friday, November 15, 2024

Join this complimentary symposium for our most engaged alumni volunteer leaders to learn from expert faculty members, network with fellow alumni, and enhance your volunteer role with the University. Events begin Wednesday evening before Homecoming and Reunion Weekend.

Visit the [Leadership Symposium page](#) for additional resources. Information will be updated frequently.



SAVE THE DATE: Alumni Weekend 2025 | Chicago, Illinois

Friday, May 2–Saturday, May 3, 2025

Celebrate in Chicago this spring!

Alumni Weekend is the cornerstone event for the Medical Alumni Association. Spend the weekend reconnecting with friends and classmates as you explore campus, participate in lectures and tours, and celebrate at class dinners. We are thrilled to welcome our 2025 reunion classes, as well as all members of our Half Century Club. Not your reunion year? Not a problem! There’s so much to see and do. Visit the [2025 Travel and Accommodations](#) portion of our Alumni Weekend website to book your hotel now and take advantage of our discounted room rates.

Make plans to spend the weekend with us. See you in Chicago!

Stay tuned for more information coming later this year.

Add Alumni Weekend 2025 to My Calendar



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Questions? Contact us anytime at medalum@northwestern.edu.

Thank you for engaging with us and staying connected to your alma mater!