## Nathan Smith Davis Society Impact Stories

**Who are our Davis Society Members?**

By honoring six distinct groups of supporters, the Nathan Smith Davis Society recognizes you—Feinberg alumni, faculty, friends, and staff—for your generous contributions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Society</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Benefactor Society</strong></td>
<td>$1 million or more in cumulative lifetime giving.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lifetime Giving Society</strong></td>
<td>$35,000–$999,999 in cumulative lifetime giving.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Northwestern University Leadership Circle (NULC)</strong></td>
<td>$1,000 or more in total annual giving to the medical school. Individuals who are honored through the Leadership Circle also receive all recognition and benefits associated with the University-wide NULC program.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Henry and Emma Rogers Society</strong></td>
<td>Individuals who have notified Northwestern and have documented an estate or deferred gift commitment to benefit the medical school.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Service Society</strong></td>
<td>Members who are actively engaged in select volunteer activities benefiting the medical school.</td>
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<td><strong>Generosity in Action</strong></td>
<td>In the following pages, you will find stories from members of our community who have benefited from your philanthropy and service, from your leadership and friendship. We call these impact stories, and our hope is that they reflect the great influence your support has on the outstanding work being done at Feinberg.</td>
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**Thank you.**

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### About the Cover

On June 17, 2019, a capacity crowd filled the Potoczak Family Atrium for the dedication of the new Louis A. Simpson and Kimberly K. Querrey Biomedical Research Center.
Nathan Smith Davis Society members have advanced medical research and education in countless ways! Below are just a few areas impacted by your support in fiscal year 2019.

Scholarships  Physical Therapy  Galter Health Sciences Library  Medical School Annual Fund
Breast Cancer  Simulation-based Training  Atrial Fibrillation  Neurological Surgery
Lymphoma  Rheumatoid Arthritis  Food Allergies  Alzheimer's Disease
Global Health  Hypertension & Diabetes  Psychiatry  Ophthalmology
Preventive Medicine  Orthopaedic Surgery  Skin Cancer  And more…
Pulmonary embolisms (PEs) occur when blood clots—usually from the legs—travel upward in the body to the lungs where they block critical blood flow and oxygen. One of the most common cardiovascular diseases in the United States, this potentially life-threatening condition requires immediate medical attention from a variety of specialists. Dr. Daniel Schimmel, an interventional cardiologist, leads Northwestern Medicine’s Venous Thromboembolism Service.

Describe the innovative role of the Venous Thromboembolism Service.

The diagnosis and treatment of pulmonary embolism frequently crosses multiple disciplines such as cardiology, interventional radiology, and pulmonology. In 2014, we launched the Venous Thromboembolism Service—one of the first comprehensive models of care of its kind—to deliver rapid, multidisciplinary expertise to patients with acute thromboembolic disease. Working closely with the Departments of Emergency Medicine and Medicine, the service features a Pulmonary Embolism Response Team to quickly provide clinical consultations. Additionally, we offer clot and pulmonary hypertension clinics for the care of patients after they leave the hospital to prevent recurrent veno- and thromboembolic and bleeding events and/or readmission. For patients with chronic disease, we were the first in Chicago to offer balloon pulmonary angioplasty, an innovative technique I learned and practiced in Japan from world-leaders.

What are you doing to bring research discoveries to the clinic?

Thanks to our increasing ability to identify patients who need expert veno- and thromboembolic care, we see an exceptionally high number of cases. This clinical volume offers exciting opportunities to advance breakthroughs in the treatment of PE and thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension. Current studies range from developing novel drug therapies to identifying biomarkers to help predict disease susceptibility.

How are you expanding the service so more patients can benefit?

Standardizing the care of patients with acute PE is a first step toward becoming a valuable referral resource for Northwestern Medicine’s network of hospitals as well as other hospitals in the Chicago area. We are working on processes to ensure patients go to the right place for the right treatment at the right time. For example, our interventional cardiology team now offers novel minimally invasive therapies, allowing for patients to come directly to the Cardiac Care Unit rather than to medical ICUs as was done previously. This modification facilitates earlier intervention.

How has support from the Kwaan Family Foundation and other donors been essential to the work of the service?

The Venous Thromboembolistic Service has had a tremendous impact on the care of patients with acute pulmonary embolisms, and this remarkable success and growth would not be possible without generous philanthropy. We are deeply grateful for the support.
**Impact Story:** Immune Monitoring Core

“Dr. Jeffrey Sosman and his team had a big impact on my late husband and me, and I am grateful for their work. We found that Dr. Sosman's combination of expertise as a scientist and compassion as a caregiver is rare. With his skills and training, we were confident that Dick was receiving the best care available at that time, which gave us hope for the future.”

—Gail Elden, member of the Lifetime Giving Society and NULC, in loving memory of Richard Elden

**Q & A with Dr. Jeffrey Sosman**

The promise of immunotherapy—stimulating the body’s immune response to fight cancer—is the next frontier for the treatment of a growing number of cancers. An oncologist and skin cancer expert, Dr. Jeffrey Sosman contributed to the early clinical trials of novel immune-based therapies that made the first significant inroads in treating melanoma. Since arriving at Feinberg in 2016, Dr. Sosman has worked to strengthen Northwestern’s immunotherapy capabilities for melanoma and other cancers.

Describe your current clinical and research interests.

My focus remains on immunotherapy, specifically in the treatment of patients with melanoma and kidney cancers. These two diseases are particularly sensitive to immune activation. Immune-based drugs have shown real benefit by improving overall health and survival rates. My clinical research currently involves checkpoint inhibitors anti-CTLA-4 and anti-PD1/PDL-1 and overcoming resistance to them so that immune cells can work to kill tumor cells. While checkpoint therapy has been a great breakthrough in cancer treatment, additional immune-based strategies are still critically needed.

You are the principal investigator on several novel immunotherapy trials for melanoma. How are you working to improve upon this novel therapy?

While immunotherapy is well tolerated by most patients, what makes it an effective therapy also can lead to severe side effects. When your immune system is prompted to attack tumor cells through the release of immune cells known as lymphocytes, these cells also may attack normal tissue. Paradoxically, this means the immunotherapy is working. I’ve been developing a research program to better predict which patients may be at risk for some of the toxicities of immune-based therapies so that we can help them avoid adverse effects.

Tell us more about the Immune Monitoring Core.

The Immune Monitoring Core provides a common place for discoveries in immunotherapy to happen. It is the underpinning for clinical, translational, and basic investigators to accelerate innovations in immune-based strategies for treating cancer. We intend to build upon our existing core by expanding its physical footprint and technical capabilities. Cutting-edge equipment will allow us to characterize the biology and function of immune cells in blood cancers or solid tumors. A bigger and better core will allow for a wide array of research initiatives, from animal experiments and clinical trials to evaluating the effectiveness of the therapies in patients to enhance their care.

How is philanthropy essential to the success of the core?

While critical to expanding promising research programs, technology infrastructure is not easily funded by federal dollars. Philanthropy helps us to purchase the modern-day equipment we need to expand the Immune Monitoring Core. Then we will have the ability to conduct the initial laboratory work, link findings to clinical benefits, and apply for grant funding.

For more information about the Immune Monitoring Core or the Lurie Cancer Center, please contact Nicole Langert at nicole.langert@northwestern.edu or 312-503-1656.
Impact Story: Class of 1963 Scholarship

"Medicine today has progressed well beyond the stethoscope and thermometer. The fields of genetics, biomaterials, and cell and organ culture point the way to helping humankind overcome disease and disabilities. I can think of no better way to further the advancement of medical science than to support medical students and future scientists through scholarships."

—John Nanninga, ’63 MD, ’70 GME, member of the Lifetime Giving Society, Rogers Society, NULC, and supporter of the Class of 1963 Scholarship.

Q & A with Rebecca Xu

For the Class of 1963, creating a scholarship at the time of the group’s 50th reunion grew from a desire to leave a lasting legacy by supporting tomorrow’s promising physicians. The journey of Rebecca Xu, the current holder of the Class of 1963 Scholarship, is one that these loyal alumni and others who support scholarships can fully embrace as their own.

Tell us a little bit about yourself and why you decided to become a physician.

I was born a short drive away from Chicago in Munster, Indiana, but grew up in Carmel, a suburb of Indianapolis. Several years ago, I read about ikigai, a Japanese term that describes one’s reason for being. Ikigai is the intersection of what you love, what the world needs, your talents, and your value to society. For me, the intersection lies with medicine.

How has the scholarship helped shape your medical school experience?

With the Class of 1963’s support, I have explored various facets of medicine. Drawn to research on the non-clinical side of medicine, I spent a summer investigating the FDA’s medical device regulations. Specifically, I looked at high-risk recalls (those that involve severe or life-threatening adverse effects) of low-risk medical devices, including tongue depressors and bandages. I also worked on testing an online module for teaching students how to identify melanoma. Additionally, I am taking an active role in medical education as a member of our class’s curriculum review committee.

What has been your most memorable experience so far?

I recently started my clinical rotations. In my surgery rotation, I scrubbed in on an open nephrectomy [surgical removal of a kidney] case, fully expecting to do nothing but help close skin at the completion of the procedure. I watched as the surgeons worked carefully to free the kidney from its surrounding tissues. I saw the heart beating against the diaphragm, the abdominal aorta pulsating, the liver and gallbladder a foot away from my face. Near the end, my attending said, “Rebecca, you’ll clip the ureter.” I got to cut the last little connection between the patient’s kidney to the rest of his body. Afterwards, I held the kidney in my hands. The first two years of medical school were spent learning through lectures and textbooks, but there is nothing quite like seeing and touching the internal anatomy of a living, breathing human.

What message of thanks would you like to share with the Class of 1963?

I am incredibly grateful to the Class of 1963 and their continued support of my education. With the help of the scholarship, I have fully taken advantage of Feinberg’s offerings—academic, research, extracurricular activities, and a world-class teaching hospital. Every day I am one step closer to my dream of becoming a physician. I cannot thank you enough for these opportunities.

For more information about supporting scholarships, please contact Larry Kuhn at larry-kuhn@northwestern.edu or 312-503-1717.
Northwestern faculty and students have long been involved in supporting initiatives to enhance global health and promote health equity. In May, these growing international efforts were further elevated and unified with the launch of a new Feinberg Institute of Global Health. An HIV/AIDS expert with extensive global health experience, Dr. Robert Murphy directs this exciting new entity, which works closely with other global health entities at Northwestern like CIGHT at the McCormick School of Engineering, GHI at the Kellogg School of Management, and global programs at the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences.

Tell us about the scope of the new institute. Why was it created? There were many successful projects involving multiple departments and divisions at Feinberg as well as across the University. As each of these programs got bigger and more ambitious, we felt that one unifying structure would allow us to combine, synergize, and expand our efforts. Essentially, we would be stronger together and make a bigger impact. The institute unifies the medical school’s Global Health Initiative and the Center for Global Health, which I founded a decade ago.

What is the role of academic institutions like Feinberg in global health? Diseases know no socio-economic or political boundaries. With the way people travel today, healthcare is a shared and global concern. The Zika virus and Ebola are diseases no one would have imagined seeing in the United States until recently. No community is immune to public health threats. Academic institutions play an important role in the global health agenda of mitigating global risk of disease and developing sustainable health systems around the world. With the world-class facilities and talented faculty we have at Feinberg, we have the capabilities and responsibility to expand our international reach.

What are some priorities in the institute’s inaugural year? We plan to establish the institute’s five specialized centers that bring together experts from a variety of disciplines—communicable diseases, surgery, cancer, health education, and cardiovascular health—to pursue our research, training, and outreach goals. One project is the development of a novel biomarker to detect cervical cancer. Unlike the US, where women routinely undergo annual Pap tests, in low-resource countries like Nigeria, it’s difficult to set up effective screening programs. Currently cervical cancer ranks as the second most frequent cancer in women in Nigeria. A biomarker would provide a more efficient screening tool that could save many lives. In the area of communicable diseases, our forte at Feinberg is HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria. We hope to share our expertise by training more foreign health care providers and workers.

How are donors like the Fees crucial to the success of the institute? As we embark on growing the institute, philanthropy provides us with the resources to build programs that will succeed and endure. While it is a little more challenging to build infrastructure in resource-constrained countries, it is all doable and we are doing it well with the help of generous philanthropic partners.
Impact Story: Diversity in Medicine Scholarship Fund

“I applaud and deeply thank the Class of 2019 for the passion and foresight expressed in launching a Feinberg School of Medicine Diversity in Medicine Scholarship. We hope this effort is one of many. This initiative reflects our school–wide commitment to grow diversity and create a culture that champions mutual respect and inclusion. This scholarship, focused on incoming students who will enhance diversity in the field of medicine, will help us attract individuals poised to become new leaders and innovators. This goal is urgent as we respond to rapidly changing population demographics and seek to train healthcare providers and biomedical scientists to serve the nation’s growing diverse population. I am inspired by the students’ readiness to take on this challenge. It was Margaret Mead who said, ‘Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.’ Kudos to the Class of 2019.”

—Clyde Yancy, MD, MSc, Vice Dean for Diversity and Inclusion, Chief, Division of Medicine–Cardiology, Magerstadt Professor in Medicine–Cardiology and Medical Social Sciences, and member of the Northwestern University Leadership Circle.

It didn’t take long for the Class of 2019 to pay it forward. By harnessing the power of ‘crowd funding,’ these new MDs established the Diversity in Medicine Scholarship as a class gift to their alma mater.

Dr. Javier Suarez and M4 medical student Berkley Davis spearheaded the initiative in early 2019 after the idea took off through a Facebook conversation among classmates. The scholarship will support incoming medical students who belong to at least one traditionally underrepresented minority group in the field of medicine. The aim is to promote the diversity of identities and life experiences—from low socio-economic status to non-traditional family situations—of medical students. The scholarship also includes a unique mentorship component for the recipient.

Berkley and Javier, you led the charge with your class to create the scholarship. What was your inspiration and what was your goal?

**Berkley:** I grew up in rural Virginia, where my dad worked in a factory and kids around me didn’t talk about becoming doctors. While I had been in different environments, such as the US Air Force for five years, the transition to Feinberg was tough. I wanted to help other students from underrepresented minority backgrounds to thrive at Northwestern.

**Javier:** Diversity goes beyond race. Our goal is also to support diversity of backgrounds and encourage applicants who may come from challenging socioeconomic circumstances but who have a wealth of experiences to come to Feinberg and help enrich the school.

Where does the mentorship piece fit in?

**Javier:** Coming from a background not typically represented in the majority of medical students, you may feel out of place and like you don’t belong. Our plan is to provide a mentor from our class, someone who is not too far removed from medical school themselves, for the scholarship recipient to turn to for guidance.

**Berkley:** The idea is to truly invest in this individual by helping them connect to research and clinical mentors, laying the framework for future success in medical education, specialty training, and beyond.

Why is financial aid critical for medical students from traditionally underrepresented minority groups?

**Javier:** The debt load of medical school is daunting—for a lot of people. But for those who come from underrepresented and/or low-income groups, the financial commitment may scare them off entirely from pursuing a career in medicine. Scholarship funding helps relieve students of financial stress and, at the same time, will help Feinberg attract awesome applicants who may not otherwise have applied.

**Berkley:** Underrepresented minority groups often already face financial challenges without adding medical school to the mix. Scholarships make the seemingly impossible possible for many students.

What would you like share with supporters of this scholarship?

**Berkley:** Thank you for helping us to close the gap for medical students from underrepresented minority groups. You are ensuring that Feinberg remains an inclusive environment for everyone. **Javier:** We know that you have many causes deserving of your financial investment. Your commitment means a lot to the Class of 2019 and our efforts to increase diversity at Feinberg. We are grateful.

For more information about supporting scholarships, please contact Larry Kuhn at larry-kuhn@northwestern.edu or 312-503-1717.
Impact Story: Division of Nephrology

Dr. Frank Krumlovsky served for over 40 years as a highly respected nephrologist at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and faculty member in the Division of Nephrology within the Department of Medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. He was also a dedicated world traveler, spending time in far-flung destinations like Antarctica and Siberia. A stalwart supporter of the medical school during his life, Dr. Krumlovsky’s planned gifts will now endow an annual lectureship, a distinguished clinician faculty award, and a professorship in nephrology. His legacy will catalyze future discoveries in kidney medicine and innovation in clinical care. He passed away in 2019.

Q & A with Dr. Susan Quaggin

A silent killer, kidney disease affects 37 million Americans, with ≈700,000 of them needing dialysis or a kidney transplant to survive. Early in her medical training, the puzzling case of a seemingly healthy young man’s failing kidneys charted a course for Dr. Sue Quaggin. Determined to better understand kidney disease, this renowned nephrology expert has spent her career advancing clinical care through groundbreaking kidney research. In 2013, Dr. Quaggin joined Northwestern, where she is creating a super-charged hub for kidney research.

How is Northwestern pushing the envelope to develop new therapies for patients with kidney disease?
We have many ambitious research initiatives in play, including an exciting project to grow kidneys in a dish. Right now, our talented scientists are creating blood vessels within these miniature organs using CRISPR technology for gene editing. By the end of year, we hope to see positive results. Currently, patients in Illinois must wait an average of seven years for a new kidney. This work could revolutionize kidney transplantation and improve patient care.

What will continue to put Northwestern on the map for kidney research?
Recruiting a critical mass of physician-scientists and PhD scientists from all disciplines and providing resources to catalyze their research will continue our trajectory. In 2018, we had a big win: We received a $5.8 million grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) to expand our ability to identify, test, and translate discoveries into novel therapeutics. Northwestern is one of only eight NIDDK-funded George M. O’Brien kidney centers in the country and is the only center focused on boosting the therapeutic pipeline for kidney disease.

Where will the field of nephrology be in the next 10 to 20 years?
The development of bioengineered kidneys, wearable kidneys, new therapies targeted to specific kidney diseases like diabetic kidney disease, and miniaturized dialysis machines are all innovations that could become real possibilities. They may sound like science fiction, but these treatments are within reach thanks to fundamental discovery research at Northwestern and in labs around the world.

How is Dr. Krumlovsky’s gift impacting the division now and for years to come?
Dr. Krumlovsky was thoroughly committed to ensuring the success of our program, where he had dedicated so many years of his life. Before he passed away, we discussed the professorship he was endowing. He wanted it to support not only a leading international figure in kidney medicine but also someone who was creative and curious, like the free spirit that he was. With his support, we are well on our way to recruiting the perfect candidate who will have the resources to make many contributions to the division.

For more information about the Division of Nephrology and Hypertension, please contact David McCreery at david.mccreery@northwestern.edu or 312-503-6099.
Impact Story: Mesulam Center for Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer’s Disease

“From the day—12 years ago—that my husband was diagnosed with frontal temporal degeneration (FTD) until now, the Mesulam Center has been our friend, mentor, and support system. Social worker Darby Morhardt, PhD, put us in touch with day care programs and the great FTD group that meets monthly. I cannot imagine dealing with this awful disease without the center’s help and assistance. Hopefully, with our help towards research and treatment, there will be a cure.”

—Adrienne Drell, member of the Rogers Society and NULC

Q & A with Dr. Emily J. Rogalski

When she was in graduate school, a research rotation at the Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer’s Disease Center at Feinberg solidified Dr. Emily Rogalski’s interest in aging and dementia research. She went on to earn her PhD in neuroscience from Northwestern and, in 2008, she joined Feinberg as a faculty member. Dr. Rogalski is a clinical and cognitive neuroscientist, and her research focuses on aging and dementia.

Describe your work at the Mesulam Center.

I lead a number of projects. One is our study of “SuperAgers”—people in their 80s who have memory performance as good as people in their 50s and 60s. I also lead the neuroimaging core of our nationally-funded Alzheimer’s Disease Center, where we are looking for ways to improve the diagnosis of Alzheimer’s beyond the gold standard, which is currently after the patient has passed away. Another area of interest is a rare dementia known as progressive primary aphasia (PPA). PPA often strikes people under 65 who may be in the prime of their careers or who still have young children at home. While their memories are still intact, they have progressive decline in the ability to use and understand language.

What are some recent successes or breakthroughs?

We are evaluating novel imaging biomarkers that have the potential to personalize treatment and to diagnose Alzheimer’s and PPA during one’s life rather than after death. For individuals living with PPA, we created an innovative research intervention using video chat and a custom web application, to improve access and optimize care. Because PPA is relatively rare, it is often challenging to find speech pathologists experienced with helping individuals with PPA.

Where do you see this work heading in the next 10 to 20 years?

What makes our center so special is that we don’t just take one approach—we take many. If you march from back to front in our center, you’ll find a neuroscientist like myself with social workers, like Darby Morhardt, down the hall sitting next door to a neuropsychologist. Conducting team science and providing collaborative care ensures that patients who come into our clinic can benefit from all we have to offer. We are primed to take advantage of the personalized and precision medicine approaches that are coming in the near future.

How has philanthropy accelerated your work and that of the Mesulam Center?

With philanthropy, we can launch “out-of-the-box” ideas that lead to innovative initiatives, such as our SuperAgers or PPA programs. Today we are in a new space that has increased our ability to pursue opportunities and improve care for patients and their families. Much of what we have been able to achieve is thanks to donor support.
Impact Story: The HOST Program

The Help Our Students Travel (HOST) Program connects alumni with fourth-year medical students as they begin their long-anticipated interview season, typically from October through January. Through HOST, Feinberg alumni help to offset the financial burden of travel for residency interviews by offering students a place to stay, meals, and/or transportation, as well as invaluable advice about the community in which they are interviewing.

"The interview trail can be very expensive with many students traveling to 15 or more cities across the US. It was invaluable having both a place to stay and a friendly face while I was visiting different cities. In addition, my host in Washington, DC, showed me around the city and had insight into cost of living and the culture of different neighborhoods. I consider her now a lifelong contact, and she even reached out to me before Match, wishing me luck."

—Bri Knoll, '18 MD, '18 MBA, HOST Program participant

"We participate in the HOST Program because we enjoy meeting young people, and we think that helping students organize and carry out visits will give them a better chance of presenting themselves—and showing off the quality of their education—without having to worry about some of the details of the process."

—Meredith and Jeffrey Watters, ’70 MD, ’71 GMER, Service Society, NULC, and Rogers Society members

"I sought a Northwestern education to fulfill a lifelong dream of becoming a physician. Medical education has always been demanding, and everyone needs support from family, friends, and the University community.

The process of transition from a student to a resident is an important milestone in a medical career. It is a time of uncertainty, anxiety, and unfortunately many additional expenses with travel. The HOST Program can help to assuage these fears and costs. The alumni host can provide counseling, empathy about the match process and the student's residency search, as well as specific information about the hospital system and life in the community.

While the student saves money and benefits from an expanded network of contacts, the host receives the gratification of helping a student at a challenging time in their career. When I found out that a student who stayed with me matched at my program at Indiana University, I was bursting with pride."

—Thomas Hayward, ’89, ’94 MD, ’94 MBA, Service Society and NULC member

For more information about the HOST Program, please contact Dan Schwarzlose at daniel.schwarzlose@northwestern.edu or 312-503-4519.
Benefits of Membership in Nathan Smith Davis Society

- Annual cocktail reception
- Dedicated Feinberg staff liaison
- Early bird registration to special events throughout the year
- Davis Society–NULC Members ($1,000 or more given in a fiscal year) also receive the annual benefits of Northwestern University Leadership Circle
- Rogers Society members also receive the benefits of the Henry and Emma Rogers Society

You have invested in our shared mission to improve health worldwide. Thank you.

WE WILL.
The Campaign for Northwestern Medicine

For more information about the Nathan Smith Davis Society, please contact Sarah Kalsbeek at 312-503-3459 or s-kalsbeek@northwestern.edu.
For information on the benefits of membership in the Nathan Smith Davis Society, please visit feinberg.northwestern.edu/nsds.
If you do not wish to receive fundraising materials from Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, please call 312-503-8933.