Facing
Space Shuttle Atlantis and its six-member crew head toward a rendezvous with the International Space Station. Liftoff occurred on November 16 from NASA’s Kennedy Space Center. The crew included Northwestern professor Robert “Bobby” Satcher, MD, PhD, the first orthopedic surgeon to orbit the earth.
Dean’s Message

This issue is all about sharing our remarkable progress and many successes in 2009. I am proud to say there is much to communicate. We begin with a story about three award-winning young researchers who are enjoying the spotlight. These “shining stars,” who exemplify just a few of the amazing things that are happening in research at the medical school, are each excelling in their chosen fields and making tremendous progress in significant areas such as heart disease, diabetes, and AIDS.

In the center spread, we provide our annual Alumni Update (a brushstroke overview of our activities for the past year), which has typically been designed and mailed as a separate piece. This is just one way we are being good stewards of our resources, while continuing to communicate effectively. We have also changed vendors so we can provide a high-quality print publication at a significantly reduced cost.

Finally, we share the wonderful progress in developing new residency site affiliations. Our new and expanded affiliates – MacNeal, Methodist, and Stroger hospitals – provide us with tremendous diversity and excellent breadth and depth in our residency rotations.

Throughout the rest of this issue, you will read about even more initiatives that were launched in 2009, including an exciting new affiliation with a medical school in Nice, France. This is one example of many new relationships that will enable the exchange of interested students and fellows in global training opportunities.

We had a very productive year, and I am confident that we will accelerate our progress in 2010.

Best regards,

J. Larry Jameson, MD, PhD

Vice President for Medical Affairs and
Lewis Landsberg Dean
Northwestern Doctor First Orthopedic Surgeon in Space

Robert “Bobby” L. Satcher, MD, PhD, became the first orthopedic surgeon to orbit the earth when he blasted off on the Space Shuttle Atlantis for his 5-million mile journey to the International Space Station November 16.

Satcher, an assistant professor of orthopedic surgery at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, took three space walks with the STS-129 crew. He relied on his surgical training in intricate joint replacements to help repair two robotic arms on the exterior of the space station.

In addition to space walks, Satcher conducted experiments from the shuttle, investigating the effects of outer space on the immune system, changes in sitting height, and bone formation in mice.

A surgeon at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and a member of the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University, Satcher left the earth’s atmosphere just after another astronaut with Northwestern ties returned from space. Michael Barratt, who earned his Doctor of Medicine degree from Feinberg and who has taught about physiological changes that occur in space, recently returned to Houston from his mission on the Space Station.

Satcher is the third Northwestern-connected astronaut. Joseph Kerwin, who got his Doctor of Medicine degree from Northwestern, became the first American physician to make a spaceflight in Skylab 2, where he studied the health of his crew-mates in 1973.

“I’m proud to continue the tradition,” Satcher said. He has been on leave from Northwestern since he was accepted into the NASA program in 2004.

Satcher’s wife D’Juanna, their two children, and a contingent of Northwestern colleagues cheered him on at the shuttle’s liftoff.

On Top: Bobby Satcher floats freely aboard a KC-135 aircraft as part of his early astronaut training. Above: Dr. Satcher appears to be enjoying his duties on the flight deck of the Space Shuttle Atlantis during the mission’s second spacewalk. Left: Astronaut Robert L. Satcher (far left) and his five STS-129 crew members stop to pose for a photograph before heading to the launch pad for the November 16 liftoff.

Photo credit: NASA/Bill Ingalls
Medical School Embarks on Major Curriculum Renewal

The backbone of any great school is its faculty and curriculum. While changes have been made over the years to continually develop and expand the MD curriculum at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, the last major redesign occurred in the early 1990s. With myriad changes in medicine, health care, and education in the interim, educational leaders in the medical school departments and in the dean’s office believed it was time to rethink undergraduate education at the medical school.

This is no small task as it requires thorough examination and redefinition of every aspect, including the organizing principles of content, learning expectations, and the mechanisms through which material is delivered, applied, and assessed.

To kick off this effort, a group of 125 students, faculty, and administrators gathered to discuss curriculum renewal in September. The 1 ½ day retreat, which was developed by Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education John X. Thomas, Jr., and facilitated by Dr. LuAnn Wilkerson, his counterpart at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, included several presentations to help frame discussions in small group sessions. The goal of the retreat was to identify critical topics to address throughout 2010. By December, three task forces will create a template for the new curriculum, which will be rolled out in segments in the 2011/2012 school year.

“A great deal has changed since I graduated from medical school in 1981,” said Dean J. Larry Jameson, MD, PhD, vice president for medical affairs and Lewis Landsberg Dean, to retreat participants. “In recent years, we’ve seen the advent of the electronic health record and an explosion of new knowledge in fields such as genetics, imaging, informatics, and immunology. How do we build a curriculum to incorporate these advances as well as one that provides an adaptable platform for continuous learning? These features will emerge through our new curriculum.”

Critical needs of the new curriculum include moving from a traditional model based on meeting certain goals and objectives to one that tracks competencies that assess the strengths and weaknesses of each student, while supporting new advances in medicine. Enabling students to learn at their own pace, measure their own progress along a continuum, and be self-directed for lifelong learning are essential. Other important elements of learning will include earlier hands-on opportunities to apply knowledge acquired in lectures and readings.

Another group, led by Dr. Marianne Green, assistant dean for medical education and competency achievement, developed eight core competencies that will be the foundation of the new curriculum and student expectations. These competencies, which will be the basis for all learning, include: Patient-Centered Medical Care, Effective Communication and Interpersonal Skills, Medical Knowledge and Scholarship, System Awareness and Team-Based Care, Professional Behavior and Moral Reasoning, Continuous Learning and Quality Improvement, Community Engagement and Service, and Personal Awareness and Self-Care.

Many good ideas surfaced during the retreat. “The challenge is to take these different options and bring them together in a way that provides an exciting approach to education that allows for differences in learning styles and speeds,” explains Dean
Thomas. Three short-term task forces were formed as part of Phase I of the renewal process to focus on specific areas. These groups (listed below) met over a two-month period to lay the foundation, providing reports with recommendations to the Curriculum Renewal Steering Committee for their input, which will then be reviewed by the Curriculum Committee for approval.

1. Organizing Principles – Develop a model that puts into context integration of important learning principles across the curriculum.

2. Immersive Patient-Care Experiences – Develop clinical core experiences to include longitudinal experiences, as well as integrating basic science with patient care experiences.

3. Areas of Concentration – Develop personal threads, tracks, and themes for the curriculum. What components will allow differentiation as students progress through the curriculum?

During Phase II, to be completed from February through October of this year, additional task force groups will zero in on components of the new curriculum (creating learning modules, looking at sequencing, etc.). Phase III, which includes implementation and ongoing evaluation, will be completed during the 2011-2012 academic year.

Blayne Amir Sayed, an MD-PhD student, was awarded one of five Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Herbert W. Nickens Scholarships in October. The scholarships are presented annually to “outstanding students who have shown leadership in efforts to eliminate inequities in medical education and healthcare and demonstrated leadership efforts in addressing educational, societal, and healthcare needs of minorities in the United States.”

“Blayne is deeply committed to eliminating healthcare disparities and social, racial, ethnic, and religious intolerance,” wrote Raymond Curry, dean for education, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, in nominating Sayed. “He has gently, but firmly challenged the administration, faculty, and students alike to live up to the high ethical and intellectual expectations he holds for himself.”

Sayed is enrolled in the school’s medical scientist training program (MSTP). He successfully defended his post doctorate thesis in microbiology-immunology this past summer and is now completing the clinical clerkships in the Doctor of Medicine curriculum. However, his contributions to the medical community extend well beyond the classroom or research lab. Beginning with his experience as a teenager working with Native American children at the Cheyenne River Youth Project in Eagle Butte, South Dakota, Sayed has committed himself to a life of service addressing the challenges faced by medically underserved communities.

At Feinberg, Sayed has taught two first-year medical student courses about healthcare disparities and social, racial, ethnic, and religious intolerance, and has served as a member of the Executive Diversity Committee, the Curriculum Review Committee, the Committees of Admission for the Doctor of Medicine and MSTP programs, and is one of the leaders of the University’s MLK-DREAM Committee. His lab research focuses on the role of central nervous system-associated mast cells in facilitating inflammatory cell entry into the brain in a model of multiple sclerosis.

To learn more about the FSM competency wheel, visit WardRoundsOnline.com.
Affiliation with French Medical School Facilitates Feinberg Globalization

Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine recently celebrated a formal affiliation with the medical school at the Nice-Sophia Antipolis Université in France. The newly formed relationship offers Feinberg numerous benefits, including the exchange of students for clinical rotations and fellows for research collaborations.

J. Larry Jameson, MD, PhD, vice president for medical affairs and Lewis Landsberg Dean at Feinberg, says the association with one of France’s largest medical schools also offers several intangible benefits, such as the exchange of best practices for academic center management and the comparison of health care systems. The affiliation also supports his strategic vision for the medical school and its globalization initiative.

“As we aspire to innovate, we can learn from the education and training offered at Nice-Sophia Université,” Jameson says. “Additionally, the French health care system has a strong focus on prevention and patient referral to appropriate sites of care for particular clinical problems. We hope to learn from their experiences.”

In an effort to make an international impact, Jameson adds, Feinberg strives to share its research and clinical expertise with a broader community — a mission that can be accomplished by connecting with other medical schools.

Lewis Landsberg, MD, Irving S. Cutter Professor of Medicine and dean emeritus at Feinberg, says that Nice-Sophia Université has an outstanding medical school — with an emphasis on preventive medicine and public health — and a forward-thinking dean, Daniel Benchimol, PhD, who holds important political roles as deputy mayor of Nice and member of the Conseil Général of the Alpes-Maritimes area in France.

“We recognize the importance of our students having a broader perspective — observing other healthcare systems and interacting with students from another culture,” Landsberg says. “Nice is a place where we can send our students and fellows to have an enriching experience; and this exchange exposes us to their students.”

Landsberg says this connection is also expected to expand Northwestern’s area of influence, as the reputation of Feinberg is spread abroad.

“This affiliation aids in Feinberg’s aspirations to have a global footprint,” Landsberg says.

Above: The Castle of Valrose is the seat of the presidency of Nice-Sophia Antipolis Université, which has 26,000 students.
Above, right: A researcher in the Department of Chemistry at Nice-Sophia Antipolis Université.
Right: The ST. Jean d’ Angély campus of Nice-Sophia Antipolis Université is very modern. The medical school has 2,963 students.

To read about Dean J. Larry Jameson’s State of the School address, visit WardRoundsOnline.com.
As you know, the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine celebrated its sesquicentennial in 2009. And while we can’t forecast what medical schools will look like in another 150 years, we can continue to build on the solid foundation we inherited to position the school, its graduates, and our clinical affiliates to prosper long into the future.

President Obama continues to make health care reform his number one domestic priority, despite recent setbacks. In a speech to a joint session of Congress, he articulated three goals: for people with insurance, make it work better; for people without insurance, make it affordable; and bend the cost curve.

The focus on access and cost are easy to understand. The United States spends more on health care per person and as a percent of our gross domestic product, than any country in the world. Despite these unmatched levels of spending, 45 million of our fellow citizens are without insurance, and millions more are underinsured. Our outcomes on standard public health measures (life expectancy, infant mortality) are mediocre or worse. Disparities abound. For African American women, for example, the American health care system detects breast cancer later and provides inferior outcomes than their Caucasian counterparts experience.

A key challenge in reforming health care will be to change to a system that pays for outcomes, including keeping people healthy. Providing access to health care is a moral imperative and it can’t be accomplished without reducing the rate of growth in health care costs. But bending the cost curve for society means less revenue for health care providers. Medical schools rely on the clinical revenue streams generated by their faculty and affiliated hospitals to defray the uncovered costs of education and research. All our revenue sources are under stress. Medicare, the major public health insurance program, will run out of money this decade under current eligibility and payment practices. Employers, facing double-digit increases in the annual premiums they pay for their employees, are cutting back on coverage or number of employees or both. Philanthropy continues to be a major source of support, but the meltdown of the financial markets has understandably interjected caution into the donor community. And already high tuition leaves students with an average medical school debt of more than $150,000.

Successful medical schools will undergo painful transitions as they address their flaws over the next several years. For example, at Northwestern we have too many organizational units to keep them all efficient and effective. If you look at our organization chart, Dean Jameson has more than 50 direct reports – chairs, center and institute directors, vice deans and functional area deans, and on and on. We tolerate aberrant behavior more often than we can afford. We are not crisp in assigning responsibility and accountability. Our physicians are not as well integrated as the future health care system will demand, either among themselves or with our hospital affiliates. And we are not as adept at translating new knowledge into medical practice as we need to be.

That said, none of these shortcomings is insurmountable, so before you decide to have a bake sale to help the medical school make ends meet, let’s reflect on the upside potential we have.

First, the science of medicine has never been more robust – the mapping of the human genome, incredibly powerful diagnostic tools, genomics, bioinformatics, nanotechnology – the list is endless. What medicine can do, and will be able to do in the coming years, is extraordinary and society will want it all. To those of us who aren’t scientists or physicians, medicine’s accomplishments appear to be nothing less than magic.

Second, by tapping into the skills and talents in our environment – committed providers, brilliant scientists and students, colleagues in engineering, chemistry, law, business, and myriad other fields – we can respond to the external threats without sacrificing our core academic values.

Charles Darwin tells us that it is not the strongest or the swiftest that survive; it is the most adaptable. This wisdom, which he applied to species applies equally to complex organizations. By working together and maximizing our efforts such as Northwestern Medicine and One Northwestern, we will adapt and prosper, helping the American health care system deliver on its promise.

Jeffrey C. Miller
Vice Dean and Chief Operating Officer

Charles Darwin tells us that it is not the strongest or the swiftest that survive; it is the most adaptable.
New Center Focuses on Medical Educators

If education is the mission of a school, the faculty members are its missionaries. As part of their important work, it is imperative that educators receive support and continuing development so they can make full use of the latest innovations to engage today’s student. The Center for Education in Medicine was created to support, encourage, and provide an intellectual community for faculty who devote their time and energy to teaching.

Overall, the center will enhance institutional visibility and impact in education, and will also address important needs for faculty development and recognition through the new Feinberg Academy of Medical Educators (FAME). The activities of the academy and center are available to faculty in all educational programs connected with Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

“The center is not only the ‘parent organization’ for the Feinberg Academy of Medical Educators, but it will also be an intellectual community to foster innovative approaches to education, develop external support for educational research and scholarship, and showcase Feinberg’s innovations in medical education throughout the world,” explains Raymond Curry, MD, dean for education. “Think of the center as directed toward enhancing our institutional visibility and impact in education, and the academy as a major component within the center, focusing on our pressing intramural needs for faculty support, development, and recognition.”

A new program that will support and recognize both full-time and contributed services faculty is the Core Teaching Faculty, a select group of individuals who spend a significant amount of their professional time educating medical students. The nomination and selection process will be handled through the Academy of Medical Educators.

The academy will be led by Jon Lomasney, MD, associate professor of pathology and pharmacology. He will be responsible for a number of initiatives, including creating the guidelines for academy membership, developing criteria, and working collaboratively with the Augusta Webster, MD, Office of Medical Education to select and manage the Core Teaching Faculty, finding and communicating existing internal and external faculty development opportunities, and developing new programs, workshops, and web-based resources to address additional training needs. Dr. Lomasney will report to Dr. Curry, who will serve as interim director of the Center for Education in Medicine until a director is identified through a national search. For more information about the Center for Education in Medicine, visit http://www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/center-for-education/index.html.

Comprehensive Transplant Center Celebrates Launch

Approximately 240 physicians, faculty, staff, patients, and friends celebrated the official launch of the Northwestern University Comprehensive Transplant Center (CTC) on October 28. The CTC includes a wide range of collaborative and multidisciplinary activities at Northwestern University and Northwestern Memorial Hospital. Its formation is the latest example of a strategic investment to drive the transformation of an important area of patient care and public health.

The day’s first seminar, presented by David Cella, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Medical Social Sciences, offered a deeper understanding of all of the issues and outcomes surrounding transplant surgeries. Cella detailed a few of the many partnerships that comprise the CTC, in particular, the Northwestern University Transplant Outcomes Research Collaborative (NUTORC), which helps lead research and quality of life care after transplant.

Dixon Kaufman, MD, PhD, led the second seminar on replacement, regeneration, and bioartificial options for patients suffering from organ and tissue failure. Dr. Kaufman, Fowler McCormick Professor, vice chair of research in the Department of Surgery, and director of Pancreas and Islet Transplantation at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, is also deputy director of the CTC. Emphasizing the importance of finding new options for the one million Americans with insulin-dependent diabetes, he described how transformations in beta cell replacement therapies are revolutionizing care.

Following the afternoon seminars, J. Larry Jameson, MD, PhD, vice president for medical affairs and Lewis Landsberg Dean of Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, began the official program. In his remarks, he described the evolution of the CTC — from the vision of Michael Abecassis, MD, MBA, to the instrumental partnership of Dean M. Harrison, president and chief executive officer of Northwestern Memorial HealthCare — in fortifying this clinical, academic, and research center.

Joanna Riester
Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) recently welcomed its newest members at a ceremony hosted by Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. The medical honor society inductees included undergraduate students, resident physicians, faculty members, and an alumna—each selected based on academic achievements and significant contributions to medicine.

John P. Flaherty, MD, councilor of the AOA Illinois Gamma Chapter, professor of medicine at Feinberg, and associate chief of the Department of Medicine Division of Infectious Disease, says election into AOA signifies a lasting commitment to scholarship, leadership, professionalism, and service.

“Membership in the society is a lifelong honor that confers recognition for a physician’s dedication to the profession and the art of healing,” Flaherty said. “For medical students, this award can also positively impact their residency training applications.”

Jessica Newman, a fourth-year medical student, is currently applying for urology residency programs, and says she is excited about the opportunity to serve others as a physician.

“My association with Alpha Omega Alpha strengthens my conviction to become a doctor,” Newman said. “It was truly an honor to be inducted into this prestigious club.”

Along with Newman, the following 25 undergraduate students were inducted into AOA: Praveen Anchala, Beau Brinckerhoff, Melissa Chen, Benjamin Currie, David DiBardino, Leo Han, Nikolas Kazmers, Melissa Keene, Thomas Klumpner, Andrew Kott, Christine Lin, Matthew Lipton, Jeremy Markowitz, Sarah Novis, Jason Oppenheimer, Senad Osmanovic, Matthew Patton, Martin Pham, Tamika Smith, Diego Villacis, Katherine Connor, MD, and William Bulsieiwicz, MD.

Three residents — Katherine Connor, MD, William Bulsieiwicz, MD, and Laleh Melstrom, MD — were also inducted, along with two faculty members, Stanford Shulman, MD, Virginia H. Rogers Professor of Pediatric Infectious Disease at Feinberg and chief in the Division of Infectious Disease at Children’s Memorial Hospital, and Robert Listernick, MD, professor of pediatrics and attending physician in the Division of General Academic Pediatrics at Children’s.

Listernick says his reward as a faculty member includes his daily interactions with bright, inquisitive medical students and pediatric residents.

“I was an average student during my first two years of medical school, and it wasn’t until my pediatrics rotation that I developed a true passion for children and the art and science of pediatrics,” Listernick said. “My induction into AOA was a testament to this love of pediatrics and a tribute to the mentors and teachers who guided my career over the years.”

The final inductee, Karen Sheehan, MD ’89, associate professor of pediatrics and preventive medicine at Feinberg, is an alumna of the medical school.

Sheehan is proud of her Northwestern education and says the medical school prepared her for a career in medicine by exposing her to outstanding clinicians, researchers, and educators.

“I have been fortunate to do a little bit of everything — care for patients, teach, perform research, and advocate for children’s health and well being — with my Doctor of Medicine degree,” Sheehan said. “It was very much an honor to be inducted into AOA, and I am so appreciative of my chair who wrote the letter of support for my work.”

Katie Costello
New President of Northwestern Faculty Practice

Jeffrey Glassroth, MD, has been named president and chief executive officer of the Northwestern Medical Faculty Foundation (NMFF), the 700-member physician practice of Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

Glassroth has been vice dean and chief academic officer at Feinberg and the interim president of NMFF.

The new position is a homecoming for Glassroth, who rejoined Northwestern in 2007 from Tufts University School of Medicine. In his previous role, he had been executive vice president and chief operating officer of NMFF.

“I’m really excited to be returning to a leadership position at the Northwestern Medical Faculty Foundation,” Glassroth says. “The Faculty Foundation has been remarkably successful in its dual roles as a premier provider of health care and as one of the engines for the Feinberg School of Medicine pursuing its academic mission. With the evolution of medical science in general and of our academic medical center in particular, the potential for NMFF to expand its impact on the health of Chicago, the region, and medicine more broadly has never been greater.”

“Jeff Glassroth brings a clear vision for the future of our academic practice plan, coupled with extensive leadership experience and a steadfast commitment to the values and goals of Northwestern Medicine,” says J. Larry Jameson, MD, PhD, vice president for medical affairs and the Lewis Landsberg Dean of Feinberg.

Northwestern Medicine represents the clinical and research collaborations between Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

“Opportunities at Northwestern have never been greater,” Jameson adds. “We have outstanding physicians across all specialties of medicine, unparalleled clinical facilities, and a vision to provide evidence-based, patient-centered care that is informed continuously by new knowledge and innovation. I look forward to Dr. Glassroth’s thoughtful leadership as we aspire to improve the health of our community and disseminate new knowledge and best clinical practices.”

Glassroth first joined what was then called Northwestern University Medical School in 1981 as an assistant professor of medicine. He was later promoted to professor of medicine and the Gilbert H. Marquardt Professor of Internal Medicine. He went on to become vice chair in the Department of Medicine and associate dean for clinical academic affairs. At Feinberg, his new role will be vice dean for clinical academic affairs.

Preventive Med Chair

Donald Lloyd-Jones, MD, associate professor of Preventive Medicine and Medicine, has been named the new chair of Preventive Medicine. With this appointment, Lloyd-Jones takes the helm of one of the top preventive medicine departments in the country. As chair, he will draw on his experiences as a clinician, researcher, teacher, and mentor. Lloyd-Jones joined Northwestern in 2004, and is also the director of the Program for Cardiovascular Risk Estimation, Communication, and Prevention at Feinberg and the interim director of the Bluhm Cardiovascular Institute Clinical Trials Unit at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. His research interests are cardiovascular disease epidemiology, risk estimation, and prevention. A major focus of his work has been the investigation of lifetime risks for various cardiovascular diseases and factors that modify those risks. He also studies cardiovascular disease risk estimation using novel biomarkers, imaging of subclinical atherosclerosis, and the epidemiology of hypertension.

Public Health Commissioner

Bechara Choucair, MD, adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine, has been recently appointed by Mayor Richard M. Daley to commissioner of the Chicago Department of Public Health.

“I am honored that Mayor Daley asked me to serve the city of Chicago at this turning point for health care in our country,” Choucair said. As commissioner, Choucair leads the charge in fulfilling the department’s mission to make Chicago a safer and healthier city by working with community partners to promote health, prevent disease, reduce environmental hazards, and ensure access to health care. For more than three years, Choucair has served as assistant professor and chair for community medicine at Feinberg, and as executive director and medical director of Heartland International Health Center — a community health care program for the underserved that is achieved in partnership with the Department of Family and Community Medicine.
Jacob I. Sznajder, MD, Ernest S. Bazley Professor of Medicine, was appointed editor of the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, effective October 1.

Juan Carlos Caicedo, MD, assistant professor of surgery, was named to Crain’s Chicago Business “40 under 40” list in November.

Linda J. Van Eldik, PhD, professor of cell and molecular biology, was awarded a prestigious Zenith Award from the Alzheimer’s Association. This $450,000, 2-year grant was one of four made in 2009.

Evanston Township High School in Evanston, Ill. and its Alumni Association honored Edward S. Traisman, MD, professor of pediatrics, with a Distinguished Alumni Award in December.

Iowa State University honored Ann Bryant Borders, MD, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, with the Outstanding Young Alumni Award during its annual homecoming celebration. Borders has been an advocate for maternal-health issues and is studying the effects of maternal stress on preterm birth.

The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI) selected Paul Greenberger, MD, professor of medicine in the Division of Allergy/Immunology, as its new president. Over the years, Dr. Greenberger has chaired multiple committees of the AAAAI and is a past recipient of their Special Recognition and Distinguished Service awards.
Transplanting People’s Own Stem Cells to Treat Heart Disease

The largest national stem cell study for heart disease showed the first evidence that transplanting a potent form of adult stem cells into the heart muscle of subjects with severe angina resulted in less pain and an improved ability to walk. The transplant subjects also experienced fewer deaths.

In the 12-month Phase II, double-blind trial, subjects’ own purified stem cells, called CD34+ cells, were injected into 10 locations in their heart muscle in an effort to spur the growth of small blood vessels for microcirculation. Researchers believe the loss of these blood vessels contributes to the pain of chronic, severe angina.

Losordo, who presented his findings at the November 17 American Heart Association Scientific Sessions 2009, said this study provides the first evidence that a person’s own stem cells can be used to treat their heart disease. He cautioned, however, that the findings of the 25-site trial with 167 subjects require verification in a larger, Phase III study.

Out of the estimated one million people in the U.S. who suffer from chronic, severe angina, about 300,000 cannot be helped by any traditional medical treatments such as angioplasty, bypass surgery, or stents. This is called intractable or severe angina. The subjects in Losordo’s study had chest pain with normal to minimal activities, even while brushing their teeth or resting.

The stem cell transplant is the first therapy to produce an improvement in severe angina subjects’ ability to walk on a treadmill. Twelve months after the procedure, the transplant subjects were able to double their improvement on a treadmill compared to the placebo group. It also took twice as long before they experienced angina pain on a treadmill, and when they felt pain, it went away faster with rest. In addition, they had fewer overall chest pain episodes.

‘Super’ Ager Brains Reveal First Secrets of Sharp Memory in Old Age

Maybe you have an 85-year-old grandfather who still whips through the newspaper crossword puzzle every morning or a 94-year-old aunt who never forgets a name or a face. They don’t seem to suffer the ravages of memory that beset most people as they age.

Researchers at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine wondered if the brains of the elderly with still laser sharp memory – called “super aged” – were somehow different than everyone else’s. So, they investigated what goes right in an aging brain that stays nimble.

Now they have a preliminary answer. Scientists examined the brains of five deceased people considered super aged because of their high performance on memory tests when they were more than 80 years old and compared them to the brains of elderly, non-demented individuals. Researchers found the super aged brains had many fewer fiber-like tangles. The tangles consist of a protein called tau that accumulates inside brain cells and is thought to eventually kill the cells. Tangles are found in moderate numbers in the brains of elderly and increase substantially in the brains of Alzheimer’s disease patients.

“This new finding in super aged brains is very exciting,” said Changiz Geula, principal investigator of the study and a research professor of neurology at the Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer’s Disease Center at Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine. “It was always assumed that the accumulation of these tangles is a progressive phenomenon through the aging process. But we are seeing that some individuals are immune to tangle formation and that the presence of these tangles seems to influence cognitive performance.”

Dr. Geula, who presented his findings at the Society for Neuroscience annual meeting in November in Washington, D.C., said the lower number of tangles in the super aged appears to be the critical difference in maintaining memory skills.

New research will focus on what makes cells in super aged brains more resistant to tangle formation. “We want to see what protects the brains of these individuals against the ravages that cause memory loss,” Geula said. “Understanding the specific genetic and molecular characteristics of the brains that make them resistant, someday may lead to the ability to protect average brains from memory loss.”

Geula’s research is part of a larger super aging study at Northwestern’s Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer’s Disease Center (CNADC). The study’s goal is to identify high-functioning individuals over 80 and investigate what factors are important to maintain this ability into old age. A number of super aged individuals have been identified and are being followed up annually with tests of cognitive abilities. Recruitment continues for the study.
Modest Weight Loss Slashes Diabetes Risk

Intensive lifestyle changes aimed at modest weight loss reduced the rate of developing type 2 diabetes by 34 percent in people at high risk for the disease, according to the Diabetes Prevention Program Outcomes Study, which was published online in The Lancet in October.

The Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine was a site in the National Institutes of Health study that was based on 10 years of data.

“I think it is striking that even a small amount of weight loss and increase in exercise has such a prolonged effect in delaying the onset or perhaps even preventing diabetes,” said Mark E. Molitch, MD, professor of medicine and principle investigator at Feinberg and an attending physician at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

Participants randomly assigned to make lifestyle changes also had more favorable cardiovascular risk factors, including lower blood pressure and triglyceride levels, despite taking fewer drugs to control their heart disease risk, according to the study.

“The benefits were particularly profound for older individuals, people age 60 and older,” added Molitch. He noted they lowered their rate of developing type 2 diabetes in the next 10 years by about half.

Antidepressant Drugs Aim at Wrong Target

More than half the people who take antidepressants never get relief from their symptoms. Why? Because the cause of depression has been oversimplified and drugs designed to treat it aim at the wrong target. The medications are like arrows shot at the outer rings of a bull’s eye.

A study from the laboratory of long-time depression researcher Eva Redei from Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, which was presented at the Neuroscience 2009 conference in Chicago in October, appears to topple two strongly held beliefs about depression. One is that stressful life events are a major cause of depression. The other is that an imbalance in brain neurotransmitters triggers depressive symptoms.

Both findings are significant because these beliefs were the basis for developing drugs currently used to treat depression.

Redei, the David Lawrence Stein Professor of Psychiatry at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, compared stress-related genes with depression-related genes to see if there were any similarities. Out of more than 30,000 genes, she discovered approximately 254 related to stress and 1275 related to depression, with an overlap of only five genes.

“This finding is clear evidence that at least in an animal model, chronic stress does not cause the same molecular changes as depression does,” Redei said. “This research opens up new routes to develop new antidepressants that may be more effective. There hasn’t been an antidepressant based on a novel concept in 20 years.”

Chemo Cocktail Blocks Breast Cancer Spread

When breast cancer spreads or metastasizes, it crashes through the body’s protective fences. The disease becomes fatal when it travels outside the mammary ducts, enters the bloodstream and spreads to the bones, liver, or brain. Currently, there are only drugs that try to stem the uncontrolled division of cancer cells within the ducts. Until now, no drugs specifically targeted the invasion and spread of breast cancer to the organs.

A researcher from Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine has found a way to strengthen the breast’s “fence” to try to prevent cancer from metastasizing. Researcher Seth Corey, MD, has discovered that when a drug normally used to treat leukemia is added to a commonly used breast cancer drug, the potent new chemotherapy cocktail helps prevent breast cancer cells from invading.

“This is an entirely new way of targeting a cancer cell,” says Corey, the Sharon B. Murphy-Steven T. Rosen Research Professor of Cancer Biology and Chemotherapy at Feinberg.

Working in the lab with women’s breast cancer cells, the director of the pediatric oncology program at the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University found that when the leukemia drug dasatinib is combined with the breast cancer drug doxorubicin, the potent mix cuts breast cancer cell invasion in half. Corey is the study’s principal investigator, which recently was reported in the British Journal of Cancer.

“Perhaps this drug could be given to prevent invasion from happening in the first place,” says Corey, who also is a pediatric oncologist at Children’s Memorial Hospital. “This might keep the disease in check and prevent it from progressing.”
YOUNG RESEARCH SUPERSTARS

BY: EILEEN NORRIS
Star athletes can raise everyone’s performance on a sports team and the same can be said for rising young physician researchers working at an academic medical center.

The work conducted in labs at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine runs the gamut for three of the medical school’s up-and-coming superstars. One researcher focuses on developing a new medication to prevent and treat heart disease. Another investigator works fervently to annihilate HIV here and abroad, while treating 100,000 Nigerians infected with the virus. An MD scientist looks for a way to help the immune systems of diabetes patients accept transplants of islets, the insulin-producing part of the pancreas, without the need for toxic anti-rejection drugs.

“These researchers are very accomplished and if they’re great now, they will be even better later,” says William L. Lowe Jr., MD, dean for faculty affairs and deputy director of the Northwestern University Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (NUCATS).

“We’re a team-based institution, so it’s like sports. If you have a star, your chances of winning go up,” he explains. “Research is an important part of our mission and it drives our national reputation, in terms of recruiting, patient care, and educating the next generation of doctors and scientists.”

C. Shad Thaxton, MD ’04, PhD ’07, assistant professor of urology, is working to develop a synthetic form of high-density lipoprotein (HDL), or carrier of “good” cholesterol, that prevents or perhaps even reverses the buildup of cholesterol-laden plaques in the walls of the arteries—often a precursor to heart disease.

A medication may be a good 10 to 15 years away, but his research is “not pie in the sky.” “We’ll be testing it for years to come in model laboratory systems, on animals and, I believe, someday people,” says Dr. Thaxton, 33, of his research. His study appeared in the February 4, 2009, Journal of the American Chemical Society. Dr. Thaxton was named 2009 researcher of the year by Bioscience Technology and was named to MIT Technology Review’s TR35 list of young innovators under 35 for his work using gold nanoparticles to mimic the HDL found in the human body.

Nanotechnology is based on building structures and materials with novel properties that can be made to solve difficult scientific and technical problems. Bulk materials miniaturized to the nanometer scale often have new properties that present new opportunities in biomedicine.

“My thought was, ‘If HDL is so good, let’s try to mimic the HDL we all have in our body, understand it better from a nanomaterials perspective, and then attempt to make it even better,’” explains Dr. Thaxton. He and his lab team built artificial HDL nanostructures and then set out to see how well they took on cholesterol. “The structures bind cholesterol very, very strongly,” says Dr. Thaxton, who is now working to make a suite of nanoparticles to see how they bind cholesterol and behave biologically.

Dr. Thaxton’s mentor, Chad A. Mirkin, PhD, George B. Rathmann Professor of Chemistry at Northwestern, is quite proud of his former student and now colleague. “He was one of the most promising students we’ve had come through Northwestern in a long time,” says Dr. Mirkin, director of Northwestern’s Nanoscale Science and Engineering Center and International Institute for Nanotechnology. Dr. Mirkin was recently appointed to President Obama’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.

Dr. Thaxton graduated with a BA degree in environmental biology from the University of Colorado and earned his MD and PhD degrees from Northwestern in 2004 and 2007, respectively. He joined the medical school faculty full time in 2008. For his final thesis project, he also used nanoparticles as part of a protein detection assay that he co-invented with Dr. Mirkin and a fellow graduate student. The team
found that by using novel properties of nanoparticles, prostate specific antigen (PSA)—a marker for prostate cancer and recurrence—could be detected at serum levels below what is possible with current testing. Along with colleagues in the Department of Urology, Dr. Thaxton is preparing a clinical trial to validate the preliminary findings on a larger number of patients.

Dr. Thaxton got his start as a prospective research scientist during his third year as a medical student. Thumbing through *Scientific American* at a bookstore, he spotted an article about gold nanoparticles and their promise for research. Noting that the article was authored by Dr. Mirkin, the young student promptly called and asked if he could work in his lab. “Dr. Mirkin said, ‘Yes, if you can get funding,’” recalls Thaxton. “So I applied for a grant and received the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Fellowship, and started working with him.” The rest, as they say, is history.

Babafemi Taiwo, MBBS, came to Northwestern five years ago as a fellow in infectious disease. Now, the 38-year-old native of Nigeria is an assistant professor of medicine in the Division of Infectious Disease and director for African Research for the medical school’s Center for Global Health. He recently received the 2009 John Carey Young Investigator Award presented at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) AIDS Clinical Trial Group (ACTG). The award recognizes junior investigators who exemplify the ideals of the ACTG and the work of Dr. Carey, one of the first physicians in the nation to treat AIDS patients and study the effects of antiviral treatment on the immune system.

Dr. Taiwo welcomes the accolades for practical reasons. The notoriety allows him to increase his role in ACTG, gives credibility to his research proposals, and recognizes his work and career path. “You can’t live your life hoping for these kinds of awards, but I’m happy to be acknowledged,” says Dr. Taiwo, who hopes for accomplishments that will have a global impact. His lofty goal is to help eradicate HIV or at least to achieve a state where HIV infection doesn’t adversely affect a person’s life expectancy. He explains, “Many people with HIV do well, but many still suffer from consequential conditions like cancer, liver damage, premature aging, central nervous system problems, and impaired memory.”

Dr. Taiwo received his MBBS degree (bachelor of medicine and bachelor of surgery, equivalent of a U.S. MD degree) from the University of Ibadan’s College of Medicine in Nigeria. He completed his residency at the University of Massachusetts Berkshire Medical Center and his fellowship training at Northwestern in 2006. His research interests include HIV drug resistance and strategies for optimal antiretroviral treatment in resource-limited settings.

Northwestern has a program with affiliates in Nigeria, where 100,000 patients are receiving treatment for HIV/AIDS at 37 different sites. Dr. Taiwo works closely with Robert L. Murphy, MD, GME ’84, professor of medicine and director of the Center for Global Health, on the medical school’s two international HIV-research-related grants. The first is the NIH Fogarty International Center grant to develop a university-wide global health program. The grant helps expand global health activities by creating a dozen new courses as well as research opportunities abroad so that teams of students can perform research locally and then go abroad for related fieldwork. Northwestern also received an AIDS International Training and Research Program (AITRP) grant to develop a training program for researchers from the West African nations of Nigeria and Mali.

“Dr. Taiwo has contributed in two major ways,” says his mentor Dr. Murphy. “He is an active and productive investigator in the ACTG, which has a very busy unit here at
transplanted cells, forcing patients to take often toxic immunosuppressive drugs to keep their bodies from rejecting the insulin-producing cells.

Dr. Luo’s earlier research involved taking a form of white blood cells from the islet donor’s spleen and treating them with a chemical that masked their identity. The altered cells were then injected into diabetic mice before and after the animals underwent islet cell transplantation. The mice didn’t reject the cells because they were tricked into believing they were their own and, even better, the research showed that the transplanted cells seemed to be permanently accepted.

Dr. Luo said the technique has promise for treating other autoimmune diseases such as multiple sclerosis. The research was reported in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences in 2008 and was initially funded by the Northwestern Memorial Faculty Foundation Young Investigator Award, and later by the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and the NIH.

Success with the animal studies has bolstered the hopes of Dr. Luo, along with her mentor, Stephen D. Miller, PhD, Judy Gugenheim Research Professor of Microbiology–Immunology and director of the Interdepartmental Immunobiology Center, for finding a potentially viable method for preventing islet rejection in diabetic mice without the side effects of anti-rejection drugs.

“I find diabetes to be a challenging disease, but we plan now to humanize the mouse models. It’s exciting work, and it’s not an easy road, but I look forward to it.” Dr. Luo received her undergraduate degree from Tsinghua University in China and her graduate and medical degree from Duke University. She completed her residency and fellowship training at New York’s Presbyterian Hospital. Last year, she received the NIH Type I Diabetes Pathfinder Award and an accompanying $1.5 million grant for her research. The award supports creative new investigators who propose innovative research projects.

None of this surprises Dr. Miller, who believes Dr. Luo has a great and far-reaching future ahead of her. “She is an up-and-coming young physician scientist who is promoting Northwestern and translational research and directing the next steps to therapies in humans.”

“Dr. Taiwo’s achievements to date are quite significant, and considering his young age, they are actually quite remarkable,” continues Dr. Murphy. “His success is a credit to Northwestern, which has trained a Nigerian national who is going to be a very successful academic.”

Only a few years ago Dr. Taiwo approached Dr. Murphy at a medical conference and said he wanted to work “on any project that involved Nigeria.” At the time, Dr. Taiwo was an internist and medical director of a community health clinic in an underserved area of North Carolina. “I told him that if he really wanted to help, he needed subspecialty training,” recalls Dr. Murphy. “I was impressed with his determination and intelligence and so I offered him a fellowship position in infectious diseases here at Northwestern. I was surprised when he quit his job, became a fellow, sold his home, and moved his wife and three kids to Chicago. He never looked back and made it all happen.”
Northwestern ended the 2008–09 academic year with a strong finish thanks to progress in many areas, from advancing educational, clinical, and research priorities to strengthening partnerships and engaging in activities that allow us to make an impact. As we move on through a new academic calendar filled with strategic goals that build upon one another, we look back at some of our most significant achievements during the past year and take pride in what we have accomplished.
New Departments, Institutes, and Centers

The medical school created a new Department of Medical Social Sciences, focusing on health measurement, quality of life measures, outcomes science, and statistical tools used to support clinical research. An expert in outcomes research, David Cella, PhD, chairs the department.

The Northwestern Brain Tumor Institute was launched this spring to accelerate efforts, advance research breakthroughs, and improve treatment outcomes and quality of life for patients with brain and spinal tumors. The new institute’s creation is a result of collaboration among Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern, and Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

The Northwestern Comprehensive Center on Obesity (NCCO) officially opened on November 13, 2008, and lost no time in implementing innovative programs. In late 2008, the center launched a “Healthy for You, Healthy for 2” program for pregnant overweight women at risk for having complicated pregnancies due to their weight. Lewis Landsberg, MD, heads the center.

Created in early 2009, the Comprehensive Transplant Center is under the direction of Michael M. Abecassis, MD, MBA. Last May, Northwestern’s transplant team celebrated an important milestone by performing its 1,000th liver transplant.

The medical school announced the formation of the Center for Global Health. Directed by Northwestern alumnus Robert L. Murphy, MD, GME ’84, the center will help expand the school’s global presence.

Physician Assistant Program

Helping to meet the need for primary care providers and ensuring access to care, the medical school will offer a new physician assistant (PA) program within the Department of Family and Community Medicine. After a successful provisional accreditation visit in December 2009, and pending a positive review by the Accreditation Review Commission in March 2010, the program will welcome its first class of 30 students in June 2010. Northwestern’s PA program is the fifth such program in Illinois and will feature a two-year master’s degree curriculum.

Ward Building Research Space

The medical school’s administrative offices relocated from the 4th floor of the Ward and Searle buildings to the 12th floor of the Rubloff Building (420 E. Superior Street) in August to make way for much needed wet lab research space. Consolidating most of the central offices, including the Office of the Dean, into one building allows for more efficient collaboration across administrative units. The Office of Alumni Relations also moved this summer to the 9th floor of Rubloff from its former location on the 13th floor of Abbott Hall.

Education

Welcome, Class of 2013!

Approximately one of every five applicants to U.S. medical schools for the 2009–10 academic year applied to Northwestern. The 164 members of the entering class include 90 men and 74 women. Students list 64 undergraduate majors—from biology and biomedical engineering to psychology, chemistry, and economics. Collectively, our newest students speak 27 different languages, including Spanish, Japanese, and Gujarati.

Self-describing their racial and ethnic groups, our students include 13 (8 percent) African and African American; 57 (35 percent) Asian; 11 (7 percent) Hispanic; 2 (1 percent) Native American or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander; and 74 (45 percent) white. Seven individuals chose not to self-describe.

Attracting Diverse Trainees

The Northwestern McGaw Center for Graduate Medical Education filled all of the 196 residency positions it offered in 2009 through the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP). Twenty percent of the Department of Medicine’s matches went to students historically underrepresented in medicine. The NRMP received the largest number of match applications in its history, with a total number of 29,890 applicants that included 15,638 U.S. medical students—400 more than 2008.
Opportunities and Affiliations

Additional training sites and new affiliations have expanded opportunities for students and residents to experience patient care in more ethnically and economically diverse community-based clinical settings throughout the Chicago area. The Department of Surgery’s general surgery program has added a training site at MacNeal Hospital in Berwyn, which serves communities in the near west and southwest suburbs. New relationships have been forged at John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital (formerly Cook County Hospital) in obstetrics and gynecology, neurosurgery, and urology, significantly increasing the medical school’s presence at the county facility—long an important training ground for alumni. (For more details, see “Opening Doors” story on page 22.)

All of Northwestern’s residents and fellows based at the former Evanston Northwestern Healthcare (ENH) were given the opportunity to complete their training within the Northwestern McGaw system after the disaffiliation with ENH in 2008. Thanks to the commitment and additional support from Northwestern Memorial Hospital and other McGaw Medical Center affiliates, the transition went smoothly, with minimal downsizing or interruption of programs.

Key Leadership Appointments

*Morton Owen Schapiro, PhD,* took office as Northwestern University’s 16th president on September 1. Dr. Schapiro succeeded Henry S. Bienen, who retired August 31 after serving 14 years. Formerly president of Williams College for nine years and professor of economics, Schapiro is one of the country’s leading authorities on the economics of higher education, with a particular expertise in the area of college financing and affordability.

*Sandra M. Sanguino, MD, MPH,* became associate dean for student programs and career development at the medical school on August 1. Assistant professor of pediatrics, she earned an MD degree in 1993 and completed a pediatrics residency in 1999 at Northwestern. Involved in pediatric education at the national level through the Ambulatory Pediatric Association, she serves on the executive committee of the Council on Medical Student Education in Pediatrics. Dr. Sanguino is a Pediatric Academic Society Educational Scholar.

*David Cella, PhD,* previously executive director for the Center on Outcomes Research and Education at NorthShore University HealthSystem (formerly Evanston Northwestern Healthcare), was selected as chair of the Department of Medical Social Sciences. The professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences has received continuous NIH funding for his research in the areas of basic measurement research; quality of life (QOL) and cancer survival; and analysis and interpretation of patient-reported outcomes data in clinical trials.

State and National Rankings

**U.S. News & World Report**

The medical school moved up to 19th from 20th place in the 2009 *U.S. News & World Report* research rankings. Northwestern’s goal is to become one of the top 10 medical schools by 2020.

For the 19th consecutive year, the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago was recognized as the top-ranked rehabilitation hospital.

Children’s Memorial Hospital ranked in the top 30 Best Children’s Hospitals in nine out of 10 specialty areas. Children’s Memorial’s Division of Urology achieved a ranking of seventh nationally in this clinical specialty.

Good marks in six clinical areas made Northwestern Memorial Hospital the highest rated Illinois hospital in geriatrics, gynecology, heart and heart surgery, neurosciences, rheumatology, and urology. Nationally, the hospital was rated in the following 11 clinical specialties: cancer (31), kidney disorders (39), neurology and neurosurgery (11), orthopedics (22), respiratory disorders (32), rheumatology (12), and urology (22).
Doing Our Part for America’s Future

Research that transforms and invests in our nation’s economic as well as public and individual health has gotten a boost from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, also known as the “Stimulus Package.” Signed by President Obama, the act serves to “lay the foundation for a robust and sustainable 21st century economy” by providing the means to modernize the country’s health care, among other drivers such as better schools and clean energy that are important to Americans.

For detailed descriptions of ARRA awards granted to medical school faculty members, visit www.research.northwestern.edu/stimulus/feinberg.html.

Utilizing Research Dollars

Indicating real growth through spending of external funding, Northwestern ranked 5th highest overall (3rd highest among private medical schools) for institutions reporting sponsored program expenditures over a three-year period, according to an Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) research benchmarking survey released in 2009.

Major New NIH Awards

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Scholarship Giving

The medical school raised $1.98 million in support of scholarships in fiscal year 2008–09. A total of 11 new scholarships were established, further bolstering Northwestern’s ability to recruit the best and the brightest students with much needed financial assistance.

Continuing Medical Education

In 2008 some 54,000 physicians and other health care professionals attended one or more of 239 accredited conferences of the Office of Continuing Medical Education (CME). Attracting participants in the local area and beyond, these CME programs cover a wide range of medical specialties. Upcoming conferences to be held on the Chicago campus include the 3rd Annual Women’s Cardiovascular Health Symposium on February 24. Alumni are welcome to attend CME conferences. Visit www.cme.northwestern.edu for a full list of programs.

ONE STEP CLOSER
Feinberg got closer to its goal of becoming a top 10 medical school by 2020, moving up in the U.S. News & World Report rankings from 20th to 19th position in 2009.
Opening Doors

Northwestern Offers Enriched Experiences for Resident Training

By Michele M. Weber
Building Relationships with New Affiliates Creates New Opportunities

Throughout the history of the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, relationships with other institutions providing care to the medically underserved people of Chicago have been an important aspect of educational programs, and greatly valued by the faculty. In years past, the Chicago Maternity Center and rotations at Cook County Hospital were major aspects of the Northwestern medical student experience. More recently, students and residents have been benefitted by relationships with Erie Family Health Center and the Near North Health Services Corporation, with support of these organizations by Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

“Providing care to indigent and underserved populations is essential to educating medical students and residents and serving the broader community,” says J. Larry Jameson, MD, PhD, vice president for medical affairs and Lewis Landsberg Dean. “We want affiliations that have a strong commitment to underserved populations so students and residents can maintain and develop their commitment to community service.”

The transition of educational programs from Evanston Northwestern Healthcare (now NorthShore University Health System) provides a unique opportunity to further diversify training experiences. Dr. Joshua Goldstein, program director of child neurology at Children’s Memorial Hospital, led a graduate medical education (GME) subcommittee in coordinating these efforts. He had support from Doctors Raymond Curry and Sharon Dooley, president and vice president of Northwestern McGaw, along with assistance from directors and department chairs.

Forty new residents were added to existing rotations at NMH and nine at CMH – “a considerable investment on the part of both institutions, given Medicare ‘caps’ and limited Federal funding for pediatric GME programs,” explains Dr. Raymond Curry, dean for education.

Of the 40 resident positions at NMH, five were psychiatric rotations, which included two brand-new rotations. A senior administrative resident helps triage ER patients four nights a week to shorten wait times for identified psychiatric patients and medical/surgical patients with psychiatric symptoms, increasing the number of residents on the consultation/liaison service. A senior resident has been added on the inpatient unit to supervise more junior residents. In addition, the Jesse Brown VA Hospital added three rotations, two in addiction training and one community psychiatry rotation utilizing telepsychiatry.

Meanwhile, the obstetrics and gynecology program began rotating four residents to John H. Stroger Hospital of Cook County, in addition to increased involvement at Stroger in the urology, neurosurgery, ENT, and orthopedics programs.

“Northwestern and McGaw have a long history there,” explains Dr. Curry. “Many alumni have fond memories of their training days at ‘the County.’ And we’re very happy to be collaborating again to our mutual benefit.”

More Diverse Training

While securing commitments with current affiliates, Northwestern also actively sought relationships with other institutions. What they discovered were a number of opportunities to support hospitals that were excited about sponsoring and teaching residents. This included MacNeal Hospital, a 427-bed accredited teaching hospital serving the southwest side of Chicago, where four new general surgery positions were added; and Methodist Hospital in Gary, Ind., where three new positions in emergency medicine provide residents with community hospital experience.

“These new resources all represent wonderful diversity of patient populations,” says Dr. Dooley. “Residents are seeing different disease states in different stages. For example, at Methodist where there’s primarily an indigent population, people who typically go to the ER don’t get the best preventive care so they present with different illnesses than many of our residents are accustomed to seeing. In this rich learning environment, residents can really serve patient needs as they develop skills in negotiating unfamiliar systems. It’s enormously rewarding for them.”

The dean of GME programs continues, “Through the Stroger OB/GYN rotations, our residents are gaining experience in colposcopy procedures they were not getting at Prentice Women’s Hospital. Over the first four months, the presence of our faculty and residents in this once understaffed colposcopy clinic eliminated a backlog in patient care.”

Adds Dr. Magdy Milad, the Northwestern OB/GYN program residency director, “We began with the colposcopy clinic pilot in the spring, and by summer, we had placed four full-time residents at Stroger. At that time, we started talking about an integrated residency program. As a result, Stroger closed their struggling OB/GYN residency and replaced it with the Northwestern program.” Over the next four years, the residency will become the second largest OB/GYN training program in the country, expanding to 12 positions per year, with residents receiving 70 percent of their training at Prentice Women’s Hospital and 30 percent at Stroger. In addition, third-year medical students will begin six-week clerkships in July 2010 and fourth-year students can take electives.

To read more about the new OB/GYN residency program with Stroger, visit WardRoundsOnline.com.
The Northwestern McGaw Center for Graduate Medical Education sponsors 79 accredited programs, serving more than 1,000 residents and fellows. Northwestern University, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Children’s Memorial Hospital, and the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, along with its member organizations, have been collaborating through McGaw for more than four decades.

Glowing Feedback

Early assessments of the impact of the residency program changes is quite positive. The surgery residents now rotating at MacNeal Hospital have summarized their experience to date for the GME Committee and “find it a very supportive and collegial learning environment, with ample opportunity for ‘bread and butter’ surgical experience,” explains Dean Curry.

Dr. Dan Schwartz, a fourth-year orthopedics resident, was able to complete six-week rotations in hand service and trauma at Stroger. “I saw a lot of pathology and was exposed to more trauma cases and different attendings with their own unique approaches. Being in the operating room eight to 10 hours a day, I grew comfortable making decisions, always knowing there was a safety net. I got to do damage control, getting in and out quickly to benefit the patient. It was stressful sometimes, but the teachers were so patient and experienced that they made it fun. Overall, this experience made me grow into a more skilled surgeon.”

And at Methodist Hospital in Gary, feedback from emergency medicine residents is equally positive. “Residents aren’t fond of the drive, but they love the rotation because they get realistic community medicine experience and exposure to true patient care,” says Dr. Jamie Collings, program director of the emergency medicine residency. “And our graduates who are overseeing the program like the challenge of getting patients the resources they need.”

Concludes Dean Curry, “We have been able to create new affiliations that will greatly diversify and enhance the educational experience for Northwestern residents and medical students and expand our commitments to Chicago communities in very meaningful ways.”
Looking to let loose in medical school? There’s an “app” for that.

If you attended Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine’s 31st annual sketch comedy show in January, you were told that if you’re looking to review an X-ray or even cheat on the boards, well, there’s an “app” for that, too.

In Vivo 2010 spoofed the well-known Mac vs. PC commercials, as well as other pop culture phenomena, like Miley Cyrus’ hit song, “Party in the USA.” While numerous song, dance, and talent sequences, including a group of student jugglers called the Jugulars, were intermingled throughout this year’s show, the main theme, “NUFSOM Trek: Med School Begins,” was based on the 2009 version of the blockbuster film “Star Trek.”

For the full story and to view more photos, visit www.wardroundsonline.com

1. Armando Davila, M2, one of the show’s producers, raps “Here come the Short White Coats...” 2. Ruoqi Gao, M1, shows off his break dancing abilities during one of the dance routines.

3. Spock (played by Terrance Lee, M2), and Uhura (played by Monica Boen, M2) backstage before the show. 4. David Weinberg and Laura Sestokas, both M1 students, help spoof the Mac vs. PC commercials.

5. Sandy Sanguino, MD, MPH, associate dean of student programs and career development, enjoys the audience participation part of the show. 6. Drs. John and Marilyn Kessler attended the show in support of their daughter, Allison, a second-year medical student.

7. Timi Wusu, M1, and Anaar Eastoak-Siletz, M3, sit in the audience while waiting to perform their dance number. 8. Samuel Yu, an M2 who is a member of the student social group, the “Jugulars,” juggles while standing on stilts.
President’s Message

When I attended Northwestern in the ’70s, it was often stated with pride that, above all else, the medical school taught physicians to be accomplished clinicians. Since those days, the research activities of the Feinberg School of Medicine have grown considerably, along with a spirit of collaboration throughout the entire university community. Now the medical school is assuming its deserved place among leading research institutions in the country, and the three profiles of young research “superstars” shared in this issue of Ward Rounds exemplify the faculty who contribute to that effort.

While these research efforts are very important, alumni can rest assured that the core objective of training the clinicians of the future has not been diminished. To underscore education’s critical role, a comprehensive restructuring of the entire undergraduate medical school curriculum is underway. Additionally, with the rollout of the Center for Education in Medicine and the Academy of Medical Educators this past fall, Feinberg is reinforcing its support of doctors who teach by providing recognition and development opportunities for individuals who take time from their clinical practices to help train tomorrow’s physicians and researchers.

It is also reassuring that graduate medical education continues to evolve, with new affiliations bringing exciting opportunities in the Chicago-metro area to allow Northwestern to maintain its prominent position in resident education.

It is these among many other positive developments that encourage this alumnus to embrace change!

All the best,

F. Douglas Carr, MD ’78, MMM President, Alumni Association

Alumni Board Gets Department of Medicine Update

While the number of U.S. graduates choosing internal medicine is on the decline, Northwestern is improving its ability to attract top residency candidates (see chart). That is, according to Douglas E. Vaughan, MD, chair of the Department of Medicine, who spoke at the October 24 meeting of the Alumni Association National Board. “Over half of the people who are looking into internal medicine are applying to Northwestern,” he said.

Applications from Target Schools to Northwestern Internal Medicine Residency

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Dr. Vaughan began his presentation with an overview of an area that has 600 staff, 750 faculty, 103 fellows, and 128 residents from 51 schools. “I’m trying to build on the momentum of Deans Landsberg and Jameson, redefining and resculpting to make the Department of Medicine a 21st century entity that is more integrated with other departments,” he explained.

Their clinical mission is to adopt the characteristics of an elite medical program: high volume, service oriented, superb quality, broad scope of services, innovative and appropriate use of new technologies. The research mission is to do basic, translational and clinical research, with an emphasis on innovation and impact, broad participation and endorsement (faculty, fellows, staff, administration), and growth in the following areas – genetics, regenerative medicine, and metabolism.

The department has seven of its 15 divisions ranked within the top 50 in U.S. News & World Report. “I’d like to see all divisions in the top 20, but to do that, we need to integrate and share perspectives,” said Dr. Vaughan. “We want to cultivate interdisciplinary partnerships to optimize clinical care, grow market share, and distinguish Northwestern Medicine.”

He envisions clinical programmatic opportunities in esophageal disorders, genetic disorders, expanded sleep medicine services with neurology, a comprehensive diabetes center with NMH, a vascular medicine program with vascular surgery, men’s health with urology and oncology, pulmonary and oncology program integration, and experimental therapeutics.
ALUMNI PROFILE

Bruce F. Scharschmidt on the Move

Although he biked 47 mountainous miles in 10 hours from central Thailand to the Thai-Burma border in March 2009 to raise money to fight malnutrition in this part of the world, Bruce F. Scharschmidt, MD ’70, wouldn’t describe himself as an avid cyclist. While he crossed the Boston Marathon finish line in 2005 and then, again, in 2006, he doesn’t claim veteran runner status. This Northwestern alum, however, does have a self-effacing passion for challenging himself, which has led to a lifetime of achievements from academia to industry.

This gastroenterologist, for example, played a major role in establishing the University of California at San Francisco’s (UCSF) renowned liver transplant program in the late ’80s, while simultaneously juggling his duties as newly appointed division chief and editor-in-chief of the Journal of Clinical Investigation.

“Being able to take horrendously ill patients from death’s door and provide them with a solution and a recovery that was meaningful and durable was remarkably satisfying but it was also a busy time for me,” recalls Dr. Scharschmidt, a former National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded investigator with more than 180 scientific publications to his credit. “My wife [Peggy S. Crawford, MD ’73] thought I was nuts and my daughter [a medical school graduate of UCSF, who is now completing her dermatology training] decided then to not specialize in gastroenterology. I remember she said, ‘Dad seems to like whatever it is he is doing, but it seems there’s too much of whatever it is he is doing!’”

Growing up in Cleveland, Dr. Scharschmidt decided early on a career in medicine and enrolled in Northwestern’s then six-year Honors Program in Medical Education. He balanced his abbreviated undergraduate experience on the Evanston campus, where he was a member of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity, with his graduate studies in the city. Later living in a penthouse with 13 friends on the north side of Chicago, he first met his future bride—a good friend of his roommate and fellow fraternity brother. Earning her bachelor’s degree at Northwestern, Peggy was three years behind him in medical school. Yet, the sparks didn’t fly between them until the young Dr. Scharschmidt, who had completed his internal medicine residency at UCSF in 1972, arrived in Washington, D.C., to work as a clinical research associate at the NIH’s National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases.

“She came for a visit,” he shares. “I played Beethoven’s piano sonata, ‘Pathetique,’ and I think after four years that helped to close the deal!” In 1977 the couple married, after Peggy completed her specialty training in dermatology and Bruce, his fellowship in gastroenterology, at UCSF. Settling in San Francisco, Peggy joined Kaiser Permanente Medical Group’s dermatology department, where she has spent her entire career. Unlike his wife’s curriculum vitae, Bruce’s resume has had a few twists and turns. After 20 some years in academic medicine at UCSF (with six of them spent as chief of a nationally recognized gastroenterology division), he began looking for a new challenge. Dr. Scharschmidt applied his clinical, research, and leadership skills in the pharmaceutical products arena, joining Emeryville, California-based Chiron Corporation in 1996 as a corporate vice president in clinical research and development. Over the next 12 years, he would hold senior executive positions at Chiron—including in its vaccines and biopharmaceuticals groups. Among other projects, Dr. Scharschmidt worked on exploring novel and more efficient methods for the production of seasonal and pandemic flu vaccines such as H5N1, also known as avian influenza.
While the public today has wondered why production of the H1N1 swine flu vaccine has not kept pace with urgent demand, manufacturers like Chiron (acquired by pharmaceutical giant Novartis in 2006) have long known about the limitations of quickly producing safe and effective vaccines. The seasonal flu alone requires some 300 million fertilized chicken eggs to serve as incubators for every dose of vaccine that ends up in clinics, doctor’s offices, and hospitals around the world, according to Dr. Scharschmidt. Since humans can only push along Mother Nature (and chickens) so far, it is not surprising that this somewhat laborious and delicate production process requires a long lead time.

“I was involved in the decision-making about new technologies such as cell culture to produce vaccines,” explains this former vice president of scientific affairs and vaccines for Novartis. “It’s more readily available, scalable, and could help shorten the production lead time.”

Although the H5N1 virus didn’t materialize as the cause of the next pandemic, the work of companies like Novartis/Chiron didn’t go to waste. “All the effort and resources that went into researching and developing a vaccine to combat the avian flu made us much better prepared for H1N1 when it arrived,” says Dr. Scharschmidt. “For a virus that first appeared in March of this year, it is amazing that we actually had a vaccine ready to use in October.”

In April 2008, Dr. Scharschmidt made another career move and joined Hyperion Therapeutics as senior VP and chief medical officer. With less than 15 employees, this privately held specialty company in South San Francisco focuses on the development of therapies that address orphan or underserved patient populations with unmet medical needs. For GI specialist Dr. Scharschmidt, his new post has brought him back to what he calls his “professional home.” Hyperion has two products in its development pipeline: one focuses on hereditary urea cycle disorder (UCD) and, the other, acute hepatic encephalopathy (HE). Patients with UCD lack an enzyme that allows their bodies to remove ammonia, a potent neurotoxin, from the bloodstream. Left untreated, UCD can be fatal in its most severe form. Often resulting from a complication of liver failure, HE also causes toxic substances to accumulate in the bloodstream and can lead to neurologic damage. Hyperion’s UCD product has entered phase 3 clinical trials, while the HE therapeutic is in phase 2.

“I went from a company of 100,000 to one that had less than 10 people for most of last year,” says Dr. Scharschmidt. “I have been very impressed with how much a small group, with the right people, can accomplish.”

Coming full circle to familiar interests has also been a recent theme in regard to the Scharschmidts’ alma mater. The first to admit that family, career, and a distance of almost 2,000 miles led him to drift away from Northwestern for many years, Dr. Scharschmidt has returned with a vengeance. This newly installed Nathan Smith Davis Club president currently serves on the medical school’s Alumni Association National Board as well as on the NUCATS (Northwestern University Clinical and Translational Sciences) Institute’s scientific advisory board. Although his two children chose to pursue medicine in their hometown—son Brent just started his first year of medical school at the family’s other alma mater, UCSF—Dr. Scharschmidt has some ideas for attracting top candidates to the Windy City.

“I’ve always felt it was easier to recruit applicants to the coasts, particularly the West Coast, rather than for the folks in the center of the country to recruit students from the coasts,” he says. “So I suggested that we introduce some name recognition to the medical school’s scholarship program as an added draw and to provide Northwestern with more ammunition to attract the very best students.”

So, step aside you Rhodes and Morehead Scholars. Introducing four new scholarships this year with the Class of 2013, the medical school now features the Nathan Smith Davis Scholars—a fitting tribute to one of Northwestern’s founders and a perfect beginning for the next 150 years.
Harvard Medical School in Boston, Mass., promoted Samuel Lin, MD, GME ‘00, to assistant professor of surgery (plastic surgery and otolaryngology) this fall.

In November, Charles Wilson, MD ’64, was honored by the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) with a College of Nursing Alumni Association Honorary Alumnus Award. Dr. Wilson has served on the UNC Board of Regents since 1991 and has been a great advocate for UNMC and the College of Nursing. He currently serves as medical director for the Ultrafast CT Scanner and the School of Allied Health for Bryan-LGH Medical Center in Lincoln. Academically, Dr. Wilson has been a clinical professor of medicine for more than three decades at UNMC. A cardiologist, Dr. Wilson was a partner at Internal Medicine Specialties for 15 years and spent another 15 years as a partner at Nebraska Heart Institute, both in Lincoln. Ron Pudlo, MD ’82, has been elected as chief of pediatrics for the Moses Cone Health Care System of Greensboro, N.C., which includes four hospitals (a level 3 NICU and a pediatric ICU). He continues as president of his private pediatric group, GreensboroPediatricians Inc, and is part of the adjunct clinical faculty at University of North Carolina. He is quite proud of his recreational hockey team, which was the Summer 2009 C+ League champion and took the bronze medal in their division at the 2009 State Games.

Mladen I. Vidovich, MD, FACC, FSCAL, GME ’98 (anesthesiology), GME ’02 (internal medicine), GME ’05 (cardiology), GME ’06 (interventional cardiology), has been promoted to chief of cardiology at the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center in Chicago. Dr. Vidovich also serves as assistant professor of medicine for interventional cardiology at the University of Illinois Medical Center.

Since completing his residency in family practice in 1983, Jay A. Jamieson, MD ’80, has been practicing family medicine in Keizer, Ore., for more than 26 years. After visiting Okinawa, Japan, in June 1995 and attending a celebration of peace at the site of his father’s last combat mission, Dr. Jamieson wrote a book, “Once a Marine…” about his father, Walter R. (Roger) Jamieson, a WWII Marine officer who was wounded at Sugar Loaf Hill. The book is a story about his father’s life, upbringing, and Marine training. It is also a tale about a father and son revisiting old battlefield memories in the quest for closure.

Victoria Brander, MD ’86, co-founded Operation Walk Chicago, a medical humanitarian program that partners with hospitals in developing countries to perform free hip and knee replacements for the poor. Their objective is also to develop ongoing educational programs in the host countries to impart a lasting benefit. Every mission is customized to the unique needs of the host. Hundreds of patients have received operations and thousands of health care providers in China, India, and South America have received the benefit of the group’s education efforts. In 2010, Operation Walk Chicago is hosting two missions - one in Katmandu, Nepal, and the other at Mount Sinai hospital in Chicago. In recognition of this humanitarian work, Dr. Brander received an “Unsung Heroes of Compassion Award” from His Holiness the Dalai Lama in April 2009 (pictured here). Closer to home, she is associate clinical professor of physical medicine & rehabilitation at Feinberg and the Orthopedic Institute.
Progress Notes
From Surgeon to Vintner

1946
Albert J. Miller, MD, has been volunteering as the cardiologist for six clinics in Lake County, Ill., and sees referred patients twice a month. He’s written and published a book for the laity entitled, “Chest Pain,” which is selling at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Borders.

1953
Although Gerson Bernhard, MD, FACP, MACR, is retired from private practice, he remains active as a regular attending at University of California - San Francisco supervising fellows in the rheumatology clinic, participating in journal clubs, seminars, and leading small groups of medical students. The clinical professor of medicine is also a rheumatology consultant for the San Francisco Free Clinic. He shares:

“Fifty-two years later, I am still married to my ‘starter’ wife. We have two daughters, one of whom lives here in San Francisco, the other in Louisville, and we have seven grandchildren. We spend much of the summer at our inland lake cottage in southeastern Wisconsin and support local and sustainable food producers.”

1957
Clifford Stiles, MD, and his wife, Carol, were in New York in November when their son, TJ, received the highest non-fiction literature award from the National Book Foundation for his biography: “The First Tycoon: The Epic Life of Cornelius Vanderbilt.” The proud parents were among 650 industry people who attended the dinner. “It was so great that we could be there for the excitement and thrill of the evenings,” said Dr. Stiles.

1967
Doug Hancock, MD, jokes that it took him 20 years to “cure all kidney disease in northern California.” Now he’s retired and enjoying a non-medical life.

Paul Young, MD, is an “academic generalist” in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Utah. Although he’s supposed to be in a “phased retirement,” after three years, he is still working 80 percent of the time, with Fridays off. “I haven’t retired more because I get to do pretty much what I like – seeing kids in the clinic, teaching medical students and residents, and mentoring junior faculty in their research projects.”

1970
John Frey, MD, is active clinically and teaches students and residents in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. In his role as head of community engagement at the Wisconsin Institute for Clinical and Translational Research, he is developing community-based research connections across the State of Wisconsin with public health, health systems, and community groups. He is also writing a book on the history of family medicine, family doctors, and communities during the last half of the 20th century. The alumnus stays in touch with a number of classmates who are spread throughout the country and finds excuses to visit his granddaughters in D.C. and take care of grandsons in Madison, Wisc.
1974
Ed Lanigan, MD, is recruiting for a plastic surgeon and a hand surgeon position at Michigan State University Department of Surgery. If you are interested, contact him about these openings at Edward.Lanigan@nc.msu.edu. The alumnus enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving with family in East Lansing, during which his daughter, Karen, and her husband, John, announced that they are expecting a second child in June. Three-year-old granddaughter, Maria, was a delight.

Bonnie Typlin, MD, and her husband (and cats) are pleased that she’s leaving a practice in Prescott, Ariz., and returning to Tucson to join Cholla Pediatrics. “There will be no more commuting between the two cities – hurray!” she exclaims.

1977
Stephen F. Sener, MD, recently moved from NorthShore University HealthSystem in the Chicagoland area to the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California in Los Angeles to establish a new division of surgical oncology. The new division chief is charged initially with the creation of new programs for early detection of breast and colorectal cancers. He’s thrilled about the opportunity and challenge of working with exciting new colleagues at a university health care system ready for change.

1980
Glen Ackerman, MD, GME ’84, has joined the faculty at Michigan State University in East Lansing as an associate professor and director of clinical operations for the Department of Neurology.

1985
Millie Sullivan Nelson, MD, completed her master’s degree in medical management last spring at the University of Southern California. She currently works at Christie Clinic in Champaign, Ill., where she is head of obstetrics and gynecology.

1990
Michael E. Margolis, MD, of Lafayette, Colo., and his wife, Beth, celebrated the first birthday of their son, Ezra Jacob, in January. The family moved to Colorado in 2008 when Michael joined the Colorado Permanente Medical Group. He is a hand surgeon practicing at the Rock Creek Medical Office near Boulder, along with fellow Northwestern alumna, Julie A. Melchior, MD ’91.

1997
Earl Schott III, MD, joined Rocky Mountain Radiologists in Denver, Colo., in 2008 and was recently elected partner. He practices interventional and diagnostic radiology and is currently enjoying snowboarding season.

1998
Scott C. Sherman, MD, FAAEM, has been working for 10 years in the Department of Emergency Medicine at John Stroger Cook County Hospital. The assistant program director and his wife live in Bucktown with their three-year-old son, Mason, and are expecting another child in March.

2000
Subhro K. Sen, MD, of Mountain View, Calif., finished a plastic surgery fellowship at Johns Hopkins in 2008 and completed a hand surgery fellowship at Stanford University in July 2009. He has joined the faculty at Stanford as a clinical assistant professor of surgery (plastic surgery) and practices plastic, reconstructive, and hand surgery.

As an Air Force family physician, Daniel S. Kim, MD, ’04 has been serving at the Air Force Theater Hospital in Joint Base Balad, Iraq, since July 2009. He returned home to Scott Air Force Base near Belleville, Ill., in January.

Proud to Serve
Progress Notes

2004
Shaunak Desai, MD, and his wife, Anjali, celebrated two happy milestones in December – their daughter’s first birthday and the completion of Dr. Desai’s fellowship in hand and upper extremity surgery at Stanford University.

In Memoriam
Thomas W. Hauch, MD ’72, of Charlotte, N.C., died November 9, 2009.
Harry B. Hoffman, MD ’61, GME ’61, of Newport Beach, Calif., died October 10, 2009.
Warren R. Jensen, MD ’54, Hazen, N.D., died October 17, 2009.
Kenneth D. Kittleson, GME ’57, of Evanston, Ill., died October 28, 2009.
Paul F. Nora, MD ’68, of La Jolla, Calif., died November 22, 2009. Dr. Nora was a professor of clinical surgery at Northwestern.
Stephen E. Reid, MD ’42, GME ’48, of Evanston, Ill., died October 31, 2009. Dr. Reid was professor emeritus of surgery at Northwestern.
Marsh Steward, Jr., MD ’48, of Los Angeles, died September 4, 2009.
John H. Thompson, MS ’57, of Arlington Heights, Ill., died November 2, 2009.

Items for Progress Notes may be sent to the Office of Communications, Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, 420 East Superior Street, Rubloff 12th floor, Chicago, Illinois 60611 or via e-mail to wardrounds@Northwestern.edu. They may also be submitted online at www.wardroundsonline.com. Be sure to include the year the MD degree was received or the GME or Other Program was completed. Photo submissions also are welcomed. Please note: Progress Notes appearing in the print edition of Ward Rounds may be posted on WardRoundsOnline.com and are password-protected.

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ALUMNI WEEKEND 2010

APRIL 9–10, FRIDAY & SATURDAY
NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY FEINBERG SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
To the Class of 1954:

The 2008-09 Annual Giving Report, entitled “Commitment,” included a truncated list of the Class of 1954 donors. It was a printing error for which we apologize on behalf of the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. In addition to the correction here and in Ward Rounds Online, the Office of Alumni Relations has sent letters to the Class of 1954. Below is the list of donors who generously supported the medical school between September 1, 2008, and August 31, 2009, and were inadvertently omitted.

We appreciate everyone’s support and your understanding!

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Additional photography
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Andrew Campbell, cover, p. 1 (upper and lower), pp. 15-17, p. 20, p. 22
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Nathan Mandell, p. 8
Jim Ziv, p. 10 (top), p. 11 (top right)
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