

Deepening Your Inspiring Legacy of Philanthropy

We are deeply thankful for, and inspired by, the philanthropic leadership of **(Names of Donors' Families)**. Through the decades, your families' generosity has left indelible impressions on this institution—beginning with Wesley Hospital in the late 1800s and extending to its successor, Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

Over the past decade, Northwestern Memorial has grown and developed, and has become part of a larger whole: the Northwestern Medicine health system. Now comprising 10 hospitals in total, Northwestern Medicine serves more than 600,000 patients every year, across 10 counties in Illinois. And yet, even in the face of such significant growth and change, **we remain as committed as ever to realizing your families' original vision for health care at Northwestern: Establishing an excellent healthcare provider, rooted in academic medicine, where *the patient comes first*.**

Below, and on the following pages, we are pleased to share with you just a few samples of the pioneering work that is occurring at Northwestern Medicine today. We welcome the opportunity to tell you more about each of these projects, and to discuss other groundbreaking initiatives that are thriving with the leadership of Northwestern faculty members.

❖ **Area #1: Neurogenetics**

As we strive to build upon Northwestern Medicine's tradition of excellence in the neurosciences, we invite you to consider lending your support to the specialty area of **neurogenetics**. This discipline focuses on identifying, understanding and treating neurodegenerative disorders, such as Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia, Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders, Huntington's disease and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

Marked by the loss of neurons within the brain and/or the spinal cord, neurodegenerative disorders compromise much more than physical health; they also take a profound toll on a person's memories, personality and ability to move and speak. These disorders can present during childhood or adulthood and are marked by symptoms that can vary widely, depending on a person's age and specific genetic make-up.

Currently, *there are no therapies* that slow or stop the continued loss of neurons, and, to date, scientists have not been able to develop any cures for neurodegenerative diseases. Available medications are limited in scope and effectiveness, and aim only to treat symptoms. In light of these sobering realities, physician-scientists, such as those within the **Center for Neurogenetics at Northwestern Medicine**, recognize the importance—indeed, the urgency—of developing novel, individualized approaches to neurodegenerative disorders.

Led by **Dimtri Krainc, MD, PhD**, professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery, and chair of the Department of Neurology, at Northwestern Medicine, the Center for Neurogenetics is one of only a few clinics in Illinois serving both adults and children with neurodegenerative disorders. Currently, Northwestern Medicine's Department of Neurology is ranked **No. 8** in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*, and this level of excellence informs both the mission and the work of the Center for Neurogenetics.



Every day, experts at the center strive to advance research and discovery in the realm of the neurosciences, and to set a new standard for personalized care. Your thoughtful philanthropy potentially will help to accelerate a number of vital efforts, such as:

- *Exploring* the molecular underpinnings of neurodegenerative diseases
- *Forging* collaborations among specialists in neurology, pediatric neurology, biomedical engineering, nanotechnology and other fields, in order to pursue new ideas that will redefine treatment options for people with neurodegenerative disorders
- *Accelerating* the development of personalized therapeutic approaches.

❖ **Area #2: Clinical Trials in Oncology**

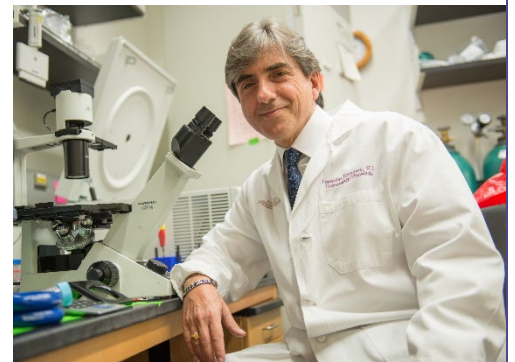
Clinical trials—research studies that involve people—provide physician-scientists with essential opportunities to improve treatments, as well as quality of life, for individuals affected by a variety of illnesses, including cancer. Today’s most effective cancer treatments are based on the results of past clinical trials, and scientists anticipate that current and future trials will yield additional, potentially groundbreaking discoveries. These breakthroughs, in turn, likely will lead to even more effective therapies for people with cancer, enabling them to live longer, more fulfilling lives.

As you consider initiatives at Northwestern Medicine that could grow and thrive with the support of your future philanthropy, we invite you to consider investing in pivotal **clinical trials in oncology**. At the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University, investigators are involved in approximately **300 clinical trials** at any given time. Conducted with the help of human volunteers, these trials are designed to provide researchers with new knowledge about means of preventing and comprehensively treating cancer. Many clinical trials evaluate the safety and effectiveness of new medications, surgical procedures or medical devices. Still others test ways to prevent disease, diagnose cancer, improve quality of life, or help patients manage complex psychological and social issues.

As director of the Lurie Cancer Center, **Leonidas Platanias, MD, PhD**, emphasizes the importance of collaboration in conducting front-line research studies and in providing exceptional clinical care to people battling cancer. While some clinical trials are small—involving just a few patients—other trials are quite large, enrolling thousands of patients at Northwestern and other medical centers, and leveraging the strengths of many researchers’ experience and expertise.

A Spotlight on: Glioblastoma Multiforme (GBM)

In August, scientists at the Lurie Cancer Center received a highly competitive, five-year grant of \$11.5 million from the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Aided by this large award, investigators in neuro-oncology are leading a Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE) in brain cancer, with a special emphasis on **glioblastoma multiforme (GBM)** — a highly aggressive form of brain cancer that, to date, has remained resistant to effective, long-term treatment and has defied the development of a cure. The painful reality is that today’s standard of care for GBM yields a median survival rate of only 15 months.



Dr. Platanias provides leadership, inspiration, and vision that have elevated Northwestern’s Cancer Program to an “exceptional” rating from the National Cancer Institute.

When the investigators applied for this brain tumor SPORE, two of their proposed GBM studies were already in clinical trials: one featuring a **stem cell-based virotherapy** that harnesses the power of the common cold virus to attack brain cancer cells, and another exploring a novel therapy that uses nanoparticles to **suppress gene expression** in tumor cells. A third study takes an **immunosuppressive approach** to fighting GBM, while the fourth study, aimed at **overcoming a glioblastoma survival mechanism**, will enter the clinical trial phase within the five-year funding period.

We Are Thankful for Your Partnership

Aided by the longstanding philanthropy of the **(Names of Donors' Families)**, we at Northwestern Medicine are able to provide an unparalleled level of care to our patients, to engage in transformative research studies and to champion innovations that promise to improve both the delivery and the effectiveness of health care. There is no question that you help us to provide countless patients with **better, brighter, more hope-filled clinical outcomes and futures**.

As we continue to make strides in advancing care and research at Northwestern Medicine, we hope you will join us in our efforts to build upon our strengths in areas such as neurogenetics and clinical trials in oncology.

We look forward to discussing these philanthropic opportunities with you in greater detail, and we thank you for fueling so much remarkable, lasting progress at Northwestern Medicine.

If you have questions, or if we may be of assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to contact:

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