

We thank you for considering a gift in support of the Northwestern Medicine Digestive Health Center (DHC), a thriving collaborative effort among gastroenterologists, hepatologists, surgeons, dietitians, psychologists, and other specialists. Through your potential commitment, you will help to advance an array of initiatives that are positively affecting the health, quality of life, and futures of many people living with digestive illnesses — from irritable bowel syndrome and gastroesophageal reflux disease to swallowing disorders, gallstones, and liver disease. As the members of our interdisciplinary team work to improve the understanding and treatment of digestive disorders, they engage in leading-edge research and education, and deliver exceptional, personalized patient care. With your help, the team at the DHC will continue to make progress toward transforming digestive disease into digestive health for the estimated 60 to 70 million Americans affected by digestive illnesses.

A Spotlight on: Dynamic Leadership and a Shared Vision at the DHC

Our DHC team is supported and strengthened by the dedicated leadership of John Pandolfino, MD, chief of Northwestern's Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology; Stephen Hanauer, MD, an internationally recognized gastroenterologist, and the DHC's medical director; and Scott Strong, MD, chief of Northwestern's Division of Surgery-Gastrointestinal and Oncologic Surgery, and the DHC's surgical director.



Pictured above: Dr. Pandolfino (far left), Dr. Hanauer (second from right), and Dr. Strong (far right) with two grateful patients at a special event.

Drs. Pandolfino, Hanauer, and Strong share a commitment to progress and to providing the most advanced and most compassionate care and support to every patient. This commitment to excellence and innovation is reflected in the work of every team member at the DHC and is the power source for many novel programs and projects. With the hope that you will join us in our efforts to further establish Northwestern Medicine as a national leader in the field of digestive health, we are pleased to highlight some initiatives that stand to benefit from your thoughtful philanthropy.

A Spotlight on: The Power of Your Partnership

Should you choose to make a gift in support of the DHC, you will invest in both the present and the future of medicine, and will help to bring the finest care and support to many individuals and families coping with the challenges of digestive illness. Your generosity will assist Dr. Pandolfino and his colleagues in making strides in a number of areas. For the purpose of this request, we have highlighted an area of our work that we believe best aligns with your current philanthropic priorities.

- ❖ **Improving and expanding care and services:** The physicians and scientists at the DHC strive to continually build upon their knowledge of the most difficult-to-treat digestive disorders. Your gift will enable the team to further develop their skills; to reach even more patients—including, specifically, those from underserved or distant communities; and to continue delivering exceptional care to individuals affected by most challenging digestive conditions.

❖ **Mentoring the next generation of physicians:** The staff of the DHC partners with *I AM ABEL* Foundation to provide support and program infrastructure to under-represented minority students as they prepare for the Medical School Admission Test (MCAT). Dr. Pandolfino and his colleagues in Northwestern's Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology provide mentorship and education to these talented young people, helping to ensure that they are well prepared for careers in medicine.

Your philanthropic support will allow Drs. Pandolfino and Hanauer to further develop this unique "MCAT Prep" program and to engage additional GI specialists at Northwestern Medicine in mentoring and teaching opportunities. This expansion will enable more under-represented minority students to benefit from the program and will further strengthen the supportive network that currently exists to help these students achieve their goals and ultimately join the medical field. With your help, the "MCAT Prep" program will be able to support approximately 20-35 students per year.

"Our team at the Digestive Health Center has diverse research and clinical interests, as well as a deep commitment to our community. We have developed various programs to provide pro bono care to underserved populations and are dedicated to working in the community to become role models for the Chicago youth interested in careers in medicine. I am honored to be involved in such meaningful work and to forge partnerships with caring donors who wish to support the mission of the DHC. Philanthropy opens so many doors to us – as care providers, educators, and investigators – and, above all, to our patients."

— *Dr. John Pandolfino*

With Gratitude for Your Consideration

We offer our sincere thanks for your interest in the mission and work of the Northwestern Medicine Digestive Health Center, and for the variety of ways in which you support education, as well as underserved communities, through your philanthropic commitments.

It is for this reason that we hope you are able to consider a multi-year gift of \$50,000, which could be made over a period of two to five years. Such a generous gift would provide Dr. Pandolfino and his team with the opportunity to solidify a future plan for mentoring under-represented minority students who are preparing for the MCAT— ultimately training the next generation of physicians dedicated to advancing care for complex diseases such as achalasia.

We have thoughtfully considered a program that best falls within the areas that you have indicated are the most meaningful to you. As you consider making your first gift to Northwestern Memorial Foundation in support of Dr. Pandolfino and his leading-edge work, please know that, because of caring people like you, the DHC continues to blaze new trails in treating digestive disorders and in transforming the lives of patients and their families.

Please let me know how we can best answer any questions that you may have as you determine your philanthropic priorities for 2021. *Thank you for your consideration of this opportunity to join us in this meaningful work!*

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