

We are very grateful for your generosity and partnership, and for your commitment to Northwestern Medicine, our patients, and our care providers and staff. By thoughtfully supporting a variety of initiatives — including the *Our Legacy. Our Future.* Campaign and simulation training for nurses at Northwestern Medicine Lake Forest Hospital — you have made a positive difference in many lives. With gratitude for your ongoing support, we would like to present, for your consideration, a new philanthropic opportunity: the [Advanced Practice Provider \(APP\) Critical Care Fellowship Program](#) at Lake Forest Hospital.

Should you choose to lend your support to this unique initiative — by making a generous commitment of **\$75,000** toward the annual total cost of **\$150,000** for the APP Critical Care Fellowship Program — you will invest in both the present and the future of patient care at Northwestern Medicine. Moreover, you will help to ensure that Lake Forest Hospital continues to earn distinction as a leader in educating and training exceptional care providers. We thank you for your interest, and we welcome this opportunity to share details about our inspiration, vision, and goals for the APP Critical Care Fellowship Program.



Identifying Challenges, Meeting a Significant Need

A national shortage of physicians, coupled with the rising cost of health care, presents challenges as we strive to: **(1)** recruit, support, and retain leading physicians in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) environment at Northwestern Medicine Lake Forest Hospital); and **(2)** provide critical care support for specialists in Hospital Medicine, beyond the floor of the ICU.

In order to address these challenges and to continually enhance patient care, we seek to develop a nationally recognized APP Critical Care Fellowship Program that not only focuses on advancing APPs' knowledge, skills, and procedural competencies, but also further amplifies a collaborative and engaged culture in our North Region. As we work to create this novel APP Critical Care fellowship, we will look to other APP fellowship program across Northwestern Medicine for guidance and as a "blueprint" for fundamental building blocks and defining features. We also will build on the success of Randy Orr, MD, an intensivist in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Lake Forest Hospital, who skillfully mentored the hospital's first Critical Care APP. Ultimately, we will launch a scalable curriculum that optimizes resources and benefits students and mentors alike.

Developing Our Vision for the APP Critical Care Fellowship Program

We aim to create the first APP Critical Care Fellowship Program in the Chicago area. By thoughtfully designing and implementing this unique program, we will strengthen ICU staffing at Lake Forest Hospital and will train a talented cohort of APP fellows to: **(1)** deliver comprehensive, consistent care to patients in the ICU; **(2)** provide highly skilled ICU coverage for physicians (This coverage will include overnight shifts — a development that will benefit attending physicians' well-being, while also allowing fellows to gain additional experience in patient care.); and **(3)** ensure continuity of care for patients throughout their stay in the ICU.

Defining Specific Goals

Our near-term goal is to train one APP Critical Care fellow each year for four years. Over the longer term, we plan to expand this Critical Care Fellowship model/approach to other APP fellowship opportunities — in various clinical areas — in our North Region.

Designing a Multi-Faceted Curriculum

Serving as the director of the APP Critical Care Fellowship Program, Dr. Orr will manage and guide a 12-month didactic and clinical curriculum, which will include a variety of learning opportunities. During this year-long period, the APP Critical Care fellow will spend approximately nine or ten months with the ICU service; one month on a Hospital Medicine rotation; one month with our Emergency Medicine team; and two weeks with our Palliative Medicine specialists.

All educational and training experiences will be “hands-on,” enabling the fellow to: **(1)** increase knowledge of the specialty of Critical Care Medicine; **(2)** strengthen critical thinking skills; **(3)** improve time management skills and professional and personal adaptability; and **(4)** build strong working relationships with a multitude of team members, across clinical specialty areas. At the conclusion of this intensive training program, the APP fellow will be well equipped to work autonomously in the critical care setting.

With Gratitude for Your Consideration

Thank you so very much for your thoughtful consideration of this proposal, and for all that you make possible at Northwestern Medicine through your philanthropy. You provide the spark that fuels great progress, as well as the commitment that allows us to transform visions and plans into meaningful realities.

We hope you will choose to demonstrate that commitment once again, as we invite you to become one of the founding supporters of our effort to establish a unique and thriving Advanced Practice Provider Critical Care Fellowship Program at Northwestern Medicine Lake Forest Hospital. Your potential gift promises to open additional doors of exploration and opportunity for future specialists in Critical Care Medicine, and to ensure that they are able to harness all the potential — for professional development and the delivery of the highest level of care for patients in the Intensive Care unit — that lies on each new horizon.

I look forward to talking with you soon. In the meantime, if you have questions, or if I may be of assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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