“I feel fortunate that my job allows me to help others,” says Jeffrey Wayne, MD, FACS, an Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery and Chief of Melanoma and Sarcoma Surgical Oncology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. “It makes every day a unique challenge and is incredibly satisfying on a personal level.”

Wayne’s busy clinical practice focuses primarily on cancers of the skin and the upper gastrointestinal tract. He says the combination provides a satisfying mix of smaller, relatively straightforward cases with larger, more complex ones. In addition, “these tend to be cases that are sent preferentially to referral and tertiary institutions,” says Wayne, who is also Associate Medical Director at the Lurie Cancer Center. “They are areas where the level of care we provide really benefits our patients.”

Research Efforts
In addition to his surgical practice at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Wayne is actively involved in both clinical trials and outcomes research. As a member of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Sarcoma Panel, for example, he examines how implementation of new practice guidelines, the introduction of new clinical agents, or approval of new drug regimens lead to changes in practice patterns — and what impact these changes have on patients. Patient outcomes are compared across facilities in an effort to provide the best possible care with the lowest morbidity and mortality rates.

Wayne is a member of the American College of Surgeons / Commission on Cancer Expert Panel that defined a set of formally developed quality indicators to study the care rendered to patients with melanoma in this country. “The ultimate goal is to feed the data back to individual hospitals so they can see how they’re doing against global benchmarks that have been identified by various professional organizations as quality measures,” he says. “We hope this effort will lead to better care nationwide.”
As an NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, Wayne adds that it is “part of the Lurie Cancer Center’s mission to educate physicians, as well as our patients, about what they should be looking for. It’s our hope that we can provide a model for other institutions across the country.”

“As we look at our ever-expanding health care system,” he says, “we want to make sure we are practicing not only in a cost-efficient manner, but, even more importantly, providing our patients with the most advanced treatment possible.”

A Team Effort
Wayne is committed to furthering increased collaboration among physicians. “I strive to provide the highest quality care to my patients and this, in my mind, clearly involves a multidisciplinary practice.”

When he arrived at Northwestern 10 years ago, Wayne says he found no unified effort for the treatment of melanoma and sarcoma patients. “My passion,” he says, has been “to create multidisciplinary teams for both disease sites.” To that end, he is working with his colleagues to establish a new skin care institute at the Lurie Cancer Center where surgeons, medical oncologists, dermatologists, and others will work closely together, providing exceptional care in one facility. “By being co-located, we will be able to provide our patients with instant consultation across specialties,” he says.

Family Life
Wayne grew up in Boston, earning his bachelor’s degree from Dartmouth College and his medical degree from Boston University. His residency at the University of Chicago was followed by a fellowship in surgical oncology at the University of Texas, MD Anderson Hospital. He arrived at Northwestern in 2001.

Wayne met his wife, Diane (a clinician and educator, who is Vice-Chair of Education and an Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine at the Feinberg School of Medicine) when they were both residents at the University of Chicago. They live in Wilmette with their two children, and enjoy skiing, traveling, and exploring Chicago’s restaurants and museums as a family.

They are all enthusiastic sports fans. “We like going to Cubs games, Bulls games, and Bears games, and we take the kids to watch Northwestern football, too.” This fall they will travel east to cheer on Northwestern, where they plan to tailgate with family and watch the Wildcats play Boston College.