

Exceptional in the Fight Against Cancer



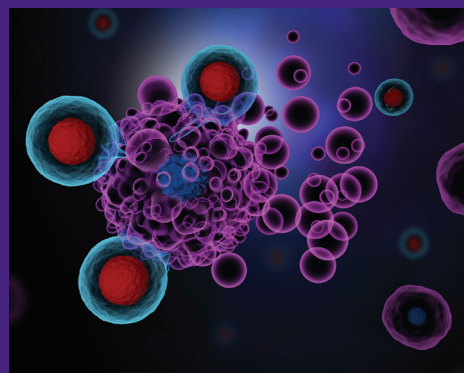
ROBERT H. LURIE COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER OF NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY



Our Mission



PROVIDE COMPASSIONATE,
STATE-OF-THE-ART INDIVIDUALIZED
CANCER CARE, AND ELIMINATE
DIFFERENCES IN CANCER OUTCOMES
AMONG POPULATION GROUPS



ACCELERATE TRANSLATION OF
GROUNDBREAKING DISCOVERIES
TO DEFEAT CANCER



TRAIN THE NEXT GENERATION
OF CLINICIANS AND SCIENTISTS

Dear Friends:

At the **Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University**, our physicians, scientists, nurses, and devoted staff share one goal, every day: to save and improve lives. Our mission has never been more urgent as we fight cancer in all of its forms.

Uniting innovative research and comprehensive cancer care, Lurie Cancer Center is unwavering in its focus on providing exceptional cancer care, powered by extraordinary research. We are on a path to establish Lurie Cancer Center as a global leader in cancer care and research.

As you will read, we have our eyes on the future with a blueprint to achieve our goals with the commitment of our Lurie Cancer Center members, collaborators across Northwestern University and Northwestern Medicine, and our community of wonderful donors, advocates, and friends.

A transformational philanthropic investment will accelerate our innovative research, training, and community impact efforts and set a new standard for patients in Chicagoland and worldwide.

In 2025, Lurie Cancer Center once again received the National Cancer Institute's highest possible rating—"exceptional"—along with the competitive renewal of its designation as a Comprehensive Cancer Center. This second consecutive exceptional rating is a very rare achievement, and Lurie Cancer Center is the only Comprehensive Cancer Center in Illinois to ever be rated "exceptional."

This distinction reflects our transformative research and cancer care, our commitment to providing vital education and services, and our collaborative efforts to expand access to novel treatments through clinical trials.

Please join me and our team on this journey by supporting this campaign for our future. On behalf of Lurie Cancer Center, thank you from the bottom of my heart for your trust and confidence in us.

With tremendous gratitude,

Leonidas C. Platanias, MD, PhD

Director, Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University
Jesse, Sara, Andrew, Abigail, Benjamin and Elizabeth Lurie Professor of Oncology



Dr. Leonidas C. Platanias

PHILANTHROPIC PRIORITIES

A transformational philanthropic investment will help establish Northwestern as the leader in cancer research and patient care and advance

- ♦ Faculty recruitment and career development
- ♦ New named centers of excellence in research and patient care
- ♦ Education and training of the next generation of oncologists
- ♦ Patient access to care and community outreach programs

Exceptional for Our Future—Research

At Lurie Cancer Center, our physicians and scientists are transforming how we think about cancer. Research has always informed patient care and is our treasured asset for improving human health beyond the individual patient. In fact, there is nothing that touches a patient today that did not have its origin somewhere as a study in the laboratory or clinic. We are leading breakthrough research to better understand various forms of cancer, improve outcomes for patients, and create new inroads to a higher quality of life for patients living with and surviving cancer.

Basic Science Cancer Research

To reach our bold goals for the future, we are focusing on the powerhouse techniques and tools of **Immunology**, **Epigenetics**, **Nanotechnology**, and **Metabolism** to target the most difficult questions in cancer and most significant barriers to progress. These areas of study are key to advancing high-impact, high-return science ... all in the battle to overcome cancer.



IMMUNOLOGY

Advances in immunology have created a sea change in cancer treatment at Lurie Cancer Center today and for the future of treatment.

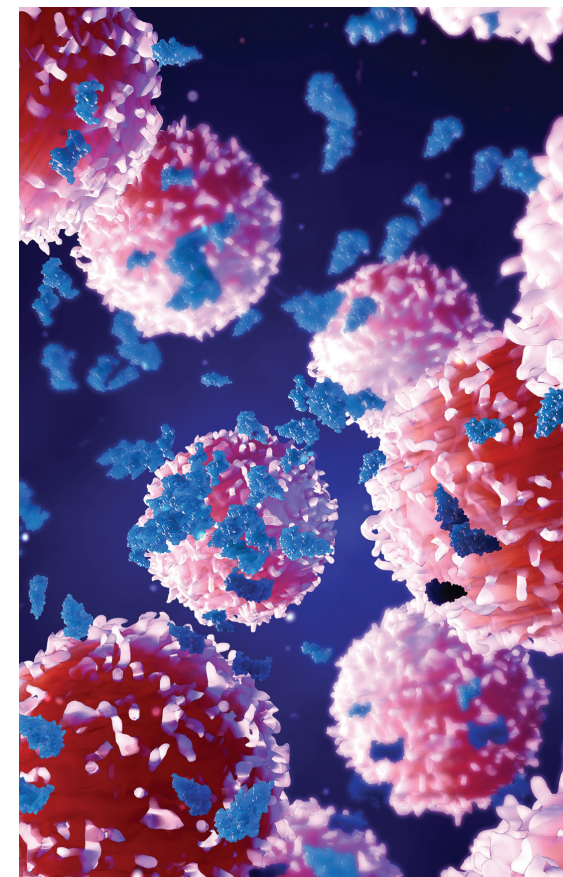
Cancer cells develop in our bodies on a continuous basis, but our immune systems are able to detect and kill these cells before they take hold. When the immune system fails in this surveillance, cancer grows undeterred. Immunotherapy is a type of cancer treatment that boosts or changes the body's immune system so it can find, target, and destroy cancer cells. At Lurie Cancer Center, cutting-edge **immunology** studies and immunotherapy treatments are major areas of investment for us because these new pathways are saving lives and offering promise for the future as new knowledge emerges. Our immunology research efforts are leading to a better understanding of the immune response, which is the key to more breakthroughs. Our recent advances in harnessing immune cells and regulating the immune system have proven efficacious as novel therapeutics. With CAR T-cell therapy, for example, a sample of the patient's cells is collected from their blood and the cells' surface modified to recognize the patient's tumor.



EPIGENETICS

Epigenetics is about our environment and the different “actors” that create genetic mutations that cause cancer.

Through **epigenetics**, we are working at Lurie Cancer Center to develop new drugs to prevent the mutations that cause cancer. Recent studies of the cancer genome show that changes to epigenetic factors are key to the development of many forms of cancer and other diseases—putting epigenetics at the forefront of our biological studies. Northwestern investigators have definitively shown that such regulatory mechanisms underlay various cancers. Epigenetics offers, therefore, an entirely new opportunity to target drug therapy for selected cancers. In recent years, the Feinberg School of Medicine has invested significantly in the development of a transformative epigenetics program, including recruiting a renowned leader for the program and additional experts who have come from top institutions to make a difference.





NANOTECHNOLOGY

Our research programs in nanotechnology are internationally and nationally recognized and are moving the needle forward in the study and treatment of cancer.

At Northwestern University, we are considered world leaders in the field of **nanotechnology**. Nanotechnology is often referred to as the science of small things. It is the study of the fabrication, directed self-assembly, and characterization of materials that have size dimensions between 1 and 100 nanometers. We are accelerating this leading work at Lurie Cancer Center by developing novel treatments for cancer and leading clinical trials of drugs that use nanotechnology. We are employing nanotechnology to study and discover new immunotherapy approaches for various forms of cancer, such as prostate cancer, lymphoma, and leukemia among many others. Nanotechnology offers new avenues in the treatment of cancer, including the means to target chemotherapies directly and selectively to cancerous cells and neoplasms, guide in surgical resection of tumors, and enhance the therapeutic efficacy of radiation-based and other current treatments. The challenge and opportunity we have with nanotechnology is to manipulate structures that naturally interface with biological systems to develop specifically targeted, practical, safe, and effective small particle therapeutics.



METABOLISM

Lurie Cancer Center is intensifying its efforts in cancer metabolism as this research witnesses a remarkable renaissance.

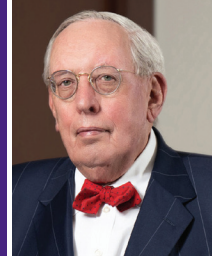
Metabolism is a rapidly growing area of study that is incredibly promising for cancer therapeutics. It has become clear that changes in metabolism represent a hallmark of the pathogenesis of many, if not all cancers. However, the underlying molecular mechanisms are not well understood, and consequently strategies for the rational development of therapeutics to target such metabolic adaption are only beginning to emerge. At Lurie Cancer Center, there is vast opportunity to develop new drugs and other cancer therapeutics that work in many forms of cancer, including difficult to treat forms of lung and brain cancer. For example, mitochondria are the energy-producing factories of all cells. If we can remove the energy source that cancer cells use to power their attack on the body, we can stop cancer in its tracks.

How We Will Get There

With the essential support of our donors, we will elevate and greatly strengthen these four priority basic science programs through:

- ♦ Focused faculty recruitments
- ♦ New research initiatives led by our principal investigators
- ♦ High-impact, innovative technology transfer
- ♦ Investments in our shared research cores, such as our Immune Monitoring and Metabolomics cores

Why Our Lurie Cancer Center Matters



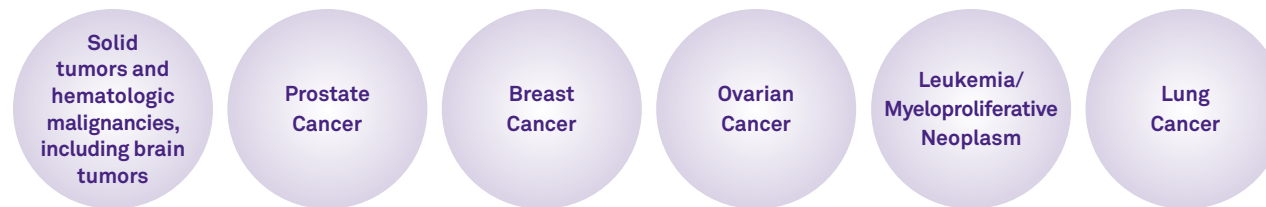
“As one of the nation’s truly exceptional programs, Lurie Cancer Center is driving high-impact research and innovative training for the benefit of better clinical care. More discovery means more progress, and it can’t go faster without more fuel.”

— Eric G Neilson, MD, Vice President
for Medical Affairs and Lewis
Landsberg Dean,
Northwestern University

Translational Cancer Research

At Lurie Cancer Center, our translational research programs are integral to the future of cancer discovery and care. Translational studies help us move new ideas and treatments from our laboratories to the clinic, while also driving new insights and knowledge from the clinic to the laboratory for further investigation.

Looking forward, our strategic growth areas for translational research focus on:



To heighten our translational studies and improve outcomes for patients with these forms of cancer, we are mobilizing our current SPOREs and working with rigor to prepare to apply for new SPOREs in high-impact areas. SPOREs, or Specialized Programs of Research Excellence, are transformational funding awards from the National Cancer Institute that fuel large-scale research efforts and help provide a maximum impact in the shortest timeframe possible. We are leading two prestigious SPOREs, a Prostate Cancer SPORE and Brain Cancer SPORE, that were awarded to Lurie Cancer Center. Ours are the only two cancer SPOREs in Chicago and a point of pride for us.

With our basic science and translational research programs and growing clinical network through Northwestern Medicine, we are ready to take our translational programs to the next level of “exceptional.” We are seeking donor investment to help expand our multi-investigator translational research studies, and increase the momentum of our programs in breast cancer, ovarian cancer, leukemia/MPN (myeloproliferative neoplasms), and lung cancer specifically so we can successfully compete for and receive multimillion dollar SPORE awards in these priority areas.

Nearly 300 members conduct groundbreaking laboratory, clinical, prevention, behavior, and population-based investigations to spur innovative clinical trials and provide cutting-edge treatment options that often are not available elsewhere.

As a founding member of the **National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN)**, an alliance of leading cancer centers devoted to patient care, research and education, Lurie Cancer Center is defining, improving, and facilitating effective and accessible cancer care so all patients can live better lives.



Exceptional for Our Future—Clinical Trials



Almost every cancer treatment that is saving lives today is the result of a clinical trial. Clinical trials are research studies that help us find new and better ways to prevent, diagnose, and treat cancer. With the participation of research volunteers, these research studies help us to evaluate new drugs, treatments, and interventions.

At Lurie Cancer Center, one of our priorities is to expand patient access to clinical trials across Chicago and the region. With the support of generous individuals and groups, we can accelerate our research efforts and thoughtfully expand our diagnosis and treatment options for patients with cancer.

As one of only 32 Lead Academic Participating Sites within the National Clinical Trials Network, Lurie Cancer Center provides scientific leadership in the development and conduct of National Cancer Institute-funded clinical research. Being selected as a Lead Academic Participating Site is highly prestigious and a testament to Lurie Cancer Center's clinical trial achievements. Drawing on their recognized expertise, our members at Lurie Cancer Center serve as chairs and co-chairs of the National Clinical Trials Network steering committees organized to evaluate and prioritize new clinical trials.

Clinical Trials—Moving Innovative Drugs, Treatments, and Interventions Forward

Our Clinical Trials Office at Lurie Cancer Center provides a centralized resource to conduct and coordinate Phase I through Phase III clinical trials, with more than 500 clinical trials providing access to a full spectrum of novel diagnostic and treatment strategies. Conducted with the help of volunteer participants from across Northwestern Medicine, clinical trial studies are designed to provide scientists with new knowledge about preventing and comprehensively treating cancer.

CLINICAL TRIALS ARE DIVIDED INTO FOUR PHASES:

Phase I

Tests safety and determines best dose to be given.

Phase II

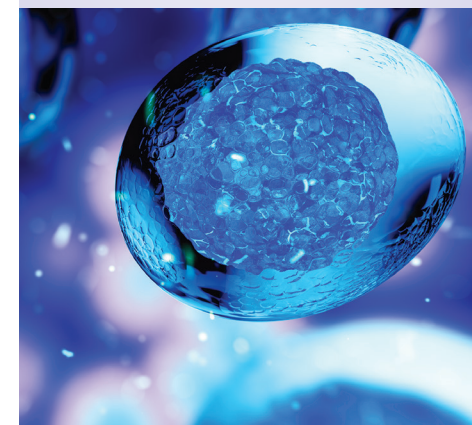
Determines if the drug is effective.

Phase III

Compares the investigational drug with standard drugs that are already approved.

Phase IV

Monitors the long-term safety of the drug.



In any given year, Lurie Cancer Center patients have access to clinical trials providing innovative treatment options across Northwestern Medicine, covering a broad range of subjects, including:

- ◆ New drugs or vaccines
- ◆ New ways to do surgery
- ◆ New ways to do radiation therapy
- ◆ New combination therapies and treatments
- ◆ New ways to manage the side effects of cancer treatments
- ◆ New ways to store tissue for future research
- ◆ New behavioral interventions aimed at improving quality of life
- ◆ New behavioral therapies that can help treat cancer-related distress

Many clinical trials evaluate the safety and effectiveness of new medications, surgical procedures, or medical devices, while others test ways to prevent disease and improve quality of life. Early-phase trials may offer treatment for patients who do not have many other options. In addition, findings from clinical trials can help in the development of new standards of care.

In addition to therapeutic clinical trials, Lurie Cancer Center offers access to clinical trials studying new ways to prevent cancer and detect it early; new approaches to medical, surgical, and radiation therapy; advanced technologies; and effective ways to improve quality of life.

Because of the work of clinical trials at Northwestern Medicine, more than 20 new cancer-treating medications have been developed and approved by the Food and Drug Administration in recent years. Our team has been hard at work in reducing cancer health inequity through scientific discovery, education, and training. We are seeking the philanthropic commitment of donors and friends to expand access to clinical trials for patients. This effort includes funding to establish a Clinical Trials Institute that will help us continue to bring forth breakthroughs that serve patients and families.

Why Lurie Cancer Center for Clinical Trials



“We are curing more cancers, and we are extending life for many more people. All of that did not happen accidentally, and it didn’t happen because of wishful thinking. It happened because of clinical trials.”

— Maha Hussain, MD
Deputy Director of Lurie Cancer Center
Genevieve E. Teuton Professor of Medicine

Proposed Named Centers for Research, Patient Care, Faculty Recruitment, and Career Development

CLINICAL TRIALS	CANCER IMMUNOTHERAPY	PANCREATIC CANCER	BREAST CANCER	SARCOMA	GI MALIGNANCIES	ENDOCRINE NEOPLASIA	PRECISION ONCOLOGY	LUNG CANCER	SKIN MALIGNANCIES

Exceptional for Our Future—Community Impact

At Lurie Cancer Center, our community is everything to us and is central to our mission. We have a deep history of advocacy, education, and outreach and engagement and are leading initiatives that have an impact on health and well-being in the communities we serve and beyond. As we look forward, we are enhancing our community partnerships and programs to better identify and address barriers to cancer health equity and to help improve outcomes in traditionally under-resourced neighborhoods.

Working together with new and existing organizations in our communities, our efforts include:

- ✦ Expanding awareness and improving access to cancer services, treatment, and clinical trials
- ✦ Providing up-to-date information and community-based screening programs to reduce cancer risk and increase early detection
- ✦ Identifying the social and economic challenges in communities to guide our efforts
- ✦ Developing educational resources to improve health literacy and raise awareness about follow-up and survivorship care
- ✦ Advocating for public policy changes to ease the burden of cancer
- ✦ Supporting healthy lifestyle changes to reduce cancer risk



Each year, Lurie Cancer Center conducts a wide range of public education programs and survivorship events. In addition, we bring together thousands of people each year to participate in our annual Cancer Survivors' Celebration Walk & 5K.



Donor-funded initiatives are advancing cancer care and improving lives throughout our communities

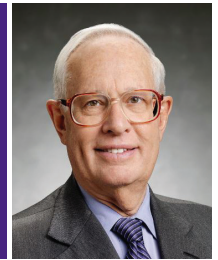
Chicago Cancer Initiative

- ✦ Since launching in 2018, the Chicago Cancer Initiative—a community-driven initiative addressing gaps in cancer care—has partnered with priority South Side communities to expand cancer screening, education, and access to care.
- ✦ Through trusted partnerships and grassroots engagement, Chicago Cancer Initiative connects with more than 1,500 Chicago Bronzeville residents annually, delivering community-informed cancer prevention and screening programs.
- ✦ Since the initiative was launched, the number of Bronzeville patients receiving care at Lurie Cancer Center who are on Medicaid or uninsured increased by 273 percent between 2019 and 2023, reflecting improved access for populations with limited resources.
- ✦ Chicago Cancer Initiative provides patient navigation to help residents obtain screenings, treatment, and survivorship care while addressing barriers such as transportation, food insecurity, and childcare.

Cancer Clinics with Spanish-Language Support

- ✦ Northwestern Medicine launched the nation's first Breast Cancer Clinic with Spanish-Language support, expanding access to high-quality, comprehensive breast cancer care for all patients while providing language-concordant care for those who prefer Spanish.
- ✦ A multidisciplinary team, including Spanish-speaking physicians, nurses, social workers, and research staff, helps ensure patients can navigate their cancer journey with confidence and without language barriers.
- ✦ Research staff are able to provide support in Spanish to connect eligible patients with clinical trials, increasing access to research opportunities and participation.
- ✦ In less than one year, the clinic provided 328 new and returning patient visits, demonstrating the value of linguistically responsive cancer care.
- ✦ Building on this success, Lurie Cancer Center expanded these clinic services to other disease areas including brain and gastrointestinal tumors, improving access to specialized cancer care for patients who prefer Spanish, including those from regions with higher-than-average cancer incidence.

Why Donor Support Makes A Difference



“Steadfast supporters and new friends of Lurie Cancer Center are crucial to the success of our campaign for the future. Your belief in us and generosity will help us to serve patients and families here at Northwestern and propel new discoveries to benefit patients worldwide.”

— Henry S. Bienen
Northwestern University President Emeritus
Chair, Friends of Lurie Cancer Center
Advisory Board



Exceptional for Our Future—Education and Training

At our very core, Lurie Cancer Center is deeply committed to the training of medical students and resident physicians, as well as fellowship trainees who work across a range of specialties that intersect with the field of oncology. The time and expense to prepare our next generation of experts in cancer are immense, yet the investment is essential as these trainees represent our future caregivers, scientists, leaders, and innovators.

At Lurie Cancer Center, our residents and fellows train with our faculty clinicians, conduct novel research with the supervision of our faculty, and develop the competencies and skills to communicate effectively with patients and families. Feinberg medical students also benefit from significant hands-on experiences in our clinics and other settings with our teams

Why Training in the Field of Cancer is So Important

Cancer represents a very complex set of diseases that requires team care and team science, as well as a highly individualized and compassionate approach to care. Individuals who choose oncology as a career path must be prepared to collaborate frequently with all medical specialties and must also have a strong knowledge of and foundation in the basic sciences, engineering, communications, and newer fields, like artificial intelligence. In addition, they must be strong and effective communicators and leaders when it comes to advocating for patients, setting new guidelines in the field, and communicating with the public about new therapies, treatments, and breakthroughs in cancer. Our training programs and our faculty, through their mentoring and sharing of knowledge, target these important needs for our trainees and prepare them well for the future.

Supporters of Lurie Cancer Center invest in our education and training efforts because they care about the future of cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship for people everywhere. They want to help us ensure that the best people are in place to lead us into the future.

We invite our donors and friends to support fellowship training, in particular, as well as novel educational programs that truly set us apart nationally.

Translational Bridge Program



Through our successful Translational Bridge Program, we are building bridges between basic and clinical investigators and are fostering both research, as well as the education, of a new generation of translational investigators. Bridge awards enable research fellowship trainees to benefit from the mentorship and oversight of a laboratory's principal investigator, as well as the oversight of a clinical-investigator active in the patient care setting. This dual supervision and mentoring is a requirement for the continuous funding of these research fellows and results in the formation of powerful translational teams.

Through this program, which takes place on our Chicago and Evanston campuses, we identify and select high-risk, high-reward projects that have potential to lead to new clinical applications for patients with cancer. Made possible by donor support, this innovative Lurie Cancer Center program has trained more than 45 Bridge fellows.



Exceptional...



Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University

For more information about supporting the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University, please visit:

cancer.northwestern.edu