

A Better Heart – Thanks to You



You Make Better Medicine Possible

Northwestern Medicine Bluhm Cardiovascular Institute is dedicated to delivering outstanding, specialized and comprehensive heart and vascular care that gives patients the highest-quality results.

We are proud to be ranked as one of the top cardiology and heart surgery programs in the country by *U.S. News & World Report*, 2021 – 2022.

Generous donors like you make leading-edge care possible. You help us bring new discoveries and innovative treatments to more patients across Chicagoland and around the world.

Thank you for your continued support of Northwestern Medicine.

Jeff Is All Heart



In spring 2021, Jeff Beck was walking on the treadmill when he suddenly felt tightness in his chest and altered vision. He went to the Emergency Department at Northwestern Medicine McHenry Hospital for care.

Within hours, Jeff was having emergency surgery 50 miles away at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. He had an aortic dissection, a potentially catastrophic tear in the largest artery of the body. If left untreated, mortality rates for this condition rise 1% to 2% per hour after onset.

The day after surgery, Jeff was already up and walking. He was discharged from the hospital five days later. Within a month, he was well enough to travel to Baltimore for his daughter's college graduation.

"I realized how short life can be," Jeff says. "I am so fortunate to be surrounded by an incredible medical community."

Today, Jeff is in remarkably good health. He is committed to a healthy diet, exercise and a low-stress lifestyle so that he can enjoy life.

"Had I not gone to the hospital or not listened to the doctor who wanted to run one last test, I could have died in my sleep," he says. "Take care of yourself and listen to your body."

Your Impact on Cardiology Care



Northwestern Memorial Hospital
is ranked No. 12 for Cardiology
and Heart Surgery by
U.S. News & World Report



Patient visits have grown nearly
500% since the inception of
Bluhm Cardiovascular Institute



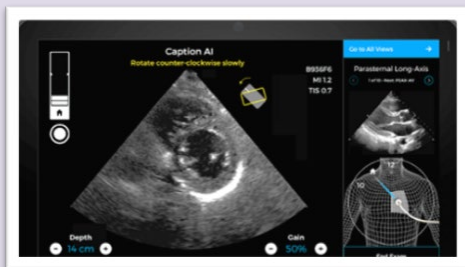
Philanthropic funds directly
support up to 10 clinical and
research fellows every year



Physician Leads Unique Aortic Dissection Program

Patricia Vassallo, MD, is a physician at Northwestern Medicine Bluhm Cardiovascular Institute and an assistant professor of Medicine in the Division of Cardiology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. She also is the medical director of the Aortic Dissection Program, a multidisciplinary team involving clinicians from Cardiac and Vascular Surgery, Cardiology, Cardiac Anesthesia, Radiology and Genetics who specialize in the care of patients with aortic dissection. The team's Code AORTA transfer line and direct-to-OR pathway is a unique offering that has led to more than 20% of aortic emergencies in Illinois being treated at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. In addition to treating patients, the team also screens family members, and detects and treats them for risk factors of aortic dissection.

Advances Funded by Philanthropy



Launched in 2018 with donor support, Bluhm Cardiovascular Institute Center for Artificial Intelligence (AI) uses AI to advance the study and treatment of cardiovascular disease. Physician-scientists work to harness this next frontier and use machine learning to interpret echocardiograms, identify a rare form of cardiomyopathy, rapidly detect potential COVID-19 on a chest X-ray, and drive advanced heart failure referrals for complex treatment. In 2020, the institute was the first in the world to implement newly FDA-approved AI-assisted echocardiography in the clinical setting.

Expanded Access to Leading-Edge Care

Since 2005, Bluhm Cardiovascular Institute has expanded across Northwestern Medicine locations in the north, northwest, west and south suburbs. This expansion of our nationally ranked program allows patients to receive world-class care closer to where they live and work. At Northwestern Medicine Lake Forest Hospital and Northwestern Medicine Central DuPage Hospital, we offer the unique blend of academic medicine and clinical research in a community hospital setting.

Our cardiovascular specialists work within six niche clinical centers that focus on heart disease, vascular disease and preventive cardiology. In 2021, the American Heart Association recognized five Northwestern Medicine hospitals for high-quality heart failure care. Northwestern Memorial Hospital and Central DuPage Hospital were also ranked among the Top 50 Cardiovascular Hospitals in the U.S. by IBM Watson Health.

Giving the Gift of Health

Richard and Martha Melman have been patients of Northwestern Medicine for most of their adult lives. About 20 years ago, Richard discovered he would need his aortic valve replaced. He had a successful replacement then and a second replacement performed in 2018.

"I trust the doctors with my heart, and what more can I say than that?" Richard says. "I think that's the highest confidence you can give."

After their own positive experiences with Northwestern Medicine physicians and leaders, Richard and Martha were glad to support Bluhm Cardiovascular Institute and the Bicuspid Aortic Valve Program. "If you have your health, you have everything," Martha says. "It's wonderful to be in a position to make sure that other people can have the gift of health as well."

