

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Close Collaboration

NorthShore University HealthSystem and the University of Chicago have a shared commitment to medical education, clinical investigation and excellent patient care that bridge the distance between their campuses for the physician-faculty and medical students, residents and fellows.

By Janet Franz

To NorthShore University HealthSystem (NorthShore) patients, the University of Chicago medical students, residents and fellows they encounter during hospital stays or clinic visits may seem a long way from their school's campus in Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood. But any physical distance between the NorthShore Hospitals and University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine is being bridged by a close and collaborative academic partnership.

This new teaching affiliation makes NorthShore the primary off-site learning environment for Pritzker Medical School students, residents and fellows, who now receive a portion of their training under the guidance of NorthShore physicians.

"The affiliation gives all of our trainees the opportunity to work in a first-class hospital facility with a highly regarded electronic infrastructure and a hospital system that is different from the one they're accustomed to working in on campus," said Holly J. Humphrey, M.D., Dean for Medical Education at the University of Chicago. "The opportunity to see a different patient population in a high-quality facility with expert physician teachers is a huge benefit."

And the partnership is a plus as well for NorthShore patients, whose physicians, as teachers, stay up to date with the latest research and technological advances as they help train the next generation of doctors. In such a culture of ongoing inquiry,



NorthShore and the University of Chicago have developed a close and collaborative teaching and research partnership. Here the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine medical students, residents and fellows are taking a tour of the facilities at NorthShore's Evanston Hospital.

patients have direct access to individuals "who are not just reading it through journals. They're participating in the clinical trials and the research that's helping to define what's going on in areas like cancer care treatment," said J.P. Gallagher, President at NorthShore's Evanston Hospital. "They're conducting new surgical procedures that are being done only at a handful of institutions across the United States."

NorthShore patients are likely to come into contact with the University of Chicago doctors in training in almost every specialty, be it surgery, medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics or family medicine. The medical students and residents may be part of a team that is making daily rounds on a unit, providing follow-up coverage after surgery or performing a diagnostic evaluation during a clinic visit—all under the supervision of NorthShore-based physician-faculty members.

That means "there's another pair of eyes, another set of hands to be asking and answering the questions that arise in the course of a patient's illness," Dr. Humphrey said.

One key to making this affiliation work is a new infrastructure that brings together all of the NorthShore departments that are active in the education of medical students, residents and fellows under one academic affairs umbrella, according to Richard Silver, M.D., Associate Dean at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine and Chief Academic Officer at NorthShore. The new structure sets consistent expectations across departments and ensures that training opportunities complement those in Hyde Park.

"Medicine is all about continuing education and training—not stagnation," Dr. Silver said. "The reality is that if you are sufficiently knowledgeable to teach others your craft, it elevates the level of care for all concerned." **C**