

THE SEAN D. O'CONNOR, MD SCHOLARSHIP: FUNDING THE FUTURE OF PRIMARY CARE

A MESSAGE FROM NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY FEINBERG SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

As a result of a patient's remarkable act of philanthropy to honor Dr. O'Connor's clinical care, scholarships were established in his name at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine that will benefit generations of students studying primary care medicine. Since 2019, an endowed scholarship bearing Dr. O'Connor's name has been granted annually to a fourth-year medical student at Feinberg who is committed to further training in Primary Care. In addition, the O'Connor Resident Education Fund supports the Northwestern Department of Medicine's nationally recognized program for internal medicine residents which includes intensive clinical training, comprehensive education and research opportunities.

As patients of his concierge practice have known for years, primary care medicine is Dr. O'Connor's lifelong passion. "I am so grateful for the opportunity the scholarships bring to encourage students to follow their dreams and pursue a career in primary care. It's the backbone of medicine, and key to the best patient-centered care," he says.

Named scholarships are a top priority at the medical school because they help Feinberg to compete with other peers nationally and attract exceptional, diverse and talented students, regardless of financial constraints, according to Meghan Monaghan, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Development & Alumni Relations.

"Donors often seek opportunities to give back in gratitude and in honor of a beloved physician," says Monaghan. "Recognizing the tremendous leadership and dedication of Dr. O'Connor with generous gifts helps fund medical education and research that will inspire even more advances from the laboratory to the classroom to the bedside."

If you are interested in contributing to the Sean D. O'Connor, MD Scholarship fund, please visit wewill.northwestern.edu/oconnor or contact Meghan Monaghan by phone 312-503-1091 or email meghan.monaghan@northwestern.edu.

To date, three Feinberg students have received funding from Dr. O'Connor's eponymous scholarship. They shared their profound gratitude in thank-you letters to donors, excerpted below.



"Government loans entirely funded my education, and your scholarship helps offset the significant debt I accumulated. My time spent at Feinberg's Education-Centered Medical Home (ECMH) has been immensely rewarding both through the chance to teach my peers and work with patients longitudinally. My positive experiences at ECHM have further encouraged me to pursue primary care. I envision myself balancing clinical care with public health research. Nothing brings me more joy than to see a child become healthy."

Michelle Gorecki, '19 MD, MPH, now a second-year resident in pediatrics at the University of North Carolina



"I am the first in my family to pursue a career in medicine. When I first interviewed at Feinberg, the school's commitment to student wellness, the innovative curriculum, and the overall student-centered approach won me over quickly. Four years later, I see how fortunate I am to have attended Feinberg. I have made lifelong friends from all walks of life and met my partner. This scholarship helps offset the loans that I have accumulated and provides a sense of relief now that my loans are significantly lower. Thank you so much for all you have done for the Northwestern community and me."

Christopher Mowry, '20 MD, now an internal medicine resident at the University of Colorado School of Medicine in Denver



"I have enjoyed the opportunity to get to know patients at our continuity clinic over the years. My longitudinal clinic experience was crucial in choosing internal medicine as a career and going into primary care. I cannot thank you enough for your incredibly generous gift. Your financial assistance has not only significantly reduced my loans but also allowed me to look forward to the next phase of my medical career."

Francisco Cai, '21 MD, will be starting his residency at St. Mary's Medical Center, a community hospital in San Francisco



SEAN D. O'CONNOR, MD, sc
Private Practice Medicine