

# Breakthroughs in Clinical Care and Cutting-Edge Research

## TERMINAL CANCER TO CANCER-FREE: NOVEL 'LUNGS IN A BOX' TECHNOLOGY SAVES A LIFE

A patient bravely confronted stage 4 lung cancer, ultimately undergoing a highly specialized lung transplant at Northwestern Medicine. This first-of-its-kind clinical program was formally established in March 2023 to provide hope for select patients with stage 4 lung cancers confined to the lungs who are being considered for hospice. The innovative procedure utilizes ex vivo lung perfusion to maintain the viability of the organs outside the body. Following the surgery and with the help of Dr. Ankit Bharat, Dr. Young Chae, and Dr. Catherine Myers, the patient's new lungs demonstrated optimal functionality and are cancer free. This 'Lungs in a Box' groundbreaking technology holds the potential to significantly benefit individuals on the organ waitlist. Dr. Myers said "What this allows us to do is take donor lungs that we might not otherwise be able to use and actually perform different procedures or treatments on them, so it opens up the donor pool and creates more donor organs for recipients on the waitlist". To read more about the new technology and patient's journey, please click [here](#).



## NORTHWESTERN FIRST IN ILLINOIS TO REACH 10,000 ABDOMINAL TRANSPLANTS



Northwestern Medicine recently achieved a significant milestone by successfully performing its 10,000<sup>th</sup> abdominal organ transplant, making it the *first health system in Illinois* to reach this achievement. The milestone represents the positive impact on the lives of 10,000 recipients and advancements in transplant technology and innovation. This feat follows a record-breaking year with 518 kidney, liver, and pancreas transplants in 2023. The Organ Transplant Center continues to advance transplantation through ongoing research and clinical trials. To learn more, please click [here](#).

## DEVELOPING A WORLD-CLASS MITRAL VALVE PROGRAM

Patrick M. McCarthy, MD, Executive Director of Northwestern Medicine's Bluhm Cardiovascular Institute, engages in a discussion with Kevin E. Hodges, MD, a Northwestern Medicine cardiac surgeon and the Director of Minimally Invasive and Robotic Cardiac Surgery. Their conversation revolves around the advantages of different methods for mitral valve repair, encompassing traditional and robotically assisted techniques. Dr. McCarthy and Dr. Hodges delve into the training, technology, and strategies employed by the Northwestern Medicine Mitral Valve Program at Bluhm Cardiovascular Institute to attain exceptional short-term and long-term outcomes. To watch the video, please click [here](#).



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## TREATING CANCER WITH INNOVATION



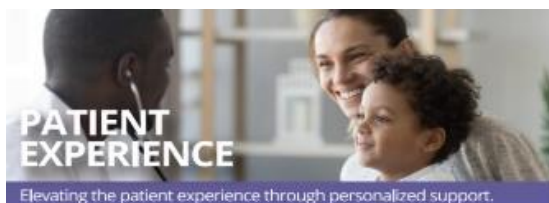
A patient was diagnosed with prostate cancer and his research led him to proton therapy at Northwestern Medicine. Proton beam therapy is a type of external-beam radiation therapy (EBRT) treatment that uses protons instead of X-rays to deliver radiation directly to cancer cells. Proton therapy has been shown to be effective in treating certain types of cancerous tumors and some non-cancerous tumors and malformations, such as tangled blood vessels. Assessed as a suitable candidate for proton treatment by Radiation Oncologist Adil S. Akthar, MD, the patient underwent proton treatment. The patient experienced a positive outcome, as evidenced by reduced PSA scores, aligning with his goal of minimizing negative impacts on his quality of life. He is now focused on his recovery and is grateful for the care he received, which enabled him to avoid surgery. To read more, please click [here](#).

## RENOWNED PULMONOLOGIST NAMED INAUGURAL DIRECTOR OF CENTER FOR BEDSIDE MEDICINE

Brian Garibaldi, MD, MEHP, has been appointed as the Charles Horace Mayo Professor of Medicine and the inaugural director of the new Center for Bedside Medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. Dr. Garibaldi is known for his expertise in innovative bedside teaching methods, clinical skills assessment, high-consequence pathogens, pandemic preparedness, and COVID-19. The Center for Bedside Medicine, under Dr. Garibaldi's leadership, aims to modernize the clinical encounter by combining traditional bedside interaction with advanced technology like point-of-care devices and artificial intelligence. His arrival at Feinberg will enhance clinical skills education, assessment, and innovation, and contribute to research to improve the medical training environment for clinicians at all levels of training and across multiple disciplines. To learn more, please click [here](#).



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