Finding Tomorrow’s Cures
Northwestern University Plans for a Medical Research Facility on the Site of the Former Prentice Hospital
Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine conducts lifesaving research, creates jobs, fuels the Chicago economy and ensures the health of Chicago residents. To continue these important missions, Northwestern needs more space for biomedical research. The University plans to construct a major new medical research facility on the site of the former Prentice Women’s Hospital, 320 E. Huron Street. That site is the linchpin for the combined plans of Northwestern University, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago and the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, which together are creating one of the world’s top academic medical centers here in Chicago.

Northwestern’s plans call for construction of 300,000 to 500,000 square feet of research space starting in 2015 with eventual build-out of approximately 1.2 million square feet. The University’s new medical research facility will be both literally and figuratively at the center of these research and patient care facilities, the hub of a world-class research and development enterprise that attracts innovation and entrepreneurship. Construction of the new research facility on the Prentice site would create 2,500 construction jobs and 2,000 high-paying full-time jobs, attract top researchers and have an economic impact of nearly $4 billion over the decade after the construction of the building. Most jobs would be for Chicago residents. The University and its affiliates already employ approximately 17,000 Chicago residents. But none of this will occur unless Northwestern is allowed to build on the site.

Northwestern brings in more than $300 million in federal medical research funding annually; the new facility will enable the University to increase that by $150 million annually, or $1.5 billion in the 10 years following the construction of the building. The financial impact for the Chicago metropolitan area will be approximately $3.9 billion over that decade, according to an economic multiplier developed for the Association of American Medical Colleges.

In doing so, Northwestern will help Chicago realize the goals of World Business Chicago and the city’s economic development plans by bringing jobs, research, innovation, technology and entrepreneurship to the city. To attract the best scientists in the world, research space has to be state-of-the-art in its configuration. Innovation and entrepreneurship can happen in Chicago, just as they do in cities on the coasts. But in order for that to occur, the proper facilities are necessary. The facilities will enable Northwestern scientists to expand groundbreaking research into the causes and cures for such diseases as cancer, heart disease, diabetes and others.
Northwestern Memorial Hospital began vacating the former Prentice five years ago, when the hospital built a new women’s hospital after deciding the 1970s-era building could not be renovated for modern healthcare needs. At that time, Northwestern University reiterated its plan to erect a new research facility on the site. This was consistent with what the University has stated in its discussions with the City of Chicago and neighborhood residents for years. Since that time, Northwestern has conducted its own study and commissioned a study by nationally renowned consultants to examine the possibility of adapting Prentice for use as a medical research facility. The study’s findings were clear: the 1970s building cannot be converted to provide space for 21st-century research.

Preservationists have called for the former Prentice to be landmarked and have presented a list of architects—many of them from outside Chicago—who support that effort. But even among architects, there is much disagreement about the value of doing so. A large coalition of civic organizations, business groups, labor unions, architects, patient-advocacy groups, scientists and others supports the University’s plans to construct a new biomedical research facility on the site of the former Prentice. In addition, a recent poll shows that 72 percent of Chicago residents support Northwestern’s plans.

The preservationists point to another site as being available for the new research building. They are wrong. Northwestern Memorial Hospital has plans to expand its patient care facilities on that site, further adding to the patient care hub on the campus and providing adjacency to the neighboring new Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago facility to the south. A letter detailing NMH’s plans is on page 22.

The City of Chicago has a choice: It can enable Northwestern University to bring in billions of dollars to the Chicago area, provide thousands of jobs, make the city a hub for biomedical research and innovation—and save lives. Or it can landmark a building about which there are mixed opinions.
1. Economic Impact

Construction of the new medical research building will have an economic impact of nearly $4 billion over the decade after the construction of the building. Northwestern University and two of its affiliated hospitals, Northwestern Memorial Hospital and Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago, will spend more than $1 billion of their own funds during the next decade for a combination of construction, hiring of researchers and their staff, purchase of equipment and operation of the building. The University and its affiliated hospitals are very substantial employers: About 17,000 of their employees live in Chicago. Experience tells us that most of the 2,000 full-time jobs to be added by the new building will be held by Chicagoans as well.

Northwestern’s plans dovetail with and support the plans of the City of Chicago to make the city a center for research, innovation, technology and entrepreneurship. As the World Business Chicago Plan for Economic Growth and Jobs noted, the Chicago region historically has lagged as a place for innovation and development. Northwestern has identified creating more opportunities for entrepreneurial activities by faculty as one of the University’s top priorities. A special office of the University bridges Northwestern research with its practical uses for public benefit by identifying research that could have commercial potential and accelerating its development. In doing so, Northwestern helps bring innovation and entrepreneurship to Chicago.

Specifically, the new building will:

- **Attract an additional $150 million annually in new biomedical research dollars.**

  This would in turn generate approximately $390 million annually in net economic impact for Chicago, according to an economic multiplier developed for the Association of American Medical Colleges. The multiplier is based on a nationwide analysis conducted by Tripp Umbach, a highly respected, nationally recognized economic consulting firm. The indirect economic impact, also known as the multiplier effect, includes the respending of dollars within the local economy. Tripp Umbach found that both the national and the Illinois multiplier is 1.6 times the direct economic impact. This does not include the incalculable impact from the saved lives, improved quality of life, the commercial application of the research and other downstream economic impacts.
• **Create more than 2,500 construction jobs.**
The building of the complex itself will provide more than 2,500 construction jobs for the complete build-out.

• **Provide more than 2,000 full-time jobs.**
When complete, the new facility will be home to hundreds of investigators and researchers as well as many laboratory technicians, lab assistants and research staff.

• **Attract top scientists to Chicago.**
Northwestern and its affiliated hospitals—Northwestern Memorial Hospital, the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago and Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago—are creating one of the country’s top medical centers in Chicago’s Streeterville neighborhood. The construction of the new Northwestern Memorial Hospital, the new Prentice Women’s Hospital, the new Lurie Children’s Hospital and the Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center in the past decade represents an investment of more than $2.5 billion and a huge vote of confidence in Chicago, which competes with other cities in the Midwest, as well as on both coasts, to be a hub for biomedical research and technology.

• **Generate new startup companies and discoveries.**
The economic impact of the new building does not end with the new jobs identified above. It extends to the potential of creating new companies and helping existing companies benefit from newly discovered technologies and science emanating from Northwestern labs. A special office at the University assists in achieving such economic activity. It advises researchers on the path to commercialization. In the past two years, Northwestern faculty have created more than 10 new startup companies. The increase in faculty engaged in research in the proposed facility should produce an additional 20–30 new startup companies over the next decade and hundreds of additional licenses of Northwestern University discoveries. Building this new facility is a critical step in a multidecade plan to make Chicago a leader in medical research and innovation.
Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine Growth in Grant Awards Has Exceeded the Overall Rate of Growth in Grants to Medical Schools since FY2005
II. Impact on Healthcare

Construction of the new research building will provide a critical boost to biomedical research and clinical healthcare in Chicago. The building will serve as the keystone for both research and patient care activities at Northwestern’s Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago and the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. Northwestern aspires to be one of the top academic medical centers in terms of federal research dollars, placing it among such leading institutions as Yale, Michigan, Stanford and Columbia. Having top-notch facilities will enable Northwestern and Chicago to become global leaders and compete with other metropolitan areas while providing the best possible healthcare for Chicago-area residents.

Specifically, the new building will:

• **Provide space for new basic science research.**
  The new research facility will provide critical space for researchers working in the areas of cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, neurodegenerative disorders and others. A key part of the plan for the new building is to provide space for the pediatric research arm of Lurie Children’s Hospital. Lurie Children’s Hospital recently moved its clinical care operations to a state-of-the-art facility on Northwestern’s campus in Streeterville, but its research operations remain near its original campus in Lincoln Park. Integrating the pediatric researchers of Lurie Children’s Hospital with those researchers studying adult diseases on the campus in Streeterville has been a long-standing objective. Much of this basic research for pediatrics will emphasize understanding the underpinnings of diseases in children and their families that carry into and affect their adult lives, such as sickle cell anemia, early metabolism of obesity, asthma, cystic fibrosis and cardiovascular disease, among others. Northwestern researchers already are at the forefront of discovering the causes and cures of many life-threatening diseases and medical conditions, including finding a common cause for all forms of ALS, developing a blood test to diagnose depression in teens and developing a drug to prevent post-traumatic stress disorder. The new building will allow expansion of research into these areas as well as other fields.
• **Assist in creating a great academic medical center.**  
The best doctors, even those who do not actively engage in research themselves, want to have access to leading-edge research and the latest medical technology. Out of 137 medical schools in the United States, biomedical research is mainly done at 30 research-intensive medical schools. It is an immense and complex enterprise. But this is where discoveries and new knowledge inform patient care. Therefore, the combination of new hospitals and new research facilities on one campus is essential to building a great medical center that will attract patients, physicians and researchers from around the country. In order to achieve that goal, Northwestern University built the $200 million Lurie Medical Research Center and renovated extensively its other medical research buildings at a cost of more than $100 million over the past decade. The University’s hospital partners also have built new facilities or are planning to do so. The new medical research building will be a linchpin of the continuing efforts to provide the appropriate facilities to attract the doctors who care for Chicago residents.

• **Accelerate the positioning of Chicago as a center for biomedical research and leading-edge clinical care.**  
Chicago competes with cities around the country to be a center for healthcare and technological innovation. Northwestern’s Feinberg School of Medicine and its affiliated hospitals already are ranked among the top in the country in several areas; their shared goal is to move farther up in the rankings, thereby positioning Chicago as a top national center for biomedical research and clinical care. Doing so would result in attracting more private companies in the business of medical technology, pharmaceuticals and related fields to the Chicago area.
The former Prentice Hospital site is immediately adjacent to Northwestern University’s existing medical research facilities. The Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center, a 12-story building that was constructed in 2006 and now houses approximately 700 faculty researchers, technicians and other employees, is just to the west. As a result, the former Prentice location is the only site that will allow Northwestern to expand its research facilities using the floor-by-floor connections that are critical to enhancing scientific discovery. As has been noted by Northwestern’s leading research faculty and others, great science now occurs at the intersection of disciplines; the days of a sole researcher working alone in a lab are gone. Instead, teams of researchers collaborate in a close environment that spans several disciplines. Creating this enclave so researchers can work together not only is more economically efficient, but it also leads to better science.

For the past decade, Northwestern has used this construction approach for its scientific research buildings on both of its campuses. In Evanston, the new Silverman Hall is connected to Pancoe and Ryan Hall on all floors in order to allow optimal interaction among research groups in all the buildings. In Chicago, the existing Lurie Medical Research Center was designed to provide such connections to both an addition to that building and to the new building planned for the Prentice site. These types of connections also exist today on the Chicago campus in the medical school’s Ward/Morton/Searle buildings. This coordinated space method is used by the leading medical research centers in the country with which Northwestern—and Chicago—compete, including Yale, Michigan, Stanford and Columbia.

As Thomas J. Meade, the Eileen Foell Professor of Cancer Research at Northwestern, recently stated, “The line-of-sight principle (of building design) is a crucial, but frequently underappreciated, aspect to the scientific endeavor. When scientists representing numerous disciplines have the opportunity to come together in an environment that stimulates interdisciplinary research, problems are solved in a way that could not be done otherwise.”

The question has been raised as to why Northwestern needs to use this particular site instead of the nearby land that is the site of the former Lakeside VA Hospital or on the block south of that, the former site of WBBM-TV studios. On the land immediately to the south, Northwestern Memorial Hospital plans to build new patient care facilities. (A letter detailing NMH’s plans is on page 22.) The Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, on the site one block to the south, also plans a new patient care facility on its site. Northwestern University fully supports those plans as part
of our coordinated efforts to build a leading academic medical center. Having the hub of a major biomedical research complex in the midst of hospital facilities provides an enhanced environment for the recruitment of the best faculty and clinicians. Since many of the clinicians are also researchers, the physical proximity of their research lab to their clinical space is important to their efficiency and effectiveness.
IV. Research Building Plans and Northwestern Campus Long-Range Plans

The plan for the new biomedical research building on the former Prentice site is part of Northwestern’s long history of development and redevelopment of the campus. James Gamble Rogers, a noted planner and architect of campus buildings, developed the first plan for the Chicago Campus in the 1920s that allowed for expansion of the campus and development of future buildings as needed.

In the 1930s, buildings were developed on the site of the former Prentice Hospital; those buildings remained until the 1950s, when they were demolished and a major parking lot was developed on the site. Parking remained as the use of the site until the 1970s, when the parking lot was demolished and the RIC and former Prentice buildings were constructed.

In 1988, construction began on the Tarry Research Building on the only remaining site on Northwestern’s original research block. In the 1990s, the University and the hospitals updated the campus plan since the Tarry building completed build-out of research space on the original research block and the Passavant and Wesley Hospitals were outdated and could not be brought up to current standards of medical care. The updated campus plan created an additional research corridor between Superior and Huron Streets; a clinical corridor west of Fairbanks Court between Superior Street and Chicago Avenue and an expanded clinical corridor between Huron and Erie Streets. This resulted in the demolition of the Passavant Hospital in 2002 to make way for the construction of the Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center, the demolition of Wesley Hospital in 2003 to make way for the construction of the new Prentice Women’s Hospital, and the demolition of the Galter Carriage House in 2006 to make way for Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago.

Adapting to Emerging Needs

The University and the affiliated hospitals have continued to update campus plans to address the vision for the campus and to adapt to changing needs and opportunities. The evolving nature of the campus with cycles of construction, demolition and redevelopment of sites of outmoded buildings is typical of dynamic academic medical centers. The current campus plan that includes a research corridor between Superior and Huron Streets is expected to meet the University’s needs over the next forty-year period (much as the James Gamble Rogers plan served the University for forty years). The current plan envisions the demolition and redevelopment of outmoded buildings (such as the former Prentice) similar to what occurred on campus from the 1950s to the present with the demolition and redevelopment of many other structures.
Redevelopment of the Former Prentice Site

Redevelopment of the former Prentice site is governed by Institutional Planned Development #3 (IPD3), which has been approved and adopted by the City of Chicago. IPD3 allows for the construction of more than 1,200,000 square feet of new development (with the demolition of the former Prentice building) in the sub-area where the former Prentice stands. The University will hold a design competition in 2013 to select the architect for design of the entire project. The University’s plan is to develop the new building in stages, with the first stage of 300,000–500,000 square feet commencing construction in 2015. The University fully understands that people may be concerned about potential impacts of the facility and is committed to working closely with the City, Alderman Reilly, the Streeterville Organization of Active Residents (SOAR) and other community groups to conduct detailed analyses and review, discuss and implement solutions to issues identified.

The first phase of the project will be attached directly to the Lurie Research Center and be connected on all floors to allow for the collaboration required in a state-of-the-art biomedical research facility. This can be accomplished only on the former Prentice site. The RIC building cannot be used for biomedical research because it was designed as a clinical facility and does not meet the vibration criteria required in a biomedical research facility. Even if the RIC were acquired and demolished, it would be too distant to provide the connectivity needed by the research community, and Northwestern would lose the enclave environment that is necessary to its future. Finally, the long-range vision of the Feinberg School of Medicine for research growth cannot be met by development on just the former Prentice site or just the RIC site. Both sites are eventually required to develop the research facilities for Northwestern and its affiliated hospitals to become one of the top academic medical centers in the country and make Chicago a hub for biomedical research and innovation.
MASTER SITE PLAN

Campus Zoning Proposed Future Use

1. NEW WOMEN'S HOSPITAL
2. GALTER CARRIAGE HOUSE
3. SUPERIOR SITE
4. OLSON [NMH]
   HURON PARKING / LOADING DOCK
5. FEINBERG PAVILION
6. GALTER PAVILION
7. 676 N. ST. CLAIR
8. 259 E. ERIE
9. 240 E. ONTARIO
10. ERIE-McCLURG PARKING
11. MRI FACILITY TO RELOCATE
12. PRENTICE STONE TO NU
13. WORCESTER HOUSE

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
Finding Tomorrow’s Cures

NORTHWESTERN MEDICINE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

1. Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital - Future Outpatient Building (after 2025)
2. NU Lurie Research Center Phase II (2015)
3. NU Biomedical Research Facility (2015)
4. NMH Clinical Development (after 2021)
5. NMH Development as Parking Garage (after 2021)
6. Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago 27-story Clinical Development (planned for 2013)
7. NU Biomedical Research Facility (after 2025)

LEGEND
- Northwestern Memorial Hospital
- Northwestern University
- Northwestern Medical Faculty Foundation
- Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago
- Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago
- Parking Lots and Garages
Support is widespread and growing for Northwestern University’s plans to build a major new medical research facility on the site of the former Prentice Women’s Hospital. Chicago’s leading civic organizations, business groups, medical and science community members, advocacy groups, labor unions and others have voiced their support for the University’s plans to construct this new research facility. Although a group of architects—many of them from outside Chicago—have called for preservation of the building, other Chicago architects have been blunt in their assessment that the former Prentice does not deserve landmark status.

The growing list of groups and organizations that oppose the landmarking of the former Prentice includes the following:

**Organizations**
- Alliance of Business Leaders and Entrepreneurs
- Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
- Civic Committee of The Commercial Club of Chicago
- Friends of Prentice
- Greater North Michigan Avenue Association
- Illinois Black Chamber of Commerce
- Robert R. McCormick Foundation
- Streeterville Chamber of Commerce
- Streeterville Organization of Active Residents (SOAR)
- Urban Initiatives

**Architects**
- Laurence Booth, Partner, Booth Hansen
- Jeff Case, Principal, Holabird & Root
- James DeStefano
- James Goettsch, Partner, Goettsch Partners
- William Gustafson, Principal, Ballinger
- Todd Halamka, Senior Vice President and Director of Design—NCR Chicago, HOK
- Michael Kaufman, Partner, Goettsch Partners
• Richard Kobus, Senior Principal, Tsoi Kobus and Associates
• Dan Mitchell, Senior Vice President and Management Principal—NCR Chicago, HOK
• John Ochoa, President and CEO, FGM Architects
• Charles Smith, Principal, Cannon Design
• Andrew Vazzano, Senior Vice President, Smith Group JJR

**Labor Unions**
• Chicago & Cook County Building and Construction Trades Council
• Chicago Federation of Labor
• Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters
• International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 134
• Sheet Metal Workers Local 73

**Medical and Scientific Community**
• Illinois Biotechnology Industry Organization
• Illinois Science Council
• International Institute of Nanotechnology

**Patient Advocacy Groups**
• CURED Foundation
• Les Turner ALS Foundation
• Lupus Foundation of America, Illinois Chapter
• Scleroderma Foundation
• Zoe Foundation

**Institutions**
• Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago
• Northwestern Memorial Hospital
• Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago
Individuals

- John W. Rogers Jr., Chairman, CEO and Chief Investment Officer, Ariel Investments
- Patrick J. Canning, Managing Partner, KPMG Chicago
- Dennis FitzSimons, Chairman, Robert R. McCormick Foundation
- More than 100 residents of the 42nd Ward have written to the City of Chicago to oppose landmarking the former Prentice.
- Some 1,800 people have emailed, written or called the city in support of Northwestern’s plans.
- More than 100 of the top researchers, physicians and faculty members at Northwestern and its affiliated hospitals have written in support.

In addition, a poll conducted recently showed that 72 percent of Chicago residents support Northwestern University’s plans to build a new research center on the site of the former Prentice Women’s Hospital, after hearing arguments from both sides. In addition, a coalition of civic organizations, labor unions, architects and patient advocacy groups and others support the University’s plans.

When asked whether they favor or oppose Northwestern University building “a new medical research center on the site of the former Prentice Women’s Hospital in Chicago,” 72 percent of Chicago residents said they favor the new building, with nearly half of those (34 percent) strongly favoring it, while only 14 percent said they oppose it.

The poll of 507 Chicago residents who identified themselves as likely voters was conducted August 25–27, 2012, by Purple Strategies. (The margin of error for the poll is plus or minus 4.4 percent.)

A broad-based coalition of organizations and individuals support the University’s plans and oppose the proposal to make the former Prentice a Chicago landmark. A sampling of the diverse group includes the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, the Chicago Federation of Labor, Illinois Biotechnology Industry Organization, the Civic Committee of The Commercial Club of Chicago, the ALS Les Turner Foundation, area hospitals and prominent Chicago architects.
The poll numbers and the backing of these important organizations confirm the wide support for Northwestern’s plans to help make Chicago a center for biomedical research, healthcare and technological innovation. Northwestern’s construction of a new medical research facility on the former Prentice site will help solidify Chicago as a world-class city in which cutting-edge and life-changing advances are made.

Among the poll’s key findings were the following:

- **84 percent agree (58 percent strongly agree)** with the statement: “Creating new, high-quality research jobs is an important part of keeping Chicago’s economy strong and growing in the 21st century.”

- **78 percent agree (50 percent strongly agree)** with the statement: “Chicagoans will benefit from the enhanced research center as more clinicians will be available to provide care to the community.”

- **78 percent agree (47 percent strongly agree)** with the statement: “Northwestern’s new investment in Chicago will create thousands of new jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in new investments as well as strengthen the local economy.”

- **76 percent agree (48 percent strongly agree)** with the statement: “Northwestern has had success in finding cures, and this new facility will accelerate the University’s research on cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and neurodegenerative disorders, among others.”

In addition to the poll’s findings, some 1,800 emails and letters have been sent to the City of Chicago supporting Northwestern’s plans.
VI. Northwestern University’s Contributions to the Community

As a neighbor in Streeterville and a part of the city of Chicago as a whole, Northwestern University contributes to the community in a number of ways. The University’s affiliates—Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago, the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago and the Northwestern Medical Faculty Foundation—provide many services and benefits to the community as well.

The University and its affiliates are major employers and a driving economic force for Chicago. Together, the institutions employ more than 17,000 Chicagoans. The City of Chicago has identified the areas of technological innovation, research and development as important potential growth areas for the city. Northwestern already is a key player in those fields and, with the construction of the new medical research building, will be able to grow employment in those areas.

University faculty, staff and students are actively involved through its Reach for the Stars Program in assisting Chicago Public Schools (CPS) in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education. That includes Northwestern graduate students being located at Nettlehorst Elementary School, Von Steuben Metropolitan Science Center and Lincoln Park High School for the entire school year. Overall, Northwestern is partnering with nearly two dozen CPS schools to enhance STEM education opportunities for students and teachers. The University has also begun making arrangements for the Summer Math and Science Honors Academy for Chicago high school students to be hosted on its Evanston Campus next summer. Students will reside in University housing for five weeks while participating in labs and other educational forums.

In addition, through the Master of Public Health program and other centers, Northwestern faculty and students work to improve community health through outreach efforts throughout Chicago.

The University also has an extended history of supporting the city’s Lake Shore Park, which borders Northwestern’s Chicago campus to the north. This aid has included providing direct grants and purchasing, donating and repairing various types of recreation, athletic and training equipment. Upcoming meetings are planned with city officials to determine what additional investments in Lake Shore Park would help its facilities and operations. The University will make a significant contribution to these efforts.
With respect to preservation of important buildings, the University has thoughtfully and sensitively maintained and restored the Ward, Levy Mayer and Wieboldt buildings on the Chicago Campus. These buildings were designed by James Gamble Rogers and were opened in the mid-1920s, at the same time as the Wrigley Building, Tribune Tower and the Michigan Avenue Bridge. University officials and the Streeterville Organization of Active Residents have suggested to the city that designating the Northwestern buildings as historic structures might be appropriate and desirable.

The planned construction of the major new biomedical research complex provides the University another opportunity to assist Chicago, primarily with jobs. The building of the complex itself will provide more than 2,500 construction jobs for the complete build-out. The University will work with the chosen general contractor and the construction trades unions to maximize the number of Chicagoans on the site. Similarly, the University has committed that a Chicago architect will play an important role in the complex’s design.

Northwestern will also hire a special consultant to provide guidance in how to hire as many Chicagoans as possible for the staff jobs created in the building’s labs and related areas. About 2,000 new jobs overall will be created, including the new researchers. As noted above, the University and its affiliates now employ about 17,000 Chicagoans, and Northwestern is confident that many additional Chicagoans will find jobs in its new building.

Another type of Chicago community benefit provided by Northwestern doctors and affiliates, primarily Northwestern Memorial Hospital, is charity healthcare to Chicago patients lacking sufficient resources. NHM provided the second largest amount of charity care of any hospital in Illinois in state fiscal year 2010; only John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital of Cook County provided more. In 2011, Northwestern doctors and NMH provided charity care worth $43 million for hundreds of thousands of patients.

Finally and of vital importance, the research discoveries made in the laboratories of the new building complex will provide major benefits to everyone in Chicago and beyond through cures and better treatment of diseases.
September 21, 2012

Christina Morris
Senior Field Officer
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Chicago Field Office
53 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Ms. Morris:

In light of your interest in the former site of Prentice Women's Hospital, I am writing to explain Northwestern Memorial HealthCare’s ("NMHC") plans for expansion on the former site of the VA Lakeside Medical Center in Chicago and to indicate our full support for Northwestern University’s plans to develop new research facilities adjacent to the Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center.

Almost a decade ago, the need to acquire the land occupied by the VA Lakeside Medical Center was identified as a strategic priority for our campus plan. That plan envisioned a research and education zone along Superior Street east of Fairbanks and a clinical zone east of Fairbanks Street and south of Huron Street. The former VA site would allow us to expand our patient care facilities eastward from the current Northwestern Memorial Hospital Feinberg Pavilion. Our campus partners have supported and are in agreement with this plan.

When NMHC acquired the VA site in 2005, the then CEO of NMHC stated the following: “There is not one single block in all of Chicago more uniquely and ideally suited to the expansion of specialized health care services for the neighborhood, city and region.” Studies conducted confirmed that the site is ideal to accommodate clinical development, including inpatient beds, supporting diagnostic and treatment facilities, emergency department growth and supporting infrastructure.

The site of the former VA is contiguous to both Northwestern Memorial Hospital’s Feinberg Pavilion and the future home of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, allowing for secure and unobstructed patient transport between facilities via enclosed pedestrian sky bridges or tunnels. The adjoining nature of the parcel also allows patients and visitors to travel via sky bridges to each of Northwestern Memorial’s other buildings, including the Outpatient Care Pavilion under construction, parking structures and the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago. Building new clinical facilities on the former VA site will enable NMHC to leverage infrastructure and equipment and to gain operational efficiencies, and not duplicate functions, since both patients and supplies will be connected. NMHC plans to utilize the entire site for patient care. Contiguous, yet independent research and clinical zones provide benefits to both enterprises, our patients and ultimately, all who will benefit from the investment in research that we hope will lead to discoveries of tomorrow’s cures.
Our campus plans have been in place for almost a decade. We support the development of the former site of the Prentice Women’s Hospital for the continuation of the academic medical center’s research mission and plan to develop the prior VA site for clinical purposes advancing our Patients First mission and service to our community.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

DMH/ ms

cc: Mayor Rahm Emanuel
    Alderman Brendan Reilly