

KATHERINE

Oncoplastics is definitely a field that's been around for a while. So the term was coined almost 20 years ago in Germany. In the US, it's taken a little longer to be embraced. So I did a fellowship in oncoplastic surgery at the University of Southern California. It's the only Society of Surgical Oncology approved fellowship in oncoplastics.

KOPKASH:

The majority of people that train there stay on the west coast. But I'm from Chicago area. I definitely wanted to come back, and I'm thrilled to be at NorthShore in University of Chicago. So starting an oncoplastics program, we're actually one of the few oncoplastics programs in the country.

Being able to start that at the ground level here at NorthShore and build it has been fascinating. We've really been able to help a lot of patients with approach. Obviously, as a surgeon, I can only help the patients I help. But as teaching my colleagues these techniques, I've been able to bring all of our breast surgical oncologists up to a basic oncoplastics level, which has been really rewarding.