

Northwest doctor rocks for cancer awareness

Every cancer patient wants to hear their doctor say there's no evidence of disease. The phrase is so important in their practice that it provided inspiration for six musically inclined gynecologic oncologists trying to come up with a name for their group.

The doctors in the rock band **N.E.D.** are scattered throughout the United States, but lead guitarist and backup vocalist **Dr. Will Winter** used to work for Northwest Cancer Specialists' Vancouver clinic.

Winter, 39, saw patients in Vancouver from 2007 to August of this year and now works at two Portland clinics. This weekend, his band will perform at the Crystal Ballroom in downtown Portland to help raise money for the Gynecologic Cancer Foundation.



Dr. William Winter is lead guitarist and backup vocalist for N.E.D.

"It's going to be a celebration of the combination of music and healing," Winter said.

In early November, the band will perform again at the Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Movement Weekend in Washington, D.C.

N.E.D. began last winter as a cover band and was discovered by New York-based independent record label Motema while playing at a medical society meeting. The band released its self-titled debut EP of original music in September. All proceeds from CD sales go to the N.E.D. Fund at the Gynecologic Cancer Foundation.

The band's goal, Winter said, is to increase awareness about gynecologic cancer. Compared with breast cancer, cervical, pelvic and other cancers of the female reproductive system aren't talked about much.

"(N.E.D. is) an out-of-the-box way to raise awareness for women's cancers," said Winter, who lives in Lake Oswego, Ore. "Breast cancer has a ribbon, we have a rock band."