Surviving Cancer – ‘It Takes a Village’

One year ago this month, Sandy Fingerman, high school English teacher and mother of two adult sons, was diagnosed with colorectal cancer.

Recently she stood before a standing-room-only crowd of more than 200 cancer survivors and their families and friends, saying, “I never thought I’d be here. No one can survive this alone. It takes a village doctors, nurses, technicians, support professionals, families, friends.”

Sandy and four other cancer survivors told stories of hope. Survivorship Program, KCC – in their individual journeys to cancer survivors join together, and the very important fact that there is life – a sentiment repeated by the other survivors.

In his welcoming remarks, Walter J. Curran Jr., MD, Clinical Director, Radiation Oncology, said that 10 to 20 years ago the number of cancer survivors equaled the population size of a small city. Now it’s the same as that of a large city, with a goal to grow as large as that of a state like California.

Displays of art and poetry created by cancer survivors, the stories of the survivors, and the people who attended showed that cancer crosses all boundaries and affects people of every age, ethnicity and gender. In addition to the KCC, the event was sponsored by Mgen, Berlex, Ethicon Endo-Surgery, Novartis, Ortho Biotech, and the Women’s Board of Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.

The planning committee headed by Lora Rhodes and Joy Solomon, Administrator, KCC Clinical Science Division, included Jeffrey Baet, Christopher Diets, Robert Dobs, Patricia Dugan, Nancy Orth, Gretchen Marlin, Maryellen Koenig, Riggio, Deborah Rose, Vince Walsh, and treatment. “Buddies” provide indispensable support and encouragement, all agreed. All four spoke of the healing power that can come when survivors join together, and the very important fact that there is life – a fuller and richer life – after a diagnosis of cancer.

Richard C. Wender, M.D., Vice Chairman of the Department of Medicine, continued this theme in his very lively discussion of the healing power of humor. He eloquent and witty presentation had the audience roaring with laughter, and included a juggling routine to help illustrate the importance of keeping it simple, taking one day at a time, and finding humor even when facing unfamiliar and frightening territory that comes with a cancer diagnosis.

Two Physicians Are Survivors Cancer survivors are mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, artists, poets, musicians – and physicians. Bruce M. Roman, M.D. PhD., Director, Hereditary Cancer Program, and Director of Medical Oncology and Medical Genetics, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, spoke of his own diagnosis of prostate cancer in January. He told of the changes in his life since that diagnosis, including a greater understanding of what is important in life – a sentiment repeated by the other survivors.

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When your children need a pediatrician, Philadelphia Magazine calls 36 Thomas Jefferson University Hospital doctors “Top.” Their peers, top pediatricians in each specialty, ranked our physicians as “Excellent.”

See the names and clinical specialties of our pediatricians.

Leland L. White, Named President, CEO for Main Line Health
Leland L. White has been selected as the new President and Chief Executive Officer for Main Line Health effective July 29, Douglas S. Peters, President and CEO, Jefferson Health System (JHS), has announced.

“Lee White returns to our organization after almost a year as a specialist in a national association of hospitals. Prior to that, Lee spent 13 years with Main Line Health and Jefferson Anthony Burns, MD

Jeff physique specialist Anthony Burns, MD, has joined the Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center of the Delaware Valley (RSCICD3) at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital as a specialist. Dr. Burns, who has also been appointed Assistant Professor of Rehabilitation Medicine, Jefferson Medical College (JMC), comes to us from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where he completed a fellowship in spinal cord injury.

Dr. Burns is board certified in internal medicine and rehabilitation medicine and has certification in spinal cord injury medicine. He completed a combined residency in internal medicine and physical medicine and rehabilitation at Johns Hopkins/Sinaí Hospital in Baltimore, MD.

He is the recipient of the Arthur A. Siemens Memorial Award, presented to a senior resident in the Johns Hopkins/Sinaí Hospital Rehabilitation Medicine residency program for excellence in academic pursuits and devotion to patient care.

The rehabilitation medicine specialist is a member of several professional organizations including the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, the American Paraplegia Society and the American College of Physicians. Dr. Burns received an MD in 1994 from the Yale University School of Medicine and a BS in 1990 from Pennsylvania State University.

Health, where he held a variety of senior executive positions, "I... understand the characteristics and specific challenges for Main Line Health and JHS. We are very pleased that we will again benefit from his leadership.

Sign Up for the Big Walk for Little Feet!
Something new has been added to the Jefferson Hospital Philadelphia Distance Run festivities this year. It is the “Big Walk for Little Feet,” a fundraising walk to benefit Jefferson's neonatal intensive care units. The walk will run on Sunday, September 16, from 7 a.m. to noon. It is the perfect family outing.

To find out how you can help the organizing committee plan the Big Walk for Little Feet, please visit this website. All Jefferson employees are eligible to participate in the Big Walk for Little Feet.

TIAA-CREF 1-800-842-2888
Vanguard 1-800-523-1188
www.citistreetonline.com
www.tju.edu/jeffgiving/
Jefferson Researchers Using Gene Therapy in Landmark Study for Rare, Inherited Brain Disease

Neuroscientists and researchers at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital are for the first time using a novel form of gene therapy for Canavan disease, a rare and fatal metabolic brain disease.

The effort was boosted by a new $2.1 million, three-year grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) to scientists led by Paula Lee, PhD, Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery at Jefferson Medical College (JMC), and neurosurgeon andstem cell researcher Andrew Fischbeck, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Neurosurgery and Director of the Transplant Research Laboratory, JMC.

The research team recently introduced a technique to deliver a healthy gene into the brain of a 61-year-old girl lacking the gene, which makes an enzyme needed to break down an acid substance in the brain. As a result, the acid substance should decrease and allow the child's brain to develop normally and help the formation of the brain's myelin, which insulates nerve fibers that send messages to and from the brain.

Phase I trial, solely to test the safety of the procedure, involves the first use of an adenovirus (AAV) in the human brain, which Dr. Lee says is superior to the fat molecule-based delivery system used in a previous trial. The virus also is a delivery truck to carry the healthy genes inside affected brain cells. The trial is also the first viral gene therapy trial for a neurodegenerative disorder.

“NINDS support for this protocol represents the first opportunity to rigorously assess the safety of AAV in the human brain, which in itself is a major scientific and medical landmark,” says Dr. Lee, the study’s Principal Investigator. “It will form the basis for future applications of AAV in the brain.”

This study is also a unique opportunity to collect long-term data on disease progression and history on a rare disease, and will be a useful reference for all future trials using viral vectors in the human brain,” says Dr. Lee. What makes Canavan disease a rare and fatal metabolic brain disorder caused by a genetic flaw in which an enzyme fails to be produced.

Editor’s Note: Photographs taken by Dr. Lee of participants in a 1998 gene therapy trial can be seen at the Genetic Resolution exhibit at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City until January 1, 2002.

JMC Summer Cancer Research Program Closing Minority Gap in Science Education

Eight participants in the 2000 summer research program, successful for 10 years in training medical students in basic cancer research, has also taken strides in closing the gap in minority student representation in the sciences.

The program, “Short Research Experience for Student Assistants,” has received a National Cancer Institute (NCI) grant for $400,000 to continue operation through 2006. Its Principal Investigator is Ronald A. Coss, MD, Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology, Pathology and Cell Biology, JMC, and Member, Kimmel Cancer Center. Its Co-Investigators include Bruce C. Turner, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology, JMC, a associate Member, Kimmel Cancer Center and Catherine E. Calcines, PhD, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, JMC, and Director of Special Programs, Office of Scientific Affairs.

The summer program, currently under way until August 24, gives each of 14 students an opportunity to engage in a benchtop research project directed by a faculty member active in cancer research at JMC. The faculty mentors contribute significantly to the program’s success.

A primary purpose of HIPAA is to improve the speed and accuracy of health insurance claim processing. A secondary objective is decreased administrative costs. To do this, the Federal government established uniform standards to be used by all healthcare providers and insurance companies who share computerized patient information.

The law requires that any covered entity responsible for health information transmitted electronically, so does the concern about unauthorized access it. The HIPAA privacy and security rules are designed to address those concerns.

Questions about HIPAA? Contact your Compliance Officer directly or use ComplianceLine at 215-448-Carey.
JeffNEWS

July 1, 2001

M/UG 01-0483

CLASSIFIED

Nurses Helping Fight Summer Heat Hazards

During meteorological heat events, nurses on the 3rd floor of Gilston will be conducting an awareness, effort to help prevent heat strokes and heat exhaustion, particularly among the elderly. In addition, we will be unable to fight off infections easily. Nurses and nurse unit call back will be available to answer a variety of questions, providing information on staying away from hot spots, drinking enough water and using fans and air conditioners during extreme heat, among other topics.

Contact Bobbi Lindman, RN, at 215-355-7565 or barb.lindman@mail.tju.edu.

jeffSTAT Training

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Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, thus insuring the same standards for quality education afforded students in our academic divisions.

Teaching is done through lecture, practical scenarios and case rotations utilizing resources throughout the Jefferson Health System (JHS).

The jeffSTAT EHS Training Center also serves physicians and nurses throughout the JHS by providing continuing education certification approved by the American Academy of Physician Assistants, the American College of Emergency Physicians, American Heart Association and the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

The jeffSTAT EHS Training Program has been graduating about 50 paramedics per year. Its goal is to double that to 100, starting September 10 when both full and part-time programs are offered on the Ford Road campus.

Medical Director of the jeffSTAT program is Edward H. Jasper, MD, Instructor, Surgery/JMC.

The Administrator is Dr. John Szyman.

You can learn more about this exciting career opportunity by calling Mr. Crouchman at 215-978-3861 or Joseph.Crouchman@mail.tju.edu.

Blood Donor Center hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Call 215-578-5771 to schedule an appointment if you are eligible and able to bleed. (JAY is Hemorrhagic Screening Aware and Refractory Anemia Death Awareness.

Weeks:

JAY – 2 = 1st National Staff Development.

JAY – 9 = National/Thrombus Awareness.

BROWN BAG LUNCHES

Tuesday, July 10:

• Landmarks and gym lunch group for staff and other members of the Jefferson community. Call Karen at 215-833-2649 to make reservations.

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

Thursday, July 12:

• Kimmel Cancer Center, Charles J. Dunton, MD, Chief General Pediatrics; Kathleen Cronan, Radiation Oncology, Memorial Sloan-Kettering, MD, Chief Emergency Services, “Internationally Recognized Emergency Medicine Programs,” 8 a.m., G-312

Thursday, July 19:


Thursday, July 26:


Saturday, July 28:

Call 811 for Fire and Emergencies at JHN/WEH Site

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GRAND TOURS

Wednesday, July 11:

• Hospitalist Program, Douglas J. Barlow, Jr., Division Chief, Division of General Surgery, Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals, Inc., 9 a.m. to 12 noon, 1015 Chester Street.

Wednesday, July 18:

• Sarcoidosis, Harold L. Israel, MD, Sarcoidosis Center, Thursday, July 19

• Menopause and Women’s Health Services, Dr. John Szyman, MD, Thursday, July 19.

• Liver Disease and Primary Biliary Cirrhosis Conference, 4 p.m., 202 BLSB.

• Office of Health Policy Forum, David C. Levin, MD, Chief General Pediatrics; Kathleen Cronan, Radiation Oncology, Memorial Sloan-Kettering, MD, Chief Emergency Services, “Internationally Recognized Emergency Medicine Programs,” 8 a.m., G-312

• Radiation Oncology, Memorial Sloan-Kettering, MD, Chief Emergency Services, “Internationally Recognized Emergency Medicine Programs,” 8 a.m., G-312

• Laboratory Sundeck: Spartans. A beautiful home on the Delaware at 735 Labrador Blvd., 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, large family room, central air conditioning, 4-car garage, in-ground saltwater pool, 1 block from beach, $1,800 weekly, 1992, 215-505-3542. Call 215-896-2575.


