Thanks to a fully integrated interdisciplinary team effort, the LastWord® Physician Order Entry system rolls out to patient rooms on November 13. This mobile and handheld computer dramatically change the way physicians place medication and other orders from patient areas, making real the notion that the "future is now" at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.

LastWord® is Jefferson’s powerful clinical information system focusing on the patient, facilitating "24/7" access by doctors, nurses and technicians. "The primary goal of Phase II of the LastWord® project is to implement automated physician orders and add clinical documentation to our electronic record," says Mary McNichol, Assistant Director, Applications Integration, Information Systems (IS).

"At the same time," Ms. McNichol stresses, "the potential for errors will be minimized, enhancing patient safety through paperless legibility of orders and the ability of automated systems to check drug interactions and allergies. Ultimately, increased efficiency and effectiveness of care should reduce patient length of stay.

Two New Tools

Two new tools for clinicians help make this possible: A mobile computer with flat screen – known as a “wireless cart” – and a smaller hand-held computing device.

The new system will implement physician orders and worklists online November 15 at the Gibbon Building on the 3 Center Unit. This unit was selected as the first pilot unit in part because it generates a large number of varied physician orders.

This first implementation rollout is possible only through the dedicated efforts of interdisciplinary teams of medical residents, nurses, pharmacists and IS staff members, Ms. McNichol stresses.

"The teams met continuously to challenge, study and develop each key criteria as accessibility of screens and data, the system inventory of all orders and requisite changes in workflow precipitated by automated physician orders."

What It Means for Doctors and Patients

LastWord® enables doctors to order electronically the entire range of care directives for patients including medication, laboratory tests, radiology studies and nutrition orders as well as consults with other physicians or disciplines.

Logging on with individually assigned passwords – each physician’s "electronic signature" – doctors can place their electronic orders from any of various devices including a phone, personal computer or even a "wireless cart" computer.

What It Means for Doctors and Patients

A number of Jefferson Medical College faculty members have collaborated on two articles published in the "Medical Education" theme issue (September 35) of the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA). Collaborating on “Documenting and Comparing Medical Students’ Clinical Experiences” were: Susan L. Ramser, MD; Daniel Z. Louis, MS; Carol Rabkinowitz, BS; Jonathan E. Gottlieb, MD; Thomas J. Nasca, MD; Fred W. Markham, MD; Ruth P. Gottlieb, MD; John W. Miller, Sharon Mitchell, Frederick Reiken, Alex Shukar, Peter Straub, Darin Strauss, Jennifer Weitner.

Kick off your holiday season shopping at the Philadelphia Book Fair to benefit Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals. A schedule of speakers and topics will be available at the Book Fair or click on www.JeffersonHospital.org/bookfair

“LastWord® Physician Order Entry Means ‘Future is Now’

The three-day First Annual Philadelphia Book Fair will be held November 15, 16 and 17 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily at the Benjamin Franklin House, 834 Chestnut St., Philadelphia.

The free event is presented by the Women’s Board of Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals in association with Borders Book Shop & Cafe and The Philadelphia Inquirer.

The new event is aimed at promoting literacy while raising awareness and support for the Hospital’s mission.

You’ll find wonderful books and other great gifts for everyone on your list. And you’ll have the opportunity to hear talks by the hottest new authors while you shop.

Participating authors include: Tom Coyne, Pat Croce, Solomon Jones, Sujata Massey, Remi McFadden, Karen E. Quinones, Darin Strauss, Jennifer Weitner.

Jefferson Medical College Faculty

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University’s Child Care Center Now Under New Management

Bright Horizons Family Solutions has assumed management of the Jefferson Child Care Center, announces Linda C. Mitri, MHRM, Manager, Employee Selection and Placement, Human Resources. “In partnership with Thomas Jefferson University, Bright Horizons is committed to providing quality child care to Jefferson families,” says Ms. Mitchell. “Bright Horizons has been nationally recognized by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), for its program of child-centered environments and creative early learning opportunities for infants through preschool,” she adds. The center is available to all Jefferson employees, students and faculty. Employees may pay for this service through payroll deduction and through the employee flexible spending account using pre-tax dollars.

Dr. Fertala was selected as one of 43 researchers to be awarded funding. Sponsored by NASA’s Office of Biological and Physical Research, this program offers investigators the opportunity to take advantage of the low-gravity environment of space and develop experiments for the International Space Station.

The choir meets weekly from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays in McClellan Hall, and is conducted by its founder, Robert T. Satakoff, MD, DMA. The winter concert on December 7, marking the choir’s 32nd season, will include a performance of Zelenka’s Missa Gratias Agitimus with full orchestra as well as carols of the season. If you would like to perform in the choir or orchestra, please call 215-790-5195 or 215-790-5194.

Foundation Renews Grant to Pediatric Weight Management Program

The Philadelphia-based Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation has renewed its support of the Pediatric Weight Management Program at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. The new, one-year grant of $7,500 will allow the three-year pilot project to expand its services to more at-risk children and their families. With its initial grant in 2000, the Foundation provided seed money to help launch the initiative which, at the time, was the only program in the Philadelphia region to offer comprehensive treatment — medical care, nutritional guidance and counseling — to overweight children and adolescents. “We are deeply grateful for the vital and continuing support of the Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation,” says George A. Datto, MD, Director of the Pediatric Weight Management Program, and Instructor, Pediatrics, Jefferson Medical College. “Our goal is to promote healthier lifestyles in children and reduce the risk of conditions linked to obesity. The initial grant helped us to make excellent strides toward that goal, and this new gift will significantly advance our efforts.”

The program was developed in response to a pressing need in the community. A growing number of young people in Philadelphia are at risk for the wide array of health problems associated with obesity, including diabetes and its consequences. During this second year of the project, Dr. Datto expects to triple the number of children enrolled in the program, and expand services to include more counseling and medical and nutritional interventions. Established in 1957, the Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation awards grants to local organizations as part of its mission to support community development, education and health services, and programs benefiting the disadvantaged and the handicapped.

Visit the Jefferson Development Office website at www.tju.edu/jeffgiving/
Jeffersonians responded in numerous ways in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks. Here are some examples.

Jefferson Critical Care Workers Volunteer at Ground Zero

Three days after the terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, DC, three Thomas Jefferson University Hospital critical care employees from the Medical Telemetry unit, 10th floor Foerderer Pavilion, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, headed to New York on their own time to help in Ground Zero rescue efforts. Surprised by the encouragement of their supervisor, Denise Shapiro, RN, MS, Nursing Care Coordinator, the three are Christopher Price, RN, and Vincent Ross and Armando Alberti, both Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT). Here are excerpts from an emailed first-person account by Mr. Price:

“Most of you know me well enough that I’m not into mass emails. . . . When we walked to the disaster area, I was in utter awe! What I saw before my eyes was unbelievable! It was a million times worse than the images shown on TV! It didn’t take long for the tears to flow through my eyes. The devastation was so horrific! The buildings all around the two main towers were virtually all destroyed. . . . So, we forced people to place their masks on and we flushed several people’s eyes out with saline. Many of these people had been at Ground Zero for well over two days. They were so receptive to our caring. It was wonderful to help them in some way.”

Mr. Price continues his account after the first day, describing widespread devastation as well as an outpouring of rescue and volunteer personnel.

“There they were, the heroes of our nation standing proud with shevels in hand for blocks and blocks just waiting to help. It was a sight to behold. Once again, tears filled my eyes!”

He describes working 36 hours at a Red Cross site and estimates helping to treat “500 or so people, including police officers, firefighters, EMS, construction workers, engineers, ATF, DEA and FBI agents, nurses, doctors and countless other volunteers.”

He concludes: “I witnessed human suffering, this is true. But, in all of this, I witnessed what it means to be an American! It was blessed to see the best qualities in humankind come to life!”

The happiest incident he saw: “Two office green firefighters were supposed to be married the Saturday following the tragedy, but they cancelled to help at Ground Zero. They married anyway, in front of many volunteers that day, and then went back to work!”

The rollout schedule will be published early next year.

For more information, check the order entry project information web site at:

www.renters@jeffersonhospital.org

Wear Your Jefferson ID. It Shows You Belong.

University’s Office of International Exchange Services Marks 10-Year Anniversary

As Thomas Jefferson University’s Office of International Exchange Services (OIES) begins its 11th year of operation this fall, its decade-long impact on Jefferson and our international community is more visible and far-reaching than ever before.

“The events of September 11 underscore the importance of international understanding,” says Janice M. Bogen, OIES Director.

“The OIES staff is interested in furthering the scope of our global ties by serving the needs of our departments, our visitors coming to Jefferson, and our students, faculty and administrators who collaborate and study abroad.”

Before Mr. Bogen came to Jefferson in 1991, several different offices handled all arrangements needed to bring someone to Jefferson from overseas as an international visitor. OIES centralized the process, giving visitors one place to go to get answers, concerns and help adjusting to life in the United States.

OIES’s main task, Ms. Bogen explains, is to help those coming to Jefferson as researchers, visiting faculty, employees, students or volunteers navigate United States visa and immigration requirements. OIES helps visitors obtain visas, deal with taxation and find housing.

The office offers each newcomer an orientation session. Also, staff members Lesley Tyson, Assistant Director, and Erin Cupp, Foreign Student and Scholar Advisor, often help international visitors locate schooling for their children and help spouses find ways to connect to the community.

Growth Quadruples in Decade

Ms. Bogen estimates that the number of international visitors at Jefferson has increased from about 250 in the office’s first year, 1991, to more than 1,000 in 2001. The office averages one orientation daily plus 3 Center orders pilot on 3 Center as well as

Jeffersonians donated nearly $5,000 in four hours in a special funding drive to help the American Red Cross disaster assistance effort. Security Officer Frank Lawler makes his donation in the lobby of Jefferson Alumni Hall where George Curran, retired Director of Custodial Services, and his wife Ellen helped out at one of the collection sites set up in nine campus building lobbies. You can still donate by sending your check made out to “ARC Disaster Relief Fund” to Volunteer Services, Suite 2180 Oktober Building. Call 215-503-0464.

Second from left is staff member Ray Wisniewski, who helped coordinate the humanitarian effort that global society.”

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On-campus events are not at jeopardy, since a comprehensive registers system available at www.JeffersonEvents.com or at the Communications Office, Suite 505, 125 S. 9th St. 215-503-3947.

For more information on any event listing, call 215-503-5555.

Sidewalk sale: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 2nd floor.


Saab 900 Turbo: 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., TJUH, Morgan Conference Center. For more information call 5-6582 or 215-467-1103.

To place an ad to sell or rent property, contact the Communications Office, Suite 505, 125 S. 9th St. 215-503-5555. For more information on any property listing, call 215-503-5555.

For sale: 1996 Oldsmobile 88, 11,000 miles. Call 5-6656.

To place an ad to sell or rent property contact 215-503-5555.