Getting in Tune for the Holidays

Hospital Emergency Management Committee Stands Ready

To help assure readiness in the face of a terrorist threat, Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals’ Emergency Management Committee has implemented an ad hoc Terrorism Task Force and a review of the current Disaster Policy and Procedures. The Emergency Management Committee will be the central coordinating resource for any such related emergency. Thomas J. Lewis, hospital President and CEO, told a management update session. Committee members, who represent a wide cross-section of the Hospital and University, will help maintain calmness and be ready to act, if needed. Mr. Lewis added. Mr. Lewis also stressed the importance of communication and security:

• Communication – Accuracy, clarity and credibility are essential.

• Security – Campus security measures have heightened since September 11. It is essential that employees have their IDs with them at all times. In the event of a major emergency, only people showing Jefferson ID will be permitted to enter campus buildings. Mr. Lewis encourages all employees to show their IDs and to keep them in sight at all times.

• Patient Days 20,358 19,895 19,986

• Outpatient Visits 44,974 43,160 44,446

• Patient Satisfaction Overall Mean Score

In This Issue: The Gross Clinic Featured at Art Museum to January 6

Benjamin (Bud) Bacharach, MD, JMC ’56

Receives Cornerstone Award at President’s Club Dinner

Annual Dinner Easel Recognition

Outstanding Philanthropist to Jefferson

Benjamin (Bud) Bacharach, MD, MD, JMC ’56,Emeritus Professor of Surgery, Jefferson Medical College (JMC), was the recipient of the prestigious Cornerstone Award at the 2001 President’s Club Dinner held at the Springfields Country Club on November 2. More than 200 of Jefferson’s most generous and loyal benefactors attended this year’s annual event, hosted by Thomas Jefferson University President Paul C. Brucker, MD, and his wife Joan to acknowledge and thank major University and Hospital donors for their support. The festivities also recognized new President’s Club Fellows and new members of the Winged Ox Society.

Dr. Brucker thanked all those in attendance for their outstanding generosity, saying, “Your gifts have helped get us where we are, and will continue to strengthen Jefferson. This philanthropy will be key to fulfilling our plans, which are ambitious and exciting.” Dr. Brucker noted that despite the challenges Jefferson faces today, “Our goals are attainable, even in these uncertain times. The future also offers opportunity, and Jefferson is ready to move forward, thanks to your partnership.”

Presenting Cornerstone Award

Douglas J. MacMaster Jr., Esq., Chairman of the University’s Board of Trustees, presented the Cornerstone Award. Jefferson’s highest and most distinguished tribute, to Dr. Bacharach in recognition of his lifetime service and philanthropy to Jefferson. Due to ill health, Dr. Bacharach was unable to attend the event and Continues on page 2

Jefferson Researcher’s Invention Offers Hope for Quicker Detection of Anthrax

An imaging system invented by a researcher at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital to spot appendicitis and other infections may also be able to detect anthrax — and in dramatically less time than current tests can.

Mathew L. Thakur, PhD, Director, Radiopharmaceutical Research, Division of Nuclear Medicine, Department of Radiology, first began developing a system in the early 1990s to help diagnose infections marked by massive migrations of white blood cells, which happens with anthrax.

For anthrax, early diagnosis is critical. The disease occurs when a person breathes in dormant anthrax bacteria, known as spores, which convert to active bacteria once they find their way to the lymph system. Then, white blood cells migrate to certain lymph nodes very early as anthrax develops, but before the dormant bacteria become active and enter a person’s bloodstream, causing the first noticeable symptoms.

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J unto the Gross Clinic Featured at Art Museum to January 6

Weather Emergency Hotline 1-800-988-8866

CIP Program Puts Nursing Graduates on ‘Fast Track’ to Jobs

DECEMBER 1, 2001

OCTOBER 2001

VITAL SIGNS:

Graduates on ‘Fast Track’ to Jobs

CHP Program Puts Nursing

Continues on page 3

Continues on page 2

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The Gross Clinic by Eakins Featured at Philadelphia Museum of Art to January 6

The Gross Clinic, an 1890 painting by Thomas Eakins, has generously loaned a major work to Jefferson for the Medical College Alumni Association at the time, the Jefferson Medical College. Gross, MD, JMC 1828, chair of the medical students, is depicted in the painting and is the subject of the current exhibition at the Philadelphia Museum of Art featuring The Gross Clinic, loaned by Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.

The Gross Clinic
by Thomas Eakins

The Gross Clinic, one of the greatest paintings of the 19th Century, is on loan to the Philadelphia Museum of Art from January 1 to January 6, 2002.

The Gross Clinic, a painting by Thomas Eakins, is currently featured in the most significant exhibition in two decades of work by Thomas Eakins. The exhibit, "Thomas Eakins: American Realist," will be on view at the Philadelphia Museum of Art until January 6, 2002.

The show contains almost all of Eakins' most important paintings, as well as drawings, photographs and sculptures. The museum's curators and conservators have discovered exciting new information about the artist's working methods, revealed through infrared reflectography of the canvasses.

Eakins had studied anatomy and attended clinics taught at Jefferson Medical College by Samuel D. Gross, MD, JMC 1828, chair of surgery from 1856 to 1882. In 1875 Eakins approached the internationally celebrated surgeon to sit for a portrait. He depicted Dr. Gross in the Jefferson surgical amphitheater presenting over an assistant while his training assignments and lecturing to the medical students.

In what seemed a minor event at the time, the Jefferson Medical College Alumni Association purchased The Gross Clinic in 1878. It has since been regarded as one of the great masterpieces of American art. The Philadelphia Museum of Art has generously loaned a major painting to Jefferson for the duration of the Eakins exhibition.

Brooding Home Tree was painted in 1890 by Thomas Hovenden, a contemporary and friend of Eakins. It hangs in the Eakins Gallery in Jefferson Alumni Hall (JAH). The gallery is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. (unless access is restricted by a prior event or a holiday). Request entry at the Security Desk in the JAH lobby.

Other local museums currently displaying related Eakins materials include: The Woodmere Art Museum (paintings of Susan Macdonell Eakins, the artist's wife), the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (painting, manuscripts and photographs from the Academy's Thomas Eakins collection), and the Philadelphia Sketch Club (works by Thomas Eakins and fellow artists from the Club's collection). The Art Museum is open weekends and Wednesday and Friday nights. To purchase timed tickets to the Eakins exhibition call 215-235-7469.

Nearly 200 guests enjoyed "Your Private Evening with Eakins," hosted by the Women's Board of Jefferson University. An exhibition at the Philadelphia Museum of Art featuring The Gross Clinic, loaned by Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, is currently featured in the most significant exhibition in two decades of work by Thomas Eakins. The exhibit, "Thomas Eakins: American Realist," will be on view at the Philadelphia Museum of Art until January 6, 2002.

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Weather Emergencies . . .
Know Your Status, Call 1-800-858-8806

It’s time again for all of us to get ready for winter cold, snow and ice. “We must be prepared for whatever may develop,” says Brian P. Bowie, Associate Vice President for Human Resources. Here are some important points from Jefferson’s weather emergency policy to keep in mind:

- Department Heads will advise all faculty and employees of their status as either “designated” or “nondesignated” personnel. “Nondesignated” personnel are required to report in the event of a declared weather emergency.

Absences of designated personnel during a weather emergency are without pay, but are not charged to an employee’s lost-time rate under the attendance policy.

- Nondesignated personnel, while expected to make every effort to report as scheduled, may use a vacation or personal day if transportation or other weather-related problems result in lost time during a weather emergency.

- A toll-free Jefferson hotline, 1-800-858-8806, will provide complete weather-emergency information.

- Students can also obtain weather-emergency information from the hotline. The dean of each academic division will decide about class cancellation. Scheduled classes for MD and PhD students will take place regardless of weather conditions. All third- and fourth-year medical students are expected to report for their scheduled clinical assignments. Anyone with questions about the policy may contact the Office of Employee Relations at 3-7778.

CHP Honors Program Puts Gifted Nursing Students On ‘Fast Track’ to Jobs

For 13 gifted students recently receiving nursing degrees, their participation in a newly developed honors program put them on the “fast track” to landing jobs, most of them at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. Developed in 1998 by the University’s College of Health Professions (CHP) to recognize the gifted, the program graduated its first group of 13 honors students in May. All landed jobs almost immediately.

Nearly all the honors graduates had obtained employment commitments before receiving their degrees; says Margaret Griffiths, RN, MSN, Jefferson Nursing Honor Program Coordinator.

Mr. Griffiths conveys this job status report: “Many of the thirteen nursing graduates who completed the honors option in May 2001 selected Jefferson University Hospital as the place to begin their nursing careers: Yvonne Hess, Kerry Katzke, Heather Lovinsky, Kathleen Furrey, Christine Raimondo and Kathleen Casey. Joan Lind also stayed at Jefferson but in a research coordinator position with Dr. Ronita Falkner who is the Principal Investigator for the NIH funded study ‘Effect of Birth Weight on Blood Pressure in Late Childhood.’

‘Jackie Williams is at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia; Nicole Carter-Loebig is at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania; Joanne Joannides is at the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, NJ; and Jessica Seth is employed at Mary Washington Hospital in Fredericksburg, VA.

‘Kerry, Heather, Christine, Joanne, Jackie and Stacy, students in the accelerated pathway to the MSN degree, are continuing graduate nursing coursework and completed the required course ‘Pathological Aspects of Disease’ this summer at Jefferson.”

Graduates Present Research Projects
The honors graduates presented their individual research projects at the Honors Program Recognition and Projects Presentation in McCullin Hall.

The CHP Nursing Honors Program was established to recognize academic talent and to provide a supportive, creative environment for students to realize their potential. Students work closely with a faculty counselor to conceive a project idea, define goals, and then plan, implement and evaluate their activities to accomplish their goals.

The group of 13 students make up 25 percent of the 2001 graduating class of CHP’s Department of Nursing.

Students can apply to the program after their junior year fall semester. Application criteria include: a 3.4 grade point average, a personal letter of intent and resume, a faculty recommendation and a personal interview.

For more information contact Mr. Griffiths at 215-580-7087, or Margaret.Griffiths@jeffcorp.net

Anthrax Test
continued from page 1
Current testing – taking a blood sample or a nasal swab – is flawed by a critical time lag. This kind of testing targets active anthrax bacteria in the bloodstream, but by then it may be too late for successful treatment.

No Need to Wait
In the system devised by Dr. Thakur, and evaluated in more than 400 patients with other types of infection, testing need not wait for active anthrax bacteria to germinate and release into circulating blood. Instead, by tracking low-energy gamma rays given off by radioactive tracers attached specifically to white blood cells in vivo, Dr. Thakur believes infection can be pinpointed where white blood cells have gathered in defensive response to anthrax. This would spot an anthrax infection typically in hilar and mediastinal nodes at its early stages, and warrant aggressive antibiotic therapy. Dr. Thakur told The Philadelphia Inquirer.

A few years ago, Dr. Thakur, who is Professor of Radiology, Jefferson Medical College, licensed his system, called LeuTech, through the University’s Technology Transfer Office to Palatin Technologies, Inc., based in Princeton, NJ, for a system-sponsored event benefiting the American Heart Association to fight heart disease and stroke, the nation’s number one and number three killers.

Robert Neroni Photography

In mid-October, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, seeking a better anthrax test, contacted Dr. Thakur to adapt his technology to the new threat. With approval of the United States Food and Drug Administration, the medical center expected to begin clinical trials in late November.

Dr. Thakur is one of the world’s leading authorities in radiopharmaceuticals for diagnosis and treatment.

In 2001, he became the first PhD recipient of the Berson-Yalow award, given for outstanding contribution to the field of nuclear medicine. In 2000, he was awarded the Georg Charles de Hevesy Nuclear Pioneer Award, the highest award presented by the Society of Nuclear Medicine, given for outstanding contribution to the field of nuclear medicine.

“The award honored Dr. Thakur’s 30-year career, which has yielded numerous accomplishments and inventions, including several widely used radiopharmaceuticals (radioactive compounds administered for purposes of diagnosis or therapy) that have improved diagnostic accuracy and ultimately improved patient care.