The first annual “Big Walk for Little Feet” was a huge success last year. It is returning this year as a special feature of the 2002 Jefferson Hospital Philadelphia Distance Run — the 25th anniversary of the annual world-famed half-marathon run. This is the fifth straight year Jefferson Hospital is the run’s title sponsor.

The “Big Walk for Little Feet” is a fun way for all to take a giant step to help save babies’ lives. The three-mile walk will again raise funds to benefit Jefferson’s Labor and Delivery suite and the Neonatal Intensive Care. Transitional and Well-Baby Nurseries, explains Jefferson University Hospital President and CEO Thomas J. Lewis. “The Walk benefits all babies born at Jefferson,” says Mr. Lewis. “Last year, the event raised $35,000, mostly from individuals, especially parents involving their friends and families. We are thrilled with that success, and equally thrilled to repeat the Walk this year.”

A Big Family Fun Walk
The “Big Walk for Little Feet” on Sunday, September 15, is a fun walk for the entire family — parents, children and friends. It begins at 8 a.m. at 52nd and Market Streets, just after the last half-marathon runner takes off for the Distance Run, and finishes at 16th and Benjamin Franklin Parkway, near the Distance Run finish line. Your Walk fee includes a “Big Walk for Little Feet” T-shirt.

Service Recognition Program Returns to Jefferson
Jefferson recognizes the contributions of its valued employees through several programs, including the Hospital’s S.T.A.R. and High Fivel programs and various department-based initiatives.

Service anniversaries are acknowledged with certificates, but in 1996 the annual celebration event and gifts for honorees were discontinued. Through various forums, including employee roundtables and the employee survey, Jeffersonians have clearly voiced the importance they place on being acknowledged for superior performance. Individual acts of merit and loyal service, Jefferson administration shares the belief that such recognition is an integral part of worklife quality.

As part of its effort to enhance this aspect of the work environment, the annual Service Recognition Celebration will return to Jefferson this fall. On Wednesday, October 9, employees who celebrated five-year (5, 10, 15, etc.) anniversaries in the year ending June 30, 2002, will be honored at the Ballroom of the Benjamin Franklin House. The event will include a reception from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., with presentation of gifts and awards. Further details will be provided in the September issue of Jefferson’s newsletter. Honorees and their families are invited to attend.

Volunteering Is a Fun Family Event
With the added popularity of the “Big Walk for Little Feet,” volunteering for the Distance Run and Walk is more of a fun family event than ever before, says Patricia Wallace, Manager, Volunteer Services, Jefferson University Hospital.

“Volunteers will be needed Sunday morning to help distribute water, assist at the finish line and generally lend a hand in organizing and directing participants and visitors. We ask the date now: Sunday, September 15. To sign up, or for more information, call Volunteer Services at 215-955-6222.”

For free registration, call 1-800-JEFF-NOW. Fee for an individual runner is $30 before August 12, $37 until September 6 and $45 after September 6. Individual fee for the “Big Walk for Little Feet” is $12.

U.S. News & World Report Ranks Jefferson Hospital Philadelphia’s Best in Orthopaedics, Cardiology/Cardiothoracic Surgery, Rehabilitation Medicine
U.S. News & World Report has once again ranked Thomas Jefferson University Hospital as the best hospital in Philadelphia for orthopaedics, cardiology/cardiothoracic surgery and rehabilitation medicine. U.S. News & World Report determined that Jefferson University Hospital was among the best in the nation in those medical specialties and four more areas – cancer, geriatrics, gynecology and urology.

In addition, Wills Eye Hospital, which serves as the Department of Ophthalmology for Thomas Jefferson University Hospital as the best hospital in U.S. News & World Report’s rankings.

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Hot Books, Famous Authors and More!

Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Admission is free. Hear talks by featured authors or catch a famous chef’s cooking demonstration. Have your books signed. Select children’s books, cookbooks, fiction, mysteries, science fiction and self-help books. Watch JeffNEWS for more. For reservations to special ticketed events or for more information, call 1-800-JEFF-NOW or visit the venue’s web site at www.philadelphiabooksfestival.com

Treating Emotional Trauma of Cancer Patients – Biele Lecture in Psychiatry

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital awards three nursing units with the title “Quietest Environment” based on the greatest change from the prior quarter in their Press Ganey satisfaction mean score for noise level and in around their rooms. The Quietest Environments at Jefferson for the April-June 2002 quarter are:

- 12 Foerderer Pavilion
- 13 Foerderer Pavilion
- 3 Thompson

Congratulations to all who work on these units and have contributed to keeping the noise down on each unit prior to this quarter. Keep up the good work!

In Memoriam

Jeffersonians extend sympathy and condolences to Joan A. Bellinger of the Office of Human Resources Department on the death of her husband, David Bellinger, on June 22, 2002. A longtime Jeffersonian employee, Mr. Bellinger had worked in Supply, Processing and Distribution (SPD) at the hospital for 17 years before his retirement in 1995. Donations may be made in his name to the American Cancer Society.

Antoinette J. L. Simoes, MD, a Jefferson alumna, has established a charitable trust to endow the Frances D. and Antonio J. L. Simoes, MD Professorship in Surgery at Jefferson. The late Mrs. Simoes was a graduate of Jefferson’s medical college department at SUNY Downstate Medical Center in 1997 and of the Alumni Association of Jefferson’s nursing program. This year, she won the Joan A. Bellinger of the Office of Human Resources Department on the death of her husband, David Bellinger, on June 22, 2002. A longtime Jeffersonian employee, Mr. Bellinger had worked in Supply, Processing and Distribution (SPD) at the hospital for 17 years before his retirement in 1995. Donations may be made in his name to the American Cancer Society.

Antoinette J. L. Simoes, MD, a Jefferson alumna, has established a charitable trust to endow the Frances D. and Antonio J. L. Simoes, MD Professorship in Surgery at Jefferson. The late Mrs. Simoes was a graduate of Jefferson’s medical college department at SUNY Downstate Medical Center in 1997 and of the Alumni Association of Jefferson’s nursing program. The trust will be used for the medical school’s general purposes. The name of the professorship will be donated to the American Cancer Society.

Jeffersonians extend sympathy and condolences to Joan A. Bellinger of the Office of Human Resources Department on the death of her husband, David Bellinger, on June 22, 2002. A longtime Jeffersonian employee, Mr. Bellinger had worked in Supply, Processing and Distribution (SPD) at the hospital for 17 years before his retirement in 1995. Donations may be made in his name to the American Cancer Society.
A full-scale disaster drill featuring a mock (so-called dry) nuclear bomb explosion (a conventional explosive containing nuclear material dispersed into the air) at The Gallery helped bolster Thomas Jefferson University Hospital’s readiness in the event of a real terrorist incident.

“A key strength of this exercise was the extensive involvement of outside agencies such as the State Department of Health, the Philadelphia Police Department, the Philadelphia Fire Department, Hatzl at Unit and the Philadelphia Local Emergency Planning Committee (PLEPC),” explains Emane Gates, RN, MS, Co-chair, Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee (HEPC).

“The drill scenarios called for a ‘dirty bomb’ containing nuclear radiation exploding at The Gallery causing 80 victims to be taken to the hospital’s Emergency Department entrance to pass through decontaminating showers and then be treated. Besides helping ensure that hospital personnel are prepared for any emergency, the HEPC-coordinated exercise ensured compliance with JCAHO disaster drill requirements.”

“Tying the broad participation of several Jefferson departments to a tighter involvement with outside agencies is essential to prepare ourselves in a post-9/11 world,” she adds. “As a learning experience, this drill was a resounding success.”

Edward Jasper, MD, Co-chair, HEPC, told a group of Jefferson Emergency Department staff, “It’s an exciting specialty,” says Dr. Christopher, “the kind of care that all of our nurses go out of their way to give.”

“I just felt the Jefferson nurses are a super bunch of people dealing with a whole lot of other patients with a short staff and nobody was inconvenienced. They were very understanding. I thought I had super care. And I felt that I had to let them know that I appreciated it.”

“It was the most touching gesture I’ve seen in my 11 years,” says Nurse Sarah B. McDonnell, RN, BSN, Nurse Manager, 7 North/Stat, Surgery/Transplant, of the surprise gift package a grateful patient sent to her nurses on the unit. “And I know all the nurses involved were touched as well.”

“When this big box arrived, the size of a washing machine, we had no idea what was inside,” Ms. McDonnell relates. “When we opened it, we were just floored that he would do something so nice.”

Inside were gifts of candy and six Vermont teddy bears, each holding little flowers and wearing meticulously designed traditional nurse’s caps and dresses, embroidered with “7 Northeast,” and a tiny stethoscope draped around each bear’s neck.

“The surprise gift was from John Rutter of Woodbury, NJ,” Mr. Rutter mentioned by name all the physicians and nurses who had cared for him, adds Ms. McDonnell.

Dr. Christopher praised the nurses for making the patient feel at ease and comfortable “The students were superb. They played their roles very seriously, and were a tremendous help to all responders. We will definitely invite more students to participate next time.”

“I felt the Jefferson nurses are a super bunch of people dealing with a whole lot of other patients with a short staff and nobody was inconvenienced. They were very understanding. I thought I had super care. And I felt that I had to let them know that I appreciated it.”

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“The surprise gift was from John Rutter of Woodbury, NJ,” Mr. Rutter explained that Underwood Hospital in New Jersey, where he had two previous operations for cancer, referred him to Jefferson for a third operation.

“Mr. Rutter’s effort really meant a lot to all the nurses,” Ms. McDonnell stresses. “They get verbal thanks a lot from patients, but never something as generous as this.”

“It was very unusual and significant that a patient show that much appreciation for good nursing care - the kind of care that all of our nurses go out of their way to give.”
Diabetes Study

The Diabetes Research Center is looking to involve people in several new clinical trials involving people with Type 2 Diabetes and who are taking medications other than Actos or Avandia. Another trial for people who are currently taking Metformin and are willing to accept the possibility of initiating insulin therapy for the length of the study (24 weeks) is also accepting a study involving people with Type 2 Diabetes with a diagnosis of nephropathy (proteinuria problem).

If you or someone you know would like information regarding these studies and others, call The Diabetes Research Center at 215-955-3978. 

Lies Better With The Uncertainty Of Cancer

The Comprehensive Hospice of Thomas Jefferson University hospital talks with cancer patients to participate in a NIH funded research study to help patients reduce stress and enhance health-related quality of life. For more information, contact Marie Koenig-Rogers at 215-955-8379 or Loa Rhodes at 215-955-1149.