Inside the New Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience

The Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience (JHN) now occupies the former Wills Eye Hospital building at 900 Walnut Street (9th and 10th streets), in Center City. This dedicated facility enables us to meet, and then exceed, demand for treatment from a distinguished staff.

Major changes in the JHN physical layout coincide with the appointment of Abdomohamad Rostami, MD, PhD, as Professor and Chair of the Department of Neurology Jefferson Medical College (JMC) and at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. In December designs were completed to accommodate JHN’s present staff and resources as well as to allow new space for as many as 32 researchers who will join Dr. Rostami over the months ahead. John A. Monnier, Senior Associate Dean for Operations, JMC, provides a snapshot look:

“Major interior renovation and new construction on the second and third floors will be under way by early January to house the Department of Neurology. The third floor will be almost entirely rebuilt to accommodate research laboratories and faculty. The second floor will need significant work to provide physician offices and outpatient facilities,” he explains.

The final stage of renovations to the Farber Institute for Neurosciences at Thomas Jefferson University on the building’s 4th floor, is set for completion by the end of January. He adds, when Department of Neurology outpatient offices are relocated from their present sites to new quarters on the refurbished 2nd floor of JHN. These include the headquarter, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis and stroke centers, among other services.

Staff and outpatient offices of the Department of Neurosurgery, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, will remain at 909 Walnut Street. A very visible piece of the consolidation is the building of a pedestrian bridge connecting the JHN building with the Bluemle Life Sciences Building. Also slated for completion by the end of January it will facilitate collaboration of researchers working in JHN and BLSB as well as serve as another campus connection.

The consolidation project will leave intact several current areas, including Jefferson’s Diagnostic and Therapeutic Program on the 8th floor, inpatient beds on the 7th and 6th floors and operating rooms on the 5th floor. Remaining on the street floor are the operating rooms on the 5th floor. Additional outpatient offices are in the Farber Research Institute to work closely with the members of neuroimmunologic disease. He will work with Jefferson’s faculty to enhance our outstanding programs for patients with neurodegenerative disorders, and headache.”

New Year’s Resolutions

Nancy had a brain tumor the size of a peach.

Nancy Rotton, of Malvern, PA, shown above with her son Evan, was treated successfully by a Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience physician. Now, she has agreed to be a spokesperson for Jefferson. Watch for Nancy’s success story, and others - n-advertisers during 2003.

Ablomahamad Rostami, MD, PhD, Multiple Sclerosis Expert, Named Chair of Neurology

Abdomohamad Rostami, MD, PhD, has been appointed and Chair of the Department of Neurology at Thomas Jefferson Medical College (JMC) and Chair of Neurology at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. Thomas Monnier, University Senior Vice President and Dean, JMC, announced Rostami’s appointment as President and CEO, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, made the announcement. Dr. Rostami most recently served as Director of the Comprehensive Multiple Sclerosis Center, Chief of the Division of Multiple Sclerosis and Neuroimmunology and Director of the Penn Center of Excellence for Autoimmune Diseases at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. He has served as a tenured Professor of Neurology and of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and is an Adjunct Professor at the Wistar Institute, Philadelphia.

“Dr. Rostami’s research and clinical expertise will bring added depth and breadth to our neuroscience research program, a major initiative at Jefferson,” said Dr. Nacca. “His commitment to education and patient centered care will enhance our already strong commitment in these vital areas, as well.”

Said Mr. Lewis, “In his clinical and leadership roles, we look forward to Dr. Rostami’s enhancement of the research-based clinical services offered to our patients with neuromyelopathic disease. He will work closely with the members of the Farber Research Institute to enhance programs for patients with neurodegenerative diseases, and work with Jefferson’s faculty to enhance our outstanding programs for patients with cerebrovascular disease and stroke, epilepsy and seizure disorders, and headaches.”

JHN Care Highlights

• JHN utilizes endovascular surgery for more patients with neurovascular disorders than any other institution in the Delaware Valley. A new procedure using a coil to treat aneurysm has received recent publicity JHN’s Chief of Cerebrovascular Surgery, Robert H. Rosenwasser, MD, was one of the nation’s first neurosurgeons to perform this procedure and others to treat brain aneurysms, stroke, arteriovenous malformations and carotid artery disease, reducing the need to open the skull. His associate, carotid and endovascular and interventional neurosurgeon Ronald Benitez, MD, is also skilled in these procedures.

• JHN was the first facility in the world to have both an linear accelerator designed for and dedicated to radiosurgery, as well as a gamma knife, for...

Pamela Kolb Appointed JHN Administrator

Pamela Kolb has been appointed Administrator for the Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience (JHN). Allan J. Brechbill, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, has announced. In making the announcement, Mr. Brechbill said, “Expansion of our neuroscience program is a key component of the hospital’s strategic plan, and JHN is a critical component of this strategy. In her position, Ms. Kolb will have overall responsibility for the day-to-day operations at JHN.”

Ms. Kolb will report directly to Mr. Brechbill. Regarding the new configuration of JHN, Ms. Kolb said: “JHN is entering an exciting new era. Our nationally prominent faculty, which includes experts in all areas of neuroscience and neurosurgery, will provide clinical excellence and state-of-the-science research in one location, further establishing Jefferson as a national leader in neuroscience.”

Ms. Kolb has been at Jefferson for more than 17 years, serving in various administrative positions in both the University and hospital, including administrator positions in Ophthalmic Surgery, Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and, most recently, Neurosurgery. Ms. Kolb was also the Vice President of Primary Care and Ambulatory Development and led the team responsible for building the primary care physician network and developing Jefferson Healthcare – Voorhees, NJ.

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About Jefferson Hospital For Neuroscience

The newly configured presence of Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience (JHN) will be playing a key role in Jefferson’s Strategic Priorities for 2002-2005, “Building Jefferson’s Future.” It is a strong example of how creating new collaborative links within Jefferson connect to bring components together to work towards common goals. The stewardship created by the University purchasing JHN and leasing the facility to Thomas Jefferson University permits resources to be utilized to their maximum benefit to achieve goals.

JHN neuroscience staff has established world-class standards for the safe, effective treatment of brain tumors, brain aneurysms, stroke, epilepsy, Parkinson’s disease, chronic pain and other neurological disorders.

JHN’s world-renowned neurosurgical programs are led by William A. Buchheit, MD, Professor and Chairman, Department of Neurosurgery, Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University.

Jefferson Neuroscience Nursing

The Jefferson Neuroscience Nursing offers a broad range of services and excellent patient care. Jefferson Neuroscience Nursing is the only program in the region offering nurses with an expertise in neuroscience.

Economies of location

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Meet the Leaders Insert

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Dr. Rostami Named New Chair for Neurology

Dr. Rostami is the recipient of the Special Recognition Award from the Guillain-Barre Syndrome Foundation International and the Outstanding Physician Award from the Guillain-Barre Syndrome Foundation International. He has served as chair of the medical advisory board of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Delaware Valley Chapter, and served on the medical advisory board for the Guillain-Barre Syndrome Foundation International.

Active Internationally and Nationally

Dr. Rostami is the recipient of the American Academy of Neurology and the Royal Society of Medicine in London. He is a member of the International Society of Neuroimmunomodulation, the International Brain Research Organization, the International Union of Immunological Societies, the American Association of Immunologists and the Society for Neuroscience. He has served on various study sections of the National Institutes of Health, and as a consultant for the Veterans Administration Medical Research Program, the Italian Multiple Sclerosis Society and the Australian Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Dr. Rostami currently serves as deputy editor-in-chief of Multiple Sclerosis and serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Neurological Sciences, the Journal of Clinical Neuroimmunomodulation and Experimental and Molecular Pathology.

Education in Medicine, Neurology, Neuroimmunology and Molecular Biology

Dr. Rostami completed an internship and residency in medicine at the Shiraz University Medical School Hospitals in Iran, where he also received an honorary master of arts degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1992. He has served as chair of the medical advisory board of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Delaware Valley Chapter, and served on the medical advisory board for the Guillain-Barre Syndrome Foundation International.

About JHN

Kelly R. Kroll, whose mother Bonnie Kroll, was diagnosed with the melanoma research at Jefferson by being conducted by Takamori Sato, MD, a K. Hasumi Associate Professor of Medicine, Jefferson Medical College (JMC), and consistently recognized pioneer of surgical neuroimplantation techniques, receives the Bonne family K-roll award for her work on June 2, 2001. Kelly Kroll was a resident in neurosurgery at Jefferson University Hospital's medical staff. A Bonne Family K-roll passed away in June 2001, Kroll went right to work organizing a successful golf tournament in her memory, all participants are treated from outside of Pennsylvania. The Kroll Family credits Dr. Sato and the Jefferson program with providing Bonnie Kroll the highest quality treatment available.

"We are thrilled to be the beneficiary of this wonderful generosity. Private philanthropy such as this is the only way we can develop new treatments and translate innovative research into action," says Michael Madzengu, MD, Director of the Melanoma Program in the Department of Medicine, JMC, and Associate Clinical Director of the Kroll Memorial Golf Outing for Melanoma Research.

With the Bonne Family's support, the Kroll Memorial Golf Outing for Melanoma Research is one of the few centers in the nation which performs spinal cord stimulation implant for management of chronic pain. Giancarlo Bariliat, MD, Director of the Neuro-Impant Program, and internationally recognized pioneer of surgical neuroimplantation techniques, receives a Kroll Family Researcher of the Year Award for his work in gene therapy and novel approaches towards understanding of viral diseases, Dr. Dornburg was nationally and internationally recognized for his work in gene therapy and novel approaches towards understanding of viral diseases.

The Jefferson community mourns the death of Ralph Christoph Dornburg, MD, of Medicine and an outstanding researcher. Dr. Dornburg trained with Dr. R.J. Dornburg was nationally and internationally recognized for his work in gene therapy and novel approaches towards understanding of viral diseases.

"Officer Williford is an individual who takes his position as a Security Officer very seriously. He is a professional, dependable and knowledgeable officer who has no problem going the extra mile to obtain positive results. What I find most impressive about Officer Williford is his patience and the fact that he rarely over-reacts to any situation. He is considered an asset to the Security Department." The CCD presented its seventh annual awards to highlight Crime Prevention Month and the "to recognize outstanding acts of courage and dedication to making Center City a safer place.

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University Awards Honorary Doctorate Degrees to Andrew Wyeth, Alan C. Bird, MD

At the Opening Ceremony of the new W. J. Eye Hospital building, Thomas Jefferson University awarded honorary Doctorate degrees to Andrew Wyeth, the world renowned artist, and to Alan C. Bird, MD, a world expert on retinal Diseases.

William Tauman, MD, Professor and Chairperson, Department of Ophthalmology, Jefferson Medical College, presented Dr. Wyeth to Paul C. Brucker, MD, University President, who conferred an Honorary Doctor of the Fine Arts degree. Wills Eye serves as Dr. Bird's professional office or laptop computer, physicians who wish to discuss a case or refer a patient to a Jefferson orthopedic surgeon, please call 215-955-0215.

Dr. Wyeth began his career in 1932 as an apprentice to his father, N. C. Wyeth, a distinguished illustrator. In 2001, Mr. Wyeth and his son, Jamie Wyeth, were awarded the John Singer Sargent medal at the Metropolitan Museum of Art by the American Society of Portrait Artists Foundation. Dr. Tauman addressed the gathering on "Vision and Art." He elegantly strengthened the bond between art and the Wills Eye Hospital is the fact that John Singer Sargent's father, Fitzwilliam Sargent, had been a surgeon at Wills Eye.

Dr. Andrew Wyeth exchanged a convivial handshake as Douglas J. MacKenzie, Chief, Department of Ophthalmology, Jefferson Medical College, presented Mr. Wyeth to Paul C. Brucker, MD, University President, who conferred an Honorary Doctor of Science degree to Dr. Brucker.

Dr. Bird's retina expertise is particularly in age-related macular degeneration, having written important papers on its pathophysiology, prognosis and treatment. Widely recognized as being one of the world's leading ophthalmologists, Dr. Bird is Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology at the Institute of Ophthalmology and Consultant at the Moorfields Eye Hospital, London. Mr. Wyeth may be better known for "Christiana's World," which he painted in 1948 and was acquired by the Museum of Modern Art in New York. From 1971 to 1985, he painted the master body of his work which later became known as the "Helga Collection."

Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar, PhD Receives Pfizer ARA Award

Muhammad Mukhtar, PhD, Research Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine, Jefferson Medical College, has received the 2002 Astroviril Research Award (ARA) from Pfizer. ARA awards are conferred on outstanding investigators at the early stages of their careers in academic research. Dr. Mukhtar's award will support his research into understanding the role of childhood infections (especially in HIV-1-related) to injury to nerve cells.

Dr. Mukhtar joined Jefferson as a fellow in 1995 after completing MD from Drexel University. He has conducted and published research in AIDS-related dementia and is a Co-Investigator in five major National Institute of Health research awards.

$1.5 Million Federal Grant Expands Chinese Health Information Center Services

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital's Chinese Health Information Center (CHIC) has been awarded a one-year grant of $1.5 million from the United States Office of M. irony Affairs.

The award permits CHIC to reach hundreds more low-income Chinese- speaking residents in Greater Philadelphia, provide screenings, education, translation services and links to healthcare services, says Philip T. Siu, MD, CHIC Director and Instructor of Pediatrics, Jefferson Medical College. Dr. Siu credits United States Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA) in understanding the need and why CHIC is the appropriate program to make health services available to more underserved members of minority Asian populations of Greater Philadelphia. Senator Specter's support made the grant award possible, Dr. Siu says.

"Thanks to this grant, we are already making headway in identifying and tracking the many serious health issues our underserved southeast Asian populations face," says Dr. Siu, "and we are excited by our progress. And our expanded databases will enable us to better identify community needs to improve access and care in the future."

Dr. Siu also credits Mr. Kin Lam, CHIC's recently hired Program Manager, who "has been especially effective in helping CHIC put into place the support programs to bring care and services to underserved Chinese- speaking and Southeast Asian populations."

Overcoming Barriers to Care

Although many residents of Philadelphia's Chinese community live or work near outstanding healthcare institutions, often cultural, language and economic barriers make it difficult for them to receive services. As a result, serious health problems such as osteoporosis, diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, Hepatitis B and cancer go undiagnosed until they progress to serious illness or death.

Jefferson's CHIC, opened four years ago three blocks from Philadelphia's Chinatown, was able to reach out to the community, identify and document the consequences of such barriers to care.

"Overcoming those barriers is the purpose of the grant," "Improving Access to Health Care for the Chinese Language Speaking Community," says Barbara Schneider, PhD, RN, FAAN, the hospital's Vice President for Education, Research and Special Projects.

"From expansion of CHIC staff and additional resources made possible by the grant, many more residents are already being served, especially for osteoporosis and smoking cessation. Asian residents have high rates of osteoporosis, and the Chinese population has high smoking rates."

"The grant also increases the Center's ability to screen at community sites such as churches, factories and stores to identify residents with osteoporosis and provide desa scans at our Methodist division. These efforts mark just the beginning in providing important health services, including mammography and bilingual obstetrics/gynecology education and care to mothers and babies."

Other Services New Possible

Additional community outreach services include generating 24 Chinese-language articles for publication by newspapers nationally. Such articles provide valuable health information and contacts so that underserved populations can access clinical medical insurance at affordable rates, make medical contacts, learn of entitlements through Social Security, and improve their ability to obtain medical care in an overwhelmingly complex system.

Then by going directly to factories and restaurants employing Chinese-speaking individuals, we deliver this vital information to groups who encourage and facilitate their entry into the healthcare delivery system. The grant also enables increased staff training and recruiting of volunteers from within the Chinese community.

Plans also call for a first-of-its-kind Midl Mercer Regional Conference on reducing cultural barriers of non-Chinese practitioners serving Southeast Asian populations including Vietnamese, Chinese and Cambodian.

Formally Announcing Grant on Chinese New Year's Eve, January 31

Members of the Chinese and Jefferson communities will attend a bilingual celebratory event formally announcing the $1.5 Million Federal grant to the hospital's Chinese Health Information Center.

United States Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA), who made the grant possible, will attend as a special guest. The event will be held on Chinese New Year's Eve, January 31, from 3 to 5 p.m., in the hospital's East Atrium.