Jefferson Medical College Initiates Landmark Study to Help Close Minority Physician Gap

Five prominent faculty members of Jefferson Medical College (JMC) have joined in a landmark research study comparing like numbers of white and African-American JMC alumni.

The study is seen as a first step in comparing similar categories of data about minority and white physicians so that eventually the numbers of under-represented minority physicians nationally will increase to match minority population numbers more realistically.

Entitled “African Americans and White Physicians: A Comparison of Similar Categories of Data” the study comparing like numbers of white and African-American JMC alumni.

The study compared 148 living African American alumni who graduated from JMC between 1966 and 1995 with a matched control group of 148 white JMC alumni. Both groups were found to be comparable as to satisfaction with their medical education, careers and professional and research activities.

No significant differences were noted between the two groups, including satisfaction with their medical practice income.

One Major Difference

However, one major difference emerged: African American alumni.

The study was published in the research literature, such comparison studies have been published in the research literature.

The five JMC authors are: John J. Giardina, MD, University Medical Editor; Mohammadreza Hajar, PhD, Research Professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior; Edward B. Christian, PhD, Associate Dean for Diversity and Minority Affairs; Clara A. Callahan, MD, Vice Dean for Academic Affairs; and Thomas J. Nasca, MD, Dean.

Jefferson Center City Imaging

Jefferson Center City Imaging (JCCI) is breaking new ground in diagnostic imaging because of its forward-looking blend of leading edge technology, staff expertise and comfortable environment for patients.

Occupying a newly constructed modern site at Walnut Towers, 850 Walnut Street, the new facility provides services for noninvasive imaging diagnosis for a range of diseases, especially cancer and neurologic diseases.

Says Vijay M. Rao, MD, Professor and Chair, Department of Radiology, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital: “Our comprehensive imaging center provides a new, dynamic environment for health care, thanks to the combination of clinical expertise, leading edge technology and patient amenable environment.

“Our facility is designed so that patient satisfaction is paramount importance.”

JCCI is a partnership with Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and a privately owned company, Outpatient Imaging Associates (OIA). Jefferson Radiology Associates provides the clinical staff and expertise, among the best in the Delaware Valley.

The innovative service offered by JCCI is a PET (Positron Emission Tomography) scanner. The PET scanner allows detection of disease well before other imaging modalities do.

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In Memoriam

The Jefferson community mourns the deaths of four of our members.

Benjamin Rhyne, MD, JMC '56, on March 20

Dr. Rhyne spent a long and illustrious career at Jefferson. Following his internship at Atlantic City Hospital, he served as a Lieutenant in the United States Navy, and then completed his surgical residency at Jefferson Hospital and a thoracic fellowship at Pennsylvania Hospital. After being appointed Professor of Surgery, he taught and performed surgery in partnership with John Y. Templeton III, MD, and Stanton M. Jemella, MD, and served as Vice Chair of Surgery. Dr. Rhyne retired from clinical practice in 1983 and served as Dean of Admissions, Jefferson Medical College, for the next 17 years. In 1990 he became the first Dean for Alumni Relations, JMC. His portrait was presented by the JMC Class of 1993, and in 2001, Dr. Rhyne was honored as the Outstanding Alumnus of the Year, receiving the prestigious H. Grey Nevin Award. A member of many national and international surgical societies, Dr. Rhyne was President of the Philadelphia Surgical Society and President of the American College of Surgeons.

The family requests contributions be made to the Thomas Jefferson University Foundation, 714 Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102.

John W. Hodges, MD, JMC '39, 88, on February 21

Dr. Hodges began teaching at Jefferson Medical College (JMC) in 1944 and served in many distinguished capacities including as Founding Director, Division of General Medicine, JMC; as the first Ludwig A. Kind Professor of Medicine and as President, JMC Alumni Association. He served as an Alumni Trustee from 1978 to 1984, and Emeritus Trustee thereafter. Contributions in his memory may be made to Thomas Jefferson University, Office of Institutional Advancement, 925 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107 or to St. Margaret's Church, 208 N. Narberth Ave., Narberth, PA 19064-3770.

Joe J. Jacoby, MD, 85, on March 7

Dr. Jacoby was the country’s youngest professor of anesthesiology at age 29, in 1965 set up the Anesthesiology Department at JMC. Credited during his career with creating the hospital “code blue” system, Dr. Jacoby also created a post-operative care unit inside the operating room that later developed into the recovery room and intensive-care unit. During his long teaching career – he retired in 2001 from Ohio State University College of Medicine – Dr. Jacoby trained hundreds of anesthesiologists, eight of whom are chairmen of anesthesiology departments at medical schools in the United States.

E. William Sansom, MD, 104, on March 9

Dr. Sansom, physician and author, teacher, photographer, editor, scientist, musician and, until shortly before he died, the oldest working person in the United States, became, in 1991, Professor of Medicine and Director of the Division of Metabolic Research at JMC. There he investigated new techniques to diagnose diseases of the thyroid, adrenal and other endocrine organs. Until a few weeks before his death, he would arrive at his Center City office every weekday by 8 a.m. His job was reading manuscripts from the Annals of Clinical and Laboratory Science, the medical journal he started 50 years ago and still edited. He played the violin and was author of many books on science and non-science topics. Memorial donations may be made to Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion, 2110 Chestnut St., Philadelphia 19103.

Free Tay-Sachs Screening Offered at Jefferson

It’s a Delaware Valley tradition for the Tay-Sachs Prevention Program at Thomas Jefferson University to provide free Tay-Sachs and Canavan disease screening sites set up at more than two dozen community locations, including the Tay-Sachs Lab at 1100 Walnut Street, 4th Floor. Call 215-955-8231 for an appointment.

For more information, call 215-847-0877, email rtst@jcuad.com or visit www.tay-sachs.org.

Ralph J. Marino, MD, JMC ’82, Named Clinical Director, Jefferson’s Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center

Ralph J. Marino, MD, JMC ’82, has been named Clinical Director, Jefferson’s Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center. Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, and Associate Professor of Rehabilitation Medicine, Jefferson Medical College (JMC). He also serves as Associate Director of Research in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, JMC. Dr. Marino came to Jefferson from Mount Sinai Hospital, New York, where he was Program Director of the Spinal Cord Injury Medicine Fellowship Program at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. His research interests include the course of neurologic recovery in spinal cord injury and functional outcome measures. He is a member of several other professional societies and organizations. He serves as associate editor of the Spinal Cord and Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and is author of more than 50 peer-reviewed papers, chapters and abstracts. Dr. Marino received his MD in 1982 from Jefferson Medical College. He completed a residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in 1987 and earned an MS in Clinical Epidemiology from the University of Pennsylvania in 1998.

Terri Maxwell, RN, MSN, Awarded Faculty Scholar Grant from Open Society Institute

The Jefferson Child Care Center has availability now for children in:

- Infants
- Toddlers
- Older Toddlers
- Preschoolers
- Younger Toddlers
- Older Toddlers
- Preschool

Call 215-955-8036 or email jeffnews@jefferson.edu

Terri Maxwell, RN, MSN, Executive Director of the Center for Palliative Care in the Department of Family Medicine, Jefferson Medical College, has been recognized as one of “nine emerging leaders in health care who are improving care for dying patients and their families” and is recipient of a Faculty Scholar grant from the Open Society Institute, New York, N.Y.

The nine grants, totaling $1.3 million, were announced by The Project on Death in America (PDIA) of the Open Society Institute. PDIA, Faculty Scholars strengthen popular and professional understanding of what constitutes good care at the end of life and encourage a wider commitment to caring well for people at that stage of life.

The Open Society Institute, a private operating and grantmaking foundation, is part of the network of foundations created and funded by George Soros, and is active in more than 50 countries around the world.

In the last seven years, PDIA has awarded 85 faculty scholars in 50 medical and nursing schools in the United States and Canada. Of this year’s nine recipients, Ms. Maxwell is the only nursing professional. The others are four physicans, two physician researchers, and two PhD researchers. They are developing barriers to quality care, test new programs, train their home institutions, and then disseminate their work nationally.

Ms. Maxwell’s grant will bring together the Ochsner Health System and the Center for Palliative Care to provide a new model for improving care at the end of life by combining educational and curriculum initiatives with a system-wide performance improvement project.

“These faculty scholars are providing critical leadership to influence and facilitate a broader culture of change,” said Susan E. Beck, MD, PDIA Faculty Scholars Program Director.

JMC Alumnus and Wife Endow First Chair in Anesthesiology

Dr. James Donald Wentzler, MD, JMC ’82, and his wife Betty have established the first endowed chair in the Department of Anesthesiology, Jefferson Medical College (JMC). The chair will support the work of the department head, who will be known as the James Donald Wentzler, MD Professor and Chairman of Anesthesiology. In explaining the reasons behind their generous gift, Mrs. Wentzler stated that her husband “had always been grateful to Jefferson for the start that it gave him in his career.” After graduating from JMC, he completed a rotating internship at Jefferson, and then served in the U.S. Public Health Service of the Coast Guard.

Upon his return from military duty, Dr. Wentzler completed his anesthesiology residency at the Mayo Clinic, and received his Board certification in anesthesiology in 1956. He spent 17 years in private practice in Williamsport, PA. After a one-year stint as a Guest Fellow at Maximilian University in Erlangen, Germany, he returned to private practice in Lewisburg, PA, retiring in 1993.

Mrs. Wentzler has ties to anesthesiology as well. She and her daughter are anesthesiologists, she worked as a nurse anesthetist at Pennsylvania Hospital, where she met Dr. Wentzler.

In thanking the Wentzlers for their generosity, Thomas J. Nasca, MD, FACCP, JMC ’75, University Senior Vice President and Dean, JMC, says “Endowed chairs are critical to the future of Jefferson Medical College. They make us stronger in education and research, as well as clinical care. We’re grateful to the Wentzlers for establishing our first-ever chair in Anesthesiology.”

The Wentzlers funded the chair by establishing two different trusts, a two-life gift annuity and a two-life charitable remainder unitrust. While these financial benefits included the formula of the gift, Mrs. Wentzler emphasized that her husband’s and her primary goal was to help Jefferson and its Department of Anesthesiology.

“We want Jefferson Anesthesiology to be the best in the world,” she states.

Visit the Jefferson Office of Institutional Advancement at www.jku.edu/jeffnews.

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Dr. Kauh's presentation will be followed by a Q
discussion with the audience. A reception at
Dr. Kauh will also give a lecture on his

Jeff Ney, Professor of Surgery at the

University of Medicine, and from Palermo,
Professor of Surgery at the School of

Surgery at the University School of Medicine,
mentoring numerous young Korean

Dr. Kauh is a 1971 graduate of Thomas Jefferson University Hospital's Dermatology Residency Program and was appointed to the JMC faculty in 1972.

While carrying out a long-standing commitment to the care and wellbeing of his patients, Dr. Kauh has also devoted himself to teaching. For more than three decades, he has supervised the training of more than 60 dermatology residents.

Internationally, Dr. Kauh initiated an exchange program with Yonsei University School of Medicine, mentoring numerous young Korean dermatologists and providing them the opportunity to study in the United States. Considering a leading expert in Jepson and its treatment, he has lectured widely throughout the world, participating at conferences and symposia.

The authors believe the data support recommendations that the proportion of African Americans to the physician workforce in the United States should at least approximate the proportion of African Americans in the general population. Currently only about 13.5 percent of the total physician workforce is comprised of under-represented minority groups – African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans – which make up 25 percent of the nation’s population. African Americans, for example, are 12.1 percent of the United States population but only 5.7 percent of the physician workforce – a percentage that has remained relatively constant for 7 years.

Says Dr. Gartland, the study’s Principal Investigator:

“We are presenting a model that can be used in the future to increase the diversity of the physician workforce. The need will be profound in coming years if minority under-representation remains constant.”

For more information, call Dr. Gartland at 215-503-4042.

Display Your Talents

Many people express their thoughts and feelings about cancer through creative arts. You are invited to share your artwork, poetry or other creative works to exhibit at the 8th Annual Kinetic Cancer Center Survivor Day Celebration June 5. Please call 215-955-8716 to reserve space for your work which must be submitted by May 1.
March 31, 2008
PhD, “New Ways to Target Genes and Histidine Triad Enzymes: Cancer Dimorphism in Drosophila,” noon, 101 BLSB. Biology, Johns Hopkins University, “Gonad Extracellular Matrix,” noon, 105 BLSB.

Friday, April 4

Friday, April 4

Tuesday, April 8

Wednesday, April 30

Grady, MD, Gastroenterology, TJUH, 8 a.m., 114-116 BLSB. LaPrairie, MD, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, UTHSC, 9 a.m., 1200 E. California.

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