James H. Keen, PhD, Named Dean of Jefferson College of Graduate Studies

James H. Keen, PhD, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology at Jefferson Medical College (JMC) and Associate Director of Jefferson’s Kimmel Cancer Center, has been named Dean of the Jefferson College of Graduate Studies (JCGS), effective July 1, Paul C. Brucker, MD, University President, has announced.

“Dr. Keen brings a stellar record of both research and academic experience to this position,” said Dr. Brucker.

Dr. Keen succeeds Jari S. Saukkonen, MD, who is retiring later this year.

A cell biologist, Dr. Keen brings a stellar record of both research and academic experience to his position. Dr. Keen’s research has focused on the biochemistry and cell biology of membrane trafficking, a field that describes how materials are internalized by cells and target to specific intracellular destinations. The work has had direct impact on our understanding of the molecular mechanisms underlying diverse diseases as diverse as atherosclerosis, cancer and neurological dysfunctions.

Dr. Keen’s laboratory is supported by three grants from the National Institutes of Health, which he has funded his work since 1980. He will continue his research activities in addition to assuming the administrative responsibilities of the new position.

The new JCGS Dean has a long record of service at Jefferson. Among his many posts, Dr. Keen has been Chair of predoctoral and postdoctoral training programs at the Jefferson Kimmel Cancer Center since 1991 and Director of the PhD Graduate Program in Molecular Pharmacology and Structural Biology in JCGS from 1991 to 1998.

Active Nationally and Internationally

On the national level, he has served on study sections for the NIH and the American Cancer Society, and has been a member of NIH Board of Scientific Counselors on multiple occasions. He has been an editorial reviewer for such peer-reviewed journals as Cell, Science and Nature.

He has lectured internationally, including in Europe, Japan and China. He is author or co-author of many articles appearing in journals such as Nature, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, the Journal of Cell Biology and Cancer Research. His work was featured as the lead article and cover piece in the inaugural issue of the journal Nature Cell Biology in 1999.

Dr. Keen came to Jefferson in 1991. From 1992 to 1996, he was Professor in the Department of Pharmacology at JMC. Since 1997, he has been Associate Director of Jefferson’s Kimmel Cancer Center and Professor of Microbiology and Immunology and of Biochemistry and Molecular Pharmacology at JMC.

Before coming to Jefferson, he was a member of the Fels Institute for Cancer Research and of the Department of Biochemistry at the Temple University School of Medicine.

Dr. Keen earned a BS in Government in 1969 and a PhD in Biochemistry in 1976, both from Cornell University. He was a postdoctoral fellow at the NIH from 1977 to 1980.

Dr. Keen’s office is in M-63 Jefferson Alumni Hall, and he can be reached at 215-842-8984.

Steven E. McKenzie, MD, PhD, Named University Vice President for Science Policy and Technology Transfer

Steven E. McKenzie, MD, PhD, has been named to the newly created senior officer position of Vice President for Science Policy and Technology Transfer effective July 1, Paul C. Brucker, MD, University President, Thomas Jefferson University, has announced.

“I’m extremely pleased that we’ll have Steve McKenzie’s expertise, vision and energy to take on this exciting new role for the university,” said Dr. Brucker.

Dr. McKenzie, Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics at Jefferson Medical College (JMC), currently is Director of the Cardeza Foundation for Hematologic Research and the Division of Hematology at JMC, a position he has held since 2000. He was formerly based at A.I. duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, where he was the laboratory head of Hematology/Oncology Research and Director of the Molecular Imaging Core Facility. He has been an Attending Physician in Hematology at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital since 1996. He is also a member of Jefferson’s Kimmel Cancer Center.

Dr. McKenzie has been an investigator on National Institutes of Health grants in which scientists use state-of-the-art microscopy to watch patterns of gene expression, hoping to uncover the molecular signatures of how cancer and other diseases begin.

Dr. McKenzie is supported by the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute for studies of platelet and blood clotting disorders. He and his group created the first authentic mouse models of major human blood platelet diseases.

Dr. McKenzie will continue his clinical and research activities at the Cardeza Foundation where his work includes collaboration with several faculty members to focus on bleeding and clotting disorders as well as vascular biology.

He is a member of several professional societies, including the American Society of Hematology, the American Society of Immunology and the Society for Neuroscience.

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In This Issue:

1. Medicine Announces Two Major Appointments
2. Jacqueline McEachin, RN, BSN Receives Janet C. Hindson Award
3. Third Big Walk for Little Feet Coming Soon

JeffNews

Telling and Showing: Speakers, Artists Celebrate Life as Cancer Survivors

Once again, speakers and artists from different walks of life came together on the Jefferson campus to celebrate their lives as cancer survivors at the fourth annual celebration by Jefferson’s Kimmel Cancer Center (KCC) in conjunction with National Cancer Survivors Day.

Three speakers held a capacity audience in rapt attention while telling their stories as patients. A fourth speaker described her role as a caregiver for her husband.

As in previous years, many other survivors displayed their art work, photography, writing or crafts. See page 3.

Before introducing the speakers, Walter J. Curran Jr., MD, Clinical Director, KCC, and Chair of Radiation Oncology, commended the audience for their participation each year. “Your voice is important because participating on the Jefferson level helps foster involvement and support on the national level.”

Dr. Curran then introduced each speaker in turn. See “Cancer Survivors Speak” on page 3.

The event, which also featured music and food, was co-sponsored by Glassman/SmitKline, Amein, Wyeth, Orthobiotech, Cephalon, Aventis, Bristol Meyers Squibb Oncology Division, and Novartis.

The planners remind participants to hold September 18 from 4 to 7 p.m. for the second annual Cancer Survivors Conference, “Life After Cancer Diagnosis.” For more information, call 215-555-8370.
Department of Medicine Announces Two Major Appointments

Neal Flomenberg, MD, Named Director, Division of Medical Oncology

Neal Flomenberg, MD, has been appointed to serve as Director of the Division of Medical Oncology of the Department of Medicine at Jefferson Medical College (JMC), Arthur M. Feldman, MD, PhD, Mage Professor and Chair of Medicine, has announced. A Professor of Medicine at JMC, Dr. Flomenberg has been Acting Director of Medical Oncology for more than a year.

"The selection of Dr. Flomenberg culminated a year-long national search, with the help of a professional search firm and an external advisor, Dr. Feldman said in making the announcement. He said the national search had established several criteria for candidates: 1) expertise in the field; 2) an outstanding pedigree in terms of training; 3) documented leadership experience and accomplishments; 4) documented accomplishments in basic, translational or clinical research; and 5) a history of interdisciplinary collaboration.

"The Search Committee was able to identify a number of candidates who fit these criteria, and one individual stood out," said Dr. Feldman. "An ADA graduate of JMC who received his internal medicine training at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and his hematology/oncology training at Memorial Sloan-Kettering in New York; an accomplished investigator with over 100 publications; an outstanding track record of NCI funding; superb administrative experience with documented success in program building; and outstanding clinical and teaching skills."

"Fortunately for us, that individual was right here on campus – Dr. Neal Flomenberg. Therefore, I am both pleased and excited to announce that Neal has agreed to accept this position."

"Although Dr. Flomenberg has much work ahead of him, both the Search Committee and I are certain that Neal will provide outstanding leadership, drive and will place Jefferson among the top clinical oncology programs in the nation. I congratulate both Neal – and us – on a successful recruitment," Dr. Feldman concluded.

Paolo Fortina, MD, PhD, Joins Department of Medicine’s Center for Translational Medicine

Clinical geneticist Paolo Fortina, MD, PhD, has been appointed Director of the Genomics and Diagnostics section in the Department of Medicine’s Center for Translational Medicine. Dr. Fortina joins Jefferson from the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, where he was Director, Molecular Biology Diagnostics Unit, in the Department of Laboratory and Clinical Pathology. He was also Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

In welcoming Dr. Fortina, Arthur M. Feldman, MD, PhD, the Mage Professor and Chair, Department of Medicine, JMC, said: "Dr. Fortina brings a wealth of knowledge in clinical molecular genetics research. His work will lead to improved diagnostics and treatments that will benefit patients worldwide."

Dr. Fortina’s sponsored research interests include such areas as genotyping methods for inflammatory bowel disease and the genetics of hearing loss. He is currently principal investigator for a National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant.

"Although Dr. Flomenberg has much work ahead of him, both the Search Committee and I are certain that Neal will provide outstanding leadership, drive and will place Jefferson among the top clinical oncology programs in the nation. I congratulate both Neal – and us – on a successful recruitment," Dr. Feldman concluded.

Presentation of the NCI Outstanding Achievement Award to Leonard Gomella, MD, center, by W. Marion Linehan, MD, Chief, Urologic Oncology Branch, NCI, at right, and Andrew C. Wellstood, MD, Director, NCI, at left.

Leonard Gomella, MD, Urology Chair, Receives NCI Achievement Award

At the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Reception/Awards Ceremony, held in conjunction with the American Urological Association’s annual meeting in Chicago, Leonard G. Gomella, MD, was honored with the "2003 NCI Outstanding Achievement Award."

The NCI bestows the award annually to recognize outstanding achievement by an alumnus of the NCI Intramural Program. Dr. Gomella was a Fellow at the NCI from 1986 to 1988.

In making the presentation, W. Marion Linehan, MD, Chief, Urologic Oncology Branch, NCI, said: "Dr. Gomella has a remarkable record of achievement. He is the highest example of the true physician-scientist that the NCI is trying so hard to support and encourage."

Dr. Gomella is the Bernard W. Godwin, Jr. Professor of Prostate Cancer in the Department of Urology at Jefferson Medical College, Director of Urologic Oncology for Jefferson’s Kimmel Cancer Center and Chairman of the Department of Urology. He is author or co-author of more than 250 manuscripts, book chapters and monographs. Prostate cancer has been his major interest and he has made major contributions in this field. His research team developed the first clinical PCR-based test for metastasis in prostate cancer, a remarkable achievement. In the early 1990s, he was one of the first oncologists to use laparoscopy in the management of patients with urologic malignancy.

Wear Your Jefferson ID. It shows you belong.

In Memoriam

The Jefferson community mourns the death May 20 of Barbara M. Sachs, MD, 85, a general physician and surgeon considered a pioneer in caring for female patients almost 60 years ago. After receiving her MD from George Washington University in 1942, Dr. Sachs did postgraduate work and later taught at Jefferson Medical College. She set up a practice on Chestnut St. in 1945 and practiced continuously in the 1960s with her pioneering colleague, the late Sylvia Mazer, MD. Dr. Sachs is survived by her husband of 65 years, August F. Sachs. Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association Delaware Valley Chapter, 160 N. 17th St., Second Floor, Philadelphia 19103.
Cancer Survivors Speak in Celebrating Life

Dr. Curran introduced each of the four speakers at KCC’s fourth annual “A Celebration of Life.” Here are some highlights and selected comments or quotes by each speaker, all of whom are active in various community organizations involved with cancer care.

Brian Costello
Director of Human Resources Operations for Thomas Jefferson University, Brian Costello was diagnosed in 2000 with prostate cancer.

Mr. Costello noted the audience with numerous anecdotes about the importance of humor in all aspects of daily living, including how this has rubbed off on his four adult children and how it helped his return to health.

“When you smile, it affects your whole body. Laughter is therapeutic,” – 20 seconds of a good laugh is as good as 20 minutes on a treadmill.”

Mr. Costello credits his awareness of humor’s importance to his father, who kept a steady sense of humor and always said, “When you smile, it affects your whole body. Laughter is therapeutic.”

Ms. Burks gave much praise to her husband’s doctors and nurses for their support and understanding of her parenting role while ill. “The silver lining is that I have met lots of beautiful and wonderful people who are still in my life seven years later. My life has been changed around because of my illness, and we have made the best of it. My dreams have come true – my son has decided he wants to find a cure for cancer.”

Leslie Stiles
A breast cancer survivor, Leslie Stiles serves as the newly appointed Executive Director for the Pennsylvania Commission for Women. Having recently served as Director of Marketing for the National Constitution Center.

Ms. Stiles, who had been regularly checked and tested for breast cancer, credited her “incredibly astute” surgeon at Jefferson, Melvin Mueses, MD, with suggesting she take “one extra test – an MRI – just to be sure.” She became the first patient at Jefferson to test positive from an MRI. She reflected on what might have been the outcome without that incisive suggestion.

As the final speaker, she said key commonalities in previous remarks, giving special importance to forming friendships and participating in activities such as KCC’s Buddy Program and dragonboating. She concluded by assuring the group, “It’s okay to grieve, to be depressed and negative at times – just don’t stay there. I too have fears, but I have a new-found appreciation for family and life. I love my life, and I just want to get on with it!”

The planning committee headed by Lora Rhodes, LSW, Coordinator, KCC Advocacy and Survivorship Program, and Kay Soleiman, Administrator, KCC Clinical Science Division. Included were: Jackie Greco, Chief of LifeQuest Services; Kathy Groh, R.N., note-taker; Valentina Freiberg, Nancy Leahy, Tracy Nardi, Maryellen Riggio, Vince Walsh.

The award to Ms. McMeekin comes in part that “Patients arrive in the pre-op area of 5 Gibbon holding area, anxious over the prospect of surgery. Jackie greets patients with a smile and focuses her energies on each patient. No patient request goes unnoticed, no tear un-wiped, and no patient leaves without feeling that they are in the best possible hands.”

Joan Saul, RN, Nurse Manager, PACU, Denise Roseman, RN, and 68 nurses, technicians, and physicians from the PACU nominated Ms. McMeekin.

In other Nurses’ Week activities: Keynote speaker Mary P. Malone, MS, JD, presented the topic of “Cancer Care and Quality: How to Use Your Voice.” She defined what it means to provide quality care and how the Cancer Care Network has been recognized for its excellence in care provided. The nurses then enjoyed a luncheon where they were treated to a relaxing massage.

Joanne M. Daywalt, MS, RT, Graduates From National ASRT Leadership Academy

Joanne M. Daywalt, MS, RT(T), Chief Therapist, Radiation Oncology, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, was among 22 radiologic technologists from 19 states graduating from the 2003 American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) Leadership Academy, an innovative educational program that trains radiologic technologists to become effective association leaders. Ms Daywalt serves the Philadelphia Society of Radiologic Technologists as Vice President and on several committees at state and national levels.
Elyce H. Cardonick, MD
Named to PBJ ‘40 Under 40’ Profiles
Elyce H. Cardonick, Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology—Maternal-Fetal Medicine, has been selected by the Philadelphia Business Journal (PBJ) as one of the region’s 40 top young professionals under age 40. Dr. Cardonick’s profile was published by PBJ as one of “40 under Forty” in their July 1 issue.

A Philadelphia native, Dr. Cardonick has been a member of the Medical Staff of Thomas Jefferson University Hospital since 1997, having previously served a Fellowship at the hospital.

When asked by PBJ to what she attributed her early medical success, she replied, “I attribute it to my patients. I treat cancer patients who are pregnant, and it is the bravery of these patients that motivates me.”

Elliott L. Mancale, MD, Receives American Academy of Neurology Presidential Award
Elliott L. Mancale, MD, Professor of Neurology, Jefferson Medical College and a Medical Staff member of Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, has received the prestigious American Academy of Neurology 2003 Presidential Award.

The Presidential Award recognizes outstanding service and dedication to the American Academy of Neurology. For the past 10 years, Dr. Mancale served as the founding editor of Continuum, a major biweekly publication that provides neurologists with obtaining continued medical education in their home or office environment. Dr. Mancale is credited with having delivered Continuum from conception to birth, and then thence into adulthood.

NOTABLES
Elyce H. Cardonick, MD

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Jefferson Hosts International Day 2003
Inclement weather may have forced the 15th annual International Day activities indoors to Jefferson Alumni Hall but it did not dampen the spirits of all who attended or participated. An estimated 500 students representing the Jefferson Kendo Club, the hand Intersection, dancers Traci Hall or demonstrating were the scenes from the event sponsored by the Jefferson Cultural Activities Office.

Fifteen student groups representing food, science, mathematics, and other cultures from around the world took part. Performing as one of the founding editor of Continuum, a major biweekly publication that provides neurologists with obtaining continued medical education in their home or office environment. Dr. Mancale is credited with having delivered Continuum from conception to birth, and then thence into adulthood.

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