Robert Rosenwasser, MD, FACS
Named Chair, Department of Neurosurgery

Cerebrovascular surgeon Robert H. Rosenwasser, MD, FACS, has been named Chair of the Department of Neurosurgery at Jefferson Medical College (JMC) of Thomas Jefferson University and Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. "Dr. Rosenwasser is now Professor of Neurosurgery and Director of the Division of Cerebrovascular Neurosurgery and Neuroradiology at JMC and the hospital. He succeeds William Buchheit, MD, who is retiring. Immediate Past President of the Society of University Neurosurgeons, Dr. Rosenwasser is world renowned for his surgical expertise in both preventing and treating life-threatening brain aneurysms. He does more such operations annually than any other surgeon in the country."

Dr. Rosenwasser has been Vice Chair for Clinical Services in Neurosurgery at JMC since 2000. He has been Fellowship Program Director for Neurovascular Surgery and Interventional Neuroradiology since 1995 and is Director of Interventional Neuroradiology for the Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience. Thomas J. Nasca, MD, JMC Dean, sees Dr. Rosenwasser's focus on education and training as particularly important for his new role. “Dr. Rosenwasser has been instrumental in providing the best training possible for neurovascular surgeons at Jefferson for nearly a decade,” he says. “Dr. Rosenwasser has played an important role in the growth of the neurosurgery program at Jefferson University Hospital,” says Thomas J. Lewis, hospital President and CEO. “I have no doubt that his expertise and leadership will help to continue Jefferson’s well earned reputation as a premier hospital for neurosurgery.”

Pioneering New Stent
He most recently has helped pioneer the use of a soft, flexible stent made of a non-metallic polymer – the first of its kind in the world to be used for brain aneurysms that could not be readily treated surgically. The type of stent, called an intracranial stent, was developed specifically for blood vessels in the brain and for cerebral aneurysms. Before coming to Jefferson in 1994, Dr. Rosenwasser was Assistant, then Associate Professor of Neurosurgery at Temple University Hospital. From 1985 to 1994, he was Director of the Neurosurgical Intensive Care Unit, Chief of the Cerebrovascular Surgery Section and Deputy Director of the Department of Neurosurgery at Temple. He was also Residency Program Director and Trauma Co-director. In 1992, he became Chief of the Cerebrovascular and Endovascular Neurosurgery Section there. He is a member of numerous neurosurgery organizations, including the American Academy of Neurological Surgery, the American Society of Therapeutic and Interventional Neuroradiology, the Society of Critical Care Medicine and the Society of Neurologic Critical Care. He is Chair-elect of the Cerebrovascular Surgery Section, American Association of Neurological Surgeons.

He is author or co-author of three textbooks on vascular disease of the central nervous system and more than 200 publications or abstracts. He has lectured widely.

Dr. Rosenwasser received a BS from Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, LA, in 1975 and his MD from Louisiana State University in 1979. He completed his residency at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA, in 1985. He then completed fellowships in neurovascular surgery, University of Western Ontario, in 1984, and in interventional neuroradiology at New York University in 1993.

Honoring 500 Jefferson Volunteers

During National Volunteer Week, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital honored each of the 500 volunteers who give so generously of their time and commitment the year round.

Every volunteer, who range from 14 to 93 years of age, received a personalized letter of thanks from Thomas J. Lewis, Hospital President and CEO. In addition, the Department of Volunteer Services hosted 120 volunteers at the annual recognition luncheon.

Special honors went to Anne Hisota for her 25 years of service. Three other volunteers were recognized for 15 years, four for 10 years and eight for 5 years. See photos on Page 4.

Cancer Survivors Again Celebrate Life

There are two ways to live your life. One is though nothing is a miracle, the other is though everything is a miracle. Albert Einstein

Catherine Coleman, Director of Product Management at ImpactRx, Inc. of Mt. Laurel, NJ, and a two-time cancer survivor, quoted these words in her speech to a full house at the Kimmel Cancer Center (KCC) at Jefferson’s fifth annual Celebration of Life. She also thanked her own personal Jefferson “miracle workers.”

Mr. Coleman spoke about her experiences as a cancer survivor, the changes she has made and ways she has grown since her initial cancer diagnosis in June 1995 and subsequent diagnosis in July of 1997.

Another cancer survivor, Thom Holden, founder of Thom & Dave Marketing Design and the White Birch Gallery, an arts venue in Media, PA, recalled how his passion for art and music inspired him as he underwent treatment at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. Mr. Holden personalized his hospital room with favorite paintings by his wife, and derived comfort from listening to his favorite music. A four-year survivor of non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, Mr. Holden also shared poetry that he wrote during his cancer treatment.

Rani Amé, MD, Delivers Keynote Address

Dr. Amé, a Jefferson Hospital radiation oncologist and Instructor of Radiation Oncology at Jefferson Medical College, delivered the event’s keynote address, “Finding Hope in the Face of Cancer.” Dr. Amé paid tribute to her late aunt, a patient with ovarian cancer who defied her original prognosis long enough to see her daughter graduate from medical school by finding and enrolling in a life-prolonging clinical trial. The Celebration this year, attended by more than 200 cancer survivors and their families, featured an interactive Health Expo in which staff from the Jefferson-Myrna Brind Center of Integrative Medicine, genetic counselors from the Jefferson Hereditary Cancer Center, clinical trial specialists, social workers and representatives from community organizations serving cancer patients provided information and demonstrations. In addition, the event displayed artwork by cancer survivors. See photos on Page 5.

Cancer survivor Brian Costello, Director of the University’s Human Resources Operations, a speaker at last year’s event, introduced this year’s speakers.

Jeffnas.jpg
Exploring New Ways to Assess Residents’ Competence

As a new group of residents begin their hospital rotations in July, they and all other residents may soon be benefitting from a research study by five Jefferson Medical College (JMC) faculty members published in July in Academic Medicine.

The study’s title reflects its purpose: “Do Global Rating Forms Enable Program Directors to Assess the ACGME Competencies?”

The researchers raise their question in response to a new set of General Competencies developed by the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) to assess residents’ competence.

The ACGME has mandated that Graduate Medical Education programs require their residents to develop and demonstrate proficiency in six General Competencies – Patient Care, Medical Knowledge, Practice-based Learning and Improvement, Interpersonal and Communication Skills, Professionalism, and Systems-based Practice.

As the JMC research team sees it, a different way to assess the new Competencies should be found to assure more accurate and meaningful evaluations.

Propose Using Different Methods

The use of standard “Global Rating Forms” is the most common way to measure competencies in medical education. Because the new competencies bring a new focus to assessment of the resident – stressing the attainment of competence by the resident as opposed to a former emphasis on national process – within the residency – the JMC research group feels new or different methods to measure resident competence must be explored as well.

This is especially important since the ACGME regards the six new competencies as the cornerstone of a major, long-term initiative in accreditation, the “Outcome Project,” to focus on how well residents learn.

The JMC researchers hope their published study will encourage other medical schools to follow Jefferson’s lead and examine this issue at their institutions.

The research team:

Principal Investigator, Cynthia G. Silber, MD, Associate Dean, Graduate Medical Education, JMC; Co-Investigators, Thomas J. Nasca, MD FACEP, Senior Vice President and Dean, JMC; David L. Paskin, MD, Professor of Surgery, Senior Associate Dean of Graduate Medical Education and Affiliations, JMC; Glenn Eger, MD, Chief of Academic Affairs, Albert Einstein Medical Center; Mary Robeson, MS, Project Coordinator, Center for Research in Medical Education and Health Care, JMC; J. Jan Veldosi, MD, Director, Medical Education Research, Center for Research in Medical Education and Health Care, JMC.

Sign Up Now for Fourth Big Walk for Little Feet!

It was such a success the previous three years that the “Big Walk for Little Feet” will again be added to the Jefferson Hospital Philadelphia Distance Run festivities for 2004. So get your walking feet ready for the fourth annual “Big Walk for Little Feet,” which will raise funds to benefit Jefferson’s Labor and Delivery suite and the Neonatal Intensive Care, Transitional and Well-Baby nurseries.

Over the summer, watch for registration tables set up in the Atrium so you can sign up as these two employees are doing with Patricia A. Wallace, Program Director, Community, Pastoral and Volunteer Services.

To form a team of 5 or more members, call Phyllis Nangle in the Development Office at 215-955-9136.

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Health Policy Presents 15th Annual Grandon Lecture, David B. Nash, MD, MBA, Invested as Grandon Chair

John W. Rowe, MD, Chair and CEO of Aetna, one of the nation’s leading health and related benefit organizations, presented the 15th Annual Raymond C. Grandon Lecture to a full house at the D’Palmila Auditorium. His topic was “Health Care Costs: Why Are They Rising?” During the lecture, Dr. Rowe remarked that Aetna and other insurers are moving toward HSAs (Health Savings Accounts) that help to reduce unnecessary care by letting consumers direct their own health care expenditures and help employers to lower the cost of providing health insurance.

Later that day, colleagues, family, staff and friends gathered at the 15th Annual Grandon Lecture.

The Chair was endowed by a generous gift from Dr. and Mrs. Grandon. The ceremony began with a white-coat procession of JMC faculty and included remarks by Paul C. Brucker, MD, President, Thomas Jefferson University; Brian G. Harrison, Chair, University Board of Trustees; Thomas J. Nasca, MD, Dean, JMC; and Dr. Grandon. As a surprise to Dr. Nash, Health Policy staff presented a slide show depicting his activities with the department.

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‘Signout’ Saves Medical Residents Valuable Time

Information System’s LastWord Physician Team has developed “Signout” – a wireless way for resident physicians ending their shifts to view patient data in the Hospital Intranet instead of keyboarding the information into a spreadsheet document.

In addition to reducing paper, the system can save each resident using a portable wireless PDA (Personal Digital Assistant) up to one hour’s time each shift. This hour can now be used in patient care and educational activities.

Since the portable devices only browse and do not store any data, the new system does not pose privacy or confidentiality issues.

“We found that it took each resident from 45 minutes to an hour to collect the necessary data from LastWord and sign over 10 to 12 patients at the end of a shift,” says Mary McNichol, Director of Hospital Applications, Information Systems.

“Not only was this time-consuming but there were no safeguards against transcription errors when patient data, results and medications, were entered in the spreadsheet,” she adds.

Now, Department of Medicine “nightfloat” residents carrying PDAs can log directly to the “Signout” website, view or print their patients’ data, and add notes or instructions about each patient’s care.

“We think ‘Signout’ provides a quicker, less error-prone and secure way for resident teams to sign their patients over at the end of a shift affording residents more time for patient care,” Ms. McNichol sums up. Signout can also be used by covering attending physicians for weekend patients rounds.

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Many Nurses Honored During 2004 Nurses’ Week Recognition Activities

The nominees: Lucinda Brzozowski, RN, Patty Dallmer, RN, BSN, Sheila Downing, RN, BSN, Catherine Dugery, RN, Elizabeth-Jones Pied, RN, BSN, Jennifer Malone, RN, BSN, Jackie Lohmann, RN, Sean McGrath, RN, Shirley Morgan, RN, Terry Silver, RN, Erin Simko, RN, MSN, Marje Zarella, RN, and Mary Vergara, RN.

The award recipients: Nora Kramer, RN, MSN, Nurse Manager NICU, NICU/ASU and Mary Ann Koval, RN, BSN, staff nurse 3 Center.

As reported previously, the Thomas Jefferson Nurses of the Year award was given to Arlene Greiner, RN, staff nurse at the Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience, NICU.

Boonlet Displays Nursing Talents

A booklet titled, “Jefferson Nurses Go Beyond Hospital Walls” was distributed to all staff during Nurses’ Week displaying the contributions and talents of our nursing staff in the areas of community outreach, patient education and serving the underserved populations.

Nurses’ Week events such as a professional poster display, education and research. This event was a forum for highlighting the importance of the nurse as a professional.

Monday, July 5, is an official University Holiday. Happy Independence Day!

New Meter Reading System Hikes Energy Efficiency and Cuts Costs

As Energy Manager for the University and the Jefferson Health System (JHS) member hospitals, including Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Randy Haines’s job is to make sure energy – electricity, natural gas, steam and water – is delivered efficiently.

At the same time, he needs to lower energy costs – at both Center City Jefferson and JHS member hospitals. Sound easy? Consider how Mr. Haines had to do it a year ago.

I was having to go around once a month and manually read all our primary meters and submeters at 18 Center City Jefferson buildings – the five major hospital buildings, plus 13 University buildings.

Not surprisingly, the task took me all day and omitted the Methodist Division and Ford Road buildings. Also, we had no practical way to get readings from 15 JHS buildings.”

Fast forward to today:

Without leaving his desk, Mr. Haines now can log on to his computer and instantly access real-time readings from all 230 primary meters and submeters in the 35 buildings spread through Jefferson and JHS facilities.

As important, so can 27 other managers at various key locations.

How? By using Internet Explorer to go through a Web server connected to an automatic meter reading system. The system uses a special software that automatically updates – at 10-minute intervals – to collect, store and analyze the data in every meter.

As a result, Mr. Haines and other managers can fine-tune consumption use more efficiently, resulting in dramatic cost savings.

In fact, thanks in part to the new real-time metering system, JHS has selected a new supplier for electricity and is saving $1.1 million a year on utilities. clubhouse.

The system has earned industry recognition, nationally and internationally, calling to light that few other energy systems in the United States have the same capability to fine-tune consumption so precisely and efficiently, literally meter by meter.

Scenes from 5th Annual ‘Celebration of Life’

The fifth annual Celebration of Life by the Kimmel Cancer Center (KCC) at Jefferson featured an interactive Health Expo (middle photo). As in previous years, artists, writers and photographers displayed their work. Clockwise, from top left, Anna Marie Juliani; Ramona Cutter with her husband, Clifford, and 4-year-old daughter, Makayla; Barbara Martella, left, with Rachael Pinsley, Minnie and Art Zack; Cury Levitsky.
Jefferson Bookstore Has Moved

The Jefferson Medical and Health Science Bookstore is now located at 1009 Chestnut St. Hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Phone number is 215-955-7322. Visit www.jefferson.edu/bookstore

Save Money, Use New Direct Dial with Methodist

Information Systems is pleased to announce 7-digit inter-office dialing between Jefferson and Methodist Hospital.

How to Dial from Jefferson to Methodist

1. Dial access code: 242
2. Dial the last 4 digits of the extension at Methodist that you are trying to reach.

Example: 24-5678

How to Dial from Methodist to Jefferson

1. Dial access code: 242
2. Dial 5-xxxx 3-xxxx 4-xxxx
3. Example: 24-54367 or 24-4679

If you have any questions, please contact the Information Systems Client Service Desk at 215-955-7975 and select Option 3.

Notables

Christopher R. B. Merritt, MD, of Radiology Named ARRS President

Christopher R. B. Merritt, MD, Professor and Vice Chair for Informatics in the Department of Radiology, Jefferson Medical College, has been named 2004-2005 President of the American Roentgen Ray Society (ARRS). Merritt has served as Chair of the Committee on Informatics and Education of the American College of Radiology (ACR) and as Chair of the Committee on Informatics of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM)

Chair of the Department of Radiology at the Ohser Clinic and the Ahn Ohser Foundation Hospital in New Orleans for 22 years, Dr. Merritt has long been an active contributor to the field of diagnostic radiology.

Dr. Merritt is a past President of the American Society of Clinical Radiologists, the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine, the Society of Radiologists in Ultrasound and the Inter-societal Commission for Accreditation of Vascular Laboratories. He has held many editorial positions in the field.

Saying Thanks to 100 Faculty Members

The Course Director for “Medical Practice for the 21st Century” (MP 21) J. Lindsey Lane, MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Jefferson Medical College (JMC), and Director, Pediatric Undergraduate Medical Education at JMC, thanked the full-time and volunteer faculty who ran small groups for first-year students with a pair of recognition luncheons. Currently more than 50 faculty are involved as small group leaders with the year-long course. An additional 50 faculty participate as skills or lecturers. Each received a certificate of thanks.

The recognition event marked the end of the inaugural year for MP 21 as part of the revised year-one JMC curriculum instituted last year.

JMC Class of 2006 Initiates Excellence in Teaching Awards

In an effort to recognize the outstanding efforts of many Jefferson Medical College (JMC) professors during the second-year curriculum, the JMC Class of 2006 has created the “Excellence in Teaching Award.” In announcing the award, Mary Bose, JMC ’96, Student Council President, says: “After each class block, all students elect two professors who have demonstrated their commitment and enthusiasm to our growth as academicians and clinicians. It is our hope that this award will serve to further encourage an environment teaching here at Jefferson, and to instill in them an environment of positive energy and rapport.

Honoring recipients for spring 2004: William Kocher, MD, Dale Berg, MD, Thomas Klein, MD, and Katherine Worzala, MD.

CLASSIFIED

Jefferson Bookstore has Moved and area code for Mendenhall.

For rent: Several offices, various sizes 477 to 1,100 square feet. 

For sale: Rental property, 477 to 1,100 square feet.

For sale: Almost 1,000 square feet.

For rent: Medical office, 2,000 square feet.

For sale: Office space, 1,000 square feet.

For rent: Medical office, 2,000 square feet.

For sale: Commercial property, 1,000 square feet.

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