Among Nation's Best for the 15th Year in a Row

In its annual "Best Hospitals" national rankings, U.S. News & World Report has ranked Thomas Jefferson University Hospital as among the best hospitals in the nation for patient care categories. The hospital again achieved top ranking in Philadelphia for orthopedics and rehabilitation medicine. U.S. News & World Report determined that Jefferson University Hospital was among the best in the nation in digestive disorders, geriatrics, gynecology, heart and heart surgery, neurology/neurosurgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology, head and neck surgery, rehabilitation medicine and urology. In addition, Willow Eye Hospital, which serves as the Department of Ophthalmology for Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University, again ranked tops in Philadelphia for ophthalmology, and third in the nation. "This is the 15th year in a row that the hospital has received such top rankings," Jefferson Hospital President and CEO Thomas J. Lewis said. "This is the result of the hard work and dedication of the entire Jefferson Health Care System team, and we are proud of our accomplishments." The hospital also achieved top rankings in the following categories: Neurosurgery, plastic surgery, urology, ear, nose and throat surgery, internal medicine, nephrology, hematology/oncology, lung disease, endocrinology, diabetes and kidney disease, gastroenterology and GI disease, cardiology and heart surgery, infectious disease, respiratory medicine, critical care and urology. "We strive to provide the best care and treatment possible for our patients and it's gratifying to know that U.S. News & World Report continues to recognize that year after year," Mr. Lewis said.

It's Almost Time for the 2004 Employee Service Recognition Program

The Employee Service Recognition Program is a significant part of the continuing acknowledgment of the accomplishments and commitment of Jefferson employees. This year's Program will be highlighted by a special celebration to honor employees who celebrated five-year (5, 10, 15, etc.) anniversaries in the year ending June 30, 2004. The annual Employee Service Recognition Celebration will be held on Wednesday, October 13, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the "Raffleroom at the Ben" in the Benjamin Franklin Hotel. The event will include a reception, entertainment and gifts. Watch for further details in the September issue of JeffNEWS.

It's Time to Help Save Babies' Lives

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 Unit (NICU), 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. "The walk is a fun family activity for all. It is an event that 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 19, is a fun walk for the entire family – parents, children and friends. So much fun that families keep coming back year after year. See photos. The "Big Walk" begins at 8 a.m. at 12th and Market Streets, just after the last half-marathon runner takes off for the Distance Run. It finishes at 16th and Benjamin Franklin Parkway, near the Distance Run finish line. The Distance Run start time is also 8 a.m. and the starting line for the half-marathon runners is at 9th and Market streets. Walkers and runners may register now online at either www.phillyhalf.com or www.JeffersonHospital.org/jpb.

Your Walk fee includes a "Big Walk for Little Feet" t-shirt. To form a team or five or more members, call Phyllis Nangle in the hospital's Development Office at 215-955-6138. All walkers are encouraged to collect pledges to benefit all babies born at Jefferson. For information, call 1-800-539-9999 or go to www.JeffersonHospital.org/jpb.

Last year's event drew nearly 10,000 entries for the half-marathon. Competition and awards will again be held for corporate and running clubs. Continued on Page 4

New Radiology Facility Places Jefferson In Forefront of Molecular Imaging Field

Jefferson University Hospitals has opened a new Molecular Imaging Research Facility on the 7th floor of the hospital, which will allow for the first time patients to receive structural imaging on a hybrid PET-CT scanner. "This new lab is another example of Jeffer…
JMC Team Studying Work Hours of Third-Year Medical Students

With much attention and discussion devoted recently to the issue of long work hours for medical residents, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) has now set 80 hours as the maximum residents may work each week. Now, a team of Jefferson Medical College (JMC) physicians and administrators is studying the same issue as it impacts the work schedules of third-year medical students. The third year is when most medical students devote time in “rotation,” with much of that time spent working at various affiliate hospitals to receive hands-on clinical training.

The JMC team performed a study assessing the topic, presenting their findings to the national meeting of the Association for Surgical Education (ASE) in Houston. Co-authors of the study — entitled “Medical Student ‘Work Hours: Is it an Issue?’” — are Philip Wolfson, MD, Director of Undergraduate Education, Department of Surgery; John Caruso, MD, Medical Education Director, Department of Medicine; Sherry Weitz, Coordinator for Undergraduate Education, Department of Surgery; and Jon Veloski, MS, Director, Medical Education Research.

Says Dr. Wolfson: “The purpose of our study was to determine the attitudes of surgical faculty about student ‘work hours’ during surgical clerkships, assess how much time students actually spend in the hospital, and compare the opinions of faculty with those of students.”

Questionnaires sent to ASE member faculty yielded 251 responses. In addition, a questionnaire to JMC students drew 180 responses.

Dr. Wolfson summarized conclusions:

“A slight majority of faculty and a large majority of students support setting limits on students’ clerkship hours, with faculty from Canada being as much in favor as are the students. Although our own students enter the Surgery clerkship with realistic expectations that they will commit 80 hours per week, they recommend that the clerkship be limited to 70 hours. Comments evidenced very wide ranges of opinion.”

Help! Blood Supply Running Dangerously Low

The Blood Donor Center has issued an urgent call for blood donors:

“Please help us out during this critical blood shortage crisis and give blood. We have a region-wide currently operating medical clinics at five sites in the Philadelphia area and has served more than 70,000 individuals since 1993. This grant will allow the program to open a new clinic at Eliza Shirley House, an emergency shelter at 1300 Arch St. for women and their families, managed by the Salvation Army. The grants are part of AAMC’s “Caring for Community” program which provides funding for service projects initiated, developed, and administered by medical students in collaboration with existing community agencies.

To Open New Shelter for Homeless Men

AAMC Grant Enables JeffHOPE To Open New Shelter for Homeless Men

Jefferson Medical College (JMC) is one of eight medical schools in the United States to receive a grant from the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), for the development of student-initiated community service programs. The grant to JMC was awarded to JeffHOPE, the organization founded more than a decade ago by Jefferson medical students who recognized the need for better access to health care in the local homeless community. JeffHOPE currently operates medical clinics at five sites in the Philadelphia area and has served more than 70,000 individuals since 1993. This grant will allow the program to open a new clinic at Eliza Shirley House, an emergency shelter at 1300 Arch St. for women and their families, managed by the Salvation Army. The grants are part of AAMC’s “Caring for Community” program which provides funding for service projects initiated, developed, and administered by medical students in collaboration with existing community agencies.

Leonard A. Frank, MD, Jefferson Museum of Urology Dedicated

The first formal event of the Jefferson Urology Centennial (1904-2004) was the dedication of The Leonard A. Frank, MD, Jefferson Museum of Urology.

Leonard G. Gemella, MD, Urology Chair and Master of Ceremonies, expressed deep gratitude for Dr. Frank’s numerous contributions, primarily his genuine interest in formative urological studies for Jefferson medical students. Dr. Frank is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Urology and an alumnus of the hospital’s Urology Residency Program.

The museum features displayed archival urological cytoscopes, resectoscopes, endoscopes, urethral dilators, technical manuals and anatomical specimens. Also exhibited is a pictorial history of the department.

The Department of Urology is most grateful to the generosity of The Pennsylvania Prostate Center, who sponsored this memorable event attended by Dr. Frank’s family and 75 other guests.

You can visit the Urology Museum on the 11th floor of the College Building.

Family Medicine Residency Holds 50th Year Reunion

C. R. Bard, Inc. Urology Fellowship Honors Demetrius Bagley, MD

C. R. Bard, Inc., a leading multinational developer, manufacturer and marketer of innovative, life-enhancing medical technologies, has awarded a three-year fellowship of $250,000 to the Department of Urology of Jefferson Medical College (JMC) in honor of Demetrius H. Bagley, MD, the Nathan Lewis Hawfill Professor of Urology and Professor of Radiology at JMC. The C. R. Bard Fellowship in Endourology and Laparoscopy recognizes Dr. Bagley’s longstanding relationship with the company, where he has been involved in developing specialized instrumentation for the urological division located in Covington, GA.

Dr. Bagley is an internationally recognized expert in endourology. His clinical interests include the treatment of urinary calculi, tumors of the ureter and kidney, and difficult endoscopic problems. Says Dr. Bagley, “This fellowship gives our department the opportunity to offer a year’s training in endourology and laparoscopy to three different physicians, as well as providing time for them to engage in research and clinical practice. We are very interested in advancing our knowledge in diagnosing and treating calculi, obstructions, and tumors of the upper urinary tract through minimally invasive procedures.”

Pankaj Kalia, MD, has been appointed as the Bard Fellow for this year.

C. R. Bard, Inc. introduced the Foley catheter, one of the most widely used products in urology, more than 70 years ago. The company is the worldwide market leader in urological diagnostic and interventional products.

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Jefferson Hospital’s JeffSTAT Takes to the Air

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and JeffSTAT, Jefferson’s ground medical transportation service, announced it will begin to provide air medical transport services in August. The medically equipped helicopter and transport team will service all hospitals in the Delaware Valley, including members of the Jefferson Health System.

Adding the helicopter means JeffSTAT will be the only all-inclusive provider of ground and air medical transportation service in the Philadelphia Region.

Based at the Sterling Aviation Heliport on Columbia Boulevard on the Delaware River, the helicopter will be available 24 hours a day for both inter-hospital transports and scene transports. JeffSTAT will operate the single pilot, twin-engine, instrument-equipped helicopter capable of speeds up to 150 mph.

Expediting Emergency Care

Brian Sweeney, Director of JeffSTAT, says, “Jefferson is pleased to be able to provide helicopter services that were not always available immediately when we needed them. Response times will improve significantly.”

While most helicopter services are grounded during adverse weather conditions, JeffSTAT will still be able to safely provide transportation services via ground ambulance, explains Mr. Sweeney.

“Providing both ground and air transport services also makes it easier for hospitals and physicians to coordinate services. They will no longer need to call one company for a ground ambulance and a different company for a helicopter,” Mr. Sweeney adds.

JeffSTAT has entered into a partnership with Air Methods, the largest provider of medical helicopter services in the world. Air Methods will manage the aviation aspects of the program, including helicopter maintenance, the pilots and mechanics, communications and aviation operations. Jefferson will provide the medical crew, consisting of critical care transport nurses and paramedics, medical direction for the program, training and operational oversight.

JeffSTAT’s services can be requested 24 hours a day through its dispatch center at 1-800-JEFF21.

Jefferson Scientists Find How HIV Causes Dementia

Ever since the AIDS epidemic began more than two decades ago, scientists have been trying to understand how one-quarter of those infected with HIV develop dementia.

Now, researchers at Jefferson Medical College (JMC) may have an answer.

Investigators led by virologist Roger J. Pomerantz, MD, Professor of Medicine, Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics, and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Professor of Family Medicine, Jefferson has shown that the HIV virus produces proteins that turn on specific biochemical pathways in the brain, leading to neuronal cell death.

“Neurons die,” Dr. Pomerantz says, “and the brain atrophies.” Infectious agents such as those causing meningitis or herpes infection don’t do this, but HIV does.

Dr. Pomerantz and his colleagues reported their results in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

“We feel that it’s mainly the virus and viral proteins causing the neuronal cell death, and now we may know the precise pathways involved,” Dr. Pomerantz says. “Now we can rationally design drugs that could protect brain cells from the effects of the HIV virus.”

Dr. Pomerantz is also Professor of Medicine, Biochemistry and Molecular Pharmacology and Director of the Center for Human Virology and Biodendence, JMC.

JHS Hospitals Participating in Premier Hospital Quality Incentive Project

All member hospitals of the Jefferson Health System are participating in a new Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) demonstration project designed to examine – for the first time – the impact of financial incentives on quality of care.

The three-year project, called the Hospital Quality Incentive Demonstration Project, is facilitated by Premier, Inc., and involves 278 hospitals throughout the nation.

Participating hospitals have the potential to receive lump sum bonus reimbursement from CMS each year based on their performance compared to other hospitals in Premier’s Perspective Online™ quality measurement system.

Hospitals that perform in the top 10 percent of a clinical area will receive a 2 percent increase in Medicare reimbursement for that area.

Hospitals that perform in the top 20 percent of a clinical area will receive a 1 percent increase in Medicare reimbursement for that area.

“With increasing costs impacting hospitals, these attractive incentives are anticipated to stimulate improved performance and quality of care,” says Jonathan Gottlieb, MD, Jefferson Hospital’s Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer.

Conversely, a hospital failing to perform beyond a minimum threshold established in the project’s first year will experience a 1 to 2 percent decrease in reimbursement.

Clinical focus areas include acute myocardial infarction (AMI), coronary artery bypass graft (CABG), community acquired pneumonia (CAP), congestive heart failure (CHF), and hip and knee replacement (Medicare patients only).

Staff from Performance Improvement and Financial Administration attended a training session in the spring to learn how to use Premier’s quality measurement system to generate comparative reports for Jefferson Hospital related to the demonstration project.

To learn more, visit www.qualitycms.com or visit www.cca.jhs.org.

Caring for the Country...

Caring for the Country...

New Book by Howard K. Rabinowitz, MD

For more than a quarter century, Jefferson’s Physician Shortage Area Program (PSAP) has been one of the most successful programs in the country in increasing the supply and retention of rural physicians.

Now, Howard K. Rabinowitz, MD, Professor of Family Medicine, Jefferson Medical College (JMC), and PSAP Director, has published a book about the PSAP supported by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.


Each of these Jefferson alumni has achieved his or her own personal dream of becoming a family doctor in a small rural town, at the same time meeting a real need to provide access to health care in their rural communities.

Taken together, their profiles – obtained through audiotaped personal interviews, and shadowing these physicians as they saw more than 100 patients in their offices and hospitals – provide a realistic picture of what rural family practice is like at the beginning of the 21st century.

Palliative Stetens, Candid Dialogue

Through poignant stories and candid dialogue, the profiles cover the spectrum of social and professional issues that rural family doctors face, such as the scope of rural family practice, the roles of medical schools and hospital systems, healthcare policy, rural obstetrics and telemedicine.

The book ends with the news that Vince Pro, JMC ’07, has been admitted to Jefferson’s PSAP. Vince is the son of Bernice Pro, JMC ’80, one of the 10 physicians profiled, and is the first child of a PSAP graduate to also be in the PSAP.

Purchase Book at Jefferson Bookstore

You can purchase “Caring for the Country” at the Jefferson Bookstore, at its new location at 1009 Chestnut St., or online at www.jefferson.edu/bookstore. To learn more, call 215-955-7922.

August 1, 2004
Jefferson Distance Run continued from page 1

In addition to this year’s half-marathon, the Philadelphia Festival of Races will hold the 12th annual Philadelphia Children’s Run on Saturday, September 18, and the 5K Classic Run on Sunday, September 19.

Jefferson Distance Run from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., Monday through Friday. Please call 215-349-7760 to schedule a time if you need assistance in signing up.

JeffNews, August 4, 2004

Jefferson Volunteers Needed for Race, Walk

Jefferson Hospital surceave would approve your help as a volunteer for the Race or the Walk. Events Thursday, September 18, through Sunday, September 19, there are a host of volunteer opportunities for you and your family members. Other activities are also appropriate for children.

Jefferson volunteers, making this the perfect opportunity for groups, including Jefferson departments, their families and children.

Please respond to our call for volunteers so that we can achieve our goal of 125 Jefferson volunteers to cover all these exciting activities.

To volunteer, call the Volunteer Office at 215-955-6222.

Expressing a Heartfelt ‘Thank You’

Roe Osowksi, Manager of Practice Activities, Department of Anesthesiology, said Jefferson’s Medical Record Courtroom encompasses your sincere gratitude to the entire Jefferson community for the successful benefit for Seana and Matthew Osowksi, two of their grandchildren with cancer.

“We greatly appreciate the support we received from our friends and coworkers. Many others have asked how they can help.”

For more information, call 215-955-4038 or r.osowksi@jefferson.edu

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To place an ad to buy or sell personal items, or to rent property, you will need to contact:

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Article and photo ideas, contact:

Jean.Itmor@jefferson.edu or 215-955-2827.

We welcome ideas, but cannot guarantee publication in available issue. Preparation and production time is four weeks.

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