Jefferson Hospital’s Advanced Heart Failure and Cardiac Transplant Center Team Performs First Transplant

With more than 400 patients, the newly opened Advanced Heart Failure and Cardiac Transplant Center at the Jefferson Heart Institute continues to grow under the leadership of its Director, Paul J. Mather, MD, to meet the demands and challenges of end-stage heart failure. On November 23, the Center performed its first cardiac transplant, under the supervision of Surgical Director of Transplantation Daniel Marelli, MD, and Dr. Mather.

A comprehensive team, including cardiovascular anesthesiologists David P. Maguire, MD, and Stephen E. McNulty, DO, pathologist Douglas Reale, MD, PhD, and infectious diseases specialist Robert E. Measley, MD, on a 52-year-old male from Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania who is a long-time patient of Dr. Mather.

“Though the cornerstone for surgery for advanced heart failure is heart transplantation,” says Dr. Marelli, “we constantly evaluate patients to see if there are other potential options, ranging from drugs to different types of surgery to investigational treatments and devices such as heart assist pumps.”

Two recent staff appointments are Sharon Rubin, MD, who comes from Temple University Hospital’s Heart Failure and Cardiac Transplant Center, and David Whellan, MD, from Duke University Hospital’s Heart Failure Program. They join Dr. Mather, who has been involved with more than 600 heart transplants, Dr. Marelli, who joined the Center from UCLA and has participated in more than 500 heart transplants, Scott Silvestry, MD, Linda Bogar, MD, and James Diehl, MD, Director of Cardiothoracic Surgery. The center’s team has combined experience of more than 35 years in end-stage heart failure and cardiac transplantation.

For more information about the new Center or to make referrals, call 215-955-5050.

JMC Students Bring Holiday Hope and Cheer to Children

The JMC student-run JeffHOPE for Kids third annual holiday party brought hope and cheer to more than 70 children at the ACTS Women and Children’s shelter in North Philadelphia. Gifts donated by the Jefferson Day Care Center, faculty, students and staff were placed under the “Giving Tree” located in the Jefferson Alumni Hall lobby since November, and were distributed at the party. Each child received one article of clothing and one toy requested by the children’s families.

Women’s Board Funding Revives Blood Donor Recognition Luncheon

Thanks to funding from the Women’s Board of Jefferson Hospital, for the first time in 10 years employees were honored at a Blood Donor Recognition Luncheon for their generosity in donating blood.

“We had to suspend the event after 1994 because of budget cuts,” explains Louise Taylor, Blood Donor Coordinator. “We are so grateful to the Women’s Board for bringing back this opportunity to recognize employees who give over and over.”

Donating is especially important because our blood supply remains critically low. We urge all employees who can give, to do so today. You can give blood every 56 days without concern for your health.

See Page 2 for premiums for donating and photos of employees honored for giving over and over.

Jefferson Conducts 10-Hospital Disaster Drill To Gauge Terrorism Preparedness

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital conducted one of the largest multi-hospital emergency drills in the United States and the largest in Jefferson’s history.

As many as 400 volunteers, including more than 200 first-year Jefferson Medical College students and Jefferson College of Health Professions nursing students, were made up by injury simulation experts as disaster “victims.” After a grueling three-hour make-up process, the “victims” were transported to Jefferson and 10 other area hospitals for treatment and care.
Research Update

The following three summaries contain findings by neuroscientists at Jefferson Medical College (JMC) and the Farber Institute for Neurosciences at Thomas Jefferson University that were presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience.

X Uncovering New Evidence About Statins’ Effects on Alzheimer’s Disease Neuroscientists at JMC and the Farber Institute have taken another step in understanding the potential effects of anti-cholesterol drugs on Alzheimer’s disease. They have identified a biochemical pathway that affects the activity of statins, particularly their ability to break down an early form of the protein amyloid that clusters and forms sticky plaques in the brains of patients with Alzheimer’s. The results may eventually help provide new targets for anti-amyloid drugs to help treat Alzheimer’s.

The findings came from a series of experiments conducted by Steve Pedrini, PhD, a postdoctoral fellow in Neurology and his co-workers.

“It’s particularly important to understand the pathways involved in Alzheimer’s, especially to find more specific therapies,” Dr. Pedrini says.

“This reveals an unsuspected pathway linking statins and amyloid metabolism,” says Samuel Gandy III, MD, PhD, Director of Neurosciences. “This may help unravel statin action in Alzheimer’s.”

X Finding Evidence at Lead Exposure Affecting Recovery from Brain Injury Lead exposure at a young age can hurt the brain’s development and cause learning and behavioral problems. It may also interfere with recovery from a brain injury.

A new study by Jefferson scientists shows that young laboratory animals exposed to low levels of lead take significantly longer to recover from a brain injury than those animals that weren’t lead-exposed.

According to Jay Schneider, PhD, Professor of Pathology, Anatomy and Cell Biology, JMC, even low levels of lead exposure can have profound effects on the structure and function of the developing nervous system and cause attention, memory, learning, emotional and other behavioral problems that persist into adulthood.

Dr. Schneider says that it isn’t uncommon for children to have brain injuries. Yet, no one has looked at the effects of lead exposure early in life on the response of the brain to a later injury.

“Our results potentially add more item to the long list of reasons why preventing lead exposure early in life is so important,” Dr. Schneider says.

X Finding New Way to Convert Adult Human Stem Cells to Longer-Lasting Dopamine Neurons Jefferson researchers have found a new way to coax bone marrow stem cells into becoming dopamine-producing neurons. If the method proves reliable, the work may ultimately lead to new therapies for neurological diseases such as Parkinson’s disease, which is marked by a loss of dopamine-making cells in the brain.

Developmental biologist Lorraine Iacovitti, PhD, Associate Director of the Farber Institute for Neurosciences, and her workers developed the findings.

The research team also found a second enzyme involved in dopamine production, and an important molecule called the dopamine transporter.

“If we can now appropriately direct the differentiation of bone marrow stem cells, these cells could provide an abundant source of adult human neurons for use in the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases,” Dr. Iacovitti says.

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Cancer Surgeon Adam Berger, MD, Joins Hospital

Surgeon Adam Craig Berger, MD, who has received special training in the treatment of gastrointestinal cancers, has joined the Department of Surgery at Jefferson Hospital and will have an academic appointment in the Department of Surgery, Jefferson Medical College (JMC). Dr. Berger is interested in the multidisciplinary management of malignancies of the upper gastrointestinal tract including esophageal, gastric and pancreatic cancers and has received advanced training in managing melanoma, sarc coma and breast cancers. He most recently completed a fellowship in surgical oncology at the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia.

Herbert Cohn, MD, Interim Chair of Surgery at Jefferson, says: “Dr. Berger will collaborate with other members of the Division of General Surgery to develop minimally invasive approaches in the surgical management of esophageal, gastric and pancreatic malignancies.”

Active in clinical trials, he is a member of the American College of Surgeons Oncology Group (ACOSOG) and the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG).

Dr. Berger completed an internship and residency in general surgery at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore. He has also served as a clinical associate in the surgery branch of the National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD.

He received his MD in 1995 from the New York University School of Medicine and a BA in 1991 from the University of Chicago. Author of more than 30 publications, chapters, editorials, reviews and abstracts, Dr. Berger’s professional and scientific society associate memberships include the American College of Surgeons, the Society of Surgical Oncology and the American Association for Cancer Research. He is an active member of the Association of Academic Surgery and the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

Hospital Awarded Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Grant for Homeless Project

The Philadelphia affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation has awarded Thomas Jefferson University Hospital’s “Breast Health in Homeless Women Project” a $60,000 grant.

The announcement credits Jefferson’s project as being selected because of “its initiative in relation to the specific breast health needs of the homeless population.”

Jefferson is one of 34 Delaware Valley recipients of this year’s awards.

The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation was established in 1982 by Nancy Brinker to honor the memory of her sister, Susan G. Komen, who died from breast cancer at 36.

In Memoriam

Lea F. Sullivan

With the entire Jefferson community saddened by the tragic death of Lea F. Sullivan, a very promising and popular third-year Jefferson Medical College (JMC) student, a scholarship fund has been established in her memory. Contributions to the Lea Fehrder Sullivan Scholarship Fund for Women Medical Students may be directed to the Thomas Jefferson University Office of Institutional Advancement, Suite 110, 925 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19107. JMC plans to conduct a memorial service for Ms. Sullivan in March.

Peter Amadio Jr., MD

The Jefferson community mourns the death of Peter Amadio Jr., MD, 77, of Jamison, who retired as Professor of Family Medicine, Jefferson Medical College, in 2001. A 1958 graduate of Jefferson Medical College, Dr. Amadio had joined the newly established Department of Family Medicine in 1973, and subsequently was presented an Outstanding Teacher Award by Jefferson’s family residents and in 1989 the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching from Jefferson’s medical students.

Before joining Jefferson’s faculty, Dr. Amadio had volunteered once a week at a Jefferson clinic while working 12 years as a researcher for pharmaceutical companies. He was “thrilled” to have the chance to be a full-time family doctor, his wife of 57 years, Vilma Antonioli Amadio, said.

Emmy Award-Winning Composer Brings Musical Message of Hope to Cancer Survivors

Emmy award-winning composer and pianist Misha Segal presented a special concert to benefit the Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson at the conclusion of the center’s third annual educational conference, “Life After a Cancer Diagnosis.”

Misha Segal’s concert, “Beauty Found in Unlikely Places,” has been performed at cancer centers across the country to raise spirits, funds and awareness in the fight against cancer. His concert series was inspired by his mother’s six-year battle with lung cancer. He performed selections from his latest piano release, Female, and spoke of how much music meant to his mother.

The conference also featured interactive breakout sessions presented by experts in the field on topics related to cancer treatment, recovery and survivorship.

Howard K. Rabinowitz, MD, Appointed to IOM’s Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellowship Board

Howard K. Rabinowitz, MD, Professor of Family Medicine, and Director, Physician Shortage Area Program (PSAP), Jefferson Medical College, has recently been appointed to Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) Health Policy Fellowships Advisory Board. This one-year Fellowship, conducted by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academy of Sciences, provides mid-career health professionals with comprehensive training in health policy, and in-depth experience working in the United States Congress. Dr. Rabinowitz, a member of the IOM, is a former RWJ Health Policy Fellow who worked in the office of Senator John D. (Jay) Rockefeller IV (W VA) in 1993-94.

In addition, Dr. Rabinowitz recently consulted in Australia with the Council of Deans of Australian Medical Schools and the Australian government to help evaluate that country’s rural physician training initiatives, based on the success of Jefferson’s rural PSAP.

Dr. Rabinowitz also presented the PSAP research outcomes at the IOM’s Workshop on The Future of Rural Medicine, and presented new research on the long-term retention of PSAP graduates at the annual meeting of the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA).

2005 Dementia Management Conference Set for February 4

The 6th annual Dementia Management Conference – “Dementia Management: New Directions in Providing Care to Patients and Their Families” – will be held February 4 from 8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. at the Blanenle Life Sciences Building. Sponsored by the Center for Applied Research on Aging and Health, Jefferson College of Health Professions, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and the Farber Institute for Neurosciences at Thomas Jefferson University, the conference is targeted to multidisciplinary professionals. These include physicians, nurses, occupational and physical therapists, social workers and psychologists as well as researchers in Alzheimer’s disease, dementia and family caregiving.

The conference is also appropriate for Alzheimer family caregivers and other consumers with an interest in these issues. Keynote Speaker will be Samuel Gandy III, MD, PhD, Director of the Farber Institute. Barry Rovner, MD, Director of Clinical Alzheimer’s Disease Research at the Farber Institute, will be among the presenters.

Contact Sandy Schinfeld, MPH, Sandy.Schinfeld@jefferson.edu

$30,000 Gift Received for Cardiac Imaging Research

Thomas Jefferson University has received a $30,000 gift from Atlantic Medical Imaging (AMI), a 20-physician radiology practice with offices in southern New Jersey. The gift will fund a fellowship in cardiac imaging in the Department of Radiology, chaired by Vijay M. Rao, MD.

“They gift presents a wonderful model of private practice/academic department partnership, setting a stage for a totally new paradigm that we hope will encourage other practice groups to become involved and support education and research in the academic community,” says Dr. Rao.

“Jefferson is training top-notch radiology residents and fellows, and private practice groups want to hire excellent people, so it benefits everyone,” said Cape May, N.J. resident and AMI CEO Peter Sirivan, who is a Boston University School of Medicine graduate.

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Marc Peck, MD, AMI President, and a Jefferson postgraduate alumnus, says, "Performing a CT scan of the coronary arteries allows us to evaluate not only the artery, but its wall and the plaque formations that may be present. It is certainly less invasive than angiography for the patient. When we hire new radiologists for our practice, we would like them to know these advanced procedures.

By funding this fellowship, we ensure that there will be a pool of well-trained radiologists that our practice and others can hire. We want to help maintain the integrity of academic medicine," David Levin, MD, former Chair of Radiology at Jefferson, was instrumental in forming the relationship between Jefferson and AMI. He comments, "Technology has raced ahead at a tremendous pace. Academic health centers like Jefferson simply cannot bear the entire cost of hiring the best educators and purchasing the latest equipment without some outside help. Dr. Peck understands this problem and offered to assist us with this gift. He is really a visionary and progressive thinker."
BROWN BAG LUNCHEONS

Lebanon and lunch staff for group, students and other members of the Jefferson community. The meetings be held on the third Wednesday of each month, noon to 1 p.m., 1308 Pavilion. Contact John at Jeffer@Jefferson.edu for more information.

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

Tuesday, January 4

• Radiology, Gerald G. Mitchell, MD, Radiology, TLUH. "ACRIN Multicenter Evaluation of Imaging for Cervical Cancer Staging." 4 to 7 p.m., Main.

Thursday, January 6

• Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson, John S. Czuczman, MD. "The Role of Immunotherapeutics and Targeted Therapeutics in the Treatment of Solid Tumors." 4 p.m., 211 S. 9th St.

Friday, January 7

• Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson, Research in Progress, noon, 101 BLSB.

Friday, January 14

• Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson, Research in Progress, noon, 101 BLSB.

Tuesday, January 18

• Radiology, Mehr Shirani, MD, PhD, Associate Professor, Medicine, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, New Brunswick, NJ. "Cardiac MRI: Current and Emerging Clinical Applications." 4 to 7 p.m., Main.

Thursday, January 19

• Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson, Randy B. Bratwick, PhD, Microbiology and Immunology, Indiana University School of Medicine, Walthier Oncology Center. "Alternations in CD40 Molecules and NK Cells Following a Virus Infection." noon, 101 BLSB.

Friday, January 21

• Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson, Research in Progress, noon, 101 BLSB.

Saturday, January 22

• Atrium restaurant, 7th floor, Jefferson Hospital. "Late Great Works Festival." 8 p.m., Academy of Music, Limited tickets available.

January 1, 2005

CLASSIFIED

JeffNEWS Classifieds - Free to Jeffersons. Minimum 5 words. Classifieds must be approved by News Editor.

Submit: Offers for sale in the Ben Franklin, part-time, hours flexible, willing to negotiate. Call Dr. King at 609-425-2881.

For sale: See daily classified for current condition: exam table, base, wall cabinet, ultrasound transducer, 3 DR systems, chairs, etc. Reasonable offers accepted. Possible delivery. Call 570-407-2716.

For sale: 2002 Acura TL (Metallic Mtl), 18,000 miles, garage kept, fully maintained by dealerships, fluid/Fire recently changed, sun "Boze 6" cd player, AM/FM, sound system, heated leather seat with lumbar support, traction control, anti-lock brakes, "E" tinted glass to avoid glare, fog lights, etc., any ocean fuel can be used (automatically adjusted). $20,000. Call Lee at 856-425-8255 or email lee5285@atmail.com.

For sale: 2002 Audi A4 (Titanium White), 33,000 miles, garage kept, fully maintained by dealerships, fluid/Fire recently changed, sun "Boze 6" cd player, AM/FM, sound system, heated leather seat with lumbar support, traction control, anti-lock brakes, "E" tinted glass to avoid glare, fog lights, etc., any ocean fuel can be used (automatically adjusted). $22,500. Call Lee at 856-425-8255 or email lee5285@atmail.com.

For sale: 1999 Honda Odyssey, dark green, 71,000 miles. $6,500. Call John at 610-543-3694.

For sale: 1994 Volvo 850 turbo sedan, aqwa with all Origional parts, $3,500. Condition condition, both to SR. Call Lin at 856-428-0183.

For sale: Office chairs, file cabinets, desk and cabinet, 15" personal computer screen, keyboard, etc., den furniture, stereo, iPhone, 10 gallon hot water heater (uses less than 1500 miles), 100 Meiler 18" computer shelves. Call Lee at 856-428-0255 or email lee5285@atmail.com.

For sale: Seta and armchair fabric, extra wide sofa, linen, available in good condition, both to SR. Call John at 856-428-0183.

