Jefferson Launches Urban Campus Transformation With a Lead Gift from Dorrance H. Hamilton

In a project that will literally transform its campus, Thomas Jefferson University will construct a campus green, medical education building and underground parking structure, with the help of a $25 million donation from Dorrance H. “Dodo” Hamilton. “The complex will be a major addition to the redevelopment of this critical area of Center City Philadelphia,” announced Thomas Jefferson University President Robert L. Barchi, MD, PhD.

University Honors Doctors Carmona, Cassel, Leffall at 181st Commencement

Jefferson’s 181st Annual Commencement will be at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, June 2, at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. University President Robert L. Barchi, MD, PhD, will deliver the Convocation and confer all degrees. Thomas J. Nasca, MD, FACP, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean, Jefferson Medical College (JMC), will present Doctor of Medicine degrees to 231 JMC students.

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Jefferson’s Liver Disease Program: Diagnosis, Therapy, Research, Management

Victor Navarro, MD, Medical Director of Jefferson Hospital’s Liver Transplantation Program, works toward three important goals:

1. Treat patients’ advanced liver disease and stave off the need for transplantation
2. Encourage more patients to choose Jefferson for care when they need a transplant so they benefit from Jefferson’s outstanding outcomes
3. Remain at the leading edge of new therapies while expanding research

Jefferson’s Liver Disease Program, which includes three dedicated hepatologists, is a collaborative effort among physicians and other specialists in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology in the Department of Medicine and the Division of Transplantation and Hepato-Biliary Surgery in the Department of Surgery at Jefferson Medical College and Jefferson Hospital, along with radiologists, interventional radiologists and endoscopists, oncologists and others.

“One of our strengths is our diversity and the interdisciplinary nature of the program,” says Anthony J. DiMarino, MD, Director at Jefferson’s Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. The program’s medical staff, led by Dr. Navarro, includes Steven K. Herrine, MD, Associate Medical Director of the Liver Transplantation Program and Simona Rossi, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine and member of the Hepatology staff who has a special interest in liver disease in women.

“At every stage of a patient’s liver disease, we try to find any factor that can be mitigated in the disease to slow its progression. We treat all the complications and oversee the process to determine if transplantation is necessary,” says Dr. Navarro.

Focus on Hepatitis C, Portal Hypertension

More patients come to Jefferson’s liver disease program for hepatitis C virus (HCV) than for any other reason,” says Dr. Herrine. “We try to identify and treat patients with HCV, the leading cause of cirrhosis and liver transplant, as early in the infection as possible.”

Portal hypertension results when the blood vessels leading to the liver come under increasingly high pressure because of cirrhosis. As a remedy, Jefferson radiologists can insert a transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt (TIPS) to decrease the risk of life-threatening hemorrhage and fluid accumulation in patients with advanced liver disease.

Treating Cancer

Small liver cancers, Dr. Navarro notes, can be cured by liver transplantation. Physicians inject chemotherapy directly into the liver, cauterize the tumor, or inject it with high concentrations of alcohol to delay or stop its growth until a transplant is possible. “At Jefferson, we also successfully treat other liver tumors with liver resection,” says Ignazio Marino, MD, Director of the Division of Transplantation at Jefferson Medical College and Jefferson Hospital. “We’re working with molecular virologists to detect liver cancers earlier when they are most treatable,” Dr. Navarro explains. He is expanding the liver program’s research on liver cancer and fatty liver.

Jefferson’s sizable clinical trials program involves the latest developments in therapy for chronic liver disease, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and hepatocellular cancer. Jefferson researchers conduct studies in drug toxicity and with laboratory models of liver injury. For more information on Jefferson’s Liver Disease Program, call 215-955-0215 or 1-800-JEFF-NOW.

Improvements in Liver Transplant Immunosuppression

Jefferson Hospital has the longest continuously active liver transplantation program in the Delaware Valley, says Ignazio Marino, MD, Director of the Division of Transplantation at Jefferson Medical College and Jefferson Hospital. Dr. Marino leads a team of multi-organ transplant surgeons, including Cataldo Doria, MD, and Carlo G.B. Ramirez, MD.

A Liver Transplant Program’s goal must be to provide high patient survival rates at the time of transplant and long-term survival rates with a high quality of life. “A program should provide excellent outcomes, as we do here at Jefferson, but also innovation in treatment after transplant,” Dr. Marino says.

A key to accomplishing this, Dr. Marino says, is developing new techniques in immunosuppression. In the long term, immunosuppression creates significant problems, such as infection, diabetes, infection, hypertension, and kidney failure, which all interfere with the length and quality of life after transplant. “Clinical protocols – and Jefferson is on the forefront of several of these,” he says, “are aimed at minimizing the amount of immunosuppression and toxicity, finding the right drug mix to have a patient do well years after transplant.”

A team led by Dr. Marino published data last year on a new combination of immunosuppression drugs that showed promising results. He and his coworkers plan to continue studying new combinations in the future.

VITAL SIGNS: APRIL 2005

TDNR, Methodist, Geriatric Psychiatry

Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience

Budget Actual Prior Year

Admissions 3,422 3,559 3,300
Length of Stay 6.32 6.06 6.69
Patient Days 21,634 21,333 20,703
Patient Visits 39,664 39,469 38,756

Patient Satisfaction Overall Mean Score (Jan-Mar) 83.0
2005 Commencement Honorary Degree Recipients

Vice Admiral Richard H. Carmona, MD, MPH, FACS, Doctor of Science

Vice Admiral Richard H. Carmona, MD, MPH, FACS, the nation’s chief educator on public health and medicine, was sworn in as the 17th Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service on August 5, 2002. Before that, Dr. Carmona was Chair, State of Arizona Southern Regional Emergency Medical System; Professor of Surgery, Public Health and Family and Community Medicine at the University of Arizona, and the Pima County Sheriff’s Department surgeon and deputy sheriff.

Dr. Carmona has served as chief medical officer, hospital chief executive officer, public health officer, and finally chief executive officer of the Pima County Healthcare System. He has also served as a medical director of police and fire departments and is a fully qualified peace officer with expertise in special operations and emergency preparedness.

Born and raised in New York City, Dr. Carmona dropped out of high school and enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1967, joining the Army’s Special Forces. He ultimately became a combat-decorated Vietnam veteran, and began his career in medicine.

Christine K. Cassel, MD, MACP, Doctor of Science

Christine K. Cassel, MD, MACP, is President and CEO of the American Board of Internal Medicine and the ABIM Foundation in Philadelphia, a position she has held since July 1, 2003. She is former Dean of the School of Medicine and Vice President for Medical Affairs at Oregon Health and Science University, Portland.

Dr. Cassel is a leading expert in geriatric medicine, medical ethics and quality of clinical care. Among her many professional leadership positions, Dr. Cassel was named the first woman president of the American College of Physicians in 1996. Immediate past-Chair, ABIM Foundation Board of Trustees, she served as Board Chair, Greenwall Foundation, which supports work in bioethics, is past President of the American Federation for Aging Research and was a member of the Advisory Committee to the Director at the National Institutes of Health.

In 1997-98, Dr. Cassel served on the President’s Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry. She was formerly Professor and Chair, Henry L. Schwartz Department of Geriatrics and Adult Development and Professor of Geriatrics and Medicine, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York City and Director, Geriatric Research, Educational and Clinical Center, Bronx Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

LaSalle D. Leffall Jr., MD, FACS, Doctor of Science

LaSalle D. Leffall Jr., MD, FACS, a surgeon and oncologist, is the Charles Drew Professor of Surgery, Howard University College of Medicine, and Board Chair, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

A leader in professional and civic organizations, Dr. Leffall was appointed by President George W. Bush as Chair of the President’s Cancer Panel in May 2002. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Surgery and a Fellow of both the American College of Surgeons and the American College of Gastroenterology (and Honorary Lifetime member of the latter). Dr. Leffall has served as visiting professor and guest lecturer at more than 200 medical institutions in the U.S. and other nations. He is author or coauthor of more than 130 articles and chapters.

His professional life has been devoted to the study of cancer, particularly among African-Americans. In 1979, as President of the American Cancer Society, he launched the nation’s first program to particularly among African-Americans. In 1979, as President of the American Cancer Society, he launched the nation’s first program to

Jefferson Hospital’s ‘Big Walk for Little Feet’... Five Years Young and Growing!

Jefferson Hospital’s successful Big Walk for Little Feet is now celebrating its fifth year and growing.

The date this year is Sunday, September 18. Start time is 8 a.m. sharp.

Several new features have been introduced for the 2005 Big Walk for Little Feet:

**New Walk Course**
Walkers start and finish at the Eakins Oval, at 23rd and Benjamin Franklin Parkway, in front of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. The course is still a three-mile walk, and you will pass Jefferson Hospital on the way!

Walkers are invited to bring along the whole family -- strollers, skateboarders and in-line skaters are all welcome!

**Family Sponsorships and the Big Walk Tribute Book**
For the first time, a four-tier level of sponsorships is available, ranging from $2,500 to $100. All sponsors’ names will appear in the new Tribute Book. Photos of Founding and Donor Sponsors will be published in the new Tribute Book.

**Lower Entry Fee**
The entry fee for all walkers has been reduced from $12 to $10. Babies and/or toddlers in strollers are free.

Says Thomas J. Lewis, hospital President and CEO, of the 2005 Big Walk:
“\textbf{I am pleased with the continuing new levels of support from the Big Walk, and am delighted that Jefferson employees are choosing to participate in this event along with our former patients and their families. Our goal is for the Big Walk to be the charity walk of choice for Jefferson employees.}"

**What Joining the Big Walk Means**
When you join the Jefferson Hospital Big Walk for Little Feet, you are walking for the sickest babies born in our area – to help them become healthier, bigger and stronger... the best they can be.

Under the leadership of Jay Greenspan, MD, the Division of Neonatology at Jefferson is the largest neonatal program in the Philadelphia area. Jefferson is a leader in developing and testing new technologies to help babies with breathing difficulties, the most common problem for premature infants.

Through the generous support of Big Walk parents, friends and Jefferson employees the past few years, there are BIG changes happening in the Jefferson Intensive Care Nursery. All patient rooms are being renovated, including the parents’ lounge and conference room with completion by fall 2005.

**Team Captains Wanted! Big Prizes Offered!**
Team Captains are needed from all departments to recruit walkers. Recruit six walkers and become eligible for two big prizes! A leather, electronically operated, therapeutic massage chair, a $3,500 value, goes to the Team Captain whose team raises the most amount of money. A weekend stay at the Park Hyatt Philadelphia at the Bellevue is the prize for the Team Captain who recruits the most walkers. To register as a Team Captain, call the Jefferson Events Hotline at 215-955-9100 or email events@mail.tju.edu

**Four Levels of Big Walk Family Sponsorships Offered**

**Founding Sponsorship $2,500**
• Name and full page display with photo in Big Walk Tribute Book
• Family photo taken at Big Walk finish line
• Invitation to Big Walk Parents’ and Team Captains’ kick-off breakfast

**Donor Sponsorship $1,000**
• Name and half page display with photo in Big Walk Tribute Book
• Family photo taken at Big Walk finish line
• Invitation to Big Walk Parents’ and Team Captains’ kick-off breakfast

**Friend Sponsorship $500**
• Name in Big Walk Tribute Book
• Invitation to Big Walk Parents’ and Team Captains’ kick-off breakfast

**Contributor Sponsorship $100**
• Name in Big Walk Tribute Book

Please send your sponsorship commitment to: Pheilis Naingle, Director of Events, The Jefferson Foundation, 925 Chestnut St., Suite 110, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

Proceeds benefit the Neonatal Intensive Care and Well Baby Units at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. We will contact you directly regarding your baby’s story and a photograph. If you have any questions, please contact the Jefferson Events Hotline at 215-955-9100 or email events@mail.tju.edu

**Returning Your Pledge**
We offer three options for returning Big Walk pledge contributions. Watch JeffNEWS and other outlets to learn how to return your Big Walk pledge contribution.
William D. Kocher, MD, Honored by Class of 2005 Portrait Presentation

The Class of 2005, Jefferson Medical College (JMC), honored William D. Kocher, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor of Pathology, by selecting him for the Annual Senior Portrait Presentation.

Christina Mitchell, JMC ’05, Chair of the Portrait Presentation Committee, provided opening and closing remarks. Fred Gorstein, MD, Interim Chair and Rubin Professor of Pathology, Anatomy and Cell Biology, and Roland Schwarting, MD, Associate Professor of Pathology and Director of Hematopathology, presented Dr. Kocher’s full biographical sketch.

Robert L. Barchi, MD, PhD, University President, accepted the portrait on behalf of the University Board of Trustees.

Thomas J. Nasca, MD, FACP, University Senior Vice President and Dean, JMC, who accepted the portrait for Jefferson Medical College, has called the Senior Portrait Presentation “the highest honor that can be bestowed on a faculty member at Jefferson because it is from the students. Dr. Kocher is certainly well deserving of this honor.”

Lora Rhodes, LSW, Named 2005 Oncology Social Worker of the Year

Lora Rhodes, LSW, Coordinator, Advocacy and Survivorship Program of the Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson, has been honored as the 2005 Oncology Social Worker of the Year by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society’s Greater Delaware Valley Division.

The inaugural award is presented to a professional social worker who has shown exemplary performance in improving the quality of life for patients with cancer and their families. Numerous social workers from Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware were nominated for the award.

Ms. Rhodes develops and manages education and psychosocial support programs for patients with cancer and their families. One such program, the highly successful Buddy Program, trains cancer survivors to provide short-term support to newly diagnosed patients. Through this program, more than 700 patients were matched with “buddies” in a five-year period.

Ms. Rhodes has been a social worker at Jefferson since 1996. Janet Taska, LSW, Oncology Social worker in the Department of Case Management at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, received an honorable mention for this award.

Come to Hospital’s Trauma Prevention and Outreach Fair June 7

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital is presenting a Trauma Prevention and Outreach Fair in the 10th St. Atrium of the Gibbon Building from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on June 7.

The event will provide information about summer trauma prevention, boating safety, violence prevention, campus safety, falls prevention, fire safety, drunk driving prevention and many more prevention topics.

The Trauma Program at Jefferson will be selling Bell Bike/Roller blade helmets again this year for $8 each, ranging in sizes from infant to adult. Hospital staff members will present trauma prevention posters to be entered into a contest for a prize.

The hospital’s Trauma Program and the Trauma Nurse Committee are sponsoring the Fair. Organizations attending include PA State Police, Philadelphia Police and Fire Departments, MADD-Mothers Against Drunk Driving, U.S. Coast Guard, PA Division/American Trauma Society, JESSAT, Jefferson Security, Jefferson Spinal Cord Injury Center and Magee Rehabilitation.

For more information, contact Doris Warner, RN, MSN, CEN at 215-955-6589 or Doris.Warner@mail.tju.edu

Testing for COPD – Nation’s Fourth Leading Cause of Death

It may not be a household term – yet – but COPD is the nation’s fourth ranking cause of death. COPD stands for “Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.”

It refers to a group of lung diseases such as emphysema and chronic bronchitis characterized by obstruction to airflow that interferes with normal breathing. Smoking is the most common cause of COPD, accounting for 80 to 90 percent of all cases.

As part of a national public awareness program, Thomas Jefferson University and the American Lung Association offered free testing and educational kits at McClellan Hall.

In top photo, Frank T. Leone, BA, Associate Professor of Medicine, and Director, Jefferson Center for Tobacco Research and Treatment,Ident, and David Campbell, Pulmonary Function Technologist, at right, explain to Gloria Simoncini the benefits of testing. In bottom photo, Linda Siegelberger, American Lung Association, provides patient education materials to Ms. Simoncini.

See Radiofrequency Closure® Treatment of Varicose Veins – Live on Your Computer June 22

From the convenience of home, office or laptop computer, physicians and consumers can view a new way to treat painful and unattractive varicose veins on June 22.

Vascular surgeons at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital offer a minimally invasive procedure for treating such problems.

Patients and physicians will have a chance to see this procedure firsthand when Thomas Jefferson University Hospital hosts a webcast on Wednesday, June 22, at 4:30 p.m. at www.JeffersonHospital.org/webcast

A replay version will be available beginning June 23. Called the Closure® system, the procedure, performed by R. Anthony Carabasi III, MD, uses radiofrequency energy to close the saphenous vein, a large vein that runs from the ankle to the groin.

Problems with valves in this vein often contribute to the development of varicose veins.

You will need a current version of RealPlayer to view the webcast. Go to www.JeffersonHospital.org/webcast to determine whether you have this software or to download it. Physicians may sign up at www.JeffersonHospital.org/webcast to receive CME credits for viewing this webcast.

Here’s Your Prescription for Being In the Know!

Read JeffNEWS each month. View JeffToday – Today and Every Day! Read JeffThisWeek for a capsule of this week at Jeff.

Go to www.JeffersonHospital.org/webcast on June 22 for a capsule of this week at Jeff.
BROWN BAG LUNCHES

Luncheon and gas hike group for staff, students and other members of the Jefferson community. The meetings will be held every third Wednesday of each month, noon to 1:30 p.m. Contact John at jeffcal@jeff.com for more information.

CONFERENCE AND SEMINARS

Friday, June 3

• Karman Center at Jefferson, Research in Progress, noon, 105 BLSB.

Wednesday, June 8

• Institute of Molecular Medicine, Dept. of Dermatology and Cutaneous Biology, Medicine/Rheumatology, and Orthopaedic Surgery, “Regardless of how strong a basement membrane is, basement membranes: Jefferson Matrix Biology Days - 2005, sponsored by the Lerner K. B. Foundation. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., DePalma. Also Thursdays, June 9, 16, 23 and 30.

Thursday, June 9

• Women’s Health Source, New Hope, MSN, CRNP, Community Health, TH4. “Healthy Sleeping and Healthy Care for Women,” 1 p.m. to noon, 1980 Gibbons. Call 1-800-JEFF-NOW.

Friday, June 10

• Karman Center at Jefferson, Research in Progress, noon, 105 BLSB.

Tuesday, June 14

• Women’s Health Source, New Hope, MSN, CRNP, Community Health, TH4. “Healthy Sleeping and Healthy Care for Women,” 1 p.m. to noon, 1980 Gibbons. Call 1-800-JEFF-NOW.

Friday, June 17

• Karman Center at Jefferson, Research in Progress, noon, 105 BLSB.

Thursday, June 23

• The Jefferson Digestive Disease Institute of Technology, t/b/a, noon, 107 BLSB.

Upcoming Conferences and Seminars

Thursday, September 29

• Dept. of Rehabilitation Medicine and the Office of Continuing Medical Education, in collaboration with the Joint Gemini, TH2. “Why, How? and What? - Selecting, Implementing, and Evaluating an Electronic Case Record System.” 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Contact Dr. Kevin R. Shewan at krs5@jefferson.edu for more information.