Jefferson Physicians Wrap Radiation Around Spine to Provide Cancer Pain Relief

Using the most advanced radiation technology currently available in the region, neurosurgeons and radiation oncologists at the Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience (JHN) and Thomas Jefferson University Hospital have for the first time wrapped beams of radiation around a patient’s spine, relieving pain from several cancerous tumors there while avoiding the spinal cord.

The technology, called shaped beam surgery, relies on sophisticated computers to tailor the shape and intensity of radiation beams to fit the exact size and shape of the tumor – all while sparing healthy tissue. It enables doctors to treat a range of hard-to-reach benign and malignant tumors in the brain and spine they couldn’t treat before, often avoiding invasive surgery and speeding the patient’s recovery.

Neurosurgeon David Andrews, MD, Professor of Neurosurgery, Jefferson Medical College (JMC) and Director, Division of Neuro-oncologic Neurosurgery and Stereotactic Radiosurgery, Jefferson Hospital, used shaped beam surgery to treat the patient, a 46-year-old woman from Levittown, PA, who had two tumors on her spine that had spread from another cancer elsewhere in her body. One tumor was pressing on the spinal cord, causing considerable pain. Treating the tumors with standard radiation was impossible because she had already received spine radiation more than 20 years earlier for non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma.

New Treatment Avoids Surgery

According to one of her physicians, neurosurgeon Ashwini Sharan, MD, Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery, Jefferson Medical College, the woman would have needed three separate surgeries, including abdominal surgery to reach the cancer in her lumbar spine, and back surgery to reconstruct her spine with medical screws. He explains that cancer in the spine is almost invariably considered advanced metastatic disease, and patients usually have an uncertain prognosis. The only other option besides radiosurgery is reconstructive spinal surgery, whose recovery period is usually from three to six months. “The goal is to keep patients independent, pain-free and ensure a good quality of life,” says Dr. Sharan.

“We can wrap doses around structures such as the spinal cord, and can create a very high dose of radiation and leave the cord untouched,” says Dr. Andrews, who is Director of the Radiosurgery Units at JHN.

“There’s no other technology out there that can do this.” It is available now only at Jefferson in the Delaware Valley and in a small number of medical centers in the nation.

“Shaped beam surgery is a new tool for selected patients,” says Walter J. Curran Jr., MD, Professor and Chair of Radiation Oncology, JMC, and Clinical Director, Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson. He notes that the technology provides an improved ability to specifically target a tumor with real-time imaging.

“As oncologists continue to improve treatments and enable many individuals with metastatic cancer to live longer, more productive lives, expectations and quality-of-life issues become paramount,” notes neurosurgeon James Harrop, MD, Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery, JMC.

Scenes from Jefferson’s 181st Commencement

Christopher J. O’Brien, MD, JMC ’05, 32, and his older brother, Michael, 39, last month attempted to climb Mount Everest to raise funds for the Hereditary Disease Foundation. The O’Brien brothers’ mother and sister had both died from complications from Hereditary Disease.

Michael O’Brien died during the climb when he slipped and fell into a deep crevasse May 1, as he and Chris were climbing down from a camp 20,341 feet from their base camp.

Dr. O’Brien is now enrolled in a preliminary medical residency at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey Robert Wood Johnson Hospital Camden, to be followed by a neurology residency at the Baylor Medical Center in Houston.

Personal Stories of Hope Inspire Cancer Survivors

William M. Keane, MD, Named Physician Director of Jefferson University Physicians

William M. Keane, MD, has been appointed Physician Director of Jefferson University Physicians (JUP), Robert L. Barchi, MD, PhD, University President, has announced. “In this role, Dr. Keane will report to Dean Nasca and be responsible for the oversight of the Jefferson University Physicians practice plan and implementation of new initiatives for the clinical practices,” Dr. Barchi said.

Dr. Keane, a graduate of Harvard Medical School, completed his residency in otolaryngology-head and neck surgery at the University of Pennsylvania where he remained as a full-time faculty member until becoming The Herbert Kean Professor and Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology at Jefferson Medical College (JMC) in 1991.

“While serving as Chair, Dr. Keane has established Jefferson’s Department of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery as one of the preeminent clinical care and residency training programs in the United States,” Dr. Barchi continued. “Dr. Keane is a nationally and internationally recognized head and neck surgeon and has been awarded both the Certificate of Honor and the Distinguished Service Award by the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery in recognition of his contributions to education and research.”

Dr. Keane will continue as The Herbert Kean Professor and Chair of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at JMC and maintain his practice in head and neck surgery.

Jeff-at-Night Insert
Dean’s Awards Recognize Jefferson Medical College Faculty

This year's recipients of the Dean’s Citation for Significant Contributions to the Advancement of Education at Jefferson Medical College and the Dean’s Citation for Faculty Mentoring were honored at a reception for awardees hosted by Thomas J. Nasca, MD, Senior Vice President and Dean, Jefferson Medical College, at the Union League on May 9, 2005. These awards were instituted last year by Dean Nasca to honor those faculty members who are recognized by their peers as outstanding educators and mentors of junior faculty. Awardees were nominated by Department Chairs or prior awardees and recommended for the awards by the Educational Development Advisory Committee of the Office of Faculty Affairs, which provided peer review.

The 2005 awardees are:

Dean's Citation for Significant Contributions to the Advancement of Education at Jefferson Medical College

Biology/Molecular Pharmacology: Peter Ronner, PhD, Wolfgang Vogel, PhD
Dermatology: Jason Lee, MD
Emergency Medicine: Sonia Angelo, MD, Raffi Terzian, MD
Endocrinology: Intekhab Ahmed, MD
Family Medicine: Andrew Lobl, MD, Fred Markham, MD
Hepatology: Steven Herrine, MD
Internal Medicine: Niraj Mohan, MD, Carol Reife, MD
Medicine: Bharat Awar, MD, Jonathan Gottlieb, MD, Victor Navarro, MD, John Doherty, MD, David Wiener, MD, Sandra Weibel, MD, Susan West, MD, Barry Ziring, MD
Microbiology/Immunology: Jerome Buescher, PhD
Neurology: George Brainard, PhD, David Brock, MD
Obstetrics/Gynecology: Joseph Montella, MD, Andrew Sword, MD, Abigail Wolf, MD
Orthopaedic Surgery: Alan Hillbrand, MD, Jared Parviz, MD
Otolaryngology: Edward Jaeger, MD, Edmund Pribitkin, MD
Pathology/Anatomy/Cell Biology: Richard Schmidt, PhD
Pediatrics: William McNitt, MD, Jeffrey Malatack, MD
Physiology: James Sparth Jr., MD
Psychiatry: Mitchell Cohen, MD
Radiology: Oksanan Baltarovich, MD, William Morrison, MD
Rehabilitation Medicine: Christopher Formal, MD
Surgery: Karen Ann Chojnacki, MD, Charles Copeland, MD, Joseph DeMichele, MD, Paul DiMuzio, MD, Robert Golub, MD, John Moore, MD, Ernest (Gary) Rosato, MD, Michael Weinstein, MD
Urology: Leonard Frank, MD

Dean’s Citation for Faculty Mentoring

Psychiatry: Stephen Weinstein, PhD
Neurology: Rodney Bell, MD
Family Medicine: Robert Perkel, MD
Emergency Medicine: Bernard Lopez, MD
Gastroenterology: Sidney Cohen, MD
Medicine: Michael Marangolo, MD
Pediatrics: Ruth Gottlieb, MD
Radiology: Barry Goldberg, MD, Donald Mitchell, MD
Rheumatology: Sergio Jimenez, MD

Kenneth M. Ludmerer, MD, Delivers 13th Annual Paul C. Brucker, MD, Lecture

Personal Stories of Hope Inspire Cancer Survivors

“Don’t ever give up – ever! You never know what you can do until you try.”

That was the inspired message of hope delivered to more than 100 cancer survivors and their families by Kristen Adelman, a three-time lymphoma survivor and a member of cancer survivor and champion cyclist Lance Armstrong’s “Tour of Hope.”

She and two other survivors spoke to a full house at the Kimmel Cancer Center (KCC) at Jefferson’s sixth annual Celebration of Life. Calling herself the “living proof of miracles,” Ms. Adelman told how she fought back three times when cancer returned following its first onset five years ago when she had just turned 30.

The accomplished triathlete and marathon runner held the audience spellbound telling her personal battle against cancer as well as her experiences on the cross-country inspirational cycling journey, “Tour of Hope.”

The conclusion of her talk drew a standing ovation and this reaction by Walter J. Curran Jr., MD, Clinical Director, KCC, and Chair, Radiation Oncology:

“Kristen’s story leaves us touched in ways that medical training and practice can’t teach or describe. No physician or administrator can say it better than Kristen’s words.”

Benefitting from Clinical Trials

All three speakers had benefited by either participating in or working with clinical trials as part of their treatment, Dr. Curran told the audience.

Terry Buie, “a mother and grandmother,” said “I’ve yet to speak about this out loud and never thought I could, so thank you.” She stressed how grateful she was for choosing the clinical trial option and credited her six-year-old grandson with being “my joy and inspiration.”

Tracey Nardi was 21 when her Hodgkin’s Disease began. But she was not diagnosed correctly until she was 22, more than six years ago. With the disease now in remission for more than five years, she says, “I became a survivor the day I was diagnosed. I know it would never beat me.” She is now working at what she calls her “dream job” – Clinical Research Assistant for KCC.

Dr. Curran closed the program by aptly remarking, “There are not many dry eyes in the room right now.”

The Celebration again this year 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 and writing by cancer survivors. See photos.

International Experts Come to Jefferson to Discuss Latest Progress Against Brain Tumors

An international group of experts came to the Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson to discuss the latest and most promising efforts in basic and clinical research against brain tumors at a symposium titled “Scientific and Clinical Update on Brain Tumors.”

In the photo, from left, are Derek LeFebvre, MD, PhD, National Institute of Health; Albert Wong, MD, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, Jefferson Medical College (JMC); Walter J. Curran Jr., MD, Professor and Chair, Radiation Oncology, JMC; David Andrews, MD, Professor of Neurosurgery, JMC; and Wai-Kwan Alfred Yung, MD, MD Anderson Cancer Center. Drs. Curran and Andrews, along with Renato Baserga, MD, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, JMC, and Interim Director, Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson, not pictured, served as course directors.

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**Women’s Board Presents Clinical Excellence Awards to Our Nurses**

During National Nurses Week, Clinical Excellence Awards, sponsored by the Women’s Board of Jefferson Hospital, were presented to several staff nurses.

Gathering for the occasion are, from left, Patricia (Tish) Hushen, RN, MS, Vice President of Recruitment and Retention; Women’s Board members Rosemary McNulty, Elaine Abuzzo, and Ruth Schnitt, RN, who presented the awards; and Mary Ann McGinley, RN, PhD, Senior Vice President for Patient Services and Chief Nursing Officer. Nurses receiving awards included Christine Muldoon, RN, BSN, Medical/Surgical Division (3 West); Mary Lee Butkus, RN, BSN, JHN Post-Anesthesia Care Unit; Tracey Vandermark, RN, Neurosensory and Trauma Division, Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience (JHN); Jaunita Arrington, RN, Critical Care Division, Methodist Hospital Division; and Lorraine Thiers, RN, Delivery Room.

**Jefferson Awarded Grant to Identify Philadelphia Women at Risk for Developing Breast Cancer**

Jefferson’s Division of Genetic and Preventive Medicine will reach more than 200 women in the community with breast cancer prevention education, screening and preventive services, thanks to new funding from the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Philadelphia Affiliate. Rosanne Iacono, RNC, MSN, CRNP, Division of Genetic and Preventive Medicine, was awarded a grant to help identify women at increased risk for developing breast cancer in North and South Philadelphia neighborhoods. This project will provide knowledge to women through an educational session and care from risk assessments, screening and preventive services.

Nurse Practitioner (NP) Iacono is bringing this project directly to two areas of the city where women at high risk for developing breast cancer don’t have community access to these types of breast health services. Known as “RUBEE” (“Risk Factors: Understanding Breast Health through Enhanced Education”), the project demonstrates the strong collaboration of Thomas Jefferson University with Jefferson cancer network hospitals and the interdisciplinary with Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.

NP Iacono is collaborating with Lillian Stern, MD, Director of the Women’s Imaging Center, Methodist Hospital Division, to bring the RUBEE Project to women in South Philadelphia and with Rickie Brawer, MPH, Associate Director, Office to Advance Population Health, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, to foster liaisons with community centers and shelters in North Philadelphia.

“Together with the women in our community, Jefferson is trying to move closer and closer to eradicating breast cancer by helping to identify women at high risk and providing screening and preventive services,” says NP Iacono. The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation is dedicated to eradicating breast cancer by helping to identify women at high risk and providing screening and preventive services, says NP Iacono.

**Jeff SAPHE Students Honor Mural Arts Program Director Jane Golden with Community Service Award**

Jane Golden, director of the Philadelphia Mural Arts Program, received the Second Annual Excellence in Community Service Award by Jefferson’s Safety Awareness and Public Health Education (SAPHE), a Jefferson student organization. Presenting the award is David B. Nash, MD, MBA, Chair of Health Policy, and Dr. Raymond C. and Doris N. Grandon Professor of Health Policy. At left is Ahmad B. Naim, MD, SAPHE President.

About Jane Golden and the Mural Arts Program

Jane Golden is an artist who has made her mark on Philadelphia communities in more than 2,000 murals she has created that dot the city landscape. She has forged alliances between community groups, city officials, private funders, volunteers, artists and ex-graffiti writers to brighten Philadelphia.

The Mural Arts Program, under the leadership of Jane Golden, has provided hope, inspiration and motivation to scores of misguided and misunderstood youths in Philadelphia.

About SAPHE

Jeff Safety Awareness and Public Health Education (SAPHE) is composed of students in the Master of Science in Public Health program at the Jefferson College of Graduate Studies. The SAPHE award was presented as part of National Public Health Week events.

**Jefferson College of Health Professions Presents Preceptor Teaching Awards to Our Nurses**

During National Nurses Week, Preceptor Teaching Awards, sponsored by the Jefferson College of Health Professions (JCHP), were presented to several Jefferson nurses. From left, Anne McGinley, CRNP, PhD, Associate Professor and Director, Nursing Undergraduate Program, JCHP; Mary G. Schaal, Professor and Chair, Department of Nursing, JCHP; Michelle Kaulback, RN, MSN, Intermediate Surgical Intensive Care and adjunct faculty, JCHP; Ruth Taylor, RN, BSN, Critical Care Division, 5 Center; Mitchell Winter, RN, Operating Room; and Mary Ann McGinley, RN, PhD, Senior Vice President for Patient Services and Chief Nursing Officer. Charge nurse Nancy Parks, RN, BSN, Labor and Delivery (not shown), also received an Award.

**Rosemary Giosa, RN, BSN, Receives 2005 Janet C. Hindson Award**

The Department of Nursing presented the 8th annual Janet C. Hindson Award to Rosemary Giosa, BSN, to highlight the hospital’s Nurses’ Week celebration. A Jefferson employee since 1972, Ms. Giosa currently works in the Bodine Infusion Center. Department of Radiation Oncology, caring for a variety of outpatient illnesses requiring intravenous infusions. Here, she celebrates the news with a colleague, Carol Kelly Lehman, RN, MSN.
2005 Dementia Management Conference Attracts Record Turnout

The 6th annual Dementia Management Conference - “Dementia Management: New Directions in Providing Care to Patients and Their Families” - attracted a record 113 healthcare professionals and family caregivers.

Sponsored by the Center for Applied Research on Aging and Health (CARAH), 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 and family caregivers.

Students complete the program at their own pace within two to four years, says Jennifer Ravelli, MPH, the program’s manager. “The Open Track opportunity to provide, to register, call 1-800-JEFF-NEW.

Tuesday, October 18
• Division of Genetic and Preventive Medicine, Jefferson Cancer Education Sessions, Methodist Hospital, Morgan Conference Room, 3 to 4 p.m., also Oct. 22, noon, to 1 p.m., Philadelphia Parent Child Center, 2553 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia.

For more information on any property listing, call 5-6679. Telephone numbers do not appear in Jefferson News.

Tuesday, July 5
• Interfaith Prayer and Meditation Service, noon, Bodine Cancer Center and Commons members, $5 for non-Jeffersonians who are registered in the Jefferson ID to Ruth Stephens, 211 S. 9th Street, Suite 300. Please include your Jefferson extension and area code for home number. (Please do not abbreviate.)

Saturday, October 22
• Methodist Hospital, St. Matthew’s Grand Rounds, Joseph Delmiento, MD, Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine, TJH; Update HIV in AIDS; and Morgan Conference Center, Methodist Hospital.

Tuesday, July 13
• Pediatrics, Andrew T. Costurro Jr., MD, Chair, Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine, duPont Hospital for Children, video teleconference from duPont Hospital for Children to Atlantica and Children’s Care Health System.

Monday, July 25
• Methodist Hospital, St. Matthew’s Grand Rounds, Joseph Delmiento, MD, Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine, TJH; Update HIV in AIDS; and Morgan Conference Center, Methodist Hospital.

Tuesday, July 18
• Choral and topic 8/6, 8 a.m., Lecture Hall, duPont Hospital for Children and 7th fl., Jimmy Brent Conference Room at JMC (video teleconference from duPont Hospital for Children to AtlanticaCare and Children’s Care Health System).

Wednesday, July 27
• Pediatrics, Latrice Friedman Ross, MD, PhD, Associate Professor, General Pediatrics, University of Chicago, Associate Director, MacLean Center of Clinical Medical Ethics, University of Chicago, and Department of Health Policy, and Richard C. Wender, MD, Chair, Department of Family Medicine.

Details for the Methodist School of Public Health in Public Health will conduct an Open House for prospective students on Wednesday, July 20, from 5 to 7 p.m., at Eakins Lounge in Jefferson Alumni Hall. The program’s Co-Directors are David B. Nash, MD, MBA, and Linda K. Karger, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Health Policy, and Richard C. Wender, MD, Chair, Department of Family Medicine.

“Many Mitterman, DrPH, Director, Psychosocial Research and Support, Silberstein Aging and Disability Research Center, New York University, New York.

Other speakers were:
Michael Cherkasky, MD, MBA, chair, Department of Health Policy, and Richard C. Wender, MD, Chair, Department of Family Medicine.

Mary Mitterman, DrPH, Director, Psychosocial Research and Support, Silberstein Aging and Disability Research Center, New York University, New York.

The photo shows four speakers, from left, Laura N. Glinn, PhD, Director, Center for Applied Research on Aging and Health (CARAH), Jefferson College of Health Professions; Thomas Jefferson University; and Marcia Neundorfer, PhD, RN, Research Scientist, Myers Research Institute, Beechtree, Ohio.

Jennifer.Ravelli@Jefferson.edu

5-7791 to schedule an appointment if you are eligible and willing to give blood.

Monday, July 4, is a national holiday. Happy Independence Day!

July 1, 2005

JeffNEWS

Watch the newsstands for the August issue of

JeffNEWS. Approved copy and calendar items for that issue are due on FRIDAY, JULY 15. Please submit calendar items dated through August 31.

JeffNEWS Calendar - Classifieds - Jefferson. Minimum 50 words. Must be submitted five days before deadline. Advertisements are not guaranteed.

July 10 Location rental: Twohees, Magnolia Ct, NJ. 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 beds, sleep 6, central air, deck, front yard with off-street parking, plenty of entertainment plus lake to beach. $8,000 for month of July, $2,000 a week, 1 hour partial week.

To place an ad to buy or sell personal items, send written calendar items and a photocopy of your Jefferson ID to Ruth Stephens, 211 S. 9th St., Suite 300. Please include your Jefferson extension and area code for home number. (Please do not abbreviate.)

To rent a room in Delaware, New Jersey or Philadelphia, call 5-6679 to schedule an appointment if you are eligible and willing to give blood.

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