Calling All Big Walk Team Captains and Walkers!

At press time, 28 employees had signed up as Team Captains for the 2005 Big Walk for Little Feet on Sunday, September 18. That's great! We thank you for your commitment.

Our goal is to double the number of Team Captains during August. This means we need 28 more employees to sign up in August. The more Team Captains we have, the more people will be able to walk to help sick babies become healthier, bigger and stronger.

The Big Walk will again raise funds to benefit Jefferson’s Labor and Delivery suite and the Neonatal Intensive Care, Transitional and Well-Baby Nurseries.

Our goal is to have 730 walkers and to raise $75,000 in pledges. Ideally, every hospital and University department would be represented by one or more Team Captains.

Jefferson and Bridges Program
Reaching Out to Philadelphia Youth

Two Jefferson business services departments currently participate in the Bridges Program, which provides qualified Philadelphia high school seniors with career opportunities through a one-year education and employment program.

The program recruits intelligent, motivated students who have demonstrated responsibility and a strong desire to pursue business skills, and who have the support of their families, teachers and counselors in their facilitated training and skills development.

The Business Services Departments of the hospital and Jefferson University Physicians (JUP) each accepted five Bridges students for 2004-2005, giving them the opportunity to learn the many facets of the business responsibilities they are assigned with a designated Jefferson mentor during their senior year of high school.

John Ogunkeye, MS, JUP Executive Director, delivered the Graduation Address honoring the young women and men who successfully completed the Bridges Program in June.

Jefferson Hospital President and CEO Thomas J. Lewis said Jefferson’s participation will increase in 2005-2006. The mentoring provided by staff is consistent with Jefferson’s commitment to reach out and support our community.

Initially founded by the Deckert LLP law firm, the Bridges Program has been expanding to include 10 law firms, and now Jefferson.

The students’ high schools arrange their curricula so they can spend time in the workplace – 20 hours per week during the school year and seven weeks in the summer.

The program’s goal is to prepare students to earn full-time positions by successfully completing the program, graduating from high school, and proving themselves on the job. Of the Jefferson-mentored graduates, three are going on to college or nursing school on grants, and four have gained fulltime employment with Jefferson.

To learn how your department can participate in the Bridges Program in 2005-2006, contact Linda Mitchell at linda.mitchell@jefferson.edu.

U.S. News & World Report Ranks Jefferson Hospital Top And Only Hospital in Philadelphia for Orthopaedics

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital has been ranked as the top and only hospital in Philadelphia for orthopaedics, U.S. News & World Report indicated in their 2005 Best Hospitals survey.

Jefferson University Hospital was ranked 17th in the nation in five other specialties – rehabilitation medicine; digestive disorders; geriatrics; gynecology; and ear, nose and throat.

In addition, Wills Eye Hospital, which serves as the Department of Ophthalmology for Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and Jefferson Medical College, again ranked as third in the nation in five other specialties – otolaryngology; neurosurgery; ophthalmology; pain medicine; and plastic surgery.

Jefferson Hospital President and CEO Thomas J. Lewis said Jefferson and its staff are pleased to once again be listed among the top United States medical centers and again be recognized for specialized care, including orthopaedics.

“We are gratified that U.S. News & World Report has recognized Jefferson’s world-class expertise in orthopaedic procedures, as well as other specialties. This honor reflects our commitment to providing superior medical care to our patients,” Mr. Lewis said.

It’s Almost Time for the 2005 Employee Service Recognition Program

The Employee Service Recognition Program is a significant part of the continuing acknowledgement 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, 2005. The annual Service Recognition Celebration will be held on Wednesday, October 19, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the “Ballroom at the Ben” in the Benjamin Franklin House. The event will include a reception, entertainment and gifts.

Watch for further details in the September issue of JeffNEWS. Invitations are being prepared for honorees. For more information, call Randy McLaughlin in Human Resources at 215-503-8373.

VITAL SIGNS: JUNE 2005

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New Roles, New Faces at Jefferson

Steven E. McKenzie, MD, PhD, Named University Vice President for Research

Since 2003, Dr. McKenzie has served the University as Vice President for Science Policy and Technology Transfer. These duties will also be subsumed in his new position. Dr. McKenzie will also focus on strengthening Jefferson’s position regionally and nationally in all areas of biomedical research. Towards this goal, he will establish a Scientific Advisory Council composed of representative senior and junior faculty researchers.

Dr. McKenzie will work closely with Thomas J. Nasca, MD, Dean, Jefferson Medical College, and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, in all areas of research policy and strategic planning. With James H. Keen, PhD, Dean, Jefferson College of Graduate Studies, Dr. McKenzie will continue to coordinate the Research Strategic Planning component of the University-wide strategic planning process. Dr. McKenzie is Professor of Medicine and of Pediatrics who joined the Jefferson faculty in 1996. He has served as Director of the Cardeza Foundation for Hematologic Research since 2000 and has directed the Division of Hematology in the Department of Medicine and served as Director of the Hematology service for the hospital.

Dr. McKenzie will continue to direct his NIH-funded laboratory research in vascular biology and hematopoietic stem cell biology, and provide care to his Hematology outpatients. A new director for the Cardeza Foundation and the Division of Hematology will be recruited.

Dr. McKenzie’s office remains at 705 Curirt Building where he can be reached at 215-955-7786.

Bruce Metz, PhD, Named University Chief Information Officer (CIO)

Dr. Metz has served as the CIO at Tufts University and Rider University. He also has held executive IT positions at Princeton University and the Stevens Institute of Technology. He has extensive experience in strategy development, capital planning and operational management of IT activities that support academic and research functions.

Dr. Metz earned a PhD in applied psychology and an MA in organizational development from NYU. He obtained a BS in industrial management engineering from Columbia University. He is currently a research fellow with EDUCAUSE Center for Applied Research.

Dr. Metz’s office is in 615 Scott Building and his telephone is 215-503-2777.

Ann deC. B. Powers Named Assistant Corporate Compliance and Privacy Officer for Hospital

Ann deC. B. Powers has been appointed Assistant Corporate Compliance Officer for Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. Thomas J. Lewis, hospital President and CEO, and Dottie McGilvery, Corporate Compliance Officer, Jefferson Health System (JHS), made the announcement, which said, in part, “In her new role, Ann will continue to spearhead compliance initiatives to honor the commitments made in the JHS Compliance Program in accordance with our ‘Do the Right Thing’ Code of Conduct.”

Ms. Powers has extensive experience in healthcare compliance reviews, operational reviews, management training and forensic accounting. Most recently, she served as an independent contractor to the U.S. Attorney’s Office, where she spent considerable time on outpatient laboratory and Medicare as Secondary Payer reviews. Previously, Ms. Powers served as a Manager for Financial Advisory Services for six years in the Philadelphia office of Coopers & Lybrand (now PricewaterhouseCoopers). Before that, Ms. Powers was a Manager in the Management Consulting Services area in the Louisville, KY, office of Coopers & Lybrand. Ms. Powers holds a Master’s degree in Public Administration. She is a Certified Financial Planner (CFP) and certified Fraud Examiner (CFE). Ms. Powers’ office is at 925 Chestnut St., Suite 200. She can be reached at 215-955-4177 or ann.powers@mail.jje.edu.

Jay H. Herman, MD, Named Director of Blood Bank

Jay H. Herman, MD, has been appointed Director of the Blood Bank, effective July 1, Steven E. McKenzie, MD, PhD, University Vice President for Research and Director, Cardeza Foundation and Division of Hematology, and Bart Murtaugh, hospital Vice President, have announced.

“Dr. Herman is an accomplished expert in Transfusion Medicine who has served as Associate Director of the Blood Bank at Jefferson since 2001. Previously, he has served as Blood Bank Director at Temple University Hospital and St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children, and as Medical Director of the American Red Cross Regional Blood Service located in Philadelphia.

“Dr. Herman attended Emory University and Harvard Medical School, and trained at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, University of Virginia Medical Center, Charlottesville, and Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore. His most recent academic accomplishments are authorship of the Transfusion Medicine sections of the Medical Knowledge Self-Assessment Programs for the American College of Physicians and for the American Society of Hematology.

“In his new capacity, Dr. Herman will oversee all aspects of Blood Bank and Transfusion Medicine operations at Jefferson, including serving as Chair of the Hospital Transfusion Practice Committee.

“We also thank Samir Ballas, MD, who has provided distinguished service as the former director for many years. Dr. Ballas has relinquished his blood bank and transfusion medicine responsibilities, and will concentrate on his longstanding expertise in the care of sickle cell patients and on studies of new therapeutics for this serious disorder.

“Please direct inquiries and suggestions for blood bank services to Dr. Herman, who can be reached at 215-955-8244.”

Eric Smith, MD, Receives Pfizer Scholars in Pain Management Grant

Eric Smith, MD, 5th year chief resident in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at Jefferson, is the 2005 Pfizer Scholars in Pain Management Grant recipient.

An outstanding physician, Dr. Smith was nominated by Javad Parvizi, MD, Assistant Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, at Jefferson Medical College and at Jefferson Hospital, to receive this year’s award. The award honors Dr. Smith’s important contributions to research and patient care in pain management.

Next year, Dr. Smith will continue at Jefferson to complete an Adult Reconstructive Fellowship under William J. Hozaek, MD, Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at Jefferson Medical College and at Jefferson Hospital.
Department of Urology Awarded $1.1 Million NIH Grant For Bladder Cancer Study
Andrea Morrione, PhD, Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Urology, has received a five-year $1.1 million grant from the National Institutes for Health (NIH) for a study aimed at improving prognosis and therapy in bladder cancer. Raffaele Baffa, MD, Associate Professor of Urology, is co-principal investigator on the project.

The study, entitled “Proepithelin Signaling in Urothehal Cells,” will investigate the role that the growth factor proepithelin plays in transformation of bladder cancer cells using cell culture models and bladder cancer samples. The study’s significance, says Dr. Morrione, “is not only in terms of a better knowledge of proepithelin action in the biology of bladder cells, but in the longer range this study could yield valuable information for translational research.”

“This successful grant application was made possible through the University’s Tobacco Settlement funds, showing that this innovative new program can be successful in expanding research in key areas such as bladder cancer,” said Leonad G. Comella, MD, Chair of Urology and Bernard W. Godwin Jr. Professor for Urology, Jefferson Medical College.

The grant was awarded by the NIH’s National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK).

Jefferson Conducts eHealth Training Institute
A group of eight interdisciplinary teams consisting of occupational and physical therapists and speech-language pathologists participated in a national eHealth Training Institute conducted by Jefferson’s Center for Collaborative Research. Sponsored by a three-year grant from the Bureau of Health Professions, the Institute taught participants how to incorporate eHealth promotion programs into their practice, build a basic website and an eHealth infrastructure in an underserved community, and improve health literacy within that population.

The teams are building eHealth promotion websites ranging from an informational and self-management strategy website for women with connective disease disorders to an interactive healthy lifestyles’ website for employees of the Louisiana Department of Labor.

Kristie Musick attended the Institute with two others from the Center for Disability Resources, University of South Carolina. “There is a shortage of healthcare providers in rural South Carolina,” said Ms. Musick. “We are developing an information-sharing network for them.”

“In the Institute faculty is phenomenal,” she said. “The resource structure is strong, and the connections with people across the United States are great.” Kevin J. Lyons, PhD, Director of the Center for Collaborative Research, is the Project Director. Kathy Swenson Miller, PhD, OTR/L, Occupational Therapy faculty member, and Diane Comman-Levy, MS, PT, serve as Co-Project Directors.

Arcadia Foundation Backs Education Building with $1 Million Pledge
The Arcadia Foundation of Norristown, PA, led by Marilyn Steinbright, is backing Jefferson’s new education building with a pledge of $1 million. “This is a key step toward reaching the total funds needed to construct the Dorrance H. Hamilton Building, which will transform Jefferson’s campus,” said University President Robert L. Barchi, MD, PhD. “We can achieve our vision with inspired supporters like Marilyn Steinbright.”

The first check of $300,000 was presented to Dr. Barchi this spring, to be followed by a second check for the same amount after one year.

A low-key person with deeply held convictions about helping the Delaware Valley, Ms. Steinbright took up the work of the Arcadia Foundation from her mother Edith, who founded it in 1964. “Arcadia” means a place of peace and harmony, like the farm where Marilyn was raised. All her life she has loved the outdoors of southeastern Pennsylvania and Delaware. Ms. Steinbright is assisted in administering the foundation by Kevin Ward.

The new building that the Arcadia Foundation is helping to make possible will be the centerpiece of Jefferson’s campus, and will face a relaxed campus green shaded by flowering trees.

Expansion of Jefferson Fitness Center Under Way
Renovation and expansion of Jefferson’s fitness and recreation facility have begun, Patricia S. Haas, Director, Activities Office and Bookstore, has announced.

The renovation includes an expansion and upgrade of the exercise areas located on the basement level of Jefferson Alumni Hall. The project is funded by the combination of a three-year, $300,000 grant from Independence Blue Cross and matching University funds. Construction will occur in three phases over two years and will culminate with the opening of the Jefferson Independence Blue Cross Wellness Center in late 2006.

“The fitness and recreation facility will remain operational throughout the process,” Ms. Haas said. “We hope to minimize any temporary inconveniences as we look forward to the permanent improvements.”

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.
At its first annual “Bash,” the Jefferson Postdoctoral Association (JPA) heard a presentation from Lisa Kozlowski, PhD, Assistant Dean for Postdoctoral Affairs, Jefferson College of Graduate Studies, introduced new members of the JPA Executive Board, and offered an opportunity for members to facilitate communication and rapport among peers.

Photo at top shows JPA Executive Board members: first row, from left, Denise Fitzgerald, Rahnana Zaka, Juljeta Gentiilleti, and Mani Thiyagarajan. Second row, from left, Satish Sharma, Ahmad Nain, Lisa Kozlowski, PhD, Assistant Dean, Suresh Joshi and Tarik Toul.

Chart in the other photo shows diversity of Jefferson’s postdoctoral population: U.S. citizens 35%, non-U.S. citizens 65%, including China 22%, India 10%, Italy 6%, Russia 5%, Other 22%.

Jefferson postdoctoral association (JPA) holds ‘bash’

Jefferson again participated in Take Our Children to Work Day, an annual event sponsored by the National Ms. Foundation for Women. Girls and boys, ages 9 through 15, experienced a diversity of Jefferson’s postdoctoral research. It shows you belong.

Jeffrey Levenson Photography

Jefferson Postdoctoral Association (JPA) Holds ‘Bash’

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