Gaye Riddick-Burden, MSN, CRNP, Receives 2005 National Nursing Excellence Award from Nursing Spectrum

Nursing Spectrum magazine presented its 2005 National Nursing Excellence Award in the Clinical Care category to Gaye Riddick-Burden, MSN, CRNP.

Ms. Riddick-Burden is the nurse practitioner who directs the Sickle Cell Day Unit at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. She was instrumental in designing and implementing the outpatient day treatment unit for the management of painful crisis in adult patents with sickle cell disease. She is responsible for the clinical care of patients in this innovative setting.

A strong advocate for patients with sickle cell disease, Ms. Riddick-Burden has worked with sickle cell patients for more than 12 years and obtained her advanced certification specifically to enhance her service to that community.

The success of the hospital’s Sickle Cell Day Unit is in large part the result of her vision for improved care of these patients, an often underserved population.

With Ms. Riddick-Burden in the photo are, at left, Ruth Hart, RN, MSN, Nurse Manager, who nominated Ms. Riddick-Burden, and Mary Ann McGinley, RN, PhD, Senior Vice President for Patient Services and Chief Nursing Officer.

Richard Wender, MD, Chair of Newly Named Family and Community Medicine Department, Voted President-Elect, American Cancer Society

Richard C. Wender, MD, Alumni Professor and Chair, Department of Family and Community Medicine, Jefferson Medical College (JMC) and Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, was voted President-elect of the American Cancer Society (ACS) at its annual national meeting.

Dr. Wender will become the first primary care physician to lead the American Cancer Society.

At the same meeting, Carolyn D. Runowicz, MD, JMC ’77, was elected ACS President, thus placing two Jeffersonians in the ACS’s dual leadership roles.

The first breast cancer survivor to become an ACS President, Dr. Runowicz is Director of the Carole and Ray Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Connecticut Health Center in Farmington, Conn., and Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. She is an internationally recognized gynecologic cancer expert and author of several books for the public, including her most recent, The Answer to Cancer.

Active Roles with ACS

Dr. Wender is Chair of the ACS Incidence and Mortality Committee and a member of the editorial advisory board for the ACS journal CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians and Patient Care.

Dr. Wender became Chair of Family Medicine at Jefferson in 2002. Noted for his warmth and enthusiasm, Dr. Wender believes in the positive impact of humor in the healing process. He is a popular lecturer and is admired and well respected by students, colleagues and patients.

After receiving a BA from Princeton University in 1975 and his MD from the University of Pennsylvania in 1979, Dr. Wender completed a residency in Family Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in 1982, where he served as Chief Resident, and joined the Jefferson faculty that same year. He directed the Jefferson Family Practice Residency from 1983 to 1993.

He has published extensively on such topics as cancer, diabetes and humor in medicine in professional journals including Cancer, Journal of Family Practice and Archives of Family Medicine.

Incentive Offer for Remote Parking Continues

The incentive offer of $25 for the first four weeks of Remote Parking, instead of the normal $55, is still available to employees. Even at the regular monthly rate of $55, the cost is only $2.62 per day. In addition, Remote Parking now begins 1 hour earlier at 4:30 a.m. and extends 4 hours later until midnight. Watch for more information soon. To sign up or learn more, call Commuter Services at 5-6417 or visit www.jefferson.edu/cso

Live Webcast January 19 Will Give Close-up View of Robotic Surgery for Prostate Cancer

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital will host a live webcast January 19 at 4:30 p.m. of a radical laparoscopic prostatectomy using a futuristic, state-of-the-art robotic technology, called the daVinci® System. The webcast can be viewed at www.jeffersonhospital.org/webcast.

Robotic Surgery Advances Treatment Options for Prostate Cancer

New technological advances now make it possible for the internationally recognized urologic specialists at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital to offer another advance in less invasive treatment options for men with prostate cancer.

The latest tool is a futuristic, state-of-the-art robotic technology, called the daVinci® System, that allows Jefferson specialists to perform a less invasive, laparoscopic radical prostatectomy, by using a small, thin tube with a scope on the tip to see inside the body and remove prostate tissue.

“We welcome the daVinci robot as another option for patients with prostate cancer who are seen at the Kimmel Cancer Center,” says Leonard G. Gomella, MD, FACS, the Bernard Godwin Jr. Professor of Prostate Cancer and Chair, Department of Urology, and Director of Urologic Oncology, Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson.

Governor Rendell Speaks at Conference Co-Directed by Jefferson

From left, Robert L. Bartsh, MD, PhD, President, Thomas Jefferson University, The Honorable Edward G. Rendell, Governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and Robert H. Rosenberg, MD, FACS, Professor and Chair, Department of Neurosurgery, met at the 17th Annual Pan Philadelphia Neurosurgery Conference, co-directed by Jefferson Medical College, at the Union League of Philadelphia. Gov. Rendell called on doctors to support the development of national health insurance that combines quality and cost-efficiency without bureaucracy. “Decent health care should be a right of every American,” he said. “Doctors can make a difference if they speak up for it.”
NBC-TV Newscaster’s Widow Speaks on Preventing and Treating Blood Clots (DVTs)

Melanie Bloom, national spokesperson for DVT prevention, addressed a special two-hour Medical Grand Rounds on “Prevention and Treatment of DVT and PE in the Medically Ill.”

Ms. Bloom is the widow of David Bloom, the late NBC-TV news correspondent, who died from a Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT), or blood clot, while covering the war in Iraq.

She is the National Patient Advocate for the Committee to Prevent Deep Vein Thrombosis.

Thanks to Connelly Foundation Generosity, Hamilton Building to Include 21st-Century Auditorium

The Dorrance H. Hamilton Building, which is already under construction at the northeast corner of 11th and Locust Streets, will include a state-of-the-art auditorium thanks to the generosity of the Connelly Foundation.

The Connelly Foundation has pledged $2 million toward the auditorium, which will seat 295 people and feature the most up-to-date electronic and audiovisual capabilities. It will be a key location for educating students from all three colleges of Thomas Jefferson University, and will also be available for other Jefferson groups. An entire Medical College class can fit comfortably in the auditorium, which will be ready for students arriving in August 2007.

The Connelly Foundation has been one of Jefferson’s most loyal supporters for more than three decades. With this gift, it is joining with alumni, faculty, staff, trustees and corporations in transforming Jefferson’s educational space.

The Jefferson Foundation is proud to note that fundraising for the Hamilton Building is on track for success.

Jefferson Neuroscientists Find Over-the-Counter Arthritis Drug Might Also Help Against MS

Glucosamine, the over-the-counter natural product that is touted to help with joint and cartilage problems associated with arthritis, may also provide some relief to individuals with multiple sclerosis (MS), a degenerative nervous system disease with no known cure.

Using a mouse model of MS, neurologists at Jefferson Medical College (JMC) found that doses of glucosamine similar to those taken for osteoarthritis dramatically delayed the onset of symptoms and improved the animals’ ability to move and walk.

The scientists, led by A. M. Rostami, MD, Professor and Chair of the Department of Neurology at JMC and the Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience, and Guang-Xian Zhang, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Neurology at JMC, say the treatment’s anti-inflammatory effects may be useful in conjunction with more mainstream therapies such as beta-interferon in helping patients with MS to delay or perhaps stave off some of the debilitating effects of the disease.

Robotic Surgery Advances Treatment Options for Prostate Cancer

Ten Years in January

Jefferson’s multidisciplinary Genitourinary (GU) Cancer Center celebrates its 10th anniversary in January.

“We were the first institution in the Delaware Valley to offer laparoscopic prostatectomy in 2000 and have the longest experience in the region. We are pleased to offer robotically assisted laparoscopic prostate surgery as an additional option for our patients cared for at our multidisciplinary cancer center,” says Dr. Gomella.

Ten years in practice further refines laparoscopic prostatectomy by allowing a surgeon’s hand movements to be scaled, filtered and translated into precise movements of micro-instruments within the operative site. The magnified, three-dimensional view the surgeon experiences enables him or her to perform precise surgery in complex procedures through small surgical incisions.

Pioneering Experts

Edward Trabulsi, MD, Assistant Professor of Urology, JMC, a urologic oncologist and an expert trained in laparoscopic prostatectomy by one of the pioneers of the technique, and Costas Lallas, MD, Assistant Professor of Urology, JMC, who completed a robotic surgery fellowship at the Mayo Clinic, are leading the first robotic efforts at Jefferson.

Hospital Web Site Earns Two National Awards

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital has earned two 2005 eHealthcare Leadership Awards, selected from nearly 1,200 entries, for outstanding web sites among healthcare organizations.

The awards were presented to the hospital at a healthcare Internet conference sponsored by Greystone.Net, an Atlanta-based strategy firm, in cooperation with the Chicago-based Forum for Healthcare Strategists. The entries were judged by 100 individuals familiar with healthcare and the Internet.

In the category of hospitals with 400 or more beds, Jefferson’s web site, jeffersonhospital.org, received a Gold Award for Best Special Effects and a Distinction Award for Best Overall Internet Site.

Mark Mytysyn, Web Master, and members of the Communications Office, maintain Jefferson Hospital’s web site.

University Celebrates Constitution Day

The University Offices of Financial Aid and Activities hosted Thomas Jefferson University’s celebration of Constitution Day. At left, Pati Haas, Director, Activities Office and Bookstore, and Susan Batchelor, University Director, Student Financial Aid, helped distribute copies of the United States Constitution to students and employees from displays in Jefferson Alumni Hall and Edison.

Hospital’s Service Excellence Program Takes Us ‘From Good to Great’

Hospital Administration has initiated a service excellence program for employees designed to improve the patient experience.

Its purpose is “to move from GOOD to consistently GREAT in the service we extend to our patients and other customers,” says Beth-Ann Schauer, Director of Service Improvement.

A dual purpose is to create a caring work culture that fosters cooperation and harmony from coworker to coworker and department to department.

The program describes concrete examples, in actions and words, of how employees can help improve the patient’s experience in such situations as, for example, handing off a patient at nurse shift changes or to radiology technicians. GREAT behaviors include making eye contact, smiling, using the patient’s preferred name, introducing coworkers by first and last name and by position and using clear, direct and specific language to explain shift changes.

In helping to create a caring work culture, the program offers specific ground-rules for creating harmonious coworker relationships, including specific words or phrases whose effect is either “Tragic” or “Magic.”

Participating so far have been department managers and superiors and other coworkers are being incorporated into the program before it is widened to include all employees in January, February and March.

To learn more about the program, contact Ms. Schauer at 5-2425.
Grateful ‘Ladies of Port Richmond’ Walk to Raise $35,000 For Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson

It all started last January at Mary Louise Leuters’ kitchen table in her Port Richmond, Philadelphia home. She and her friend and neighbor, Lenore Czyzewski, were talking about the excellent care they received when treated for breast cancer at the Kimmel Cancer Center (KCC) at Jefferson.

“How can we show our gratitude to Jefferson?” they asked each other. They decided to organize a neighborhood group, “The Ladies of Port Richmond,” with Ms. Leuters as President and Ms. Czyzewski, Vice President. Thanks in great part to Mrs. Leuters’ powers of persuasion, the group quickly grew to about 14 residents of Port Richmond and surrounding neighborhoods.

“The Ladies” – including supportive spouses and other male relatives and friends – organized three large fundraisers in their first eight months. They started with a casino trip, followed by a breakfast that drew 250 people, and capped by their most successful event, “The Port Richmond Breast Cancer Walk.” They had planned on 500 walkers, and wound up attracting 880. The result? A total of $35,000 in donations and an informal ceremony at Jefferson to present the check to Joy Soleiman, Clinical Administrator, KCC, and Lora Rhodes, LSW, Coordinator, Advocacy and Survivorship Program, KCC.

In accepting the check, Ms. Soleiman said, “I am overwhelmed by the magnitude of this grassroots effort and very grateful for all the hard work of every volunteer.”

Where do “The Ladies” go from here?

“Our goal is simple,” says Angeline Zamorski, Treasurer. “Double our donations next year.”

Jefferson’s Major Disaster Drill Gauges Area Hospitals’ Terrorism Preparedness

For the second year in a row, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital conducted one of the largest multi-hospital emergency drills in the United States.

Drill observers watched as 400 volunteers, including more than 200 first-year Jefferson Medical College (JMC) students and Jefferson College of Health Professions nursing students made up by injury simulation experts role-played disaster victims.

The drill helped Philadelphia-area medical centers assess their readiness, and those of emergency medical services personnel, to care for victims in times of emergency.

The exercise has been developed by the Center for Bioterrorism and Disaster Preparedness at Jefferson. The medical students took part in the exercise as part of a new disaster preparedness curriculum offered at JMC.

New Cardiac Electrophysiology Lab Opens in Jefferson Hospital

To accommodate the ever-growing demand from referring physicians and their patients, the Cardiac Electrophysiology Lab at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital has moved into a new, much larger, dedicated suite.

The new space offers a heart care facility filled with the aura of professional medical care – stocked with new devices, new equipment and technology, all of it geared toward treating patients with heart rhythm disorders, including fast and slow heart rhythms.

For 25 years, the hospital’s Cardiac Electrophysiology Lab has been a regional and national leader in cardiac electrophysiology, the treatment of rhythm disorders and related conditions.

Among the most common procedures, explains Arnold Greenspon, MD, Lab Director, is placing implantable cardiac defibrillators (ICDs). “With a recent ruling from Medicare, we can now implant the devices in people who have had a heart attack or another reason for a decrease in the pumping function of their heart. Previously, ICDs were primarily used for people who had already suffered cardiac arrest,” he said.
BROWN BAG LUNCHEONS

January 4 • Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson, Research in Progress, noon, 407 JAH.

January 5 • Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson, Leonard Saltz, MD, The Wistar Institute, “Chemotherapy for Localized Pancreatic Cancer: Standards, Limitations and Directions,” 8 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

January 6 • Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson, Christopher Cran, MD, Radiation Oncology MD Anderson Cancer Center, “Recondemned for Localized Pancreatic Cancer: Standards, Limitations and Directions,” 8 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

January 8 • Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson, Halazonetis, DDS, PhD, The Wistar Institute, “Revealing About Pain and Functional Status in Sickle Cell Anemia,” noon, DePaula.

January 11 • Neurology, Pascal M. Jabbour, MD, University of Pennsylvania, “Complete Repair of the General Surgeon,” 8 a.m., 407 JAH.

January 12 • Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson, Trauma Surgery, Benjamin Bruckman, MD, “Reconstruction: The Role of the General Surgeon,” 8 a.m., 407 JAH.

January 13 • Pediatrics, Matthew Grissinger, RPh, FASCP, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, “A System Based Approach to Medication Safety,” 8 a.m., 407 JAH.

January 15 • Pediatrics, Robert F. Lister, MD, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, “Complete Care Health Systems, Christiana Neonatal Intensive Care Unit,” noon to 1:30 p.m., 7th fl., JIMMY BRENT CROSSINGS OUTLETS.

January 17 • Neurology, Journal Club, 7 a.m., DePaula.

January 18 • Pediatrics, Matthew Grissinger, RPh, FASCP, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, “A System Based Approach to Medication Safety,” 8 a.m., 407 JAH.

January 22 • Pediatrics, Anna M. Cogswell, MD, University of Pennsylvania, “Complete Care Health Systems, Christiana Neonatal Intensive Care Unit,” noon to 1:30 p.m., 7th fl., JIMMY BRENT CROSSINGS OUTLETS.

January 25 • Pediatrics, Orthopedics t/b/a, 8 a.m., 407 JAH.

January 26 • Pediatrics, Orthopedics t/b/a, 8:30 a.m., 407 JAH.

January 27 • Pediatrics, Orthopedics t/b/a, 8 a.m., 407 JAH.

January 28 • Pediatrics, Orthopedics t/b/a, 8 a.m., 407 JAH.

January 29 • Pediatrics, Orthopedics t/b/a, 8 a.m., 407 JAH.

February 2 • Pediatrics, Orthopedics t/b/a, 8 a.m., 407 JAH.

February 5 • Pediatrics, Orthopedics t/b/a, 8 a.m., 407 JAH.

February 8 • Pediatrics, Orthopedics t/b/a, 8 a.m., 407 JAH.

February 12 • Pediatrics, Orthopedics t/b/a, 8 a.m., 407 JAH.

February 15 • Pediatrics, Orthopedics t/b/a, 8 a.m., 407 JAH.

February 16 • Pediatrics, Orthopedics t/b/a, 8 a.m., 407 JAH.

February 19 • Pediatrics, Orthopedics t/b/a, 8 a.m., 407 JAH.

February 22 • Pediatrics, Orthopedics t/b/a, 8 a.m., 4 ‘m, 407 JAH.

February 26 • Pediatrics, Orthopedics t/b/a, 8 a.m., 407 JAH.

February 27 • Pediatrics, Orthopedics t/b/a, 8 a.m., 407 JAH.

February 28 • Pediatrics, Orthopedics t/b/a, 8 a.m., 407 JAH.

March 2 • Pediatrics, Orthopedics t/b/a, 8 a.m., 407 JAH.

March 5 • Pediatrics, Orthopedics t/b/a, 8 a.m., 407 JAH.

March 8 • Pediatrics, Orthopedics t/b/a, 8 a.m., 407 JAH.

March 9 • Pediatrics, Orthopedics t/b/a, 8 a.m., 407 JAH.

March 12 • Pediatrics, Orthopedics t/b/a, 8 a.m., 407 JAH.

March 15 • Pediatrics, Orthopedics t/b/a, 8 a.m., 407 JAH.

March 19 • Pediatrics, Orthopedics t/b/a, 8 a.m., 407 JAH.

March 22 • Pediatrics, Orthopedics t/b/a, 8 a.m., 407 JAH.

March 26 • Pediatrics, Orthopedics t/b/a, 8 a.m., 407 JAH.

March 29 • Pediatrics, Orthopedics t/b/a, 8 a.m., 407 JAH.