Thomas Jefferson University has announced a change in structure within Jefferson College of Health Professions (JCHP). The College will consist of three schools: a School of Health Professions, including Departments of Bioscience Technologies, General Studies, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Radiologic Sciences; a School of Nursing, and a School of Pharmacy that will be launched within the College in the fall of 2008.

The College's reorganization, together with the establishment of the School of Pharmacy, is a direct outcome of the University Strategic Plan and will serve to increase the visibility of the College’s programs in the national educational market-place. The designation “School” enables the School of Nursing and School of Pharmacy to maintain consistency with their colleague institutions, Uniting the allied health departments within a School will improve efficiency and enhance collaboration across the departments.

The revised governance structure also establishes a Deans’ Council, chaired by James B. Erdmann, PhD, Dean of Jefferson College of Health Professions, and includes the Deans of the three Schools, and an Advisory Committee of the College Faculty. Another major change in the revised Bylaws of the College involves the establishment of new faculty tracks, including a tenure-eligible track.

The Jefferson School of Health Professions

The School of Health Professions upholds a strong commitment to educating the healthcare team through interprofessional programs. The change in structure does not diminish the collaboration which occurs among students, researchers, and clinicians throughout the College and University. Janice P. Burke, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, Professor and Chair of Department of Occupational Therapy, has been appointed Dean of the newly-formed School of Health Professions. Dr. Burke, who came to Jefferson in 1988, is Professor of Occupational Therapy and was appointed Chair of the Department in 1998.

The Jefferson School of Nursing

The change in status from a Department of Nursing to a School of Nursing recognizes the growth and achievements of the Nursing Program as well as its position among the leaders in nursing education. The Department of Nursing was one of the first academic departments when the College was founded in 1969. However, Jefferson’s nursing history dates to 1891, when a diploma nursing program was first established at the Jefferson Medical College Hospital. The School of Nursing now has more than 600 students and offers programs ranging from associate degree to post-master’s certificate.

“The change to School of Nursing from Department of Nursing reflects the structure of high level nursing programs in major academic medical centers across the country, and recognizes the status of this program with its peers,” emphasizes Dr. Erdmann, PhD, Dean of JCHP.

Mary Schaal, RN, EdD, Chair of the former Department of Nursing, has been named Dean of the School of Nursing. Dr. Schaal, a graduate of Jefferson’s diploma and baccalaureate degree nursing programs, came to Jefferson in 1997, is Professor of Nursing and was appointed Chair of the Department in 2002.

The Jefferson School of Pharmacy

The change in status from the Department of Nursing to a School of Pharmacy, is a direct result of Jefferson University’s Restructuring College of Health Professions. Dr. Burke, Dean of JCHP. The College’s reorganization, together with the establishment of the School of Pharmacy, is a direct outcome of the University Strategic Plan and will serve to increase the visibility of the College’s programs in the national educational marketplace. The designation “School” enables the School of Nursing and School of Pharmacy to work together and maintain consistency with their colleagues in the health sciences.

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The Jefferson School of Pharmacy

The University is currently seeking a Founding Dean for the School of Pharmacy. The first class of 75 students is expected to start in Fall 2008.

University Restructures College of Health Professions

Jefferson Scientists Show ‘Miracle’ Cancer Drug Gleevec Can Be Toxic to the Heart

Gleevec, the wildly successful poster-child of a new generation of cancer drugs aimed at specific targets in the cancer cell, can be dangerous to the heart, say researchers at the Center for Translational Medicine at Jefferson Medical College (JMC).

A team of scientists led by Thomas Force, MD, James C. Wilson Professor of Medicine, JMC, has shown in studies involving 10 patients at the University of Texas’ M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston that Gleevec can potentially cause heart failure. Further, the research suggests potential pitfalls in a whole class of cancer drugs that work in ways similar to Gleevec.


“This finding is a big surprise,” says Dr. Force. “Gleevec is a wonderful drug, and patients with a type of cancer known as chronic myelogenous Leukemia (CML) need to be on it. We’re trying to call attention to the fact that Gleevec and other similar drugs coming along could have significant side effects on the heart, and clinicians need to be aware of this.”

Gleevec is a new type of cancer drug – the first of its kind developed to fight cancer by turning off an enzyme that causes cells to become cancerous and multiply.

Novartis, which makes the drug, estimates that more than 100,000 patients take Gleevec and called the side effect rare, saying patients with symptoms were easily treated with standard medications.

Dr. Force also predicted that the number of heart cases would be small.

“The last thing we want to do is cause a Gleevec scare,” he said. “Patients need to be on this drug, so the question is how to keep them on it without it having an effect on the heart.”
**Vijay M. Rao, MD, Earns APDR Achievement Award**

Vijay M. Rao, MD, Professor and Chair of the Department of Radiology, Jefferson Medical College and Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, has been selected to receive the Achievement Award from the Association of Program Directors in Radiology (APDR).

The mission of the APDR is to support the administrative, educational, recruitment and supervisory roles of radiology residency and fellowship program directors through sponsoring meetings, developing educational materials and policy statements, collaborating with related societies and organizations and communicating information relative to the current and changing regulatory requirements of radiology training programs.

Dr. Rao chaired APDR’s curriculum committee for seven years, working with various subspecialty societies to develop curricular guidelines for radiology residencies. He held a number of other important positions in APDR and served as its President for 2002-2003.

Regularly named to Philadelphia magazine’s annual “Top Docs” list, Dr. Rao is one of 39 Jefferson physicians so honored for 2006. She was selected by Philadelphia Business Journal as one of its “2005 Women of Distinction.”

**Council of Indian Organizations Honors Satish Rattan, DVM**

Satish Rattan, DVM, Professor of Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Jefferson Medical College (JMC), received the Professional Excellence Award by the Council of Indian Organizations in Greater Philadelphia (CIO).

The award recognizes Dr. Rattan’s outstanding contributions as a teacher, research scholar and mentor in physiology, pharmacology and gastroenterology.

The CIO recognizes individuals of Indian descent who have contributed to the community. Rattan is a native of India and earned a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine with honors from the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences in 1968.

Since 1985, Dr. Rattan has served as the current and national president of the Council of Indian Organizations in Greater Philadelphia.

**Paul Francis Bray, MD, Named Carderza Professor of Medicine and Director of Hematology**

Paul Francis Bray, MD, has been appointed the Thomas Drake M.R.C.Path. Professor of Medicine, Director, Division of Hematology and Director, Carderza Center for Hemostatic Research, Arthur M. Feldman, MD, PhD, Magee Professor and Chair, Department of Medicine, has announced.

“My role is to support the administrative, educational, recruitment and supervisory roles of hematology residency and fellowship program directors through sponsoring meetings, developing educational materials and policy statements, collaborating with related societies and organizations and communicating information relative to the current and changing regulatory requirements of radiology training programs,” Bray said.

Bray received his MD from the University of Utah School of Medicine. After internship and residency at Baylor College of Medicine, he pursued a fellowship in hematology/oncology at the University of California, San Francisco. He later served as the Medical Director of the Special Coagulation Laboratory at the Johns Hopkins Hospital and was an Associate Professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

**Rajnish Mago, MD, Honored with NARSAD Young Investigator Award**

Rajnish Mago, MD, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the Mood Disorders Program, Thomas Jefferson University, has been honored with a Young Investigator Award 2006 from NARSAD, the Mental Health Research Association. NARSAD is the world’s largest donor-supported organization devoted to funding scientific research on brain and behavior disorders.

Dr. Mago is the first researcher at Jefferson to receive this award which provides research funding over two years to develop a methodology to measure anti-depressant-induced sweating and to conduct a novel clinical trial of a medication, terazosin, to treat this side effect of antidepressants.

Dr. Mago has been providing specialized consultation and treatment to patients with mood disorders (depressive and bipolar disorders). He also conducts clinical research on a variety of topics in mood disorders including managing treatment-resistant depression and treating major depressive disorder in women with breast cancer.

The research will be conducted under the mentorship of senior researchers Barry Rovner, MD, Director of Clinical Alzheimer’s Research at the Farber Institute for Neurosciences; Mark Hasselblad, MD, Division of Psychiatry and Neurology at Jefferson Medical College; and Sherry Martinelli, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine and Neurology at Jefferson Medical College and Thomas Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience.

**Hie-Won Hann, MD, Honored with Korean American Pioneer Award**

Hie-Won Hann, MD, Professor of Medicine, and Director of the Liver Disease Prevention Center, Division of Hepatology, has been honored as a Korean American Pioneer in the Delaware Valley for her role as the Founding President of the Korean American Women’s Association, the first free counseling center for the Korean community in the Delaware Valley.

The center has served the community for the past 20 years. Dr. Hann was its President for 14 years. Since the center began in 1986 with 18 women, it has grown to more than 200 members and has counselled nearly 4,000 cases to date. The center also publishes an annual magazine widely read by Korean immigrants and patients, Philadelphia Women, which Dr. Hann has been the editor.

She was also recognized for her years of pioneering work against hepatitis B for Korean immigrants.

Dr. Hann’s recognition was part of an Asian American Heritage Month Celebration by WPVI-TV Channel 6 ABC and its community advisory board who honored 10 Korean American Pioneers in the Delaware Valley.

**Pancreatic Cancer Surgery Can Help Those Over 80, Jefferson Surgeons Find**

Age doesn’t necessarily have to be the deciding factor for cancer surgery, Jefferson surgeons have found.

Pancreatic cancer surgeon Charles J. Yeo, MD, Samuel D. Gross Professor and Chair of Surgery, JMC, and his colleagues studied records of pancreatic surgery during the last 33 years at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and found that, contrary to what many both in and out of medicine believe, major pancreatic cancer surgery can successfully be performed on patients in their 80s, 90s and even older. The five-year survival of those who were operated on for cancer is comparable to the general population, he says.

In the study, reported in the Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery, Dr. Yeo and co-workers examined records of nearly 2,700 cases of the standard Whipple operation for pancreatic disease, including cancer. Of these, about 1,000 operations were performed in the last four years. Of this group, 207 patients were 80 years old or older.

For various reasons, many of those older than 80 have told them they are not candidates for pancreatic cancer surgery.

“Whether it was because of other health issues, poor scans or just a mindset that operating on the pancreas after age 80 doesn’t make much sense, there have been reasons to not operate on these individuals,” Dr. Yeo says.

“The take home message is, if an experienced group of surgeons safely perform the right operation, the patient likely will do fine.”

**VXPN; Alan L. Brechbill, the hospital’s Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer; Helen Wallace, the hospital’s Director of Volunteer Services; Quyen Shanahan, Associate General Manager, WXPN; Alan L. Brechbill, the hospital’s Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer; Helen Wallace, the hospital’s Director of Volunteer Services; Quyen Shanahan, Associate General Manager, WXPN; Alan L. Brechbill, the hospital’s Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer; Helen Wallace, the hospital’s Director of Volunteer Services; Quyen Shanahan, Associate General Manager, WXPN. She was also recognized for her years of pioneering work against hepatitis B for Korean immigrants.

Dr. Hann’s recognition was part of an Asian American Heritage Month Celebration by WPVI-TV Channel 6 ABC and its community advisory board who honored 10 Korean American Pioneers in the Delaware Valley.
Phanatic will visit the Big Walk on September 17, at Eakins Oval on Sansom Sts. The program has been held at Jefferson since 1989 and is managed and coordinated by the Prostate Cancer Education Council. It is held each September to promote awareness of prostate cancer, the number one cancer in men. The death rate from this disease has decreased by almost 20 percent over the last decade, with much of this decline attributed to awareness and screening efforts, notes Leonard G. Gomella, MD, Director of Urologic Oncology, Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson. “Each year more and more men become aware of the importance of annual exams, and make certain to have one,” says Dr. Gomella, who is also the Bernard W. Goodwin Jr. Professor of Prostate Cancer and Chair of Urology, Jefferson Medical College.

Meet Phillie Phanatic at Big Walk for Little Feet 2006

Meet the Phillie Phanatic – up close – and join the sixth annual Big Walk for Little Feet on Sunday, September 17, at Eakins Oval on The Benjamin Franklin Parkway. That’s right! The Phanomastic Phanatic will visit the Big Walk tent on Walk Day. It’s Not Too Late to Register to Walk!

The Jefferson events team will be on-site at the following locations to sign up walkers and accept contributions and donations from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. We hope to see you!

- THEatrium – Gibbon Building – Wednesday, September 6
- JHN Lobby – Thursday, September 7
- Wills Eye lobby – Friday, September 8
- METHODist cafeteria – Monday, September 11

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. Turn out big time for this important cause and make the 2006 Big Walk the best ever! Questions? Call the events hotline at 215-955-9100 or email events@jefferson.edu

Three Dermatology Researchers Awarded $350,000 in Grants from Dermatology Foundation

Three members of the faculty of the Department of Dermatology and Cutaneous Biology have received a total of $350,000 in research awards from the Dermatology Foundation. Reza Ghohestani, MD, PhD, Research Assistant Professor, received a Physician Scientist Career Development Award. Qiu-jiang Jiang, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, was awarded a Research Career Development Award. Fatima Rouan, PhD, Research Assistant Professor, received a research grant. The Dermatology Foundation is a national, not-for-profit charitable organization and is the largest non-government provider of grants to the dermatology community.

University Health Services Offers Flu Shots

The University Health Services Department will offer free flu shots to employees in the fall. Watch Jeff/NEWS, JeffToday and the hospital Intranet and Pulse for announcements or call 215-955-6835 for more information.

In accordance with new Centers for Disease Control recommendations, hospital employees with direct patient contact will be asked to sign a declination if they opt not to be vaccinated.
Jeff Team Formed for September 16 MS 150 Bike Ride

Jefferson surgeon Gary Lindenbaum, MD, Associate Professor of Surgery, Jefferson Medical College, has formed a 20-member cycling team to participate in the 2006 MS 130 Mile Bike Tour to the Jersey shore. Funds raised from the two-day ride will go towards Multiple Sclerosis research.

To learn more, email Gary.Lindenbaum@jefferson.edu or call him at 215-955-8813.


LECTURE
Wednesday, September 20
• Surgery, JMC, “Venous Thromboembolism and Filters: Experiences: Out of Their Bodies Or Out of Their Minds?” 11 a.m. to noon, DePalma.

GRAND ROUNDS
Wednesday, September 6
• Pediatrics, Ronald A. Cohen, MD, Director, Pediatric Gastroenterology, JMC, “Autoimmune Skin Conditions in Children.” noon, 616 GIBH.

Meeting of the Week
September 17-23: Professional Development Week/Professional Development Days.

GRAND ROUNDS - VIDEO TELECONFERENCES
will broadcast from Lecture Hall, 7th fl., Jimmy Brent Conference Room at JMC.

BROWN BAG LUNCHES

Wednesday, September 6
• Teaching and Learning, Dr. Richard W. Hissen, Director, Office of Educational Development, Jefferson Medical College, “Test Your Knowledge.” 12:15 to 1:15 p.m., Room 702.

Wednesday, September 13
• Radiology, Susan A. Kline, MD, Associate Radiologist, TJUH, “MRI: In the News.” 12:15 to 1:15 p.m., Room 209.

Wednesday, September 20

Wednesday, September 27
• Pediatrics, Ronald A. Cohen, MD, Director, Pediatric Gastroenterology, JMC, “Autoimmune Skin Conditions in Children.” noon, 616 GIBH.

Thursday, September 21
• Psychiatry, Dr. Robert Leo, MD, Staff Psychiatrist, JMC, “Their Minds?” 11 a.m. to noon, DePalma.

Thursday, September 28
• Pediatrics, Rakesh Gulati, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Pediatric Hepatology and Liver Transplantation, JMC, “Autoimmune Skin Conditions in Children.” 11 a.m. to noon, DePalma.

Thursday, October 5
• Rehabilitation Medicine, Portrait Presentation for William E. Staas Jr., MD, (retired July 31, 1965). 7 to 8:30 p.m., 139 JAH.

Friday, September 1
• Psychiatry, Robert J. Dickey, MD, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Professor of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, “What Alois Alzheimer Didn’t Know But We Know Now.” 11 a.m. to noon, DePalma.

Friday, September 22
• Neurological Surgery/Neurology, David B. Porter, MD, Associate Professor of Neurological Surgery, TJUH, “Diabetes and the Brain.” 11 a.m. to noon, DePalma.

Friday, September 29
• Psychiatry, Bruce Rice, MD, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Director, Division of Psychiatric Studies, Psychiatric Medicine, University of Virginia, “The Trouble with Adolescents: 3 Days in My Shoes. Experiences: Out of Their Bodies Or Out of Their Minds?” 11 a.m. to noon, DePalma.

Friday, October 6
• Neurological Surgery/Neurology, Roger J. Smith, MD, Associate Professor of Neurological Surgery, TJUH, “Do We Really Get a Better Look.” 11 a.m. to noon, DePalma.

Friday, October 20
• Psychiatry, Stephen Murphy, MD, Staff Psychologist, Rehabilitation Medicine; Stephen Murphy, MD, Staff Psychiatrist, General Surgery, “Tourette’s Syndrome: Brain Injury Public Health Problem in the State.” 11 a.m. to noon, DePalma.

Saturday, September 2
• Medicine, Paul Bray, MD, Professor of Medicine, Director, Cardiorna Foundation for Hemorhagic Research and Director, Hematology, “Platelet Hyperactivity: Gender, Hormones and Risk factors.” 11 a.m. to noon, DePalma.

Saturday, September 9
• Medicine, Jonathan K. Maron, MD, Visiting Professor of Medicine, University of Michigan, “Challenges in the Field of Child Protection.” 11 a.m. to noon, DePalma.

Saturday, September 16
• Pediatrics, Stephen A. Koffler, MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, TJUH, “HIV Infection in Women.” 11 a.m. to noon, DePalma.

Sunday, September 10
• Radiology, Laurence Needleman, MD, Professor of Radiology and Urology, TJUH, “Microflow.” 11 a.m. to noon, DePalma.

Sunday, September 17