Jefferson’s Continuing Medical Education Program Receives Rare ‘Exemplary’ Accreditation ‘with Commendation’

Jefferson’s Continuing Medical Education (CME) Program, administered by the Office of CME, has been designated as “Accredited with Commendation” by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME).

In making the announcement, Thomas J. Nasca, MD, MACP, Senior Vice President and Dean, Jefferson Medical College, and Joseph L. Seltzer, MD, Senior Associate Dean, Continuing Medical Education, Faculty and Alumni Affairs, said: “This is the second time that Jefferson’s CME program has been recognized as ‘Exemplary’ by the ACCME – a ranking achieved by less than 15 percent of all ACCME-accredited providers.”

“Accreditation with Commendation” is the highest level of accreditation given for CME providers, and is reserved for select programs that demonstrate “Exemplary” Compliance in multiple areas. To be considered “Exemplary,” a program must go well beyond simply meeting the basic requirements by showing “innovation and creativity” in addressing the components that make up the ACCME’s Essential Areas and Standards.

American Cancer Society Honors
Richard C. Wender, MD, with Cancer Control Award

Richard C. Wender, MD, Chair, Department of Family and Community Medicine, Jefferson Medical College and Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, has been honored by the American Cancer Society (ACS), Pennsylvania Division, Southeast Region, with its Cancer Control Award.

Dr. Wender is also President-Elect of the American Cancer Society, and will be installed November 17. He is the first primary care physician to assume the presidency of the national society.

Dr. Wender was presented the Cancer Control Award at the ACS Southeast Region’s “Mission 2006: Regional Volunteer Forum and Awards Dinner.” He was nominated for the honor by Robert L. Barchi, MD, PhD, President, Thomas Jefferson University.

Celebrating Jefferson’s New School of Nursing

The Jefferson College of Health Professions officially celebrated October 15 the establishment of the School of Nursing. Pictured left to right are James B. Erdmann, PhD, Dean of Jefferson College of Health Professions, Mary Schaal, RN, EdD, Dean of Jefferson School of Nursing, Brian Harrison, Chair of the Thomas Jefferson University (TJU) Board of Trustees, and Robert L. Barchi, MD, PhD, President, TJU.

Pictured right are James B. Erdmann, PhD, President, TJU Board of Trustees, and Robert L. Barchi, Chair of the Thomas Jefferson University Nursing, Brian Harrison, Chair of the Thomas Jefferson University (TJU) Board of Trustees, and Robert L. Barchi, MD, PhD, President, TJU.

Added Drs. Nasca and Seltzer: “This is an outstanding achievement for Jeanne Cole, Director of the Office of CME, and the OCME staff which includes Pauline Sylvester, Derek Warnick, Annette Minauro, Diane Walls, Daphney Wright and Theresa Mastrangelo. Their dedication to excellence on a day-to-day, activity-by-activity basis has earned national recognition at the highest level. The OCME is a true credit to Jefferson, raising our national profile as an institution of excellence.”

‘Tackling Breast Cancer’ at Monday Night Football

Eagles vs. Green Bay Packers, when Thomas Jefferson University Hospital was the Official Presenter. Richard Postell, MD, PhD, Director, Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson and honorary captain for the evening, accepted a jersey and game ball during a pre-game on-field presentation from Harold Carmichael, Eagles’ Director of Player Programs and former Eagles wide receiver. The event helped kick off several Breast Cancer Awareness Month events where Jefferson employees sold Eagles hats and shirts to benefit the Jefferson Breast Care Center.

Jefferson Specialists Attacking Parkinson’s Disease on All Fronts

With the arrival of movement disorders specialists Daniel Kremens, MD, JD, and Tsao-Wei Liang, MD, last year, the Parkinson’s disease program at Thomas Jefferson University and Hospital continues to grow, says A.M. Rostami, MD, PhD, Professor and Chair of Neurology at Jefferson.

“We've created a wonderful synergy, providing a more cohesive Parkinson’s program,” says Dr. Kremens, Clinical Assistant Professor of Neurology at Jefferson Medical College (JMC). He notes that one of the strengths of an academic medical center such as Jefferson is its ability to bring together the latest medical treatments and new surgical techniques with clinical and basic science.

“We’re able to provide patients with the best opportunities for the newest treatments and therapies and participation in clinical trials that aren’t available at general neurology practices and many other hospitals,” he says.

He notes that certain patients with Parkinson’s need specific expertise to make the proper diagnosis. This has “major implications for treatment, prognosis and support for the patient.”

Parkinson’s disease gradually destroys brain cells that produce dopamine. As dopamine levels drop, symptoms increase. Standard treatments focus on restoring the cellular communication that controls muscle movement by replacing lost dopamine with the drug levodopa, or L-dopa, and Deep Brain Stimulation to rebalance brain circuitry. Another strategy is to use so-called “adjuncts” that can have modest effects on patients’ off-times, when L-dopa can be ineffective for brief periods.

VITAL SIGNS: SEPTEMBER 2006

- Patient Days: 22,162 (Apr–Jun) 22,675 (Jul–Sep) 21,299 (Oct–Dec)
- TJUH, Methodist, Methodist, Methodist, Methodist
- Outpatient Visits: 40,088 (Apr–Jun) 38,045 (Jul–Sep) 38,894 (Oct–Dec)
- Patient Satisfaction Overall Mean Score (Apr–Jun): 83.5

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Jefferson College of Health Professions (JCHP) honors educators and providers in the allied health professions during National Allied Health Week, November 5 to 11. JCHP educates members of the healthcare team in bioscience technologies, radiologic sciences, physical therapy, and occupational therapy, and nursing.

JCHP will celebrate National Allied Health Week with a wide variety of activities, including a blood drive, faculty and student appreciation days, and public education events. The JCHP Fall Open House caps off the week on Saturday, November 11 at Jefferson Alumni Hall.

For more information about Jefferson's Allied Health Week celebration, visit JCHP's website at http://www.jefferson.edu/jchp.

Jefferson to Host Internship Fair November 14

Thomas Jefferson University is hosting the CareerPhilly Life Sciences Internship Fair on November 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The fair will attract more than 500 regional undergraduate and graduate college students and 60 life science employers offering internships. CareerPhilly works to keep Philadelphia's college students in the region after they graduate, and the Internship Fair is an introduction to the opportunities available here.

Pastoral Care and Education Presents Annual Conference December 9

Pastoral Care and Education presents its annual conference, “Illuminating Pathways of Care: Medical and Spiritual Approaches” on December 9. Jefferson presenters include Robert C. Sterling, PhD, Anne Delengowski, RN, MSN, Helen Black, PhD, Joseph Leggiere, TMH, PhD and Marianne Robbins, MD. Keynote speaker is well-known author Eve A. Wood, MD. Rosemary B. Greco, MBA, Director, Office of Health Care Reform, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is the special guest speaker. Visit www.jeffersononehealth.org/pastoralcare to learn more.

In Memoriam
Francis E. Rosato, MD

The Jefferson community mourns the death October 18 of Francis E. Rosato, MD, who served for 22 years as the sixth Samuel D. Gross Professor of Surgery and Chair of the Department of Surgery at Jefferson Medical College (JMC) and Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.

Widely reputed for his skill and experience, Dr. Rosato was author of a number of textbooks and more than 200 papers. Instrumental in helping to establish intraoperative radiation therapy as a standard for cancer treatment, he stepped down as Chair in 2000, but continued to be clinically active through 2004.

His numerous awards include being twice recognized with the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation Award for Distinguished Teaching. Rosato was honored in 1968 at the University of Pennsylvania when he was only 34 years old, and in 1983 at JMC. In 2005, he was recognized by Thomas Jefferson University by receiving the Achievement Award in Medicine.

During his tenure as department Chair, Dr. Rosato was responsible for mentoring, educating and training more than 300 residents training for careers in general surgery and many of its sub-specialties. He was considered a master surgeon and teacher, and loved nothing more than to guide young trainees through the simplest or most complex operative procedures. He was admired and revered by his residents and his colleagues, and was instrumental in making his residency program one of the most sought after in the region. His trainees went on to academic careers or community practice and often sought his counsel even after departing Jefferson.

Dr. Rosato’s legacy is of the same magnitude as that of the Jefferson surgical giants who preceded him. He will be sorely missed, but will always be remembered, not only as an outstanding surgeon and mentor, but especially as a colleague and friend.

Jeffersonians were invited to a memorial service celebrating the life of Dr. Rosato on November 2, 10 a.m. to noon in 101 Bluemle Life Sciences Building.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Joseph’s University Pre-Medical Alumni Scholarship Fund, 3600 City Avenue, Philadelphia PA 19131.

Jefferson Specialists Attacking Parkinson’s On All Fronts (continued from page 1)

As patients use L-dopa for several years, they begin to experience off–on fluctuations as the drug’s effectiveness wanes, explains Jay Schneider, PhD, who heads the Parkinson’s Disease Research Unit at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, and is also Professor of Pathology, Anatomy and Cell Biology and Neurology at JMC. As time goes on and the disease progresses, the wearing-off periods begin to mount, and become more noticeable as symptoms return. Dr. Schneider is spearheading a new clinical trial that tests one such adjunct. He and his colleagues are studying a non-traditional anti-Parkinson’s disease drug, E2007, in an attempt to decrease such off–on experiences and extend L-dopa’s effectiveness.

The international, multicenter trial is sponsored by Eisai Medical Research Inc. of Ridgefield, NJ. The study will involve approximately 700 patients at about 150 centers across the U.S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South America. Jefferson hopes to recruit about 25 patients.

Many researchers – including Dr. Schneider and developmental biologist Lorraine Iacovitti, PhD, Professor of Neurology and Associate Director of the Farber Institute for Neurosciences, who studies stem cells and Parkinson’s – continue to examine the underlying disease mechanisms and potential avenues for new treatments. Meanwhile, recent advances in novel therapies are providing patients with new hope.

For example, according to Drs. Kremens and Liang, one of the newest and potentially exciting drugs to come along is rasagline, a neuroprotective agent that is hoped to slow down disease progression. For more information about clinical trials, contact the Parkinson’s Disease Research Unit at 215-555-8700. For an appointment with a Jefferson physician, call 1-800-JEFF-NOW.

Surgery and Neurological Care for Late-Stage Parkinson’s Disease

While medical therapy is invariably the treatment of choice for Parkinson’s disease, a surgical procedure called Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) is another option at Jefferson Hospital for those patients whose Parkinson’s has stopped responding to drug treatment.

In DBS, neurological surgeons supply controlled electrical signals through electrodes implanted deep within the brain, attempting to re-establish the brain’s disorder circuitry. According to neurological surgeon Ashwine D. Sharan, MD, Assistant Professor of Neurological Surgery, Jefferson Medical College, who leads the program, Parkinson’s disease is an ideal candidate for this treatment because it involves a focal area in the brain.

DBS, says Dr. Sharan, may have several advantages over other treatments. Its effects are very precise and controllable, and it’s reversible. Doctors also implant a pacemaker into the chest to regulate the electrical signals in the brain. Patients can control their own daily treatment simply by turning the device up or down.

According to Dr. Sharan, DBS controls symptoms and allows some patients to decrease or eliminate taking L-dopa.

Jefferson Establishes Department of Medical Oncology

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and Thomas Jefferson University have launched the Department of Medical Oncology. Neal Flomenberg, MD, a Jefferson Hospital medical oncologist and Professor of Medicine, Jefferson Medical College (JMC), is the new department’s Interim Chair.

The Department of Medical Oncology consists of physicians focusing on breast and gynecologic cancer, lung and head and neck cancer, hematological malignancies and bone marrow transplant, gastrointestinal cancer, urologic tract cancers, melanoma and experimental therapeutics.

The discipline of medical oncology was, itself, formerly a division within the Department of Medicine. Its new departmental status “was part of the important and thoughtful strategic planning process jointly undertaken by the hospital and the university,” says Richard G. Pestell, MD, PhD, who is Vice President for Oncology Services at Jefferson Hospital, as well as Director of the Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson and Professor and Chair of the Department of Cancer Biology and Associate Dean for Cancer Programs at JMC.

“Jefferson’s new, state-of-the-art Oncology Clinic and Infusion Center at 925 Chestnut St. and the opening of the Jefferson Breast Care Center in November at 1100 Walnut St. reflect remarkable new directions in our joint oncology program,” Dr. Pestell concludes. Dr. Flomenberg agrees, adding, “We expect the next few years to be a time of tremendous growth in the cancer programs here at Jefferson.”

Jefferson is recruiting additional Medical Oncology faculty and staff in order to strengthen its clinical care in breast cancer and its clinical trial capabilities, enhance its experimental cancer therapies and build a phase-one clinical oncology program.

“The establishment of our Department of Medical Oncology brings many of the most talented medical oncologists in the country together in one department and further strengthens Jefferson’s commitment to establish the Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson as a premier center for cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment,” Dr. Pestell concludes. Dr. Flomenberg agrees, adding, “We expect the next few years to be a time of tremendous growth in the cancer programs here at Jefferson.”
Comedy Tribute to Mike Young Benefits Jefferson

Members of ‘Bad Hair’ perform ‘The Moustache Song,’ written by Mike Young. From left are Jason Stockdale, Kevin Dougherty, John Zak and Peter Kohn. In inset above, Danna Young reviewing the set list and script during the ‘Mike-tastic Sketchtacular.’

The “Mike-tastic Sketchtacular,” an evening of comedy sketches, improvisation and music honored the memory of Mike Young, a fixture on Philadelphia’s comedy and improv circuit, and benefited Jefferson where he had been treated for the brain tumor that eventually took his life at age 38.

A founding member of the sketch comedy group, “Bad Hair,” and owner of Comedy Sportz, an improvisational comedy group at the Adrienne Theater, Mr. Young was “the funniest person I have ever known,” said his 30-year-old widow, Danna, also a performer with Comedy Sportz. And he had such energy “he fit 40 hours of work and play into every single day,” she added.

A colleague described Mr. Young, whose “day job” was as a graphics designer and director, as a “great performer” and “teacher.” He leaves a 20-month-old son, Baxter, in addition to his wife, parents and other relatives.

JeffSTAT Opens Second Helicopter Base – Located at Central Montgomery Medical Center

JeffSTAT has opened a second helicopter base at Central Montgomery Medical Center, a 125-bed community hospital in Lansdale, PA, Montgomery County. The medical helicopter, “JeffSTAT 2.,” is available 24 hours a day from the helipad outside the emergency department at Central Montgomery. It is identical in configuration to JeffSTAT’s primary suburban community.

The specially trained flight crew at Central Montgomery’s base will respond to both pre-hospital accident scenes and interfacility transport requests. Neurosurgery, neurology, cardiology, surgery, and neonatology patients in need of rapid transport to Jefferson from the Lansdale area will all benefit from this new resource.

Look In on Spine Surgery Webcast – Live November 15

As a special educational offering, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital will provide a real-time webcast on a common procedure that is performed to alleviate low back and leg pain — a lumbar laminectomy and transfornaminal lumber interbody fusion (TLIF).

During the webcast you will have the opportunity to view the actual surgery as it is being performed as well as to ask the physicians questions during the procedure. The procedure will be performed by orthopedic surgeon Todd Albert, MD, and neurological surgeon James Harrop, MD. Dr. Albert, who is the Professor and Vice Chair of Orthopedic Surgery, will also serve as narrator. Both professionals and the public may view the live webcast. Physicians may sign up to receive CME credits for viewing this webcast.

To learn more, call 1-800-JEFF-NOW.

Hospital Provides WorkReady Philadelphia Student Interns ‘Real World’ Experience

For the third straight summer, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital (TUJH), in conjunction with the Philadelphia Youth Network’s WorkReady Philadelphia Program, provided seven internship positions for high-performing area high school students.

WorkReady Philadelphia is the city’s coordinated system for youth workforce development that combines the efforts of various local organizations to prepare young people for productive employment and active citizenship. Coming from a variety of backgrounds and interests, students were able to gain “real world” experience in various clinical and non-clinical areas at TJUH.

“Through the generosity of our participating employees, we were able to offer students the opportunity to share in the incredible work done on a daily basis here at Jeff,” says Eric Williams, MHSA, Administrator, hospital Transplant Services.

Students were able to gain “real world” experience in various clinical and non-clinical areas at TJUH.

WorkReady Philadelphia students display their certificates for completing internships at Jefferson. From left, Amy Allen, Irene Clark, Petra Collins, Andre Acevedo, Denisha Chandler and Britsean Addalby.