Jefferson Cardiologists Fix Broken Heart

Unexplained chest pain after a heart attack might be more dangerous than many physicians originally think.

In a case study published in the January issue of the international journal Clinical Cardiology, physicians at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital report on a seemingly healthy 55-year-old man who had a silent heart attack and subsequent unexplained chest pain.

Once he was admitted to the hospital, it was discovered that the man actually had a rarely diagnosed complication called subepicardial aneurysm, which, if not quickly treated, could be fatal.

“The chest pain was a rupture of the heart wall about to happen — the most feared complication of a heart attack,” explains Michael Savage, MD, Director of the hospital’s Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory.

“The rupture occurs from a tear in the muscle that has already been damaged by a heart attack. The heart muscle breaks and the wall bursts usually causing catastrophic death soon after.”

The Jefferson researchers recommend that when a patient experiences unexplained pain after a heart attack, physicians should consider the possibility of a subepicardial aneurysm.

**An Extremely Rare Diagnosis**

Diagnosis of a subepicardial aneurysm is extremely rare, says Dr. Savage, who is also Associate Professor of Medicine, Jefferson Medical College. Only 20 cases have ever been reported in the medical literature and many patients were diagnosed after death.

It is highly likely that many more patients have died from this complication but the cause of death was unrecognized.

According to lead researcher, Aaron Giltner, MD, a cardiology fellow at the hospital, the man, who worked in construction, came to the hospital’s emergency room with chest pain. A heart attack was initially considered, and the emergency physicians called in the interventional cardiologists for a consult.

The cardiologists also initially suspected a heart attack. The patient was admitted to the hospital and was readied for a cardiac catheterization to check for blocked arteries.

**A Life-Saving Decision**

The cardiac catheterization suggested a subepicardial aneurysm — an impending cardiac rupture — and the researchers arranged for a CT scan. This confirmed that the patient had a subepicardial aneurysm, a rarely diagnosed complication of a heart attack. Once the problem was identified, surgeons promptly repaired the heart, saving his life.

“As our study shows,” Dr. Savage says, “CT imaging can be invaluable in establishing the diagnosis of a subepicardial aneurysm. Clinical recognition of this entity and the use of appropriate imaging modalities are imperative to facilitate life-saving surgical intervention.”

**Nobel Laureate Avram Hershko, MD, PhD Discusses Cellular Housecleaning**

Dr. Hershko listens to a question posed by Richard G. Pestell, MD, PhD, Director of the Kimmel Cancer Center. At left is Hideko Kaji, PhD, who also addressed the seminar.

Avram Hershko, MD, PhD, one of three scientists who shared the 2004 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, spoke at the Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson’s Cardiologists Fix Broken Heart

S.T.A.R. Employees Light Up Jefferson!

WWW.Jefferson.edu
WWW.JeffersonHospital.org

Graduate Education in Basic Science in Your Future? Come to Information Session on Wednesday, May 9

The Jefferson College of Graduate Studies (JCGS) will hold an Information Session about their MS and Certificate Programs in the Basic Sciences and Public Health on Wednesday, May 9, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., in M-61 Jefferson Alumni Hall. To RSVP for the Basic Science Information Session, please call Lisa Chosed at 215-503-0154 or visit mbsbasicscience@jefferson.edu. An additional session will be offered on Wednesday, August 1.

JCGS offers a wide range of graduate programs for professionals and continuing students here on campus and throughout the community. With conveniently scheduled classes, prospective students can choose to apply to four MS Basic Science programs and a Master’s program in Public Health as well as Certificate programs. Applicants to the MS programs are required to take the GRE or the MCAT. This requirement is waived for applicants with advanced degrees from accredited institutions, and in exceptional circumstances, for those with substantial work experience in relevant fields. Students in the JCGS master’s degree programs are able to pursue their degrees on a part-time basis. Graduates enjoy careers in universities, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, and in healthcare settings.

Research and education at Jefferson are anchored by more than 600 active research programs with extensive outside grant support. That anchor, combined with Jefferson’s access to patient-care opportunities, provides a challenging, exciting, and satisfying graduate training environment.

JCGS offers a wide range of graduate programs for professionals and continuing students here on campus and throughout the community. With conveniently scheduled classes, prospective students can choose to apply to four MS Basic Science programs and a Master’s program in Public Health as well as Certificate programs.

Applicants to the MS programs are required to take the GRE or the MCAT. This requirement is waived for applicants with advanced degrees from accredited institutions, and in exceptional circumstances, for those with substantial work experience in relevant fields.

Students in the JCGS master’s degree programs are able to pursue their degrees on a part-time basis. Graduates enjoy careers in universities, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, and in healthcare settings.

Research and education at Jefferson are anchored by more than 600 active research programs with extensive outside grant support. That anchor, combined with Jefferson’s access to patient-care opportunities, provides a challenging, exciting, and satisfying graduate training environment.

Jefferson employees may be eligible for tuition reimbursement. Visit JCGS online at www.jefferson.edu/jcgs for a complete view of programs and course offerings. Bring your questions about JCGS’s basic science programs to one of our information sessions. We will discuss your options and advise you on how your career experience can help make it easier for you to enroll in one of our four semesters each year. Enroll now for the Spring II Program classes which begin on March 24. Our Summer Program classes begin June 16. We look forward to meeting with you in person to help you launch your graduate program with Jefferson College of Graduate Studies.
Ronald P. Burd Appointed Hospital Executive Vice President

Ronald P. Burd, MBA, has been appointed to the newly created position of Executive Vice President for Strategy and Organization Development at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.

“Healthcare delivery is an ever changing, evolving industry,” said Jefferson President and CEO Thomas J. Lewis. “Ron Burd is the ideal choice to ensure that the Hospital, University and Health System joint strategic vision is achieved and that strategic plans currently in place remain relevant. I am confident that Jefferson’s opportunities for continued growth and expansion will be identified and executed in the capable hands of Ron Burd.”

At Jefferson, Mr. Burd will be responsible for regional strategy, pursuing partnerships with healthcare providers and assisting with ongoing board development and philanthropic initiatives.

“Throughout my 35-year career in health and human services, I have been extremely fortunate to have been involved in organizations that are driven by a strong mission and value the people who deliver the care,” said Mr. Burd. “Thomas Jefferson University Hospital is such an organization. I have come here at an exciting time, and I am eager to assist Tom Lewis and his management team in realizing the vision for a strong future as the hospital completes its second century of exemplary service.”

Prior to joining Jefferson, Mr. Burd served as President and CEO of the Devereux Foundation. In this position, which he held for 20 years, he guided Devereux to become the nation’s largest not-for-profit network of community-based services to children, adolescents, and adults with behavior, emotional or development difficulties.

During his 20 years of leadership, Mr. Burd helped Devereux grow from:

- 2,000 to more than 15,000 individuals and families served annually
- Facilities located in eight states to 12 states, plus the District of Columbia
- A staff of 2,500 to 6,000
- An operating budget of $35 million to $350 million
- A net worth of $7.5 million to $114 million
- Annual philanthropic support of less than $500,000 to $14 million
- A staff of 2,500 to 6,000
- Facilities located in eight states to 12 states, plus the District of Columbia
- A staff of 2,500 to 6,000
- An operating budget of $35 million to $350 million
- A net worth of $7.5 million to $114 million
- Annual philanthropic support of less than $500,000 to $14 million

Since 2004, Mr. Burd has been President Emeritus of The Devereux Foundation.

Prior to his appointment at Devereux, he held a number of progressively responsible positions at hospitals and healthcare organizations in the New England region.

From 1964 to 1968 Mr. Burd earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.), in Cambridge, Massachusetts, graduating on the Dean’s List. Mr. Burd then attended the Sloan School of Management, at M.I.T., from 1968 to 1970, where he received his Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Organization Development, graduating Magna Cum Laude.

Celebrating Black Heritage Month with CAPA Dance Performance

Jeffersonians celebrated Black Heritage Month with a dance performance in the West Atrium by students from the Philadelphia High School for Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA).

Dr. Eugene Richardson Shares Personal Recollection of Plight of Tuskegee Airmen

Jeffersonians welcomed one of the original Tuskegee Airmen and native Philadelphian, Dr. Eugene Richardson, as he shared his personal recollection of the plight of the Tuskegee Airmen in the Black Heritage Month Lecture in DePalma Auditorium.

In spite of adversity and limited opportunities, African Americans have played a significant role in United States military history over the past 300 years. They were denied military leadership roles and skilled training because many believed they lacked qualifications for combat duty.

Before 1941, African Americans were barred from flying for the United States military. Civil rights organizations exerted pressure that resulted in the formation of an all-African American pursuit squadron based in Tuskegee, Alabama, in 1941. They became known as the Tuskegee Airmen.

Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Presents Reading of Black Heritage Play

The Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson’s Advocacy and Survivorship Program and its Minority Report Committee presented a reading of a Black Heritage play entitled “Countdown Unto Goodbye” about an African-American breast cancer survivor written from the perspective of the caregiver. It was the center’s first-ever Black Heritage Month program. In photo, from left, are: Joy Soleiman, MPA, Clinical Administrator of the Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson; actor Daimon Robins; playwright Douglas B. Rucker; Rasheda El who read the play with Mr. Robins; and Edith P. Mitchell, MD, Chair of the Diversity Committee, Associate Director, and Director of Diversity for the Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson.
Visually Impaired Knitting Group Members Knit ‘Chemo Caps’ for Jefferson Patients

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital to Establish Journal Writing Program for Women with Breast Cancer

Hospital to Establish Journal Writing Program for Women with Breast Cancer

Jefferson Celebrates National Doctors’ Day March 30

Maxine (‘Max’) Mayer, RN, Tells of Her ‘Life-Changing Experience’ in Thailand

Thomas Jefferson University Choir and Orchestra Perform Free Spring Concert March 23
Wednesday, March 29
• Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson, Roald Hoffmann, PhD, Chemistry and Chemical Biology, "Chemical Biology: Essential Tenion: The Same and Not the Same," noon, 101 BLSB.

Lecture
Tuesday, March 28
• Radiation Oncology/JMC/TJJ, and Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson presents its 10th Annual Oncology and Hematology Symposium: "The Challenge of Intratumor Motion in Radiotherapy," 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., 105-107 JAH. Reception and refreshments to follow, lobby, BLSB.

BLOOD DONOR CENTER: Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please call 215-573-5700 to schedule an appointment if you are eligible and willing to give blood.

March

DENTAL ASSISTANT RECOGNITION DAY.

1:00 p.m., 105-107 BLSB. 780-L Main.

March 1
• Algorithmic Approach," 12:15 to 1:15 p.m., 105-107 JAH. Reception and refreshments to follow, lobby, BLSB.

March 21
• Surgery, Ana Maria Cuervo, MD. Dr. Ana Maria Cuervo, Dermatology and Cutaneous Biology, Monday, March 26, 780-L Main.

March 22
• Surgery, Elena Del Busto, MD, Resident, Dimitri Wender, MD, Chair, "Town Meeting," 8 a.m., 636 Scott. PJX.

March 23
• Psychiatry and Human Behavior, Stephen M. Hauser, MD, Professor of Medicine, "Clinical Decision Management," 8 a.m., 105-107 JAH. Reception and refreshments to follow, lobby, BLSB.

March 24
• Psychiatry and Human Behavior, Joseph Goldberg, MD, Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology, "Addiction, Depression and Suicide," noon to 1 p.m., 1100 Edison. Call 215-955-0735.

March 25
• Psychiatry, Elena Del Busto, MD, Resident, Dimitri Wender, MD, Chair, "Town Meeting," 8 a.m., 636 Scott. PJX.

March 26
• Psychiatry, Elena Del Busto, MD, Resident, Dimitri Wender, MD, Chair, "Town Meeting," 8 a.m., 636 Scott. PJX.

March 27
• Psychiatry, Elena Del Busto, MD, Resident, Dimitri Wender, MD, Chair, "Town Meeting," 8 a.m., 636 Scott. PJX.

March 28
• Psychiatry, Elena Del Busto, MD, Resident, Dimitri Wender, MD, Chair, "Town Meeting," 8 a.m., 636 Scott. PJX.

March 29
• Psychiatry, Elena Del Busto, MD, Resident, Dimitri Wender, MD, Chair, "Town Meeting," 8 a.m., 636 Scott. PJX.

March 30
• Psychiatry, Elena Del Busto, MD, Resident, Dimitri Wender, MD, Chair, "Town Meeting," 8 a.m., 636 Scott. PJX.

March 31
• Psychiatry, Elena Del Busto, MD, Resident, Dimitri Wender, MD, Chair, "Town Meeting," 8 a.m., 636 Scott. PJX.