Jefferson Surgeons First in Pennsylvania to Implant Jarvik 2000® Heart Assist System in Heart Failure Patient

On Monday morning, March 19, cardiac surgeons Scott Silvestry, MD, and Linda Bogar, MD, at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, opened the chest of a 55-year-old man suffering from chronic heart failure and implanted a Jarvik 2000® Heart Assist System to save his life. The Advanced Heart Failure and Cardiac Transplant team at Jefferson University Hospital is the first in the state to implant the new device.

In a little more than four hours, the Jarvik 2000 Heart Assist System was helping the man’s heart resume its normal blood flow. Rather than take over for the biological heart, the Jarvik 2000 Heart Assist System augments the weakened heart’s blood output to help to restore a normal flow throughout the body.

Next Generation of Assist Devices
“The Jarvik 2000 Heart Assist System is the next generation of assist devices – a smaller, more durable pump that is implanted into the left heart ventricle itself,” explains Scott Silvestry, MD, Surgical Director, Heart Transplant Program. “At Thomas Jefferson University Hospital this smaller assist device was implanted without the use of the heart-lung machine through an incision in the left chest. It enables us to provide a less invasive option for use in BTT indication – bridge to transplant – to help patients to become stronger and in better physical condition for a new heart.”

“This device, implanted as part of an FDA-authorized clinical trial, is currently only available in Pennsylvania at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. This is the 200th implant globally of this device.

About Size of C Battery
The Jarvik 2000 Heart Assist System is the smallest and simplest left-ventricular assist device available. It is about the size of a C battery and fits directly inside the heart’s left chamber. In the patient’s chest, it pumps blood from the heart at up to seven liters per minute.

Members of the Jefferson Advanced Heart Failure and Cardiac Transplant Center who were involved with the first Jarvik 2000 Heart Assist System to be implanted in Pennsylvania include: transplant surgeon Scott Silvestry, MD, who is also Assistant Professor of Surgery at Jefferson Medical College; Paul Mathier, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine at Jefferson Medical College; Linda Bogar, MD, transplant surgeon and Assistant Professor of Surgery at Jefferson Medical College and James Diehl, MD, Clinical Professor of Anesthesiology at Jefferson Medical College and James Diethl, MD, Clinical Professor of Surgery at Jefferson Medical College and Director, Division of Cardio-thoracic Surgery.

University President Announces Formation of Eakins Legacy Advisory Committee

Robert L. Barchi, MD, PhD, President, Thomas Jefferson University, has announced the formation of the Eakins Legacy Advisory Committee. The Legacy Committee has been created to work with Jefferson’s Board Chair, Mr. Brian Harrison, and Dr. Barchi to prioritize the use of the earned income from the Eakins Legacy Fund during the coming years. The Eakins Legacy Advisory Committee members who have agreed to serve in this important role are:

- Debra Copit, MD, James Fox IV, MD, William Harrer, MD, Diane Merry, PhD, Thomas Nasca, MD, MACP, ex officio, Karen Novielli, MD, Charles Pohl, MD, Robert Poole, MD, Edmund Pribitkin, MD, Theodore Taraschi, PhD, Renee Tholey, Howard Weitz, MD.

Dr. Barchi’s announcement concluded: “Although by University policy the first full round of investment income will not be available for spending until July 2008, there are a number of issues regarding the Legacy Fund that will require earlier discussions. The Advisory Committee will have its first meeting in late April or early May 2007 and I am looking forward to working together with this outstanding group of Jeffersonians to move the University forward and execute on our strategic plan.”

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

James Campenella and Eric Soldman, at right, owners of the Western Union Building at 218 South 12th St., present a check to Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. Accepting the gift are, from left, Stephen T. Smith, Vice President of Development; Rosanne Iacono, DONR Administrator, Jefferson Breast Care Center; and Janet Bunn, hospital Senior Vice President of Special Projects. The gift will support the Jefferson Breast Care Center located at 1100 Walnut St.

Hear Rachel Naomi Remen, MD
Speak at Jefferson April 19, 4 p.m.

The Jefferson community will have a rare opportunity to attend a special presentation by Rachel Naomi Remen, MD, one of the most beloved pioneers of Holistic Medicine, and a clinician, medical educator, best-selling author and master storyteller.

Dr. Remen will present “Rekindling the Flame: Uncovering Our Calling and Commitment – Living as If Your Life Makes a Difference” Thursday, April 19, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Jefferson Alumni Hall cafeteria. Admission is free.

Dr. Remen is Clinical Professor of Family and Community Medicine at the University of California San Francisco School of Medicine and co-founder of the Commonweal Cancer Help Program, one of the first support retreats for cancer patients in America.

Her course, “The Healer’s Art,” is now taught in 52 medical schools nationwide and her best-selling books, Kitchen Table Wisdom and My Grandfather’s Blessings, are published in 18 languages and have won numerous awards.

Dr. Remen has a 54-year personal history of Crohn’s disease and her stories and insights are drawn from the experiences of both doctors and patients.

Her presentation for Jefferson faculty, students and employees is sponsored by the Jefferson-Myrna Brind Center of Integrative Medicine, Ira Brind (founder), and Daniel Morit, MD (Director), and Co-sponsored by Theodore A. Christopher, MD, David L. Paskin, MD, Richard G. Pestell, MD, PhD, Richard H. Rothman, MD, PhD, Michael J. Vergare, MD, Richard C. Wender, MD.

Calling All Artists, Poets, Creative Spirits

The Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson will exhibit art, poetry, and stories of hope by cancer survivors and family members at the 8th Annual Celebration of Life on June 7 from 4:30 to 7 p.m., in the Bluewine Life Sciences Building. Please call Jennifer Romanski, MSW, at 215-955-8370 to arrange to have your work displayed. You do not need to be a professional artist. All employees are invited to attend the event on June 7.
Jefferson Celebrates National Public Health Week With SAPHE Awards Luncheon April 5

Jeff SAPHE (Safety, Awareness and Public Health Education) will present the Excellence in Community Service Award to Joanne Fisher, Executive Director of the Maternity Care Coalition, which advocates for increased services for women and infants to health and welfare agencies and legislative bodies, at the 4th Annual SAPHE Awards Luncheon on Thursday, April 5, at a noon program in Jefferson Alumni Hall.

Jeffersonians are invited to the luncheon program, where exciting changes in the Jefferson College of Graduate Studies Master of Public Health Program will be presented by David B. Nash, MD, MBA, FACP, the Dr. Raymond C. and Doris N. Grandon Professor and Chair of Health Policy at Jefferson.

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP, to Deliver 15th Annual Paul C. Brucker, MD Lecture April 20

The 15th Annual Paul C. Brucker, MD Lecture in Healthcare, "Can Employer-Sponsored Insurance Survive? Implications for a Fragile Health Care System," will be delivered by David Blumenthal, MD, MPP, Director, Institute for Health Policy and Physician at The Massachusetts General Hospital/Partners HealthCare System, Boston, at 101 Bluener Life Sciences Building, 9 a.m., April 20. There will be a continental breakfast before the lecture and a reception following the lecture, both in the lobby of BLSB.

Dr. Blumenthal is also Samuel O. Thier Professor of Medicine and Professor of Health Care Policy at Harvard Medical School. His research interests include the dissemination of health information technology, quality management in health care, the determinants of physician behavior, access to health services, and the extent and consequences of academic-industrial relationships in the health sciences.

April 16 Is World Voice Day

The new Jefferson Center for Voice and Swallowing in the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery passes on these five tips to keep a healthy voice: Drink plenty of water. Avoid speaking over excessive noise. The new Jefferson Center for Voice and Swallowing in the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery passes on these five tips to keep a healthy voice: Drink plenty of water. Avoid speaking over excessive noise. Come learn about what “Keeping it Private” means to you and the Jefferson Community. Educational activities will raise awareness about respecting patient privacy, keeping personal health information private, and making sure the information is secure and protected via reasonable safeguards as we live in a world that is part paper and part electronic.

In Memoriam

John Y. Templeton III, MD

The Jefferson community mourns the death on March 27, 2007 of John Y. Templeton III, MD, the fourth Samuel D. Gross Professor of Surgery and the ninth Chair of the Department. Dr. Templeton was a true Jeffersonian, graduating from Jefferson Medical College in 1944, and training in surgery under John H. Gibbon Jr., MD. He was, in fact, the first resident to work in Dr. Gibbon's laboratory on the heart-lung machine.

Following his training, Dr. Templeton joined the faculty of the Department of Surgery in 1950, rapidly rising to Professor in 1957. From 1964 to 1967, he served as Professor of Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania, and Chief of Surgery at Pennsylvania Hospital. He returned to Jefferson in 1967 as the Samuel D. Gross Professor and Chair of the Department, following in the footsteps of his mentor, Dr. Gibbon. In 1969, he resigned from the chairmanship, but remained on the faculty and continued to make valuable contributions to the Department.

Dr. Templeton retired from active practice in 1987, but continued to serve Jefferson in many endeavors, including as President of the Jefferson Alumni Association and as President of the Medical Staff of the hospital. He also served as an Alumni Trustee of the Board of Trustees of Thomas Jefferson University.

The annual John Y. Templeton III Lectureship was established in 1980, and continues to attract distinguished speakers to the Department of Surgery each year.

Dr. Templeton was revered by his colleagues, surgical trainees, and medical students, and will be sorely missed by the Jefferson community.

Cancer Programs Celebrate National Cancer Registrars Week April 9-13

More than 4,000 Cancer Registrars, their colleagues and community leaders will observe National Cancer Registrars Week, April 9 to 13. Working at the core of every cancer program, Cancer Registrars find, interpret and record a wide range of demographic and medical information about patients with cancer. The information is submitted to state and national cancer registries for use in research, treatment and prevention initiatives. Cancer programs are thus able to accurately determine cancer patient populations, measure outcomes of treatment and survival, and formulate plans for quality improvement.

The Cancer Registrars at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital will mark National Cancer Registrars Week by hosting an open house in the Oncology Data Services Department, 1015 Chestnut St., Suite 608, between 1 and 3 p.m. Thursday, April 12. Please plan to visit our department and learn more! Refreshments will be served!

April Is Organ Donor Awareness Month

Join gold sponsor Jefferson Hospital at the 12th Annual Dash for Organ Donor Awareness on Sunday, April 22, as the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art to help increase public awareness of the critical shortage of organ and tissue donors. Patients, employees, staff and their families can choose to participate in a 5K run at 9:45 a.m., a 10K run at 10 a.m. or a 3K walk at 10:45 a.m.

You’ll find registration forms at the Transplant Office, 1950 Gibbon, or at the Gift of Life web site at www.donors1.org where you’ll see TEAM JEFFERSON listed.

Before April 16, the fee is $25; $30 thereafter. Your participation will help the 480+ patients listed for solid organ transplant at Jefferson.

Watch for lunch hour Organ Donor Awareness Week activities in the Hospital’s Atrium from April 16 to 20 provided by members of Jefferson’s Advanced Heart Failure and Cardiac Transplant Center.

Jay Schneider, PhD, Receives Several Honors

Jay Schneider, PhD, Professor, Department of Pathology, Anatomy and Cell Biology, is recipient of several recent honors.

A featured speaker at the 2007 Health Education in Lead Poisoning Legislative Informational Forum, sponsored by elected officials in Connecticut, Dr. Schneider spoke on “The Scientific Basis for the Detrimental Effects of Lead on the Developing Brain.” He was recognized by CT Governor M. Jodi Rell as a “testament to outstanding service and commitment to excellence” for his work in helping to eradicate lead poisoning.

Dr. Schneider was also cited by the CT General Assembly for his “efforts to insure that children are safe from the dangers of lead poisoning.” And he received a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from U.S. Representative Christopher Murphy, for “outstanding and invaluable service to the community.”

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Dr. Templeton was revered by his colleagues, surgical trainees, and medical students, and will be sorely missed by the Jefferson community.

A memorial service will take place on Wednesday, April 11, at 11 a.m., at the Ardmore Presbyterian Church, 5 W. Montgomery Ave., Ardmore, Pa. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to American Heart Association (Montgomery County), Memorial Fulfillment Center, 777 Penn Center Boulevard, Suite 200, Pittsburgh, PA 15235.
Keeping Alive the 'Jefferson Family Tradition'

When Adrianna Josephine Cooke was born at Jefferson the morning of January 5 – her mother’s birthday – the event kept alive a “Jefferson family tradition” of more than half a century.

It began in 1952 with the birth at Jefferson of Adrianna’s grandfather, Douglas Wise, DO, who launched his medical career 19 years later with his first fulltime job as a Nursing Assistant at Jefferson. For the next three years he rotated through several Jeff units as a co-op student at Drexel University and at Jefferson met Adrianna’s grandmother, Josie (Ganio), RN.

Adrianna’s mother, Christine (Chrissy) Wise, RN, was born at Jefferson January 5, 1979, and took her first fulltime RN job at Jefferson. The new mom is assigned to the Wills Eye surgical unit from where she worked up to almost two weeks prior to her delivery on January 5, 2007. Chrissy’s brother, now an elementary school teacher, was born at Jefferson in 1975. Dr. Joseph Long delivered him as one of the last deliveries of his career, Dr. Douglas Wise having been one of his first in 1952.

After practicing six years in Swedesboro, NJ, Dr. Wise has been in family practice for the last 20 years in southern California from where he emailed JeffNEWS: “I want JeffNEWS readers to know how our family history is so intertwined with Jefferson and how proud we have been about our relationships with Jefferson through the years and how pleased we all have been with utilizing Jefferson’s fine services all these years. As even more examples, my mother had numerous successful surgical procedures at Jefferson and Chrissy’s paternal grandfather had very successful heart surgery at Jefferson.”

Congressman Robert A. Brady Presents Award to Noted Cancer Scientist at Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson Symposium

Congressman Robert A. Brady (D-Pa.) presented the inaugural Robert A. Brady Breast Cancer Lecture Series Award to noted scientist Arthur Pardee, PhD, of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, at a breast cancer symposium held by the Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson (KCC).

The all-day, breast cancer symposium, part of an annual series at the Kimmel Cancer Center, featured presentations about the latest advances in both breast cancer treatment and research – including innovations in surgical, imaging, chemotherapy and radiation approaches.

The Robert A. Brady Cancer Lecture Series Award was established in 2006 to recognize the efforts of renowned individuals with an award of excellence for their work in breast cancer research, treatment or advocacy. A National Academy of Sciences member and a distinguished cancer researcher, Dr. Pardee is best known for his contributions to the discovery of and research in messenger RNA and in tumor growth and regulation.

Jefferson Medical Students Hold 10th Annual Charity Ball to Support Medical Clinics for Homeless

JeffHOPE, the largest student-run organization at Thomas Jefferson University, held its 10th annual Charity Ball to raise funds for the continued support of free medical clinics JeffHOPE maintains at Philadelphia homeless shelters. Jefferson medical and physical therapy students and attending Jefferson physicians volunteer weekly at free medical clinics JeffHOPE has established at five homeless shelters throughout the city of Philadelphia.

Founded in 1991, JeffHOPE stands for Health, Opportunity, Prevention and Education.

The annual ball is the organization’s largest fundraiser, raising about $15,000 annually to support JeffHOPE’s mission to provide dignified, accessible and top-quality health care to the city’s homeless and underserved populations.

Nearly 600 persons attended this year’s Ball at the Crystal Tea Room of The Wanamaker Building, where JeffHOPE honored three individuals for their volunteer work:

- Pediatrician William McNett, MD, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Recipient, JeffHOPE Volunteer Physician of the Year
- Jefferson Medical College student Ruthal Anandanadesan
- Sa’heed McKnight, community volunteer at JeffHOPE Ridge Homeless Shelter clinic

Methodist Hospital Wins National Improvement Award

Press Ganey Associates, the nation’s leading healthcare satisfaction measurement and improvement firm, has named Methodist Hospital Division of Thomas Jefferson University Hospital a 2006 Compass Award Winner.

Bestowed annually, the Compass Award recognizes facilities that show the most improvement over two years in overall patient satisfaction. It is a coveted symbol of achievement in the healthcare satisfaction industry. One of only 44 facilities to receive this honor, Methodist Hospital has been acknowledged for the most improved Emergency Department, based on patient satisfaction survey results.

Dr. Melvin F. Hall, President and Chief Executive Officer of Press Ganey noted, “We are proud partners of Methodist Hospital. Their dedication to continuous improvement services as a model for all.”

Upon accepting the award, James Robinson, CEO of Methodist Hospital, said, “Our entire team of physicians, nurses, staff and administration is committed to serving the healthcare needs of South Philadelphia and its surrounding communities. I believe this award shows that we, at Methodist Hospital, are also listening to what our patients want, and are following through with actions.”

A comprehensive project to improve patient flow throughout the Emergency Department began in August 2004 based on patient survey results, though operational changes had been initiated earlier that year when the hospital completed its merger with St. Agnes. “We wanted to make the Emergency Department the ‘front door’ to Methodist,” said Mr. Robinson.

JMC Executive Council Approves Jefferson Center for Balance and Hearing

The Jefferson Center for Balance and Hearing was approved by the Executive Council of the Jefferson Medical College at its March 6 meeting. The Center is located in the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, 925 Chestnut St., 6th floor.

The Center is staffed by an experienced group of doctoral-level audiologists and a hearing aid specialist. Thomas Wilcox, MD, is the Center’s Medical Director. He is board certified in Otolaryngology, is fellowship trained in Otology/Neurotology and has more than 13 years of experience treating patients with hearing and balance disorders.

Nancy Catterall, AuD, F-AAA, the Center’s Clinical Director, is board certified by the American Board of Audiology, a fellow of the American Academy of Audiology, and has more than 24 years of experience in the field.

Physical therapists from the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine provide vestibular rehabilitation therapy within the Center to patients diagnosed with peripheral vestibular disorders.

The nursing staff in Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery is an integral part of our clinical team. They have advanced training and are experienced in the care of patients with hearing and balance disorders. The Jefferson Center for Balance and Hearing is committed to comprehensive, compassionate care.

More than 28 million Americans of all ages have hearing loss. May is Better Hearing and Speech Month – a perfect time to have a complete hearing evaluation by the Center’s multidisciplinary team of nationally recognized professionals.

To learn more about the Center or to schedule appointments, please call 1-800 JEFF-NOW.

Mark Your Calendar! Annual Retirement Fair

Thursday, May 17
7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., 101 Bluemle