Vergare Named Interim Dean of Jefferson Medical College

Michael J. Vergare, MD, the Daniel Lieberman Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at Jefferson Medical College, has been named interim Dean of the medical school effective December 12, 2007. Dr. Vergare, who is also Chairman of Psychiatry at Albert Einstein Healthcare Network/Belmont Behavioral Health, will succeed Thomas J. Nasca, MD, FACP, who is stepping down to become Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education in Chicago. Dr. Vergare will also assume, on an interim basis, the title of Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at Thomas Jefferson University.

“Dr. Vergare is a recognized expert in geriatric and administrative psychiatry and a longstanding advocate for integrating the education of medical students and residents into clinical environments,” said Robert Barchi, MD, President of Thomas Jefferson University, in announcing the appointment. “I am delighted that Dr. Vergare has agreed to take on these responsibilities, and I am confident that he will work closely and effectively with Dr. Nasca and his staff to ensure a seamless transition in the Dean’s office.”

Dr. Vergare’s many honors include the Presidential Medal from the American Psychiatric Association, the Judicare Medical Services Award, the Philadelphia Psychiatric Society’s Edward Lawlor Award and the Daniel Blain Award. He has been ranked by Philadelphia magazine as one of the top doctors in the region, and in 2007 became the first psychiatrist to receive the Bell of Hope Award presented by the Mental Health Association of Southeast Pennsylvania.

Snapple and Acme Donate $15,000 to Jefferson Breast Care Center

Snapple and Acme donated $15,000 to Tackling Breast Cancer, an Eagles campaign that ran throughout October to benefit the Jefferson Breast Care Center. Acme employees raised an additional $1,000 for Jefferson during a raffle.

In This Issue:

- Gaia Honors Lynne and Harold Honickman; Anthony J. DiMarino, Jr., MD
- Madagascar Teen Travels to Jefferson
- Inserts for Jeff-at-Night and Service Recognition Awards

VITAL SIGNS: SEPTEMBER

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The Fifth Annual Jefferson Awards Gala was held on October 11 at the Philadelphia Downtown Marriott Hotel, honoring Lynne and Harold Honickman, who received the Award of Merit, and Anthony J. DiMarino Jr., MD, who received the Achievement Award in Medicine. The Honickmans and Dr. DiMarino were honored for their achievements, leadership, and compassion to the University and Hospital, as well as their commitment to the communities in which they live and work. More than 1,000 attended the Gala, which raised roughly $1.2 million. Presenting the awards were University President Robert L. Barchi, MD, PhD, and President and Chief Executive Officer of Jefferson Hospital, Thomas J. Lewis.

More Than 1,000 Attend Annual Jefferson Awards Gala

Jefferson Neurological Surgery Residents Stavropoula Tjoumakaris, MD and Pascal Jabbour, MD, scored among the top three neurosurgery resident teams at the Self-Assessment in Neurological Surgery (SANS) challenge in San Diego. The live “Jeopardy”-style challenge took place during the Annual Meeting of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) in September. SANS is a learning tool offered by the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, an organization with a 25-year history in neurosurgical training, exam preparation, and continuing medical education (CME).

This year, representatives from 57 neurosurgery residency programs participated in the online pretest portion of the challenge. Drs. Tjoumakaris and Jabbour earned a score that ranked Jefferson as one of the top nine programs in this preliminary round. Jefferson is one of only four programs to score in the top nine two years in a row. The Jefferson team went on to place third in the national competition.

Neurological Surgery Residents from Jefferson Place in Top Three at National Competition

Papa John’s pizza restaurants donated $10,000 to the Eagles Tackling Breast Cancer campaign, which benefits Jefferson’s Breast Care Center. The Center is undergoing expansion and renovations to help enhance and centralize many clinical services. Pictured presenting the check to Neil Lubansky, Senior Vice President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer for TJUH (left) are John Schnatter, Founder and Chairman of Papa John’s, and Christina Lurie, Philadelphia Eagles owner.

Papa John’s Makes $10,000 Donation to ‘Tackling Breast Cancer’ Campaign

The life-saving brain surgery wasn’t available in Madagascar, so Daniel Andriantina chose to bring his 18-year-old son, Karol, to the one hospital that offered them help, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.

Karol Andriantina was diagnosed with a life-threatening brain tumor that was affecting his growth, his personality and his eyesight. He lost vision in his left eye and a majority of sight in his right. In September, the Adriantinas traveled from Madagascar to Jefferson, where neurological surgeon James Evans, MD, performed the first of several complicated operations designed to remove, or at least reduce, the size of the tumor so it could be treated with radiation. Through an interpreter, Karol’s father, Daniel, expressed a simple wish. He hoped that Karol would be able to go back to school.

In Madagascar, Dr. Stavropoula Tjoumakaris and Dr. Pascal Jabbour traveled to San Diego to participate, placing third in the live rounds of the SANS Challenge.

Madagascar Teen Travels to Jefferson for Brain Surgery

Nurse Joanne Schleider and Nursing Assistant Hester (Lulu) Fuller were two of 20 Jefferson participants in this year’s Day of Caring event for the United Way. In just four hours the group made 860 dinners and 400 breakfasts for Aid For Friends, an organization that delivers free meals to the elderly and shut-ins.

Dragon Boat Team Raises More Than $6,000 for Jefferson Breast Care Center

Teams from Nursing, the Emergency Department and other areas of Jefferson were among more than 136 teams competing at the Philadelphia Dragon Boat Festival this October. Jeff Crew, the team that raised money for the Jefferson Breast Care Center, sold T-shirts and held a special evening event. Below, Allison Zeoli, MD, of Medical Oncology and Pramilla Anne, MD, of Radiation Oncology admire the shirt design.

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More Than 1,000 Attend Annual Jefferson Awards Gala
Achievements

Radiation oncologists and urologists at Jefferson's Kimmel Cancer Center have begun using a real-time system to implant radiation-emitting seeds in prostate cancer patients. While the system is only being used for imaging and planning purposes now, it will ultimately help with the actual placement of the seeds. The device provides a multidimensional view of the prostate that allows physicians to collect more precise information to adjust a patient's treatment plan. Jefferson is the first in the Delaware Valley to begin using the new system.

Satish Rattan, MD, Professor, Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, JMC, delivered the keynote speech at the 12th Conference on Colorectal and Anal Function held in Tokyo, Japan. He was also a visiting professor at the Department of Pharmacology at the University of Tokyo.

The University recently established the Jefferson Vaccine Center to create an infrastructure for all of its vaccines research and clinical efforts in fields ranging from melanoma and colon cancer to HIV and rabies. The new center is headed by Matthias Schnell, PhD, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology at Jefferson Medical College. Laurence Eisenlohr, DVM, PhD, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, will serve as the center’s Associate Director.

Jefferson Sleep Disorders Center hosts open house

The Jefferson Sleep Disorders Center held an open house in October to showcase its new facility at 211 South 9th Street. More than 200 toured the center, which combines high-quality medical care, leading-edge technology and accommodations comparable to those of a fine hotel. The Jefferson Sleep Disorders Center is the most comprehensive center for diagnosis and treatment of sleep disorders in the Delaware Valley.

A new guide on pancreatic cancer, co-authored by Charles J. Yeo, MD, Samuel D. Gross Professor and Chair of Surgery at JMC, offers a better understanding of the unique challenges associated with pancreatic cancer. Understanding Pancreatic Cancer: A Guide for Patients and Caregivers, provides information about many aspects of pancreatic cancer, including symptoms, diagnosis, staging, treatment, clinical trials, supportive care and research. It also focuses on issues such as pain management, care giving, coping, financial and legal matters and end-of-life care.

Scientists at Jefferson’s Kimmel Cancer Center have discovered new molecular evidence of the role of prolactin in breast cancer. According to Principal Investigator Hallgeir Rui, MD, PhD, Professor of Cancer Biology, prolactin, a pituitary hormone that normally stimulates breast development and milk production, initiates a new “signaling pathway” that may regulate the growth and survival of breast cancer cells. The findings appeared in the journal Molecular Endocrinology.

The Stroke Center at TJUH has received a Gold Performance Award from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. The award is given to hospitals that achieve sustained excellence in improving the quality of stroke patient care and outcomes.

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TJUH’s Breast Imaging Center is now recognized by the American College of Radiology (ACR) as a “Center of Excellence.” TJUH achieved this status because of its ACR accreditation for mammography, stereotactic core biopsies and ultrasound guided core biopsies. Out of approximately 383 ACR-accredited sites in Pennsylvania, only nine are recognized as “Centers of Excellence.”

A study led by Ronald Myers, PhD, Professor of Medical Oncology at JMC, found that personalization is one of the best ways to encourage colorectal cancer screening. Dr. Myers and his team divided at-risk patients into four groups receiving usual care (control); mailed information (group one); mailed information with messages addressing personal concerns about screening, (group two); or mailed information with personal messages, screening materials, plus mail and telephone reminders (group three). The team found that compared to usual care controls, all of the personalized approaches made a difference – with screening rates higher in groups receiving more personalized interventions.

People

Brian Carr, MD, PhD, FRCPC, has joined JMC as Professor of Medical Oncology after serving 18 years in the Department of Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh.

Barry Goldberg, MD, Director of the Department of Radiology, Division of Diagnostic Ultrasound and Radiologic Imaging, was named one of the ‘25 Most Influential People in Imaging’ by RT Image magazine. The magazine referred to Dr. Goldberg as the ‘father of ultrasound.’

Gerald B. Grunwald, PhD, Professor of Pathology, Anatomy and Cell Biology at TJUH, was presented the inaugural Faculty Award for Neuroscience Education by the graduate students of the Neuroscience program. Dr. Grunwald was selected to receive this honor based on his outstanding commitment to neuroscience education and dedication to the students.

Usula Hobbs, BSN, CCTC, received a Transplant Coordinator of the Year Award at a recent gala celebration hosted by the Delaware Valley Chapter of the American Liver Foundation. Ursula is the Lead Liver Transplant Coordinator for TJUH.

Pankaj H. Patel, MD, FACS, has joined the Department of Surgery at TJUH and has also been named Assistant Professor of Surgery at JMC. Dr. Patel recently served as Attending Surgeon at York Hospital and Associate Trauma Director of Christiana’s Level 1 Trauma Center.

Susan L. Rattner, MD, MS, was awarded a plaque by the Board of Trustees of Thomas Jefferson University in appreciation for her leadership in guiding JMC through the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) process. The LCME is a national organization that assures quality in postsecondary education and determines whether an institution or program meets established standards for function, structure and performance.

Robert Rosenwasser, MD, was awarded the Charles Drake Lecture in Cerebrovascular Surgery at the recent Congress of Neurological Surgeons. The award is given to “individuals who have made seminal contributions to the field of neurovascular diseases of the brain and spinal cord.” Dr. Rosenwasser recently delivered his address at the Congress of Neurological Surgeons in San Diego.

Gordon F. Schwartz, MD, was named as one of the ‘75 Greatest Living Philadelphians’ by the Philadelphia Daily News. Dr. Schwartz is Professor of Surgery at Jefferson Medical College.

Rob Simmons, DrPH, MPH, CHES, Program Director of the Master of Public Health program in the Jefferson College of Graduate Studies, has been elected President of the Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE), an organization that promotes healthy behaviors, healthy communities and healthy environments through its membership and network of local chapters.

Cardiothoracic surgeon Benjamin A. Youdelman, MD, has joined the Department of Surgery and has also been named Assistant Professor of Surgery at JMC. He joins the faculty after a fellowship in thoracic aortic surgery at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania where he was trained in endovascular and open surgical techniques for the treatment of aortic disease.

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Bleeding Center Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please call 5-7711 to schedule your appointment if you are eligible and willing to give blood.

December 1: World AIDS Day

December 1 – 7: Atlantic Anea Week

Wednesday, November 14
Family Medicine, Medicine, Robert Wint, MD, Associate Professor. Family and Community Medicine, TUI, "IVH Prophylaxis," 8 a.m., 105/107 BLBS.

Methodist Hospital, Medical Grand Rounds, Marc K. Drenner, MD, Professor of Medicine, "The Pathologic Basis of Transmembrane Signaling," 4 p.m., 105/107 BLBS.

Methodist Hospital, Medical Grand Rounds, Daniel H. Frisch, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, "Selective Internal Radiation Therapy for Atrial Fibrillation," noon, Morgan Conference Center, Methodist Hospital.

Wednesday, November 15
Pediatrics, Departmental Meeting, 8 a.m., OP Rehab Conference Room.

Jerrold's Kimmel Cancer Center, Bernard Weinstein, MD, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, "Transmembrane Receptor Signaling," 4 p.m., 105/107 BLBS.

Methodist Hospital, Medical Grand Rounds, Neal D. Frisch, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, "Malignant Histiocytosis," noon, Morgan Conference Center, Methodist Hospital.

GRAND ROUNDS – VIDEO TELECONFERENCES

GRAND ROUNDS – VIDEO TELECONFERENCES will broadcast from Lecture Hall, duPont Hospital for Children Thursday, November 15

Pediatrics, Robert O. Yaw Memorial Seminar, Barbara S. Howard, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland, "The Oppositional Young Child," 7 a.m., (from duPont Hospital for Children, AtlanCare, Jefferson Christian Health System and Bryn Mawr and Lanierakis).

Pediatrics, Zoe Grumman, MD, Chairman, Anesthesiology, TRH, The James D. Westenla, MD, Professor of Anesthesiology, "Anesthesia for Neuronal Emergencies," 8 a.m., (from Jefferson's Kimmel Cancer Center, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Jefferson Christian Health System and Bryn Mawr and Lanierakis).

Pediatrics, Mary Thourou, MD, Attending Physician, Anesthesiology and Critical Care, duPont Hospital for Children, "Cardiac Anesthesiology," 4 p.m., (from Jefferson's Kimmel Cancer Center, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Jefferson Christian Health System, Bryn Mawr and Lanierakis).

Department of Medicine, Howard A. Rockman, MD, Professor of Medicine, Cell Biology and Molecular Genetics, Robert Wint, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, "HIV Prophylaxis," 8 a.m., 105/107 BLBS.

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Jefferson, Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals, Board, 8 a.m., 105/107 BLBS.

Tuesday, November 20

TRH Women's Board, Executive Committee Meeting, 10 a.m., 1632 Thompson.

Friday, November 23

Full Board of Trustees, 5:30 p.m., 636 Scott. (Reception and dinner for Trustees, their spouses/guests and senior staff will follow the meeting.)

Monday, December 10

TRH Medical Staff, Executive Committee Meeting, 10 a.m., 1632 Thompson.

Jefferson, Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals, Board, 8 a.m., 105/107 BLBS.

SPECIAL EVENT

Monday, November 12

Rescue of Enamel Defects Using a Genetic Therapy, 8 to 9 a.m., 105/107 BLSB.

Wednesday, November 21

Pediatrics, Departmental Meeting, 8 a.m., 217 Curtis.

Jefferson's Kimmel Cancer Center, Jerry A Shields, MD and Carol Shields, MD, "Jefferson Medical College," 8 a.m., Solo-Cohen Aud. Jah.

Jefferson's Kimmel Cancer Center, Raymond Rani Arme, MD, Radiation Oncology, "Selective Internal Radiation Therapy for Liver Tumors," 8 a.m., 101 BLBS.

Wednesday, December 12

Jefferson's Kimmel Cancer Center, Jay Heiman, MD, "Platelet Transfusion: Indications and Dose," 7 a.m., DePalma.

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