Jefferson Designated Live Donor Liver Transplant Center by the United Network for Organ Sharing

Jefferson Hospital was recently designated a Live Donor Liver Transplant Center (LDLT) by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), the organization that administers the nation’s policies on organ transplantation and procurement. The designation makes Jefferson one of only three adult-to-adult living donor liver transplantation programs in the Delaware Valley.

Cataldo Doria, MD, PhD, FACS, Director of the Division of Transplantation at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital (TJUH), and Associate Professor of Surgery, Jefferson Medical College (JMC), will lead Jefferson’s LDLT team as primary surgeon. The team will also include Stephen P. Dunn, MD, Division Chief of General Surgery and Solid Organ Transplant Surgery at A.I. duPont Hospital for Children, and Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics at JMC; Carlo Ramirez, MD, transplant specialist at TJUH and Assistant Professor of Surgery at JMC.

“We are extremely pleased to be able to offer living donor transplantation as another potentially life-saving treatment to our liver patients here at Jefferson,” said Dr. Doria. “LDLT does not replace traditional deceased donor transplantation, but it will allow us to transplant more patients from the UNOS waiting list.”

Dancing, Cooking Demos at Stroke Awareness Health Fair

Jefferson hosted the “Stroke in the City: Get the Real Deal on Stroke” health fair on April 5. A crowd of 250 from the community turned out for the free event’s informative presentations by Jefferson physicians in addition to cooking demonstrations, dance lessons, refreshments, prizes and health screenings. Speakers at the event included Maria Carissa Pineda, MD, Assistant Professor of Neurology at Jefferson Medical College, and Mary T. Bouchard, MSN, CNS, RN, CRRN, Instructor in the Department of Nursing at Jefferson College of Health Professions. The fair was sponsored by a grant from The Philadelphia Foundation and Jefferson’s Acute Stroke Center.

Jefferson’s Kimmel Cancer Center Delivers Big Message on Colon Cancer Awareness

Jefferson’s Kimmel Cancer Center promoted colon cancer awareness with various events in advance of Colon Cancer Awareness Month (March). The Center displayed the “Super Colon” – an 8-foot high and 20-foot long walk-through replica of the human colon – at both Plymouth Meeting Mall and the Loews Philadelphia Hotel on February 28. Also at the Loews, a reception and information/Q&A session offered attendees the opportunity to learn about colon cancer prevention and new treatments from leading multi-disciplinary specialists at Jefferson.

In addition to these events, the Center held a symposium on February 29 for medical professionals, providing the latest reports on both research and clinical advances in the field. Some of the topics covered included new developments in radiation therapy, new techniques for imaging, including PET/CT, studies on the latest drugs against metastatic colorectal cancer and new screening guidelines. Among the speakers from Jefferson, Scott Waldman, MD, PhD, presented his five-year NIH-backed clinical trial of a potential test to gauge the extent of colorectal cancer.

Clinton Healthcare Policy Advisor Speaks on Campus

In the days leading up to the debate between senators Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton at the Constitution Center, Jefferson’s Department of Health Policy invited healthcare policy advisors from both campaigns to speak about the candidates’ plans. Andrea Palm, Senator Clinton’s Senior Health Policy Advisor, accepted the invitation, and presented the candidate’s proposal for the nation’s healthcare system to a crowd of Jefferson students, employees and faculty members at Jefferson Alumni Hall on April 18. Palm addressed questions from the audience and met informally with some students after the event.

Independence Blue Cross Grants High Distinction to Jefferson’s Kimmel Cancer Center/TJUH

Healthcare insurer Independence Blue Cross selected Thomas Jefferson University Hospital/Kimmel Cancer Center as a Blue Distinction Center for Complex and Rare Cancers. Jefferson received the distinction because it meets the provider’s criteria of offering multidisciplinary treatment planning and major surgical treatments, with subspecialty training and distinguished clinical expertise in complex and rare cancers such as esophageal cancer, bladder cancer, liver cancer and thyroid cancer.

Lyne Abraham Speaks at Jefferson

Philadelphia District Attorney Lynne Abraham delivered the Women’s History Month keynote lecture “Violence as a Public Health Issue” on March 11 in the Hamilton Building’s Connelly Auditorium. District Attorney Abraham has been a strong voice for victims of crime and has worked to improve the Office and criminal justice system in Philadelphia and the state through innovative programs and legislation to help crime victims and law enforcement. She has combated violent crime through aggressive and effective prosecutions of the most dangerous criminals, and created the Family Violence & Sexual Assault Unit to take advantage of high-level specialization necessary to fight child abuse, sexual assault and domestic violence.

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THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY AND HOSPITALS

www.Jefferson.edu

May • June 2008
Jefferson Celebrates National Doctors’ Day

A reception in the Hamilton Building on March 31 honored our dedicated physicians.

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The family of John H. Porch would like to thank all of the nurses and staff of Jefferson Hospital's Bone Marrow Transplant Unit for the exceptional care they provide each and every day. We are truly appreciative for their hard work and dedication to our loved one and every other patient in the unit.

We believe them to be angels on earth.

With Sincere Gratitude,

The Family of John Porch

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Patient’s Family Thanks Bone Marrow Transplant Team

By special request, we are printing this letter from a family member of John H. Porch.

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Surgeon Saves Breast Cancer Patients in Mexico

Kristin Brill, MD, breast surgeon at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, has traveled to Mexico to care for breast cancer patients in Mexico’s state of Sinaloa.

Dr. Brill volunteers for LIGA International, an organization of medical professionals who donate their time to meeting medical needs in remote parts of the country. “There are no mammograms available in the region, so we often see women with advanced disease, when saving the breast is not possible,” Dr. Brill told the Inquirer. “One of my dreams is to get mammography equipment for the clinic. It would have to come from donations, and it’s so important to bring that to these women.”

On a recent trip to Mexico, Dr. Brill brought along supplies donated by Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and other area hospitals. She also welcomes donations from other sources. If you are interested in knowing more, please contact Dr. Brill at 215-955-4909 or 866-488-4224.

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Carbon dioxide reductions tracked from 1996 to 2006 alone were equivalent to planting 14,536,318 trees.

At an April symposium on the efforts to counteract the health effects of climate change, Jefferson’s Energy Manager Randy Haines highlighted the measures the University and Hospital have taken to reduce the output of harmful carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

Energy-saving projects – including a steam condensate return system that reuses hot water, a new chilled water plant, and an award-winning cistern for re-distributing rain water – are reducing electricity consumption by more than 42,000 megawatt hours a year, decreasing pollution and saving Jefferson’s $1.77 million annually. In terms of environmental benefits, Randy noted that Jefferson’s CO2 reductions tracked from 1996 to 2006 alone were equivalent to planting 14,536,318 trees.

Jefferson’s initiative in reducing energy consumption and its robust metering system have also provided the opportunity to sell power in the real-time energy market.

Hosted by the Master of Public Health Program, “The Public Health Response to Climate Change in Philadelphia” also featured presentations by Jefferson’s Mona Sarafy, MD, in addition to the executive director of the Clean Air Council and a consultant for sustainability and livable communities.

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Farmers Market Grand Opening May 22

Located at the corner of 10th and Chestnut Streets – in front of the 925 Chestnut building – a new Farmers Market comes to Jefferson each Thursday from noon until 5:30 p.m. Open to the public from mid-May through the early fall, the market will feature fruits, vegetables, meat, poultry, and cheese from selected Lancaster farmers.

Spearheaded by the Nutrition and Dietetics Department, Jefferson’s market is just one of the ways the organization is upholding its commitment to sustainable practices, encouraging healthy habits and putting into action its Healthy Food in Health Care Pledge, signed in 2007 by Hospital President and CEO Tom Lewis. The pledge sets forth guidelines to improve the health of the community, as well as recommendations to adopt a local, sustainable healthy food program.

Says Howard Wetzel, MD, Co-Director of the Jefferson Heart Institute, “We have the responsibility to serve the community and promote health. The Farmers Market will be another wonderful program to encourage healthy habits, thus working toward disease prevention.”

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This spring, The Philadelphia Inquirer profiled Jefferson breast surgeon Kristin Brill, MD, and her work helping breast cancer patients in Mexico’s state of Sinaloa. Dr. Brill volunteers for LIGA International, an organization of medical professionals who donate their time to meeting medical needs in remote part of the country. “There are no mammograms available in the region, so we often see women with advanced disease, when saving the breast is not possible,” Dr. Brill told the Inquirer. “One of my dreams is to get mammography equipment for the clinic. It would have to come from donations, and it’s so important to bring that to these women.”

Surgeon Saves Breast Cancer Patients in Mexico

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Building a Better Jefferson: 2010 Projects Update

Multiple renovation projects to improve clinical services and enhance infrastructure at Jefferson continue through the year 2010. Developments as of mid-April include the completion of demolition for the expanded Emergency Department (ED); the start of ceiling work for the new Infusion Center; upgrades to the corridor on 6 Northwest; and the continuation of mechanical/electrical system installations. In addition, contracts have been awarded for construction of the new 16-bed intensive care unit on the 8th floor of Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience.

Other developments in connection with the projects include a one-month closure of the Walnut Street-end of the ED driveway and a four-month closure of the Tower Elevator entrance (ED), beginning May 7. Also, a new fire egress will be created for the EP Lab in preparation for the removal of Fire Tower #1. As construction continues, interim life safety measures have been put in place, including more frequent fire drills.

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New Center Simplifies Patient Transfers

The Jefferson Transfer Center opened May 1 with the goal of implementing a uniform, simple, efficient and user-friendly method to transfer patients to Jefferson from other hospitals. It will also fast track all time sensitive/emergency transfers through the system (SAH, STEMI, trauma etc.) and improve the process for non-emergent external transfers.

Contact the Center, open 24/7, at 1-800-JEFF-121 (800-533-3121). From a Jefferson phone, call 5-1515, and, if calling from Methodist, you can reach the Center at 24-2-1515.
The American Society for Surgery of the Hand selected Randall W. Culp, MD, as their representative at the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons' 2008 Research Capitol Hill Days. He joined more than 115 orthopaedic surgeons, researchers, and their patients from across the country in Washington, D.C., to encourage members of Congress to appropriate $548 million to the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases in fiscal year (FY) 2009—a 6.5 percent increase from FY 2008.

Retina specialist Julia Haller, MD, was recently appointed Professor and Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at Jefferson Medical College and Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. She is the first new Ophthalmology chairperson in more than 20 years. Dr. Haller previously practiced for more than 20 years at the Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins University.

Renowned cell biologist Michael P. Lisanti, MD, PhD, will begin a term as editor-in-chief at The American Journal of Pathology in July. He is the Margaret Q. Landenberger Professor in Breast Cancer Research at Jefferson Medical College and Jefferson's Kimmel Cancer Center. Dr. Lisanti also serves as director of the newly established Jefferson Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine Center.

Philip G. Mazzara was appointed Senior Vice President for Development for Thomas Jefferson University and Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. Philip joins Jefferson with more than 30 years of fundraising experience in both the academic and healthcare arenas. Most recently he was Vice President at CARE USA, where he managed a 66-person fundraising team across four regional offices, raising over $69M per year.

The National Foundation for Celiac Awareness honored Emily Rubin, RD, as “Awareness Advocate of the Month.” Emily, who works in the Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, volunteers for the NFCA in addition to her work at Jefferson which includes celiac disease patient consultation and research.

Brian Swift, PharmD, MBA, was named to the new position of Vice President for Quality and Performance Excellence. Brian will work with the CMO and COO to implement, direct and coordinate Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals’ Performance Excellence Program.

Daniel Walmsley, DO, current 3rd-year Pediatrics resident with the Thomas Jefferson University Residency Program at the duPont Hospital for Children, and Esther K. Chung, MD, MPH, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, were one of six resident-faculty pairs selected nationally for a Community Pediatrics Training Initiative Advocacy Training Grant by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). In collaboration with Dr. Chung and the Pennsylvania Chapter of the AAP, Dr. Walmsley, also a future Chief Resident, will conduct advocacy activities on gun violence prevention with other residents. This program, funded by the Dyson Foundation, also supported attendance at the recent AAP Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., where Drs. Walmsley and Chung made visits to Capitol Hill to discuss important child health issues with their legislators.

Researchers at Jefferson’s Kimmel Cancer Center have found that blocking a growth protein kills prostate cancer cells and inhibits tumor growth. This work proves that the signaling protein, Stat5, is both vital to prostate and skin diseases in fiscal year (FY) 2009—a 6.5 percent increase from FY 2008.

Neurological surgeons at Jefferson Hospital for Neurosciences found that cigarette smoking is directly correlated with an increased risk of intracranial aneurysm formation and growth. The quantity of cigarettes smoked was also found to have an impact on the increased risk of developing an aneurysm.

Thomas Jefferson University has established a new center to study the biology, behavior and the potential medical uses of adult stem cells in a variety of diseases, including neurological disease and cancer. The Jefferson Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine Center will be directed by renowned cell biologist Michael P. Lisanti, MD, PhD, Professor of Cancer Biology at Jefferson Medical College and Jefferson’s Kimmel Cancer Center.

Scientists at the Center for Translational Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University have shown that a specific signaling protein—GI—is crucial to protecting the heart and helping it to adapt during a heart attack. GI is important in intracellular signaling, akin to a molecular switch, notes principal investigator Dr. Koch. “It’s not a new drug target, he explains, but the activation of some receptors (such as beta-2 adrenergic receptors) that also turn on GI could be targets.”

Jefferson Medical College and the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER) signed an agreement to develop an academic partnership. Under the agreement, the two entities will engage in projects in resource-limited countries, focusing on faculty development, undergraduate, graduate and continuing medical education of physicians and other health professionals, as well as research in medical education. Most of FAIMER’s activity is concentrated in South Asia, Africa and Latin America.

A common blood pressure medication might help prevent the spread of pancreatic cancer according to researchers at Jefferson’s Kimmel Cancer Center. They found that a pressure-lowering drug called an angiotensin receptor blocker inhibits pancreatic cancer cell growth and causes cell death.

Jefferson Medical College Celebrates Parents’ Day

On March 7, sophomore students and their parents celebrated JMC Parents’ Day in Jefferson Alumni Hall. The annual event, which began in 1964, is sponsored by the JMC Alumni Association and welcomes second-year students and their parents to a luncheon reception, which features faculty, staff and student presentations.

Clinical Anesthesia Conference Hosted by Jefferson

In April, professionals from 35 states in various specialty areas including anesthesiologists, certified registered nurse anesthetists, anesthesia assistants and perioperative nurses attended the 16th Annual Spring CME Conference, “Gulf Shorts: Topics in Clinical Anesthesia,” in Fort Myers, Florida. Zvi Grunwald, MD, Professor and Chairman, James W. Heitz, MD, CME Program Director, David Gratch, DO, Jane Huffman, DO, Coleen Vernick, DO, and Eugene Visceci, MD, all from the Jefferson Department of Anesthesiology, were among the speakers. Attendees learned about pharmacological advances in anesthesia and pain management and the latest advances in the treatment of acute pain and emerging pain management technologies. They also had the opportunity to participate in a hands-on workshop and a review of lessons learned from the terrorist bombings in Madrid, London and Istanbul and the 2004 tsunami in Indonesia.

June Events: SAVE THE DATE

See more events on page 4.

June 1: Strides for Stroke

Jefferson is a sponsor of the 5K run/walk that benefits the Delaware Valley Stroke Council, an organization that works to improve services for and treatments of stroke survivors and their families. Call 215-772-9040 or visit http://www.phillystroke.org/stridesforstroke.asp to register.

June 11: Celebration of Life


Nursing Awards Presented

In May, the following Jefferson staff members received awards:

Janet C. Hindson Award: Clinical Nurse Specialist Patricia Horner, RN, BS, MSN, APRN.

Nursing Excellence Awards: Deborah Reuss, RN (Excellence in Nurse Preceptorship/Mentorship); Cara Staley, RN (Excellence in Nurse Preceptorship/Mentorship & Clinical Nurse Excellence Award); Lesley Stevens, RN, BSN (Excellence in Nurse Preceptorship/Mentorship); Cheryl MacDonald, RN, BSN (Community Service Award); Janette Wheeler, RN, BSN, CCRN (Eileen Kelly Award); Annie Caum, RN, BSN (Clinical Nurse Excellence Award); Lauren Boucher, RN, BSN, GEN (Clinical Nurse Excellence Award); Denise Sutor, RN (Clinical Nurse Excellence Award); Heidi Purvis, RN, MSN (Career Achievement); Carrie Preston, RN, BSN (Rising Star Award); Thomas Sullivan, RN (Rising Star Award).

Thank you to our entire staff of dedicated nursing professionals and congratulations to this year’s winners.
EVENT RECAPS

Pancreatic Cancer Patients Get Resources

On April 5, Jefferson hosted the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network's Philadelphia symposium in the Dorrance H. Hamilton Building. More than 230 patients, caregivers, family members and friends from the United States and Canada attended the event, which addressed new and experimental treatments, diet, nutrition, innovations in surgery, caregiving and novel approaches to the investigation of pancreatic cancer — the fourth leading cause of cancer death in the United States.

Included among the prestigious speakers from leading institutions were Jefferson’s Charles J. Yeo, MD, Samuel D. Gross Professor and Chair of Surgery; Richard G. Pestell, MD, PhD, Professor and Chair, Department of Cancer Biology; Director, Jefferson’s Kimmel Cancer Center; Jonathan Brody, PhD, Assistant Professor of Surgery; Division of Surgical Research; and Patricia Sauer, RN, Nurse Practitioner for GI Surgery and Surgical Oncology.

A dance company from Philadelphia High School for Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) performed in celebration of Black Heritage Month. Pictured are Daniel Williams of Hospital Administration, CAPA Dance Department Lead DeVae Davis and Damita’s daughter Kendal, who performed at the event.

Jefferson Celebrates Black Heritage Month

Blood Donors Needed

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

Blood Donors Needed