State-of-the-Art Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit Opens at Jefferson

A new, state-of-the-art Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit (NICU) opened on the 8th floor of Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience (JHN) this summer, expanding the critical care capacity of JHN to 26 beds.

“The design of the 16-bed unit includes the latest safety considerations and technology available to ensure the highest level of tertiary neuroscience care,” said Dennis Caliguiri, MSN, RN, Vice President, Neuroscience Nursing.

“In addition to the technology and safety concerns, our room design took into consideration the work flow and unique needs of neuroscience patients. There is improved visibility of all patients, natural light in every room and new space for visitors and private consultation with physicians.”

The new NICU is one of many projects that are part of the “Jefferson 2010” plan for facilities and campus improvement.

U.S. News & World Report Ranks Jefferson Best in City for Orthopedics and Rehabilitation

Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals has again been ranked as the top hospital in Philadelphia for orthopedics and rehabilitation medicine by U.S. News & World Report in their 2009 Best Hospitals survey. This ranking translates into the 17th best hospital in the nation for orthopedic surgery and the 11th best in the U.S. for rehabilitation medicine.

U.S. News & World Report this year also named Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals as among the best in the nation in four other specialties – cancer; ear, nose and throat; gastrointestinal (digestive) disorders; and respiratory disorders.

In addition, Wills Eye, which serves as the Department of Ophthalmology for Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals and Jefferson Medical College, was ranked as third in the nation and the top medical center in Philadelphia for ophthalmology.

Jefferson Hospitals President and CEO Tom Lewis said Jefferson and its staff are again honored to be among a select number of medical centers of excellence in the nation.

“Being recognized in this way by U.S. News & World Report reflects the extraordinary efforts of all of the talented doctors, nurses and staff, who are dedicated to providing exceptional patient care here at Jefferson every day,” said Tom.

Jefferson First in Philadelphia Area to Offer Innovative Treatment for Acid Reflux Disease

Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals is the first in Philadelphia, and the Delaware Valley, to offer endoluminal fundoplication (ELF) – an “incisionless” surgical treatment option to provide long-term elimination of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), one of the most common gastrointestinal diseases.

“This is a viable alternative to traditional open or minimally invasive surgery and also provides patients with another alternative to taking a daily medication,” said Benny Weksler, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery. “Not only is it effective, it is absolutely incisionless which reduces a patient’s healing time and hospital stay. It also is significantly less painful, causes no visible scarring, reduces blood loss and potentially eliminates the need for pharmaceutical treatment of GERD.”

ELF involves inserting an endoscopic device through the mouth and into the stomach to access and reconstruct the gastroesophageal valve, thereby preventing reflux of stomach contents into the esophagus and throat. The procedure is performed with the patient under general anesthesia and typically takes less than an hour to complete. Most patients go home the next day and can return to work and most normal activities within a few days.

The parameters to qualify for the ELF procedure require that interested patients not be obese (a body mass index less than thirty) and have unsatisfactory results from daily acid-suppressing medications. For more information, please call 1-800-JEFF NOW.

Nancy Pelosi Visits Jefferson to Speak on Healthcare Reform

Tom Lewis welcomed Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, when she came to Jefferson to speak about healthcare reform and tour the Hospital. Democratic U.S. Reps. Bob Brady, Chaka Fattah and Alyson Schwartz were also present at the press conference held at the Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience.

HELPING TO KEEP THE COMMUNITY HEALTHY

Nurse practitioner Vicky Hoshowsky, above, and a team of other Jefferson staff members provided free blood pressure screenings, information on breast health, and nutrition and exercise tips at the Pennsylvania Governor’s Conference for Women in September. Also pictured is Harold Honickman, a member of the Jefferson Hospitals Board of Trustees and champion for women’s health. Through the Honickman Foundation, Harold and his wife, Lynne, have supported various Hospital initiatives, including the Jefferson-Honickman Breast Imaging Center, part of the Jefferson Breast Care Center.
Eagles and Phillies Team Up to Raise Funds for Jefferson Breast Care Center

A new T-shirt that includes the Phillies and Eagles logos is on sale now, raising funds for the completion of the state-of-the-art Jefferson Breast Care Center, which offers advanced breast health screening and community education. In addition, the Philadelphia Eagles have again joined with Jefferson for the “Tackling Breast Cancer” campaign to benefit the Center. The Eagles are offering breast cancer awareness caps, scarves, ties and other specialty items for sale at Lincoln Financial Field and on the Eagles website. Volunteers from Jefferson Hospitals helped in the campaign efforts by selling merchandise during two Eagles games.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Schedule your mammogram today by contacting your ob/gyn or by calling 1-800-JEFF-NOW.

Certifications and Designations

Here are some recent honors Jefferson has received. Jefferson University Hospitals hold a wide range of other certifications.

Joint Commission Advanced Certification:
Stroke (Primary Stroke Center); Ventricular Assist Device

Joint Commission Certification:
Joint Replacement – Hip; Joint Replacement – Knee

National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers:
Jefferson Breast Care Center

Accreditation from Society of Chest Pain Centers:
Chest Pain – Jefferson Hospitals

Event Benefits Research at Jefferson’s Kimmel Cancer Center

Kiersten Rosenberg, RN, a surgical ICU nurse at Jefferson, accomplished what most people only read about in the news or see on television. A former Villanova swimmer, she and two others conquered the choppy, 21-mile crossing of the English Channel in a relay that lasted approximately 11 hours.

A competitive swimmer who started in the sport at the age of nine, Kiersten decided, along with two former Villanova swimming teammates, to tackle the English Channel to honor their friend Lauren Schulman, who was diagnosed with MS in August 2007 at the age of 23. “I was a full-scholarship athlete at Villanova for swimming and that is how I met Lauren, Trista Felty and Tori DeLollo,” said Kiersten.

“With Lauren being extremely involved with the National MS Society, we thought anything that we could do to support her and the cause would be great. We also hope to spread awareness to those who are not knowledgeable about MS and how it affects so many individuals, both young and old.”

Swimming the English Channel certainly drew much attention to their cause. The friends were featured on KYW-TV, in the Philadelphia Daily News and on Villanova University’s website. Since 1875, approximately 800 people have attempted the grueling swim. And Kiersten and her friends were exuberant that they had accomplished what they set out to achieve. “We were the first female relay swim of 2009 to successfully cross the English Channel,” said Kiersten, noting that only two of seven boats of swimmers that set out on that morning made it across. For Kiersten the entire experience was “the best, most exciting, emotional learning experience of my life thus far.”

“It was such an inspiration and motivation to have our friend Lauren on the boat. We could not have finished without her and our other friend Clare, who, despite having to deal with the sea sickness from 11-plus hours of boat rocking, were so selfless and never had an ounce of negativity,” she added.

Learn more about multiple sclerosis by visiting the Jefferson Hospitals website: www.jeffersonhospital.org/neuroscience.

Jefferson Nurse Swims English Channel to Honor Former Teammate with MS

Kiersten Rosenberg, RN, (left) and teammates Tori DeLollo and Trista Felty get an early morning start as they prepare to swim the English Channel in honor of a former Villanova swimming teammate with multiple sclerosis.

Congratulations to the inaugural class of the Jefferson School of Population Health (JSPH). The new school held its first classes on September 9. JSPH’s Master of Public Health (MPH) program was recently granted a seven-year national accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health. The accreditation comes after an extensive 18-month period of self study, a site visit and program improvements. For further information about this and other programs contact the program office at 215-560-0174 or visit www.jefferson.edu/population_health/.

Representatives of the “Get Your Rear in Gear” walk/run in Philadelphia recently presented a check to Jefferson in the amount of $40,000. Pictured are Drs. Scott Goldstein and Edith Mitchell; co-chair of Get Your Rear in Gear Philadelphia, Jenny Auborn; event organizer Maria Grasso; and co-chair Shona Bradley. The event was held to raise awareness of colorectal cancer and funds for research.
People

Dennis Caligiuri, MSN, RN, has joined Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals (TJUH) as Vice President of Neuroscience Nursing.

Cataldo Doria, MD, PhD, FACS, was named the Nicoletti Family Professor of Transplant Surgery. The Nicoletti family cited the care they received at Jefferson when Robert Nicoletti underwent a kidney transplant as the reason for the endowment. Dr. Doria is also Director, Division of Transplant Surgery. Dr. Doria was also honored by the Governor of Puglia in Italy and received a Career Achievement Award from the region’s International Association called: “Pugliesi nel Mondo.

Jefferson postdoctoral fellow, Veronica Eisner, PhD, has been named a Pew Latin American Fellow in the Biomedical Sciences. She will receive $60K to conduct her research with Jefferson’s Gyorgy Hajnoczky, MD, PhD, and an additional sum upon returning to Chile to continue her research. Dr. Eisner plans to investigate mitochondria, the membrane-enclosed organelles in human cells that generate energy for the cell and are involved in cell signaling, differentiation, cell death and cell growth.

The Jefferson School of Population Health (JSPH) has awarded the merit-based inaugural Joseph S. Gonnella, MD, Scholarship to Jefferson Medical College (JMC) student, Jessica Hamilton. Jessica is currently enrolled in the JSPH’s Master of Public Health program.

Warren Maley, MD, recently joined the Department of Surgery at Jefferson University Hospital, and will serve as Director of the Live Donor Liver Transplant Program. He has also been named an associate professor of surgery at Jefferson Medical College.

Jeffrey McCann, MD, has been appointed Assistant Professor of Radiology in the Division of Interventional Radiology: In addition to conventional interventional procedures, his main areas of interest and expertise are treating vascular malformations, oncological intervention and uterine fibroid embolization.

JMC student Jolion McGreedy, an MD/JME candidate, will join the Fogarty International Clinical Research Scholars Program class of 2009-2010. He will conduct research in Haiti at The Haitian Group for the Study of Kaposi’s Sarcoma and Opportunistic Infections.

Edith Mitchell, MD, Clinical Professor of Medicine and Medical Oncology at Jefferson Medical College, was honored with the 2009 National Medical Association Council on Concerns of Women Physicians Pfizer Research Award.

Jefferson has named Ellen Reuben Chief Operating Officer of JeffCare, Jefferson’s Physician Hospital Organization (PHO). Ellen will also manage Jefferson’s relationship with Philadelphia International Medicine, and retain her duties as Director of Managed Care Contracting.

Anne Rosenberg, MD, a clinical professor of surgery at JMC, will serve as a co-chair of the Abstract/Poster Committee for the 2010 NCBC Annual National Interdisciplinary Breast Center Conference. The National Consortium of Breast Centers (NCBC) is a nonprofit membership organization dedicated to excellence in breast health care for the general public.

Pfmme the Prostate Health Team

Members of Jefferson’s medical staff provided information on prostate cancer at Eagles Training Camp at Lehigh University this August. In September, Jefferson offered free prostate cancer screenings at the Center City and Methodist Hospital locations. The events in observation of Prostate Cancer Awareness Month drew 500 participants. Men aged 35 and older should have a yearly prostate cancer screening. Pictured are Scott Rubolsky, MD, Edouard Trabulsi, MD, Jing Duan Yang, MD, and Costas Lallas, MD.

People

Cynthia Sanoski, PharmD, Chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice at Jefferson School of Pharmacy, has been selected to participate in the Academic Leadership Fellows Program of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy and was elected Treasurer of another national group, the American College of Clinical Pharmacy.

Breast surgeon Gordon Schwartz, MD, MBA, FACS, has been named Director of the Jefferson Breast Care Center. He is Professor of Surgery at Jefferson Medical College.

John Spandorfer, MD, was recently appointed Associate Dean for Education at Jefferson Medical College. He is an associate professor of internal medicine.

Alexander Vaccaro, MD, PhD, has been named the Everett J. and Marion Gordon Professor of Orthopaedic and Neurosurgery. Internationally renowned, he is the orthopedic spine surgeon for the Philadelphia Eagles, Vice Chairman of Jefferson’s Department of Orthopedic Surgery and Co-Director of the Spine Fellowship Program at TJUH.

George Valko, MD, has been named the first Gustave and Valla Amsterdam Professor in Family and Community Medicine. Dr. Valko is Vice Chair for Clinical Programs in Jefferson’s Department of Family and Community Medicine.

Achievements

Jefferson researchers have discovered a new rabies vaccine that may require just a single shot. Rabies is endemic in developing areas, where the six-shot post-exposure regimen standard is not feasible for many people due to cost and availability.

Researchers from the Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson have identified a protein relationship that may be an ideal treatment target for estrogen-receptor-positive (ER+) breast cancer, which comprises approximately 70 percent of breast cancers. The study was reported in the July 15 issue of Cancer Research.

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TJUH researchers have found a way to stop excessive bone growth following trauma or surgery. The condition affects up to 70 percent of soldiers who are severely wounded during combat.

Exposure to nicotine through cigarette smoking may increase the likelihood that pancreatic cancer will become metastatic, according to researchers from the Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson.

A new study conducted at the Jefferson Headache Center at Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals shows an investigational, orally-inhaled therapy is effective in treating migraines. The multi-center, phase three FREEDOM-301 trial for the orally-inhaled migraine therapy, LEVADEX™, shows study participants had significant relief from symptoms such as pain, nausea and light and sound sensitivity when compared to placebo treatment.

Specialists from Wills Eye and Jefferson Medical College were featured in a front-page Philadelphia Inquirer article about a revolutionary device they implanted in the brain of a blind patient, helping him to regain some vision. Julia Haller, MD, Wills Eye Ophthalmologist-in-Chief, is quoted in the story and ophthalmology professors Allen Ho, MD, and Carl Regillo, MD, are credited with performing the surgery. The implantation is one of just 32 performed around the world.

Researchers from the Kimmel Cancer at Jefferson and City of Hope have designed a “prodrug” that could help curb skin toxicity related to EGFR inhibiting cancer drugs.

Achivements

Jefferson Outpatient Imaging, 850 Walnut Street, is the only imaging facility in the Delaware Valley to offer the “MSK Extreme,” a 1.5 Tesla dedicated extremity MRI unit. The unit provides superior visualization of cartilage and improved diagnostic efficiency.

The Jefferson Balance and Hearing Center at TJUH is the first in Philadelphia to offer the FDA-cleared Neuromonics Tinnitus Treatment. This therapy is proven to interact, interrupt and desensitize tinnitus by delivering a customized neural stimulus, embedded in clinically modified music.

Researchers at the Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson found that inhibiting a key inflammatory protein reduced radiation toxicity in zebra fish, a finding that may ultimately be of help to patients receiving radiation therapy.

A team of researchers from Thomas Jefferson University and the University of Delaware have received a grant from the US Department of Defense to create a three-dimensional patient imaging system that will allow surgeons to view and touch selected organs and tissues prior to surgery, allowing them to better understand an individual patient’s pathology, and to accurately plan and rehearse that patient’s operation. The investigators will also design novel radiopharmaceuticals that can scan for gene activity of cancer and present the results in a realistic hologram-like display that can be touched and probed like actual organs.

Learn more about Jefferson research and news developments at www.jeffersonhospital.org/news.
Wednesday, November 11  

• Health Policy, Jeffrey Brenner, MD, Medical Director, Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers, “Building Community-Centered Medical Homes in America’s Poorest City – Camden, NJ,” 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., 101 BLSB.

Thursday, December 3  

• CIPI, Interprofessional Education and Scholarship Seminar Series for all Jefferson Faculty, Staff and Interested Stakeholders, Elena Urdan, PharmD, Kevin Lyons, PhD, “Faculty Attitudes Towards Interprofessional Education,” 4 to 5 p.m., 101 BLSB (Wine & Cheese Reception).

FORUM  

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GRAND ROUNDS  

Wednesday, November 4  

• Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson, Oncology Grand Rounds, Douglas Bishop, MD, PGY3, Department of Family Medicine, “Recognizing and Managing Physician Fatigue,” 7 a.m., DePamla Aud.

Thursday, November 5  

• Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson, Oncology Grand Rounds, Michael J. Zedelksy, MD, Chief, Brachytherapy Services, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, “Prostate,” noon, 101 BLSB.

RELIGIOUS  

Wednesday, November 3  

• Christian Bible Study, Prayer and Fellowship Study Class, noon, JAH. All are welcome. Please contact Annette Cheeson at 215-955-8991 for more information or email annette@praymowministry.com Also, Tues., Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22 and Jan. 5, 12, 19 and 26.

Thursday, November 5  

• Men’s Board, Executive Committee. 10 a.m., 1645 Thompson.

SPECIAL EVENTS  

Wednesday, November 4  

• WSPN MusicOnCall plays for Jefferson patients. Also on Weds., Nov. 11, 18 and 25; Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27.

Thursday, November 5  

• WSPN MusicOnCall plays for Jefferson patients. Also on Weds., Nov. 11, 18 and 25; Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27.

TELEVISION  

Thursday, November 5  

• Christian Bible Study, Prayer and Fellowship Study Class, noon, JAH. All are welcome. Please contact Annette Cheeson at 215-955-8991 for more information or email annette@praymowministry.com Also, Tues., Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22 and Jan. 5, 12, 19 and 26.

THURSDAY  

Thursday, November 5  

• Christian Bible Study, Prayer and Fellowship Study Class, noon, JAH. All are welcome. Please contact Annette Cheeson at 215-955-8991 for more information or email annette@praymowministry.com Also, Tues., Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22 and Jan. 5, 12, 19 and 26.