It’s a Record: U.S. News & World Report Ranks TJUH Among the Best in 11 Specialty Areas

Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals has again been ranked a leading hospital in Philadelphia by U.S. News & World Report in its 2011 Best Hospitals survey. This year, TJUH ranked among the top two hospitals in the Philadelphia metro area and among best in the nation in a record-setting 11 specialty areas.

U.S. News & World Report this year named Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals 14th in the nation for orthopedics and 12th in the nation for rehabilitation medicine. Jefferson was also nationally ranked in nine other specialties, including cancer; diabetes and endocrinology; ear nose and throat; gastroenterology; geriatrics; gynecology; neurology and neurosurgery; pulmonology; and urology.

Jefferson also ranked as high-performing, or in the top 25 percent of hospitals, in cardiology and cardiac surgery; nephrology; and rheumatology. U.S. News & World Report also notes that Jefferson “scored high in patient safety, demonstrating commitment to reducing accidents and medical mistakes.”

“This recognition is a testament to the commitment of our clinicians and staff whose dedication is evident in the superb, high-quality care they provide for our patients every day,” said Tom Lewis, Jefferson Hospitals’ President and CEO.

See the overview of Jefferson’s rankings on the U.S. News & World Report website (look for the Best Hospitals report).

Wills Eye Institute and TJUH Create Innovative Center for Vision Research

A new vision research center based in Philadelphia will foster regional, national and global collaboration among a diverse group of exceptional clinicians and researchers working to better diagnose, treat and prevent visual diseases.

Wills Eye Institute and Thomas Jefferson University recently announced the creation of the Wills Vision Research Center at Jefferson, representing more than 15 scientific disciplines. The multidisciplinary team approach will draw upon extensive knowledge and outstanding clinical expertise in the fields of ophthalmology, oncology, pathology, neurology, and endocrinology, to name a few.

The new center will be directed by Dr. Julia Haller, MD, Ophthalmologist-in-Chief, Wills Eye Institute and Professor and Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology, Jefferson Medical College, Thomas Jefferson University, and A. Sue Menko, PhD, Professor of Pathology, Anatomy, and Cell Biology.

“This new center brings together some of the brightest minds in vision research and clinical care from different, yet complementary, disciplines. Their collaboration, fostered by these two renowned institutions, will only lead to better ways to diagnose and treat vision diseases that affect so many patients today,” said Dr. Menko.

Research projects already in development include: understanding the genetics of congenital abnormalities; preventing neurodegenerative diseases such as age-related macular degeneration and the impact of Parkinson’s on the visual system; developing new treatments for cancers in the visual system, such as retinoblastoma and uveal melanoma; studying the connection between low vision and depression, especially in the elderly; and understanding the effects of diabetes on visual health (diabetic retinopathy).

$1 Million Grant Awarded to Jefferson for Novel Research on the Human Genome

The W.M. Keck Foundation has awarded the Computational Medicine Center at Jefferson its highly prestigious and competitive Medical Research Grant, funding a multidisciplinary team for research entitled “The Uncharted 98% of the Human Genome: Role in Health and Disease.”

Scientists at Thomas Jefferson University have been awarded a $1 million medical research grant from the W.M. Keck Foundation for an ambitious project looking at the little explored 98 percent of the human genome and what role it may play in the onset and progression of diseases.

The multidisciplinary team, led by Isidore Rigoutsos, PhD, Director, Computational Medicine Center at Jefferson, will soon begin studying a particular group of DNA motifs — genomic combinations of letters that repeat more frequently than expected by chance — called pyknon. Researchers and physicians will be looking at what function they serve in the context of several types of cancers, platelet aggregation properties, two autoimmune disorders and type-1 diabetes.

Dr. Rigoutsos, a world-renowned computational biologist, originally discovered pyknon in 2005 using computational analyses. In the time since their discovery, evidence has been slowly accumulating that these pyknon motifs mark transcribed, non-coding RNA sequences with potential functional relevance in human disease.

Along with Dr. Rigoutsos, 10 Jefferson staff members will join the research team, in addition to researchers from Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, MD Anderson Cancer Center in Texas, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Other researchers represent institutions in Philadelphia, Texas and North Carolina.

Visit www.JeffersonHospital.org/news (see July 2011) to learn more about the research and the Keck Foundation.
Researchers at Jefferson’s Kimmel Cancer Center have shed new light on the longstanding conundrum about what makes a tumor grow—and how to make it stop. Interestingly, cancer cells accelerate the aging of nearby connective tissue cells to cause inflammation, which ultimately provides “fuel” for the tumor to grow and even metastasize.

This revealing symbiotic process, which is similar to how muscle and brain cells communicate with the body, could prove useful for developing new drugs to prevent and treat cancers. In this simple model, our bodies provide nourishment for the cancer cells, via chronic inflammation. “People think that inflammation drives cancer, but they never understood the mechanism,” said Michael Lisanti, MD, PhD, Professor and Chair of Stem Cell Biology & Regenerative Medicine at Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University and a member of the Kimmel Cancer Center. “What we found is that cancer cells are accelerating aging and inflammation, which is making high-energy nutrients to feed cancer cells.”

In normal aging, DNA is damaged and the body begins to deteriorate because of oxidative stress. “We are all slowly rusting, like the Tin-man in the Wizard of Oz,” Dr. Lisanti said. "And there is a very similar process going on in the tumor's local environment.” Interestingly, cancer cells induce “oxidative stress,” the rusting process, in normal connective tissue, in order to extract vital nutrients. Dr. Lisanti and his team previously discovered that cancer cells induce this type of stress response (autophagy) in nearby cells, to feed themselves and grow. However, the mechanism by which the cancer cells induce this stress and, more importantly, the relationship between the connective tissue and how this “energy” is transferred was unclear. “Nobody fully understands the link between aging and cancer,” said Dr. Lisanti, who used pre-clinical models, as well as tumors from breast cancer patients, to study these mechanisms. “What we see now is that as you age, your whole body becomes more sensitive to this parasitic cancer mechanism, and the cancer cells selectively accelerate the aging process via inflammation in the connective tissue.” This helps explain why cancers exist in people of all ages, but susceptibility increases as you age. If aggressive enough, cancer cells can induce accelerated aging in the tumor, regardless of age, to speed up the process.

The researchers’ findings were published in the June 1 issue of Cell Cycle in three separate papers.

One paper analyzes the gene profiles of the laser-captured connective tissue, associated with lethal tumors, in human breast cancer patients. In this paper, lethal cancers show the same gene expression pattern associated with normal aging, as well as Alzheimer’s disease. In fact, these aging and Alzheimer’s disease signatures can identify which breast cancer patients will undergo metastasis. The researchers find that oxidative stress is a common “driver” for both dementia and cancer cell spreading. Learn more. Visit www.jeffersonhospital.org/news (see June 2011).
Christopher Chang, MD, PhD, has been appointed Director of the Division of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology in the Department of Pediatrics at Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals and was named Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University. Dr. Chang's research interests include food allergies and osteoimmunology.

The National Brain Aneurysm Foundation awarded Luis Fernando Gonzalez, MD, a $12,000 grant to study brain aneurysm formation and rupture. He is Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery at Jefferson Medical College.

Karen Knudsen, PhD, was recently presented with the Rom Rosa Award at 5th Pacific Rim Rum and Prostate Cancer Meeting. The award recognizes her significant contributions in hormonal carcinogenesis. Dr. Knudsen is Professor of Cancer Biology, Urology, and Radiation Oncology and a member of Jefferson's Kimmel Cancer Center.

Haisong Liu, PhD, DABR, of the Department of Radiation Oncology at Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals, has been named Director of Radiosurgery Physics for the Division of Stereotactic Radiosurgery at Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience (JHN). Jefferson’s Division of Stereotactic Radiosurgery is dedicated to treat malignant or benign tumors and lesions of the brain or spine using minimally invasive and highly effective radiation beams.

Steven Mandel, MD, spoke at the 2011 Sjögren’s Syndrome Foundation National Patient Conference in Reston, Virginia in April, lecturing “Neurological Manifestations of Sjögren’s.” Dr. Mandel also co-authored an article in the Clinician’s Corner of the Sjögren’s Quarterly (volume 5, issue 4, Fall 2010) about “Cognitive Impairment and Neuropsychological Testing in Sjögren’s.” As a member of our volunteer faculty, he is Clinical Professor of Neurology at Jefferson Medical College.

Cheryl Marco, RD, LDN, CDE, was recognized by OPTIFAST/Nestle with the Inspire Award. Since 1997 Cheryl has been successfully administering Jefferson University Hospital’s OPTIFAST Program. Nominated by several of her patients, Cheryl is described as an “exceptional mentor” whose “passion for patients makes her an inspiration.” They credit her ability to support, educate and nurture as the driving force that helped them lose unwanted weight and improve their health.

The Healthcare Financial Management Association has elected Jean McNeil as president. She is Senior Director for Financial Analysis and Planning for Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals.

Jefferson Hospitals earned several awards for its marketing from the Health Information Resource Center, including a Silver Award (Resource - Interactive Map), two Bronze Awards (Hospital Website, E-Newsletter: Keep in Touch), and two Merit awards (Blog: The Daily Dose, Mobile Website).

This year, Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals celebrates its fifth anniversary using a leading-edge therapy pioneered at Jefferson – radiofrequency ablation – that has transformed the treatment of Barrett’s Esophagus, a condition caused when digestive acid backs up from the stomach into the esophagus, causing damage and the growth of abnormal cells. Left untreated, Barrett’s Esophagus can in rare cases lead to esophageal cancer, an aggressive cancer that is typically fatal.

Jefferson physicians have strengthened the case for a high-dose radiotherapy technique – intensity-modulated radiotherapy (IMRT) – after radical prostatectomy. Their study was published in Practical Radiation Oncology.

Cancer researchers at the Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson and an international team of collaborators have discovered a biomarker in breast cancer that may help identify which women will respond to anti-estrogen therapy. Anti-estrogen drugs, most notably tamoxifen, are widely used in patients diagnosed with estrogen receptor-positive breast cancer. However, as many as a third of the women given tamoxifen fail to respond.

Reporting in Nature Immunology, Jefferson neuroscientists have identified a driving force behind autoimmune diseases such as multiple sclerosis (MS), and suggest that blocking this cell-signaling molecule is the first step in developing new treatments to eradicate these diseases.

A new treatment at Jefferson – photodynamic therapy (PDT) – extends life for bile duct cancer patients. Research at Jefferson has shown PDT to increase inpatient survival dramatically, more than with chemotherapy or radiation.

Cardiologists at Thomas Jefferson University and the University of Heidelberg in Germany are close to testing gene therapy aimed at reversing heart failure in patients. The gene therapy is produced at Jefferson and the animal studies were conducted in Germany. The scientists presented final laboratory and animal testing on the therapy at the annual meeting of the American Heart Association in November.

Metastatic prostate cancer patients who received an investigational vaccine made from their own frozen immune cells lived 10 months longer than those not treated with it, according to data presented by researchers from the Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson at the 2011 American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) annual meeting in Chicago.

Jefferson School of Nursing (JSN) was awarded ten $10,000 scholarships through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Careers in Nursing grant. JSN graduate recipients include Ryan Solot, John Steinmacher, Shienia Ching and Marangely Diaz.

Jefferson School of Nursing has been named to the 2011 Becker’s Hospital Review/Becker’s ASC Review list of the Best Places to Work in Healthcare.

Learn more about Jefferson research and news developments at www.jeffersonhospital.org/news.

Penny Wise Reopens September 6
Proceeds from the shop fund TJUH Women’s Board initiatives that provide for care and comfort of Jefferson patients.

Penny Wise Thrift Shop
57 East Lancaster Avenue
Ardmore, PA 19003
Hours
Monday – Friday: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Saturday: 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Phone: 610-642-7239
Consigned goods and donations are welcome. Store is closed during July and August.

Hope for Those with Early-Stage Pancreatic Cancer
The Pancreatic, Biliary Tract and Related Cancer Center at Jefferson offers lifesaving treatment for those in the early stages of the disease. Led by Charles Yeo, MD, FACS, the Center offers a multidisciplinary approach to the diagnosis and treatment of patients with these difficult-to-treat cancers. Its internationally renowned experts in treating cancers of the pancreas and biliary tract provide personalized treatment that address every aspect of care. To learn more, call 1-877-673-1366 or visit www.jeffersonhospital.org.

The Pancreas Club invited Theresa Yeo, PhD, MPH, ACNP, Associate Professor, Coordinator, Adult Oncology Program, JSN, to give a poster presentation at their 45th Annual Meeting. Dr. Yeo presented “Fatigue, physical functioning, and quality of life in patients with pancreatic and perianastomotic cancers following surgery and/or adjuvant therapy: A prospective, randomized controlled trial.”
SEMINARS
Saturday, September 17
• Department of Ophthalmology, Wills Eye Institute, Carl D. Regillo, MD, Program Chair Faculty of Wills Retina Service, "Vitreoretinal Disease Update." 7:30 a.m. to noon, 840 Walnut, Auditorium. Contact: Lucia M. Manes at 215-440-3168 or email lmanes@williemail.org.

Saturday, September 24
• Department of Ophthalmology, Wills Eye Institute, Richard B. Weller, MD, Program Chair, Faculty of Wills Cataract Service and invited guest, "Advanced Anterior Segment Surgery Update," 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 840 Walnut, Auditorium. Contact: Lucia M. Manes at 215-440-3168 or email lmanes@williemail.org.

Wednesday, September 28
• Department of Ophthalmology, Wills Eye Institute, Christopher J. Rapuano, MD, Department Chair, Faculty of Wills Cornea Service, "Cornea Update: Controversies in Cornea, Anterior Segment and Refractive Surgery," 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., 840 Walnut, Auditorium. Contact: Lucia M. Manes at 215-440-3168 or email lmanes@williemail.org.

MEETINGS
Wednesday, September 14
• TJUH Executive Committee of the Medical Staff, 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Edison Building.

Thursday, September 15
• TJUH Women’s Board - Maternity Committee, “Electronics Sale,” for all Jefferson’s employees, students, visitors, family and friends, 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. Location: Atrium Cafeteria (11th Street side).

Thursday, September 22
• Activities Office, “Office Social,” noon to 3 p.m., Lobby, JAH & Edison Building.

Thursday, September 29
• Jefferson’s Kimmel Cancer Center, Prostate Cancer Screening Day, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Bodine. Also, on Wed., Sept. 28, Methodist Hospital, Radiation Oncology Pavilion. For more information, call Christine Hubert at 215-955-5995.

Friday, September 30
• Activities Office, October Monthly Social: “Beer Education Seminar,” 7 to 9 p.m., 139 JAH.

SPECIAL EVENTS
Wednesday, August 17
• WVPX’s Musicians On Call plays for Jefferson patients. Also on Weds., Aug. 24 and 31; Sept. 7, 14 and 21; Oct. 5, 12, 19 and 26.

Wednesday, August 24
• Nursing, Parent Education, Maternity Hospital Tour, 6 p.m. (promptly), lobby, Pavilion. Also, Weds., Sept. 14 and 28, Oct. 12 and 26 (Room and 4th Wed. of every month). For more information, call 1-800-JEFF-NEW.

Wednesday, September 1
• Nursing, Parent Education, "Pediatrician’s Night." Babies are not just little people… learn practical tips from one of Jefferson’s doctors on preparing and caring for your little one! Register for this free program at 1-800-JEFF-NEW. Time: 7 to 9 p.m.

Saturday, September 3
• Nursing, Parent Education, "Pedicures by the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides, 8 to 10:20 p.m., Lubert Plaza, Hamilton Building (Ram location: Community Library, Hamilton Building)." Also, on Tues, Sept. 13.

Sunday, September 4
• Activities Office, “Dine In” Movie: Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides, 8 to 10:20 p.m., Lubert Plaza, Hamilton Building (Ram location: Community Library, Hamilton Building).

Wednesday, September 7

Thursday, September 8
• Activities Office, “Office Social,” 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m., lobby, JAH & Edison Building.

Friday, September 9
• Activities Office, “Drive In” Movie: Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides, 8 to 10:20 p.m., Lubert Plaza, Hamilton Building (Ram location: Community Library, Hamilton Building)." Also, on Tues, Sept. 13.

Sunday, September 11
• Nursing, Parent Education, "Pediatrician’s Night." Babies are not just little people… learn practical tips from one of Jefferson’s doctors on preparing and caring for your little one! Register for this free program at 1-800-JEFF-NEW. Time: 7 to 9 p.m.

Wednesday, September 14

Wednesday, September 21
• Budget Office, November Monthly Social, "Beer Education Seminar," 7 to 9 p.m., 139 JAH.

RELIGIOUS
Thursday, August 25
• Inspirational Video Presentation, "Bible Study," noon to 1 p.m., JAH 304.

Saturday, August 27
• Activity Office, “Sunday October Monthly Social: "Beer Education Seminar," 7 to 9 p.m., 139 JAH.

TREASURY
Thursday, August 25


Tuesday, September 6
• Nursing, Parent Education, “Childbirth - 3 night series” beginning Tues., Sept. 6 or Thursday, Sept. 8, also Monday, Sept. 19. The fee for these programs is $95. Maternity Tour is included. RSVP to 1-800-JEFF-NEW.

• Nursing, Parent Education, Breastfeeding and Pumping Mothers group meets every Tuesday; noon to 1 p.m., 833 Chestnut St., 3rd fl.

Wednesday, September 21
• Bible Study Class, noon, 207 College. All are welcome. Young children are welcome to be part of the group with a Big Sister/Big Brother class. Siblings to be (ages 3 to 7) participate in activities that help them learn about new babies and how to be a big sister or big brother. A tour of the maternity facilities is included. Time: 10 a.m. to noon, 1840 Girard. RSVP is necessary! Call 1-800-JEFF-NEW.

Sunday, October 1
• Department of Ophthalmology, Wills Eye Institute, Sponsored by the Department of Continuing Medical Education, “Coding Course: Ophthalmic Chart Documentation and Coding Requirements,” 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., 840 Walnut, Auditorium. Contact: Lucia M. Manes at 215-440-3168 or email lmanes@williemail.org.

Tuesday, October 5
• Nursing, Parent Education, "Grandparents Night." (Grand parenting and what’s new in the world of babies.) Time: 7 to 9 p.m., 1840 Girard. Free program. RSVP to 1-800-JEFF-NEW.

Volunteers Needed for a Type-2 Diabetes Study
The Diabetes Research Center at Thomas Jefferson University is currently recruiting volunteers with type-2 diabetes for a number of different studies. To see if you qualify, please call John at 215-955-1978. A qualified research professional will discuss the research study and its requirements with you, determine if you qualify for participation, and answer questions you may have. If you choose to participate in our research program, you may be eligible to receive at no cost to you:

• Physical examinations
• Diabetes monitoring
• Laboratory testing
• Glucose meter and supplies
• Financial compensation
Make a Difference in Healthcare – Become a Health Mentor at Jefferson
Please call 215-955-3757 or visit http://jeffline.tju.edu/cjice/hmp.

Be a Hero: Donate Blood
Please stop by the Jefferson Blood Center at 8230 Girard or call 215-955-7791.

Jefferson Hospitals offers a wide range of support programs and counseling for patients. Visit our website to learn more:

Cancer www.jeffersonhosptial.org/cancersupport
Anorexia & AVN www.jeffersonhosptial.org/ anorexy-avn-support
Stroke www.jeffersonhosptial.org/stroke
Swallowing Disorders, Spasmotic Dysphonia, Laryngectomy
www.jeffersonhosptial.org/entsupport

JeffN EWS
Robert L. Barchi, MD, PhD, President, T.J.U
Thomas J. Lewis, President and CEO, TJU
Communications and Managing Editor: Ruth Stephens, Calendar Editor: Donna Muats, Design: JeffGraphics

Advertisements
Ad and photo ideas, contact: Valerie.DuPont@jefferson.edu or 215-955-7708

Calendar items, contact: Ruth.Stephens@jefferson.edu or 215-955-6204
Communications Department
Suite 300, 211 S. 9th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

FAX: 215-923-1835
www.jefferson.edu/jeffnews

STAFF: Carmelina J. Brown, Senior Vice President for Marketing, Public Relations and Communications
Barbara Henderson, Director of Communications and Managing Editor
Valerie Dupont, Editor
Ruth Stephens, Calendar Editor
Donna Muats, Design: JeffGraphics

Taste New Treats in the Newly Redesigned Atrium
Now the Atrium Cafeteria in the Gibbon Building (2nd floor) offers more menu choices, more healthier food options and extended hours for added convenience. Dine with us today!

Join the FastPass program and get 10 percent off every Friday at Jefferson dining locations, plus the option to use your account at a variety of local retailers. Call 215-955-1547 for more information.

Donald Jamison of Nutrition and Dietetics serves up some delicious gourmet pizza, a new menu item in the new and improved Atrium.

Revised: 08/10/2011