David McQuaid Takes the Helm at TJUH

There's been a change at the top of Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals. A new era of leadership began on July 1, as David P. McQuaid, FACHE, assumed the title of president.

David has been the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Jefferson since 2007. In acknowledging his new role as president, he said, "Whatever we can do to ensure extraordinary patient care and service, is what this job is all about."

Before coming to Jefferson David served as CEO at Durham Regional Hospital, Inc., part of the Duke University Health System, and as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center in Baltimore, Maryland.

NIH Grants Jefferson $2.6 Million to Study Imaging Method That Would Reduce Prostate Cancer Biopsies

"This noninvasive method could significantly contribute to the management of prostate cancer," said lead researcher Mathew Thakur, PhD, Professor of Radiology. "It would result in a reduction of unnecessary biopsy procedures and undertreatment or overtreatment that yield minimal benefits, incontinence or impotence."

The new technique involves the use of a positron emission tomography (PET) scan and a novel imaging agent. The study is being led by Mathew Thakur, PhD, Professor of Radiology at Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University and the Director of the Laboratories of Radiopharmaceutical Research and Molecular Imaging.

Prostate specific antigen (PSA) measurements, ultrasonography and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) remain standard tools for diagnosis and management of prostate cancer; however, each requires an invasive biopsy for histologic confirmation. Biopsies are associated with morbidity and high costs, and more than 65 percent of the 1.5 million biopsies performed each year in the US show benign pathology, indicating a high false-positive rate for these standard diagnostic tools.

Doctor of Pharmacy Program Receives Accreditation

"The review process highlighted our focus on collaboration across professions to build education and research partnerships with the other schools on campus," said Michael J. Vergare, MD, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, TJU.

The Doctor of Pharmacy program offered by the Jefferson School of Pharmacy (JSP) of Thomas Jefferson University has been accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education. JSP opened its doors in 2008 and the first class of students graduated in May. The inaugural graduating class selected positions in a variety of pharmacy practice settings and almost 50 percent are pursuing post-graduate training. Of the graduates who applied for post-doctorate residencies through the national match program, 74 percent matched, compared with a national success rate of about 60 percent.

Jefferson Nationally Ranked in 11 Specialties

Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals has again been ranked by US News & World Report in its 2012 Best Hospitals survey as among the best in the nation in 11 specialty areas. TJUH also saw a dramatic improvement in ranking in nine of these specialties.

2012 TJUH National Ranking Highlights:
- 7th in the nation for orthopedics
- 12th in the nation for pulmonology
- 14th in the nation for rehabilitation medicine

Jefferson is also nationally ranked in eight other specialties, including ear, nose & throat (16), cancer (20), gastroenterology (22), diabetes and endocrinology (25), urology (27), geriatrics (31), nephrology (39), and gynecology (40). This year marks a dramatic improvement in nine of Jefferson's 11 ranked specialties.

Other Highlights

The magazine also ranked Jefferson as high-performing in cardiology and cardiac surgery and neurology and neurosurgery. In addition, the Hospital was ranked number three in the state of Pennsylvania and number two in the Philadelphia metro area.

"Jefferson University Hospital is again honored to be among the top hospitals across so many specialties," said David P. McQuaid, FACHE, President, Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals, Inc. "This recognition is a reflection of our commitment to our patients and providing a standard of care that is among the very best in the nation and the region. Our clinicians and staff work tirelessly to move us forward and provide the high-quality care the community has come to expect from Jefferson."
Emergency Department Makes Strides in Patient Satisfaction

According to Press Ganey, Jefferson's patient satisfaction numbers for the Center City and Methodist Emergency Departments showed a statistically significant improvement in overall mean score for January-March 2012. Center City improved by 3.4 mean score points and Methodist improved by 3.2 mean score points.

"Congratulations to all for the constant attention, energy and efforts related to our service excellence/patient experience initiatives," said Jennifer Jasmine E. Arfaa, PhD, Director, Service Improvement and Volunteer Services.

Introducing the Jefferson Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Highlighting the school's education and training mission, Thomas Jefferson University has re-named the Jefferson College of Graduate Studies. The new name is Jefferson Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

The mission of the Jefferson Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (JGSS) is to provide the highest quality graduate and post-doctoral education and research training in the biomedical sciences, in order to prepare students and fellows to make significant contributions to the progress of biomedical science through careers in academia, industry and government. The School's MS and PhD degree programs in the biomedical sciences are further complemented by opportunities for advanced study through graduate non-degree coursework and certificate programs, as well as an undergraduate Postbaccalaureate Pre-Professional Program.

Learn more about our school and programs by exploring the JGSS website: www.jefferson.edu/biomedical_sciences.

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These limitations, the researchers say, demonstrate a dire need for non-invasive methods that can accurately stage prostate cancer, detect recurrent disease and image metastatic lesions with improved reliability.

Dr. Thakur and colleagues are studying Ca-64 peptide biomolecules to evaluate prostate cancer tumors via PET imaging. These agents detect prostate cancer by finding a biomarker called VAP1, which is over-expressed as the disease advances.

Other researchers include Ethan Halpern, MD, Charles Intenzo, MD, and Sung Kim, MD, of the Department of Radiology; Edouard Trabulsi, MD, of the Department of Urology; and Eric Wickstrom, PhD, of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. The team will partner with NuView, a molecular imaging technology firm, on the study.

Positive Reviews from Patients for Jefferson’s New Restaurant-Quality Dining

“Fabulous” in what patients are saying about Jefferson’s new “restaurant-quality hood,” which involves the use of a new POD (Plate on Demand) system. After the new menu was piloted on certain Jefferson patient units earlier this year, survey results reported for some of the units revealed a mean score of 99 percent for patients’ ratings of overall quality of our food. Plans are underway to bring the menu to other areas of Jefferson — including the Atrium in the Gibbon Building, the Concor Café in the Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience, and the Jefferson Alumni Hall Food Court. Entrée items will soon include choices like Chicken Pricemare with Leeks, Mushrooms and Garlic, and Pan-Seared Salmon with Lemon Oil. Picture is patient Barbara Levy with Nutrition and Dietetics hostess Diane Parker.

HIV Drug May Slow Down Metastatic Breast Cancer, KCC Researchers Report

The HIV drugs known as CCR5 antagonists may help prevent aggressive breast cancers from metastasizing, researchers from the Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson suggest in a preclinical study published in a recent issue of Cancer Research.

Such drugs target the HIV receptor CCR5, which the virus uses to enter and infect host cells, and has historically only been associated with expression in inflammatory cells in the immune system. Researchers have now shown, however, that CCR5 is also expressed in breast cancer cells, and regulates the spread to other tissues. What’s more, blocking the receptor with the CCR5 antagonists Maraviroc and Vicriviroc, two drugs that slow down the spread of the HIV virus by targeting the CCR5 co-receptor of the chemokine CCL5, also prevents migration and spread of basal breast cancer cells, the researchers found.

“These results are dramatic,” said Richard Pestell, MD, PhD, FACP, Director of Jefferson’s Kimmel Cancer Center and Chair of the Department of Cancer Biology at Thomas Jefferson University, and the study’s senior author. “Our team showed that the CCR5/CCL5 axis plays a key role in invasiveness, and that a CCR5 antagonist can slow down the invasion of basal breast cancer cells.”


Jefferson Elder Care Receives $150K Grant for Dementia Services Program

Jefferson Elder Care (JEC) has received a Pew Fund Grant for $150,000 to provide home-based dementia services to families in the Delaware Valley.

"With these funds, we can work with a large number of underserved elders and their caregivers," said Catherine V. Piersol, MS, OTR/L, JEC Clinical Director. "Our goal always has been to help improve the daily lives of both people with dementia and their caregivers, and these funds will assist in bridging the gap between each family's needs and their ability to access services.

Catherine added that almost half of the referrals JEC receives for dementia services are not eligible due to insurance coverage and income level. The Pew funding will allow JEC to serve an additional 140 clients and their caregivers over the next three years.

JEC Dementia Services focus on both the individual with dementia and his or her caregiver. An occupational therapist visits the home and evaluates the individual with dementia and develops a customized, comprehensive occupational therapy plan of care to improve the individual’s daily function and safety. Within the dementia service, caregivers participate in JEC’s SkillzCare” program which helps them manage the daily care of the individual and the behavioral manifestations of dementia. This program helps caregivers reduce stress and increase confidence in handling daily challenges. These benefits combined lead to a reduction in the dementia-related behaviors that often trigger nursing home placement.

Physicians understand the impact that this program can have on patients, their families, and society at large. Majul “Misha” Serruya, MD, PhD, of the Department of Neurology at Thomas Jefferson University, refers many of his patients to JEC. He says that having an occupational therapist visit patients’ homes “saves society money by keeping them functioning well in the community rather than being hospitalized or institutionalized, [and] it also fulfills our vocational oath to help our patients in whatever way we can.”

The JEC Dementia Service Program will be piloted with clients from the Family Caregiver Support Program, part of Senior Community Services in Delaware County. After the first year, JEC will build partnerships with other area agencies on aging in southeastern Pennsylvania.
Society in 2000 - 2001. He was recently elected to the National Academy of Medicine and Cutaneous Biology has been appointed to Honorary Membership of The International Academy of Perinatal Medicine in Paris, France, on December 5 - 8.

Jouni Uitto, MD, PhD

Joanne Gotto, EdM

Robert L. Brent, MD, PhD, DSc. Alfred L. duPont Hospital for Children, former Chair of Pediatrics at Jefferson Medical College, presented at “The Fetus as a Patient” meeting in Myconos, Greece, on “The reproductive and developmental effects of caffeine exposure to the pregnant patient: What do you tell your patients concerning the use of caffeine while they are pregnant? Dr. Brent will also present “What are the embryos or fetal risks of radiation or chemotherapy from the treatment of cancer during pregnancy?” at the Eighth Meeting of the International Academy of Perinatal Medicine in Paris, France, on December 5 - 8.

The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship has selected two students from the Jefferson School of Population Health as 2012 - 13 Schweitzer Fellows. Samantha Davis and Rachel Thomas aim to improve the health, well-being and self-esteem of 6th- and 7th-grade girls by working with them on topics such as body image, nutrition, life skills and long-term goals.

Jouanne Gotto, EdM, Business Manager for Education, Department of Medicine, facilitated five small-group sessions at the Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine Program Administrators Meeting in the spring. She was also on the planning committee for the national meeting and presented a workshop on “Are you Green?” (on the topic of “going green” at home, work and in the community).

Two Jeffersonsians, Gene Gulati, PhD, Professor of Hematology and Associate Director of Hematology Laboratory in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, and Director of the Hematology/Medical Oncology Fellowship Training Program, have collaborated with a colleague at Baylor University to publish “Clinical Study Design & Performance of Hospital Glucose Sensors.”

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Thursday, October 4

• Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson, Bone Marrow Transplant Survivors, a group designed for individuals who have completed a bone marrow transplant. Facilitated by an oncology social worker this monthly meeting (1st Thursday of every month including July & August) offers a wonderful opportunity to exchange information, validation and support with other people who have been through the same procedure, noon to 1:30 p.m., 602 BLMB. Lunch will be provided. (Subsidized parking is available at Interpark Garage, 10th and Chestnut Sts. - Enter on 10th or Sansom.) For more information or to RSVP contact Connie Crouthamel, LSW at 215-503-7711.

• Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson, Radiation Therapy Information Session, 10 to 11 a.m., G132 Bodine. Also, every Thursday in October 2012.

Make a Difference in Healthcare – Become a Health Mentor at Jefferson

Support Jefferson patients and families

Save a Life: Give Blood

Please stop by the Jefferson Blood Center at 833 Chestnut St. or call 215-577-7791.
Center hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mon. – Fri.
Monday blood donors receive a $5 meal voucher.

Clean Out Your Closets, Help Jefferson Patients

Penny Wise Thrift Shop benefiting patient programs at TJUH

Jefferson Hospitals

Please call 215-955-3757 or visit http://jeffline.tju.edu/jcipe/hmp/