



Celebrating Courageous Patients, Generous Donors and Pioneering Physicians

A TRIUMPH OVER HEAD & NECK CANCER

David Caldarella's cancer journey began in 2010 when a lump in the right side of his neck brought him to an ENT in New Jersey. After undergoing a biopsy, David was diagnosed with stage IV head & neck cancer, or oropharyngeal cancer, and referred to David Cognetti, MD, Co-Director of the Jefferson Center for Head and Neck Surgery.

"From my first consult with Dr. Cognetti I was made to feel comfortable and at peace even though my prognosis was grim," said David. Despite living a relatively healthy lifestyle and never having smoked, he was facing an aggressive form of cancer — squamous cell carcinoma — which had metastasized from his tonsils to the lymph nodes on the right side of his neck and down his throat.

"Although David's battle would be uphill, I was confident we had an excellent shot at positive results," said Dr. Cognetti. "His overall health was good, and we had the skills here at Jefferson to give him the best possible chance of surviving this."

David decided to proceed with all of his treatments at Jefferson with a team including oncologist Rita Axelrod, MD, and radiation oncologist Pramila Rani Anne, MD.

"The doctors were always keeping in contact with me, and the nurses and technicians responsible for carrying out my treatments were some of the most amazing people I have ever met in my life," said David. "I'm positive I would not be here had it not been for my care team at Jefferson!"

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Partnering for Advances in Bone Marrow Transplantation



Thanks to fundraising efforts led by generous donors like Jack Biddulph (pictured left) and Roseanne Biddulph, Neal Flomenberg, MD, and his team can continue their research.

September 20 marks a pivotal day for Jefferson and pioneering medical oncologist Neal Flomenberg, MD. On that day 20 years ago — also Dr. Flomenberg's birthday — he performed the first-ever bone marrow transplant as part of Jefferson's Bone and Marrow Transplant (BMT) Program — an initiative established by Dr. Flomenberg and his colleagues. To mark the occasion, he has planned a special event this year, inviting all available surviving Jefferson BMT patients and their families to gather to celebrate life and draw strength from each other.

Since its inception, Jefferson's BMT Program has completed more than 1,000 bone marrow transplants, with increasingly impressive outcomes. These include the region's highest actual one-year patient survival rates, according to National Marrow Donor Program Center. Especially remarkable are our outcomes for patients with only half-matched (haploidentical) related donors (usually siblings). Since 2006, Dr. Flomenberg and his team have performed more than 200 transplants on these higher-risk patients utilizing a "two-step" approach they developed over the course of several clinical trials at Jefferson.

Jefferson BMT Program research continues to be made possible by generous donors — including Jack and Roseanne Biddulph, who, after their son passed away, sought out an institution that was doing research in preventing leukemia. For the past 14 years, they have organized an annual golf tournament in memory of their son, Patrick Shane Biddulph, raising more than \$187,000 to support BMT research here.

"Patrick's passing was devastating for us, and I was determined to do something so other families did not have to go through what we did," said Jack.

Thank you to the Biddulphs and all of our donors for your generosity.

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Abington-Jefferson Integration is Now in Full Swing



Rich Webster (President, Jefferson Hospitals) and Meg McGoldrick (President, Abington Hospitals) joined forces at the August 5 Phillies game, where Abington Hospital and Jefferson staff members came together to celebrate our merger. Meg and Rich threw a tandem "Better Together" first pitch!

The process of combining Abington and Jefferson has been underway since the merger was announced this May. Since that time, the formal integration has been a thoughtful and structured approach in which each of 30 teams will arrive at objective decisions about department operations, structure and work processes moving forward. Co-chaired by Larry Merlis, EVP, Chief Operating Officer, Jefferson Health, and Kathy Gallagher, EVP, Chief Operating Officer, Enterprise, the Integration Steering Committee will make final decisions on each team's recommendations. The ultimate goal is to optimize, target or achieve best practices, identify and prioritize synergies and transform the way we care for our patients and educate our future healthcare professionals.

Jefferson & Independence Blue Cross Announce Innovation Collaboration

A new collaboration between Jefferson Health and Independence Blue Cross is designed to boost innovation in health care across the region and help both organizations improve the quality and value of health care. The Independence Blue Cross–Jefferson Health Innovation Collaboration will be jointly and equally funded up to \$2 million and the program will be run through the Independence Blue Cross Center for Health Care Innovation and Jefferson's Innovation Pillar.

The collaboration will focus on ways to improve patients' healthcare experience, help people better manage their own health, help physicians and hospitals transform care delivery to improve quality and value and develop future healthcare professionals. Strengthening the relationship between Independence and Jefferson, the collaboration will draw on the experience of our Innovation Pillar and the Jefferson Accelerator Zone — our "command central" for innovation activities, as well as the activities of the Independence Blue Cross Center for Health Care Innovation.

Initiatives the collaboration will pursue include an Entrepreneur-in-Residence program for clinicians and researchers who have promising discoveries that will need more dedicated time and proof-of-concept support, including prototyping. The Entrepreneurs-in-Residence will also participate in education curriculum in entrepreneurship and an innovation engagement speaker series. Other initiatives include health hackathons, events at which people interested in problem solving work intensely to "hack" into usable solutions to important healthcare issues.

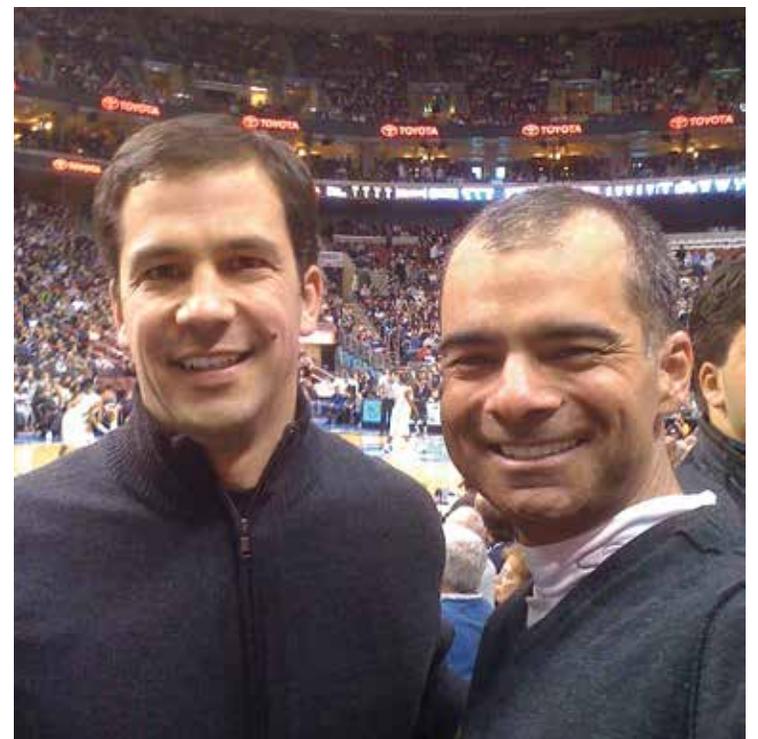
Celebrating Patients, Donors and Physicians

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In May 2010, Dr. Cognetti performed Transoral Robotic Surgery, also known as TORS, using the da Vinci® Surgical System. "TORS has many advantages," said Dr. Cognetti, who is one of the most experienced in the country in this method. "For the surgeon it means better access and visualization of tough-to-reach places in the throat. For the patient, it is a shorter hospitalization and quicker recovery."

After surgery came radiation and chemotherapy. "I spent many of those days and nights hospitalized with side-effects from the treatments," said David. He spent four months on a feeding tube and lost a total of 65 pounds. Through it all, David's faith, friends and family were by his side, and he never gave up. In the end, David is doing great and is nearing the five-year anniversary of the completion of his cancer treatment.

David's experience led him to create David's Dream & Believe Cancer Foundation, which raises funds to provide financial assistance and services to families, primarily in New Jersey, affected by a cancer diagnosis. And this year, thanks to a submission by Dr. Axelrod, David was selected as a patient advocate at the National Cancer Institute and was appointed to serve on the Head & Neck Steering Committee and the Patient Advocate Steering Committee.



Shortly after patient David Caldarella (right) received his "all clear" from David Cognetti, MD, (left), the two — who are graduates of rival schools — celebrated by attending a Villanova–Georgetown basketball game. David is a Villanova graduate; Dr. Cognetti attended Georgetown. Since David's illness brought them together, the two have become good friends.

See this and other news on innovations, research breakthroughs, patient stories and more at Jefferson on the @Jeff blog, available on the Jefferson.edu website. To vote for David — nominated for CONQUER™ Magazine's Hero of Hope™ Patient Award — and read more of his story, please visit the magazine's website, <https://conquer-magazine.com/about/heroes-of-hope/>.



Jefferson was recently ranked among the best in the nation by U.S. News & World Report for **Cancer** – Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Thomas Jefferson University; **Ear, Nose and Throat; Gastroenterology and GI Surgery; Neurology and Neurosurgery** – Farber Institute for Neuroscience at Jefferson; **Ophthalmology** – Wills Eye Hospital; **Orthopedics** – Rothman Institute at Jefferson and Philadelphia Hand Center at Jefferson; and **Urology**.

Innovating to Help a Patient Regain a Life Passion



Jefferson students Meagan Stromer and Brianna Elson (pictured), along with two students from the University of the Arts, teamed up with patient Glenda Speller and non-profit Liberty Resources Inc. to develop a modified sewing machine. "[The machine] has given me back my life," Glenda told the *Philly Voice*. She is now considering opening a sewing business. "Nothing can stop me now."

In 2012, Kimberly Mollo, OTD, OTR/L, an assistant professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy at Jefferson, created an independent study program, Project Inclusive, that combined the strengths of the occupational therapy and industrial design fields while developing client-centered products to enhance quality of life.

"Working together deepens everyone's understanding of what it's like to live with a disability and allows for a more desirable end product," said Dr. Mollo, who is also an alumna of Thomas Jefferson University and The University of the Arts.

One of the clients in the program in the spring semester this year was Glenda Speller. In 2005, Glenda experienced a devastating and life-changing loss — the use of her lower limbs. Because sewing machines require the use of the legs to power the foot pedal, this also meant she was no longer able to participate in her favorite hobby. After several failed attempts at modified sewing machines, she was ready to give up.

Project Inclusive students Meagan Stromer and Brianna Elson (from Jefferson) and Jude Yao Marks and Lena Feliciano Hansen (from the University of the Arts), teamed up with Glenda and non-profit Liberty Resources Inc. to bring sewing back into her life — both as a treasured hobby and as a possible new business. They collaborated to create a specially designed modified sewing machine — The Simple Stitch.

"The machine] has given me back my life," said Glenda, in an interview with *Philly Voice*. She is now considering opening a sewing business. "Nothing can stop me now."

Learn more — read this and many other stories about innovations and research, visit and bookmark the *@Jeff* blog, located at jefferson.edu.

In the Spotlight

- Jefferson researchers have identified a subset of genes known as biomarkers that may predict aggressive prostate cancer in African American men. The next steps will involve creating a treatment protocol that is specific to the prostate cancer growing in each patient's body, rather than to the class of cancer, which should help reduce disparities in outcomes.
- A multidisciplinary group of researchers and physicians at Jefferson have created a clinical pathway, or screening process, to identify obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) disorder in higher-risk, hospitalized patients.
- For the first time, Jefferson research reports a single molecule that appears to be the central regulator driving metastasis in prostate cancer. The study offers a target for the development of a drug that could prevent metastasis in prostate cancer, and possibly other cancers as well.
- An agreement was recently signed by and Mark L. Tykocinski, MD, Provost at TJU and Dean of SKMC, and Professor David Lichtstein, Dean of the Hebrew University Faculty of Medicine, calling for the expansion of scholarly ties and facilitation of academic cooperation.
- Jefferson College of Population Health (JCPH) and Rutgers-Camden signed an affiliation agreement, facilitating priority admission of Rutgers-Camden (RUC) students to the JCPH Master of Public Health (MPH) degree program.
- Jefferson has announced its participation in a national, multi-center trial to test the HeartMate III™ Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD). The trial, expected to enroll over 1,000 patients nationwide, will evaluate the performance and safety of the implantable device.
- Physicians at the Jefferson Angioplasty Center, with Jefferson's Department of Radiation Oncology, are now using coronary brachytherapy to treat in-stent restenosis. Jefferson is among the first hospitals in the world — and the only one in the tri-state area — to use the therapy.
- Using fly models, scientists from Jefferson's Farber Institute for Neurosciences report that two genes — *taranis* and cyclin-dependent kinase 1 (Cdk1) — originally known for their regulation of cell division, are required for normal slumber.
- Jefferson is a proud recipient of four grants from The Philadelphia Foundation totaling more than \$107K. Recipients include the Jefferson College of Nursing, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, the Department of Neurology and the Pediatric\CRH Unit at TJUH.
- Investigators recently administered a new targeted therapy head and neck cancer as part of a clinical trial, placing radioactive seeds into tumor beds to kill the cancer cells.
- Using animal models of acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), Jefferson researchers have uncovered a mechanism that appears to explain why obesity predisposes patients to developing ARDS and might have discovered a novel strategy for preventing it.
- A practice-changing Jefferson study offers a new option for tough breast cancer cases. The new phase 3 study more than doubled the time to cancer recurrence for women with hormone-receptor (HR+) positive metastatic breast cancer.
- In June, Jefferson became a founding member of the Health Care Innovation Collaborative — along with Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Southeastern Pennsylvania, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Comcast, Drexel University, Independence Blue Cross, Safeguard Scientifics, Inc., and University of Pennsylvania Health System.

Learn more about research at Jefferson — visit Jefferson.edu and search for "Research."

Jefferson Clinical Labs Give Back to Worldwide and Local Communities

During Lab Week — an observance typically focused on recognizing medical laboratory professionals — Jefferson's Clinical Laboratories decided to turn the focus on others who needed their help. Through their efforts, staff members raised \$3,500 for Operation Smile — a program that aims to ensure that no child suffers from lack of access to a safe surgery for cleft palate. They also collected hot food donations for a local women's shelter. The Clinical Laboratory would like to thank all those who donated to this fundraiser for helping make this year's Lab Week successful and rewarding.

Pictured are: (Front Row) Marybeth Shank, Marianne Gaudio, Linda Blumstein, Heather Kelly; (Back Row) Laura McCloskey, PhD, Jennifer Lewis, Aryana Trewick.



Transforming Systems to Implement the Best in Electronic Health Information Management

Since last fall, Jefferson has built a team more than 150 people strong — both from within and outside the organization — who have combined their strengths to build, test and install an electronic medical record system that will ensure the safekeeping and maintenance of our patients' information. Our subject matter experts are working with vendor Epic to build a robust system that delivers quality, efficiency and excellence.

Now currently in a state-of-the-art headquarters at Jefferson, the "Epic@Jeff" team works closely with stakeholders across the organization to make Dr. Klasko's vision of a seamless digital enterprise, a reality. This team will also prepare and train all end users at Jefferson to use the system effectively during its deployment — first during the Ambulatory go-live in November 2016, and then during the Acute Care go-live in April 2017.



Earlier this year, many members of the Epic@Jeff Project Team — the people who will build, test, install and implement the electronic health record system — came together for the first time to begin onboarding activities.

On Course for Successful ICD-10 Transition This Fall

In tandem with the Epic@Jeff team, a team of experts has been devoted to the monumental and complex task of transitioning Jefferson to ICD-10 — and the corresponding increase from 14,000 to 68,000 medical diagnosis codes by October 2015. Over the past three years, Jefferson has revised processes, technology and education as part of the initiative. The project has involved more than 200 team members, the updating of 26 applications and 19 reporting systems, and the training of more than 4,000 staff members — all to be ahead of the government-mandated deadline of October 1.



Pictured helping to get the word out about ICD-10 education for staff at the ICD-10 "Pep Rally" this summer are Robnetta Hampton, Shalina Brown, Melissa Valentine, Amanda Vital and Janis Donaghy.

People

Kathleen Ashton, PhD, RN, ACNS-BC, Professor, Jefferson School of Nursing (center), was named *Regional Winner for Volunteerism and Service* as part of the Nurse.com *GEM* (Giving Excellence Meaning) Awards. She also recently received a *Volunteer Service Award for National and Community Service* from President Obama, based on her work with Project Hope last year (following the typhoon in the Philippines). In addition, she has been named Reviewer of the Year for the *Journal of Clinical Nursing*.

Congratulations to **Lauren Collins, MD**, who was selected as a 2015 Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation Faculty Scholar, one of just five nationwide. The Macy Faculty Scholars Program is designed to identify and nurture the careers of promising educational innovators in medicine and nursing, accelerating needed reforms in health professions education. Dr. Collins is an associate professor of Family and Community Medicine and Geriatrics at TJU and Associate Director of Jefferson's Center for Interprofessional Education (JCIPE).

Gregory Kane, MD, the Jane and Leonard Korman Professor of Pulmonary Medicine, has been named Chair for the Department of Medicine. Previously Interim Chair, Dr. Kane is a Professor of Medicine, an active Pulmonary and Critical Care subspecialist, and also served in key leadership roles as Vice Chair for Education and Program Director of the Internal Medicine Residency.

Congratulations to this year's *Lauren B. Ehrlich MSN, RN, Excellence in Trauma Award* winners: Residency awardee **Kathleen Lamb, MD**; Nursing awardee **Nicole Olszewski, BSN, RN**, Clinical Charge Nurse, 7C Surgical/Trauma Unit; and Multidisciplinary awardee **Mary Ellen Fitzpatrick MS, CNSD, RD, LDN**. We know our patients and their families truly appreciate your dedication!

The National Medical Association has installed **Edith Mitchell, MD**, as President. Dr. Mitchell is Professor of Medical Oncology, Program Leader of Gastrointestinal Oncology, and Associate Director for Diversity Programs at TJU.

Rebecca O'Shea has been promoted to Senior Vice President for Clinical Services. In her expanded role, in addition to her current duties, Rebecca will provide strategic direction and oversight to the Pharmacy Department, Rehabilitation Services, and Accreditation and Regulatory Affairs and manage our JOE Labor Team.

Brian Sweeney has been promoted, to the role of Senior Vice President of Hospital Operations. He will assume administrative responsibility for the Departments of Nutrition and Dietetics, Environmental Services, Patient and Family Experience, and the Emergency Department, in addition to his current areas of Patient Flow Management, Transfer Center, JeffSTAT and the GI/Transplant Service Line. Brian will continue to co-lead the JOE Clinical Operations Team.

Julie Wheeler, MS,OTR/L, an advanced clinician in Rehabilitation Medicine, is recipient of the *James B. Erdmann, PhD Award for Excellence in Interprofessional Collaborative Practice* for the academic year 2014-15. This award is given to a Jefferson faculty or staff member whose leadership efforts in this area have impacted colleagues, staff, students and patients.

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