Innovation Abounds at Jefferson

Jefferson Partnering with IBM Watson on ‘Smart’ Hospital Rooms

A hospital stay can be an unsettling experience. The stress of diagnosis and the hectic atmosphere of a busy hospital can cause a lot of anxiety for patients and their families. To help ease the stress on patients and clinicians, Jefferson recently partnered with IBM to launch cognitive hospital rooms powered by IBM Watson Internet of Things (IoT).

The program is designed to enhance the patient experience and help bring deeper levels of personalized, agile and responsive care to patients. When implemented, the new technology in the rooms will give patients the ability to interact with in-room speakers, allowing them to take control over their hospital stay and the overall experience – operating lights, window blinds, asking questions about hospital facilities or even accessing information about their physicians.

A BEACON of Innovation in Health and Wellness

Jefferson was honored to host THE BEACON in Lubert Plaza on our Center City campus for 10 days in October. The first-of-its-kind high-tech, interactive wonder was created to demonstrate the power of integrating medicine with design and vice versa to improve health and wellness. THE BEACON featured data transmitted from The Rail Park, a proud collaborator with Jefferson to promote health and wellness programming throughout Philadelphia. Designed by Dr. Peter Lloyd Jones, Director of MEDstudio@JEFF, in collaboration with Waxwood and Jenny Sabin Studio, THE BEACON was a feature of DesignPhiladelphia, of which Thomas Jefferson University and Philadelphia University were proud to be the title sponsors. Learn more – visit www.medstudio beacon.com.

The PhilaU + Jefferson Combination: Insights from Dean of SKMC

In the fall issues of the SKMC Bulletin and the Thomas Jefferson University Review, Mark Tykocinski, MD, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Thomas Jefferson University, and Dean, Sidney Kimmel Medical College, gives his insights on the upcoming combination of Thomas Jefferson University and Philadelphia University. The following is an excerpt.

This past September, Jefferson, home to one of the nation’s distinguished medical colleges, signed a first-of-its-kind agreement to combine with a very different type of academic institution, one deeply rooted in the fields of business, design, health, architecture and engineering – Philadelphia University (founded in 1884 as Philadelphia Textile School). In so doing, we are bringing together two iconic Philadelphia institutions, with storied 192- and 132-year histories, respectively. We are giving birth to a comprehensive university that will continue to serve our communities and society in a richer way, from two campus hubs just a short drive apart.

Learn more – read Dr. Tykocinski’s full column by visiting Jefferson.edu/Giving. Search SKMC Alumni Bulletin.

Definitive Agreement Signed with Kennedy Health

Jefferson marks another exciting milestone on our journey towards reimagining how we deliver health care to our patients and families in South Jersey, with our signing of a Definitive Agreement with Kennedy Health. With the Definitive Agreement in place, Kennedy and Jefferson will finalize our integration by seeking all necessary regulatory reviews. The Definitive Agreement extends our shared governance model established with the integration of Abington, Aria and Jefferson.

Jefferson Health to Reactivate Heart Transplant Program

Jefferson Health welcomes two new directors who will lead our team of transplant surgeons, cardiologists, nurses and staff in growing the heart transplant program throughout the Jefferson enterprise and the Delaware Valley region. Todd Massey, MD, serves as Surgical Director of Cardiac Transplantation and Mechanical Circulatory Support and Andrew Boyle, MD, has been named Medical Director of Advanced Heart Failure. With the addition of these two physicians Jefferson will reactivate its Heart Transplant Program. Learn more about our heart transplant services and cardiology at Jefferson.edu.
Jefferson Endoscopy Center Now Open in Bala

The recently opened Jefferson Endoscopy Center at Bala, an ambulatory surgery center, is available for patients in need of diagnostic and therapeutic upper endoscopies and colonoscopies. The Jefferson Endoscopy Center at Bala is open Monday through Friday and is located at 130 Presidential Blvd. in Bala Cynwyd, PA. Please call 215-955-8900 for an appointment or more information.

Endowed Professorship for Spine Research Announced

Jamie Maguire and the Maguire Foundation have generously donated $1 million which will be matched by the Sidney Kimmel Foundation Matching Program at Jefferson to establish the James J. Maguire, Jr. Endowed Professorship for Spine Research. Jamie’s passion for advancing orthopaedic research and clinical care stems from his personal experience recovering from a cycling accident and being treated by the Rothman Institute at Jefferson in 2014. Look for Jamie in a new Rothman Institute at Jefferson television commercial.

New Web Cameras Connect Parents with Infants in Abington – Jefferson Health NICU

The purchase of the NICU web cameras was made possible by a generous $100,000 gift by Kevin and Caitlin Johnson of New Hope, PA, along with Kevin’s parents, John and Sue Johnson of Flemington, NJ. Kevin and Caitlin’s twin boys, Brayden and Parker, are former patients in Abington’s NICU – born at 28 weeks. They are now enjoying life as happy, healthy one-year-olds. Kevin and Caitlin are pictured with their twins and neonatologist Dr. Kathryn Ziegler, DO.

Parents of infants in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Abington Hospital – Jefferson Health can now feel a little more at ease when they’re unable to be physically present at their baby’s bedside. Thanks to a generous donation, each of the NICU’s beds is now equipped with NICVIEW web cameras (now totaling 38), which allow parents, family and friends to view their infants in real-time, 24/7, through a secure online portal.

“This technology will completely transform the NICU experience for the hundreds of families we serve in the Andrew Tesauro Special Care Nursery each year,” said Kathryn Ziegler, DO, Abington – Jefferson Health’s Division of Neonatology. “From tears of happiness to heartfelt expressions of gratitude, the reaction from parents have been nothing short of amazing.”

Dr. Ziegler notes that families from across the US have been utilizing the web-camera system already, as well as 33 family members from India, Pakistan, South Korea, Germany, Mexico, Brazil, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico.

Abington-Jefferson Health is well on its way in the journey to be designated “Baby Friendly.” Staff members are working with counterparts at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Center City Philadelphia (which recently received the designation) to help Abington earn this sought-after honor.

Philadelphia Inquirer Features SKMC Students’ Experiences at Syrian Refugee Camp

Nithin Paul, MD, a graduate of Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University shares a light moment with a Syrian refugee boy at an encampment in Jordan.

The insights of Sidney Kimmel Medical College students working in a Jordanian refugee camp for Syrians were recently featured in The Philadelphia Inquirer, and a three-part Jefferson blog series is available online now. The work of the students comes as a result of a partnership between Jefferson and Jordan, forged after Her Royal Highness Princess Muna Al-Hussein visited here in 2014.
Sidney Kimmel Medical College Preparing to Innovate with New Curriculum

The Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Jefferson (SKMC) is preparing to launch JeffMD, the college’s new curriculum, in July 2017. JeffMD will allow students to spend more time in small groups using cases with faculty and less time in lectures. Students will depend on faculty assessments of their abilities to solve problems and less on memorization. The Class of 2021, entering SKMC next summer, will be the first students to experience JeffMD fully. By the summer of 2020, all SKMC students will be learning through JeffMD. To learn more, visit jefferson.edu/JeffMD. Submit questions to jeffmd@jefferson.edu.

Jefferson and Temple University Announce Collaboration for Medical Cannabis Research

Leaders from Thomas Jefferson University’s Center for Medical Cannabis Education & Research (CMCER) and Temple University’s Lewis Katz School of Medicine and its Center for Substance Abuse Research launched their collaboration by co-presenting at the 2016 Carolina Cannabinoid Collective Conference in Philadelphia. “We have an opportunity to develop a best-in-class approach to the medical use of marijuana, given the unique emphasis in PA Act 16 and from Governor Wolf’s office on supporting meaningful research as part of the ‘business’ of medical cannabis,” said Charles V. Pollack, Jr., MA, MD, FACEP, FAAEM, FESC, FAHA, FCPP, Director of CMCER. “This new collaboration is emblematic of CMCER’s resolve to demonstrate the benefit of collaboration among PA medical schools in further understanding the best use of medical marijuana.”

Reimagining the Health Care of Tomorrow: Independence/ Jefferson Health Hack

Over the course of a weekend in early November, healthcare professionals, engineers, developers, designers, entrepreneurs and students joined together to envision new ways to promote access and delivery to health care. Teams competed in three tracks: Patient Engagement; Connected Health; Virtual/Augmented Reality (VR/AR). And, after the weekend-long hack, we crowned the winners: Team Intact Birth for Patient Engagement; Team BTI Prosthetics for Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality. For more information, please visit innovation.jefferson.edu/healthhack.

Discovery

- Research teams from Jefferson’s Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center (SKCC) and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York will study the effects of key genetic mutations on uveal melanoma (UM). The teams hope their work will lead to new therapies to prevent or greatly delay UM metastasis.
- Jefferson neurosurgeon, Chen Wu, MD, and his patient were featured on 6abc for Jefferson Neurosurgery’s new, effective procedure for Parkinson’s disease – Asleep Deep Brain Stimulation.
- Jefferson researchers analyzed data from thousands of transplants and developed a scoring system for donor kidneys that they hope might expand the pool of available organs. The team developed a singular score for the donated organs that showed strong correlation with better survival in dual kidney transplants.
- New Jefferson research identified problems key to African American women fighting cancer – a first step in creating programs that better serve the community, and help reduce cancer disparities. In focus groups, for example, women expressed concern that medical information they received was inferior to Caucasians, leaving them less prepared to deal with survivor challenges after treatment completion.
- In September, Jefferson Dermatology celebrated the opening of the PXE International Center of Excellence in Research and Clinical Care – the first of its kind in the United States. The Center is a collaboration between Jefferson Dermatology and PXE International, a lay organization advocating on behalf of patients with pseudoxanthoma elasticum (PXE), a rare heritable disorder that can cause rash-like skin findings, cardiovascular complications and loss of visual acuity or blindness. For more news and research breakthroughs, please visit jefferson.edu.

Awards & Accreditations

- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has selected Jefferson Medical Oncology Associates as one of nearly 200 physician group practices and 17 health insurance companies to participate in a care delivery model that supports and encourages higher quality, more coordinated cancer care.
- Thomas Jefferson University Hospital placed within the top two at the 2016 Delaware Valley Patient Safety and Quality Awards Program for its submission, “Evaluation of effectiveness of a neonatal morphine weaning protocol for the treatment of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome and its effect on length of stay.”
- The TJU Department of Radiation Oncology has achieved four-year accreditation for its radiation oncology services from ASTRO’s Accreditation Program for Excellence.
- Baby-Friendly USA has announced that Thomas Jefferson University Hospital has earned prestigious international recognition as a “Baby-Friendly-Designated” birth facility. The initiative encourages and recognizes hospitals and birthing centers that offer an optimal level of care for breastfeeding mothers and their babies.
- Jefferson has been named a SmartCEO Healthiest Company Award winner for Philadelphia. Congratulations to Aria-Jefferson Health for also being a finalist.
Olympic Runner Marielle Hall Joins Aria-Jefferson Health for Annual Lung Run

The 2nd Annual Lung Cancer Run/Walk at Washington Crossing, presented by Aria – Jefferson Health, featured special guests, including 2016 Olympic Runner Marielle Hall, pictured here with members of Aria’s Thoracic Surgery Team. From left to right: Richard Chang, MD, FACS, Chief of Thoracic Surgery, Director of the Lung Cancer Screening Program; Teresa Mallon, MSN, CRNP, CCRN, CTTS-M, Thoracic Surgery Nurse Practitioner; Marielle Hall; and Elizabeth Thornton, BSN, RN-BC, CTTS-M, Thoracic Oncology Nurse Navigator.

Methodist Hospital and Jefferson Host Block Party to Celebrate 20 Years Together

The day of fun for all ages on September 17 took place under the “Big Tent” and featured carnival games, face painting, balloon artists, music, special guests from our local sports teams and guest performances by All That Jazz Dance Studio and Philadelphia Performing Arts Charter School. It was a day of fun for all ages.