NEW ERA IN NEUROSCIENCE BEGINS:
Vickie and Jack Farber Present $20 Million Gift to Jefferson

With an overwhelmingly generous gift of $20 million, Vickie and Jack Farber are now making it possible for Jefferson to embark on an even more optimistic future for neuroscience research and patient care.

“This amazing gift is helping Jefferson accelerate our translation of research into new treatments and minimally invasive neurosurgical procedures for neurodegenerative and other devastating disorders,” said Stephen Klasko, MD, MBA, President and CEO, TJU and Jefferson Health.

With this funding, our Institute (formerly the Farber Institute for Neuroscience) receives a new name — the Vickie and Jack Farber Institute for Neuroscience — that more personally honors our healthcare visionaries and a new organizational structure that spans the enterprise, bringing together the groundbreaking scientific brainpower of our researchers and the advanced patient care from our sought-after specialists,” he said.

About the Institute’s Leadership and Structure

Under the leadership of Robert H. Rosenwasser, MD, President of the Vickie and Jack Farber Institute for Neuroscience at Jefferson, the institute is now home to:

• Jefferson’s departments of Neurological Surgery, Neurology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience (including the Frances and Joseph Weinberg Unit for ALS Research)

• Abington Neurosciences (formerly Abington Neurosciences Institute)

• Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience (the area’s only dedicated hospital for neuroscience)

Jefferson’s expansion and integration of our services through the Vickie and Jack Farber Institute for Neuroscience is creating a seamless, multidisciplinary approach, with tremendous opportunities to find effective treatments and preventive therapies — maybe even cures — for ALS, Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s and other life-altering neurodegenerative diseases.

A portrait of healthcare visionaries Jack and Vickie Farber is displayed at Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience.

Awards & Accreditations

• Jefferson is first US hospital to earn Joint Commission’s ‘Advanced Certification’ for Total Hip & Knee Replacement. The advanced certification process is designed to help organizations establish a framework that improves quality of care, provides a pathway to excellence and reduces variation in care delivery.

• Independence Blue Cross Blue Distinction® Center for Maternity Care and Blue Distinction® Center+ for Cardiac Care.


• U.S. News & World Report ranked Jefferson’s College of Health Professions’ Occupational Therapy program number 6 in the nation. The magazine also ranked the College’s Physical Therapy program among the nation’s best, in addition to including our Jefferson College of Nursing’s Master’s Programs, our College of Pharmacy and our Sidney Kimmel Medical College on its nation’s best lists.

• The Leapfrog Group ranked Jefferson Health’s hospitals within the group’s top two grades for patient safety. Locations include Jefferson Hospital, Methodist Hospital, Abington Hospital and Abington – Lansdale Hospital.

• The American Heart Association and American Stroke Association (AHA/ASA) has recognized Jefferson for excellence in stroke care with the Get With The Guidelines® - Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award — and recognition on the Target: Stroke Honor Roll for our “door-to-needle times.”

• Philadelphia magazine named 143 Jefferson physicians to its annual Top Docs list. Our numbers proudly include physicians practicing at a range of locations, including Jefferson and Abington Hospital campuses, in addition to Wills Eye and Nemours/duPont. The magazine also named nine Abington – Jefferson Health dentists to the list of 2016 Top Dentists. Learn more at Phillymag.com.

• The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities granted full three-year re-accreditation to Jefferson’s Comprehensive Acute Rehabilitation Unit, including our Inpatient Rehabilitation Program and the Stroke Specialty Program.
Leaders From Jefferson Travel to South Africa to Foster Healthcare and Educational Ties

Two of Jefferson’s leaders recently traveled to South Africa as part of Ambassador Andrew Young’s South Africa Heritage Tour to foster trade, investment and educational ties between the US and South Africa. Dr. Klasko and Joseph B. Hill, Senior Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer for Thomas Jefferson University and Jefferson Health, spent time in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg and, along with Mayor Kasim Reed of Atlanta, met with leaders from the for-profit sector, as well as representatives from health care and educational institutions.

“It was an honor to travel with Ambassador Young and meet with South African government and business leaders,” said Dr. Klasko. “Through continued dialogue and collaboration, we hope to enhance our bi-directional partnerships with health systems and universities in South Africa to leverage our respective strengths.”

Out of the many inventive Venture Track proposals at our JAZ Tank innovation competition, one grand prize winner was chosen. The innovative “Mother’s Milk” project helps to facilitate breastfeeding options among working mothers in Bangladesh. “Winning JAZ Tank is an incredible opportunity for us,” said Micaela Langille Collins, Co-principal investigator, Mother’s Milk, and first-year student at Sidney Kimmel Medical College at TJU (pictured). “We will be able to approach high-level partners in the garment sector and work to expand our packaged intervention to other factories in Bangladesh and abroad.” Learn more about the second annual JAZ Tank Challenge, which was held this year at Philadelphia University, at Jefferson.edu/JAZTank.

Jefferson Receives $7.5 Million to Improve Health in the Johnstown Area

The 1889 Foundation announced a $7.5 million, five-year gift to establish the 1889 Foundation-Jefferson Center for Population Health in Johnstown. The Center — a partnership between the 1889 Foundation and the Jefferson College of Population Health — will identify, quantify and develop strategies for improving the health of the citizens of Cambria and Somerset Counties. This partnership will bring an academic approach and rigor to the research that will inform the decisions and interventions made in the community.

Better Results with “Freezing”: Jefferson Offers Cryoablation to Treat Noncancerous Breast Lumps

Fibroadenoma affects women of all ages and often presents as an uncomfortable but noncancerous breast lump. Typically, in the past, treating these tumors has required surgery in an operating room in which the breast is cut open, tumor tissue is removed, and the incision sutured (stitched) closed. This approach can lead to breast deformation and scarring, especially if more than one fibroadenoma is treated this way.

Cryoablation at Jefferson — also known as cryotherapy — is an FDA-approved treatment for destroying fibroadenomas, and is a comfortable alternative to open surgery. This outpatient procedure takes place in the comfort and convenience of the ultrasound suite at the Jefferson-Honickman Breast Imaging Center in Center City.

To make an appointment with a breast care specialist to find out if cryoablation is right for you, please call 1-800-JEFFNOW. Learn more by visiting Jefferson.edu/BreastCryotherapy.
Jefferson researchers have found a mechanism that could be responsible for pancreatic cancer’s resistance to at least one targeted approach. Their finding could help researchers develop more effective combination therapies and breathe new life into forgotten and failed cancer drugs.

When women in labor are given more time to deliver their babies than current guidelines recommend, their incidence of cesarean delivery drops by 55 percent, found researchers at Sidney Kimmel Medical College (SKMC).

Research conducted at SKMC suggests other therapies may be needed with radiation to increase survival in those with prostate cancer. The groundbreaking data was published in the American Journal of Clinical Oncology.

Among families of children with autism spectrum disorder, perceived need for medical and support services differ among caregivers of different racial and ethnic groups, even after adjusting for child and family socioeconomic and other characteristics, found Jefferson researchers.

While two advanced radiosurgery approaches — Gamma Knife and RapidArc® — offer different strengths, they are equally effective at eradicating cancer in the brain, found researchers at Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center (SKCC) here at Jefferson.

A new SKCC at Jefferson study in mice has shown that lung cancer with KRAS-related gene mutations might benefit from a triple therapy with two experimental drugs plus radiation therapy.

Older patients, minorities and male patients are more likely to develop substernal thyroid goiters that are difficult to remove surgically, putting them at risk for treatment complications and death, found SKMC researchers.

Jefferson researchers found that early diagnosis and treatment of sleep apnea may reduce six-month readmissions for patients hospitalized with heart failure.

Scientists at TJU report important insights into how mitochondria are naturally protected against taking up too much calcium, which can force cells to die. Their findings offer a novel avenue for creating drugs designed to stop mitochondria from demolishing cells during a time of stress, such as from a heart attack.

SKCC researchers thought Nit1 might be a tumor suppressor gene — but found it actually promotes cancer growth. The findings of the study strongly suggest that Nit1 may represent a much-needed new target for drug therapy.

Surgical methods used in a common form of abortion or to clear the womb after a spontaneous miscarriage appear to significantly increase the risk of a later preterm birth, said Jefferson researchers who analyzed 36 studies that enrolled more than one million women.

Edith Mitchell Selected for Cancer Moonshot Panel

The National Cancer Institute (NCI), part of the National Institutes of Health, has appointed renowned Edith Mitchell, MD, FACP, to a 28-member Blue Ribbon Panel of scientific experts, cancer leaders and patient advocates that will inform the scientific direction and goals of Vice President Joe Biden’s National Cancer Moonshot Initiative. Dr. Mitchell is Director of the Center to Eliminate Cancer Disparities and Associate Director for Diversity Affairs at the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center.

Of Note

• MEDstudio@JEFF at TJU is one of 32 academic institutions to partner in a $75 million national research institute that will support American textile manufacturers in bringing sophisticated new materials and textiles to the marketplace.

• Jefferson’s Occupational Therapy students and Industrial Design students from the University of the Arts recently collaborated and presented prototypes of toys specially designed for children with physical, mental or cognitive disabilities.

• Jefferson Urgent Care - Rittenhouse is now open at 2021 Chestnut Street, Monday through Sunday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Learn more at Jefferson.edu/UrgentCare.

• Jefferson’s “Energy Conservation 2016” is estimated to save more than $2 million per year by replacing equipment and technology in our buildings that will run more resourcefully. Over the last decade, the buildings were updated with lighting controls, steam-trap replacements, piping modifications, and smart metering — all of which have contributed to helping Jefferson save a total of more than $33 million since 2004.

• Jefferson Health is proud to welcome Dorfner Family Medicine to Jefferson Community Physicians. The alignment will expand South Jersey residents’ access to Jefferson primary care and strengthen continuity of care with Jefferson’s other services and specialties.

• Jefferson BSN Programs will be offered at the Abington – Dixon Campus in Willow Grove, starting in fall of 2017. Contact Jefferson College of Nursing at 215-503-8890 for details on upcoming info sessions.

• Independence Blue Cross (IBC) and TJU have announced the first teams selected to participate in the Entrepreneurs-in-Residence program that is part of the IBC/Jefferson Health Innovation Collaboration launched last summer. Two teams of entrepreneurs at TJU will receive $150K each to support projects that will innovatively address two important health issues — bone-graft and joint-replacement infection and advanced surgical treatment of complex epilepsy.

Telehealth Now Covered by Jefferson Health Plans

Jefferson staff enrolled in Jefferson health plans can now receive coverage for JeffConnect on-demand video visits with a Jefferson emergency physician, in addition to video visits with your own Jefferson physician through the JeffConnect Scheduled Online Visits service. Enroll in JeffConnect today at Jeffconnect.org, or download the free JeffConnect app for your mobile device.

Each time you start a video visit, enter the coupon code for your plan:

JeffPLUS PPO Telehealth Copay: $25
Coupon Code: JEFFPLUS

ACO Plus PPO Telehealth Copay: $15
Coupon Code: JEFFACO

In the Spotlight

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Dr. Klasko (right) and David Nash, MD, MBA, Dean of Jefferson College of Population Health (JCPH) (second from left), helped to present the inaugural $100,000 Hearst Health Prize to Community Care of North Carolina at the Population Health Colloquium in March. The prize, established in partnership with JCPH, is given in recognition of outstanding achievement in managing or improving health. Learn more at Jefferson.edu.

Photo: National Geographic Channel

Actor Morgan Freeman, pictured here in a hallway at Jefferson, visited our Center City campus in the fall to film a segment for the TV series The Story of God with Morgan Freeman. If you missed the broadcast on April 17, visit the National Geographic Channel website to view his special report. While here, he met with Andrew Newberg, MD, from our Myrna Brind Center of Integrative Medicine, who conducts brain imaging research. The actor underwent a scan measuring his brain activity while meditating.
Celebrating the “Gift of Life” at Jefferson

On April 14, Jefferson hosted a celebration of organ donation, that included our staff, an organ recipient and an organ donor’s family. Currently, more than 15,000 people in the US await life-saving liver transplants alone. Jefferson is a leader in transplantation and offers innovative procedures such as live liver donor transplantation. The first hospital in the Delaware Valley to perform liver transplants, Jefferson has conducted more than 1,000 of these procedures. Learn more at Jefferson.edu/transplant.

ADVANCE for Nurses Magazine Names Jefferson ED Nursing Team “Top Nursing Team of 2016”

Congratulations to Jefferson’s Emergency Medicine Nursing Team — recognized as the “Top Nursing Team of 2016” by ADVANCE for Nurses magazine. Our staff take pride in delivering outstanding care and an exceptional experience for each and every patient. We’re one of only 14 hospitals nationally that is a Level 1 Trauma Center and a federally funded Regional Spinal Cord Injury Model Center.

People

- MANNA (Metropolitan Area Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance) honored Rickie Brawer, PhD, MPH, DCHES this spring with the 2016 Nourish Award for her leadership in community health and her advocacy in addressing healthcare access issues such as insurance and transportation along with social determinants of health like nutrition, housing, education and income within more traditional healthcare delivery models. Dr. Brawer is Associate Director of the Jefferson Center for Urban Health and an assistant professor at Jefferson.
- Mitchell J.M. Cohen, MD, has been named President Elect of the American Board of Pain Medicine. Dr. Cohen is Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at Sidney Kimmel Medical College (SKMC).
- Peter L. DeAngelis Jr., CPA, MBA, FHFMA, has joined Jefferson as Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer. In his role, Peter will serve as a key member of the Executive Leadership Team and will be responsible for overseeing all financial functions throughout Jefferson.
- Congratulations to the Jefferson faculty, staff and students who were recently recognized with JCPME’s James B. Erdmann, PhD Awards for Excellence in Interprofessional Education & Collaborative Practice: Tracey Vause Earland, MS, OT/SL; Alan Forstater, MD, FACP; Amber King, PharmD; Lauren Hersh, MD; Brian Wolfram, PT, MPT, DPT, CCS; Martha Ankeny; Amanda Gibson; David Goldstein; April Smith; and Claire Sokas.
- Christopher Fontana has been named the Journal of Healthcare Contracting’s Professional of the Year. He is Director of Strategic Sourcing at Jefferson Health.
- Jefferson’s President and CEO, Stephen Klasko, MD, MBA, has co-authored a book with Gregory P. Shea, PhD, a healthcare consultant and adjunct professor at the Wharton School. We CAN Fix Healthcare: The Future is Now, argues that despite the acrimony of this year’s political campaigns, America’s political parties have a unique opportunity to create a new and optimistic healthcare system.
- The Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association has awarded Gina Nightingale, PharmacD, BCOP, the 2016 Oncology Pharmacy Practice Literature Award. Dr. Nightingale is Assistant Professor, Jefferson College of Pharmacy.
- Roseann C. Schaaf, PhD, OT/SL, FAOTA, has been inducted into the prestigious American Occupational Therapy Foundation’s Academy of Research. She is Professor and Chair, Department of Occupational Therapy, Jefferson College of Health Professions, and a faculty member of the Vickie and Jack Farber Institute for Neuroscience.
- David Wiener, MD, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the InterSocietal Accreditation Commission – Echocardiography, as a representative of the American Society of Echocardiography. Dr. Wiener is Director of Clinical Operations, Department of Cardiology.