

## Safe Harbor: Offering Comfort for Grieving Children, Teens and Families

The Safe Harbor program at Abington – Jefferson Health, recognized by the American Hospital Association\*, provides ongoing grief support groups for children, teens and their parents or caregivers. Offered completely free of charge, the program cultivates a caring environment with support and understanding.

### Camp Charlie – Offering a Week-Long Healing Experience

Among the healing experiences Safe Harbor offers the community is the weeklong Camp Charlie, where every June bereaved children ages six to 12 can meet others – kids and the Camp's teen buddies – who have lost a loved one. Throughout the week, campers engage in a variety of activities and challenges, which help guide them through the healing process. Staff, volunteer facilitators and the teen buddies make this camp possible.

To illustrate the positive difference the Camp is making, here are just a few of the many recent comments our Safe Harbor staff received from our campers and their parents and grandparents:

"My child begged me all year to come back again this year," said the parent of a 10-year old. "He couldn't wait. He doesn't talk a lot about his feelings, but I saw tons of smiles this week. Something we never saw this year."

Another parent of a nine- and 11-year old, said: "Wonderful program. Their second year at camp. We are going to pursue the peer support groups. My oldest thinks it will be very helpful to her."

Since Safe Harbor opened its doors in January 2001, the program has served more than 1,500 children, teens and young adults representing more than 880 families. And all the support remains free of charge, thanks to more than 50 dedicated and caring volunteers, and generous financial support from donors.

#### MORE INFO About Safe Harbor:

[Abingtonhealth.org/safeharbor](http://Abingtonhealth.org/safeharbor)

Address:  
Abington Health Center – Willow Grove,  
2500 Maryland Road, Suite 412  
(in the Dixon Hall Building)

Phone: **215-481-5983**

Offers:  
Grief support groups for ages four-18;  
Camp Charlie for ages six to 12;  
Young Adult group for participants  
ages 19-30; and an adult Moving On Group.

\* Safe Harbor is a second-time recipient of an American Hospital Association Hospital Award for Volunteer Excellence in the community service category for Camp Charlie.



Since its start, Camp Charlie has offered more than 600 grieving children a special weeklong experience where they engage in activities and challenges to help guide them through the healing process. "They always give you good advice," said a 10-year old Camp Charlie camper. "They lost someone, too," said a nine-year old camper about one of the camp's teen buddies.



Thanks to our Safe Harbor and camp staff and volunteers who made Camp Charlie 2016 possible. Pictured are (bottom row l to r): Director Debbie Teasdale; Heide Marcelis, Program Coordinator; Michelle Balcer, Program Coordinator and Music Therapist. Top row (l to r): Caitlin Lynch, Administrative Assistant and Staff Facilitator and Jennifer Schmauk, Staff Facilitator and Art Specialist.



## Jefferson Proud to be Named to Honor Roll and Ranked #16 in US

U.S. News & World Report also ranked three specialties at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital (TJUH) among the top ten in the nation and eight others in the top 50. Abington – Jefferson Health and Aria – Jefferson Health also received high honors. See page 2 for details.

## TJU and Philadelphia University Officially Become a Comprehensive University



One name. Two legacies. Infinite possibility. It's official as of July 1, TJU and PhilaU became Thomas Jefferson University – a comprehensive university designed to deliver high-impact education and value for our students in medicine, science, architecture, design, fashion, textiles, health, business, engineering and more. Our combined institution makes us the fifth largest in the city of Philadelphia. Pictured are Eileen Martinson, former Philadelphia University board chair and now co-chair of the Jefferson Academic Board of the University Board; Kathleen Gallagher, Chief Operating Officer; Mark Tykocinski, MD, Provost, Vice Chancellor, Dean of the Sidney Kimmel Medical College, and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs; Dr. Stephen Klasko, President and CEO of Thomas Jefferson University and Jefferson Health; and Stephen Spinelli, PhD, Chancellor. Photo: Gary Schempp



Jefferson Hospital is the first institution in the world to perform an implantation with the next generation of the *Inspire*<sup>®</sup> device for patients with obstructive sleep apnea. The new device also allows patients to safely receive MRI imaging if their healthcare needs require it. Jefferson is also the first institution to have surpassed 100 total *Inspire* procedures. Pictured are Associate Professor Maurits Boon, MD, Beth Ottey RN; Colin Huntley, MD; Jerilyn White (*Inspire* representative); Kiley Trott, MD; Adam Vasconcellos, MD; Neeru Rattan, MD, and Efrain Gomez.

## Jefferson OB-GYN Assists with Delivery of Baby Gorilla

With the help of Rebekah McCurdy, MD, a fellow in Jefferson's Maternal-Fetal Medicine Division, the Philadelphia Zoo welcomed a new addition this summer: a male western lowland gorilla born to Kira, the Zoo's 17-year-old female, and 32-year old silverback, Motuba, on June 2. When Kira experienced prolonged labor, the zoo called upon Jefferson doctors to help zoo veterinarians perform an assisted delivery, using forceps – a rare occurrence when delivering a baby gorilla.

Photo courtesy of Philadelphia Zoo



## Awards & Accreditations

- The B5 Medical-Surgical Unit at Methodist Hospital received the Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses *PRISM Award*<sup>®</sup>. The unit received an "A" for Advanced in every category assessed for the award.
- Jefferson in Center City, Abington – Jefferson Health, and Aria-Jefferson Health have been recognized by the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association. Jefferson received the *Get With The Guidelines*<sup>®</sup>-*Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award* and was named to the *Target: Stroke Honor Roll* as part of an elite group of hospitals that are recognized by the AHA/ASA; Abington Hospital has received the *Mission: Lifeline*<sup>®</sup> *Gold Quality Achievement Award* for implementing specific quality improvement measures outlined by the AHA/ASA for the treatment of patients who suffer severe heart attacks. Aria – Torresdale Hospital has been recognized by the AHA with the *Lifeline*<sup>®</sup> *Silver Plus STEMI Award*. In addition, Aria – Bucks County Hospital has been recognized by the AHA with the *Lifeline*<sup>®</sup> *Bronze NSTEMI* and *Lifeline*<sup>®</sup> *Bronze Referring Center Awards*.
- The Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR), has ranked the Jefferson Transplant Institute highest in Philadelphia for kidney and liver transplantation outcomes. Jefferson outperformed the transplant programs of all other Philadelphia hospitals ranked by SRTR.
- Jefferson is one of just 22 emergency departments to receive the prestigious *Lantern Award*<sup>™</sup> from the Emergency Nurses Association – recognizing EDs that exemplify exceptional practice and innovative performance in leadership, practice, education, advocacy and research.
- ACGME (the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education) has granted initial accreditation to the Family Medicine Residency Program at Aria – Jefferson Health.

## U.S. News & World Report

(continued from page 1)

### We're honored to be given the following distinctions:

#### TJUH – Top ten national rankings for:

Ophthalmology #2 (partnership with Wills Eye Hospital); Orthopedic Surgery #4 (partnership with Rothman Institute and The Philadelphia Hand Center); Ear Nose and Throat #8

#### TJUH – Other Nationally-Ranked Specialties:

Gastroenterology #18; Cancer (SKCC) #20; Neurology/Neurosurgery #21 (Vickie and Jack Farber Institute at Jefferson); Diabetes and Endocrinology #26; Urology #27; Geriatrics #38; Cardiology & Cardiac Surgery #41; Nephrology #48

**TJUH – High-performing in:** Pulmonary, Rehabilitation, Heart bypass surgery, Hip replacement, Knee replacement, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, Congestive heart failure, Abdominal aortic aneurysm repair, Aortic valve surgery, Colon cancer surgery, Lung cancer surgery

**Abington - Jefferson Health:** Ranked 11th in Philadelphia Metro and 18th in Pennsylvania; High performing in four Procedures/Conditions: Heart bypass surgery, Congestive heart failure, Colon cancer surgery, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

**Aria - Jefferson Health:** High performing in congestive heart failure

## Partnering for Transformation: Jefferson Health and GE Healthcare



Jefferson Health and GE Healthcare have joined together in an eight-year partnership to optimize our collective existing and future capabilities to transform healthcare delivery throughout our clinical enterprise for the benefit of patients, patients' families, care providers and the community. This arrangement will be a shared-risk partnership that aligns the economic interests of Jefferson Health with GE Healthcare – making GE Healthcare financially accountable for the success of their engagement with Jefferson.

## Developments

- Thomas Jefferson University, in collaboration with ARTZ Philadelphia and Theater of Witness, was awarded a \$300,000 grant from the Pew Center for Arts & Heritage to build on Jefferson's humanities program. The two-year project will build on ARTZ at Jefferson in which people living with dementia and their care partners become mentors to Jefferson students.
- Jefferson Health and Main Line Health have announced a partnership with Rothman Institute and NueHealth in the ownership of the Physicians Care Surgical Hospital (PCSH) located in Royersford, PA. The four organizations will partner to offer enhanced access to specialty surgical services, including orthopaedic, gynecologic, ophthalmologic, otolaryngologic, pain management and others at this location.
- An innovative new website – a contender from Jefferson's JAZ Tank competition – offers Philadelphia-area residents a way to find LGBTQ-friendly health resources. QSPACES Health was developed by Sidney Kimmel Medical College student Nic Anthony, and her partner, Catherine Hofmann.
- Jefferson Health will partner with Lifeguard Health Networks to bring the integrated care solution, LifeguardMOBILE™ to our patients, starting with those at Jefferson's Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center. The SKCC Lifeguard program creates "clinical connectedness" and enables the patient and authorized caregiver(s) to coordinate and co-manage patient care through their smartphones, and communicate with the clinical team.
- The Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center (SKCC) at Jefferson has received a \$3 million donation from education and healthcare philanthropists David Neu (a former Jefferson patient) and his wife Esperanza, to establish the Neu Center for Supportive Medicine and Cancer Survivorship. The Center will serve as a comprehensive resource for psychosocial care and research, ensuring patients feel supported and emotionally healthy as they confront and recover from cancer.
- The National Institutes of Health have awarded two grants to Jefferson researchers to support studies on systemic sclerosis – or scleroderma – an autoimmune disease characterized by severe fibrosis of skin and various internal organs. In sharp contrast to other autoimmune conditions with highly effective treatments, the disease currently has no effective disease-modifying treatment. Dr. Sergio Jimenez and Dr. Sonsoles Piera-Velazquez were both awarded \$377,520 to continue their respective research on the disease.
- Thomas Jefferson University has signed a new partnership with Catholic University of Sacro Cuore and the Gemilli University Hospital in Rome that will allow for the exchange of medical students and health research.
- The new Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center Support and Welcome Center, located at 914 Chestnut Street, promotes wellness and healing by providing patients and their families with supportive care services and cancer-related information.
- The Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Jefferson (SKMC) is currently collaborating with Irvine, California-based medical device developer Capillary Biomedical, Inc., in the development of an optimized infusion catheter for patients with type 1 diabetes. The new catheter was conceived by Jeffrey I. Joseph, DO, Professor of Anesthesiology at SKMC.

## Discovery

- Research from Jefferson and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital suggests that a certain strain of influenza virus predisposes mice to developing pathologies that mimic those seen in Parkinson's disease.
- Jefferson researchers have discovered a possible new avenue for developing more specific and protective blood thinners to help avoid dangerous clot formations.
- The *New England Journal of Medicine* published a Jefferson study which found a new treatment that quickly removes the oral blood thinner dabigatran from circulation, giving physicians a potentially life-saving option for treating patients at risk of uncontrolled bleeding or in need of emergency surgery.

- New Jefferson research demonstrated that a more effective treatment for infants who experience neonatal abstinence syndrome can safely cut the duration of therapy nearly in half.
- A study involving Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center (SKCC) investigators provided insights into how pancreatic cancer cells resist the effects of chemotherapeutic agents.
- A team of researchers led by Alexander Mazin, PhD, of SKCC, determined that Rad52 activity in DNA repair may represent a critical protein activity that can be targeted with inhibitors to develop more specific and less toxic anti-cancer drugs.

Learn more by visiting [Jefferson.edu/News](http://Jefferson.edu/News).



## Patient Grateful to Jefferson Cardiologist for Life-Changing Solution to Atrial Fibrillation

"Atrial fibrillation just drained me," said Porter McMillian (pictured with his wife). "I couldn't walk 20 feet without stopping to catch a breath." Daniel Frisch, MD, installed an implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) last summer for Porter. Earlier this year, Porter took his wife on a trip to New York City, where they walked nearly three miles – and not once did he feel the need to stop to catch his breath. Learn more about Porter's story – see the Philanthropy section of Jefferson.edu.

## High-Tech Bacterial Identification System at Abington Hospital



Abington's Department of Pathology has added new technology for suspected bacterial or fungal infections which simplifies workflow and provides answers to physicians about patient illnesses faster, so treatment can be expedited. With the installation of the MALDI-TOF instrument, rapid identification of bacteria is possible. "This is a game changer," said Herbert Auerbach, MD, Chair, Pathology Department, Abington – Jefferson Health. "In some cases, this system can provide results in less than 24 hours. We are comparing this to a process which previously took 24 to 48 hours." The MALDI-TOF instrument is also in use at TJUH in Center City.

## Aria Golf Classic Raises \$300K+ to Expand Lung Cancer Screenings and Patient Education



Funds raised at the 2017 Aria Golf Classic will benefit the Aria – Jefferson Health Lung Cancer Screening Program. The proceeds will expand screenings for patients across Northeast Philadelphia and Bucks County and help Aria's lung cancer awareness efforts through patient education and support programs. Pictured are Ronald Kumor President and Chief Executive Officer, Aria – Jefferson Health Physician Services; Colleen Marsh, Managing Director, Wilmington Trust; Michelle Conley, Interim President, Aria – Jefferson Health and SVP and Chief Nursing Officer; and Robert Truitt, Board of Trustees, TJU.

## People

**Rajesh Aggarwal, MD, PhD**, has joined the new Office of Strategic Business Development & Partnerships as Senior Vice President for Strategic Business Development. Dr. Aggarwal was previously Associate Professor of Surgery and Director of the Steinberg Centre for Simulation and Interactive Learning at McGill University in Montreal.

**Anne Docimo, MD, MBA**, has been appointed Executive Vice President for Population Health and Chief Clinical Transformation Officer (CCTO) for Jefferson Health. Dr. Docimo will serve as a key leader in our clinical pillar and as a member of the senior executive team.

**Bruce A. Meyer, MD, MBA**, joins Jefferson Health as Chief Physician Executive and has also been named Senior Executive Vice President for Thomas Jefferson University. He will serve as the organization's clinical leader and will work closely with the President and CEO and Jefferson leadership to advance Jefferson's mission across the academic, clinical, innovation and philanthropy pillars.

**Edith Mitchell, MD**, has been chosen as the 2017 American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) Honorary Member. Dr. Mitchell is Clinical Professor of Medicine and Medical Oncology, Department of Medical Oncology.

The Commerce Department's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has named the following to the Board of Examiners for the 2017 *Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award*: **Meghan Patton**, Senior Vice President, Human Resources and Associate Chief Human Resources Officer, Jefferson; **Eileen Jameson**, Vice President, Clinical Services, Abington - Jefferson Health; and **Maureen Frye**, Director, Center for Patient Safety and Health Care Quality, Abington Hospital.

Nominated by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) for their Man and Women of the Year campaign, **Alison Petok, MSW, LSW, MPH, LCSW**, a social worker in Medical Oncology, raised more than \$64,000 in 10 weeks for the LLS, to be used to find cures for blood cancer.

**Edmund Pribitkin, MD, MBA**, has been named SVP & Chief Medical Officer for TJUH; President for JUP and Jefferson Community Physicians in Center City. Dr. Pribitkin will be instrumental in helping Jefferson align and promote strategies for the success of TJUH, Jefferson University Physicians and our Community Physician network in Philadelphia.