

## Noted Cardiologist Arthur Feldman Is Named Chairman of the Department of Medicine

Arthur Michael Feldman MD, PhD has been named the Magee Professor and Chairman of the Department of Medicine. He joins Jefferson on July 1 from the University of Pittsburgh, where he was the Harry S. Tack Professor of Medicine, Chief of Cardiology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, and Director of the Cardiovascular Institute of UPMC Health System.

"Arthur Feldman's proven leadership ability and boundless energy, coupled with his superior reputation as a clinician scientist, will be assets to Jefferson as we embrace the challenges of the new millennium," said Thomas J. Nasca '75, Dean of the Medical College.



Dr. Feldman received a bachelor's degree in 1970 from Gettysburg College, a doctor of philosophy degree in 1974 from the University of Maryland, College Park, and a doctor of medicine degree in 1981 from Louisiana State University School of Medicine in Shreveport.

He was an intern, resident and cardiology fellow at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. At Hopkins, he rose to become director of the Heart Failure Research Program in the Division of Cardiology and director of the Belfer Laboratory for the Molecular Biology of Heart Failure at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He joined the UPMC Health System in 1994.

Dr. Feldman has a longstanding interest in both the molecular and clinical aspects of congestive heart failure. At the molecular level, he has been attempting to identify genes that serve as markers for CHF, while at the clinical level, he has studied the use of genetically engineered proteins to treat the disease. Among many advances in his research, he has generated transgenic mice that overexpress TNF and develop congestive heart failure.

Dr. Feldman is currently principal investigator for several National Institutes of Health grants that support these interests. At the clinical level, he chairs the Steering Committee of the PEECH trial evaluating the efficacy of enhanced external counterpulsation, the EMOTE trial assessing the benefits of inotropic agents in the treatment of heart failure, and serves as co-chair of the COMPANION trial, a multi-center study in 2200 patients evaluating the use of bi-ventricular pacing for the treatment of heart failure.

Dr. Feldman is a fellow of the American Heart Association and of the American College of Cardiology. He is President of the Association of Professors of Cardiology for 2002-2003, is the immediate past President of the Heart Failure Society of America and is a councilor of the Association of University Cardiologists. He serves on numerous American College of Cardiology and American Heart Association committees. He also co-chairs the American Heart Association Task Force on Translational Medicine and Functional Genomics.

He currently serves on the editorial boards of the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, *Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology*, *Heart Failure Review*, *Journal of Cardiovascular Pharmacology and Therapeutics*, *Journal of Cardiac Failure* and *Heart Failure*. He is senior editor of *Congestive Heart Failure*.

Dr. Feldman is the author of numerous articles and book chapters on heart failure and related topics. He also serves on the Board of Trustees of Gettysburg College. 📧

## Merli Named Senior Associate Dean

*Geno Merli '75, who has been widely admired for his contributions to the Department of Medicine during his term as interim Chair, will take on new responsibilities as Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs in the Department of Medicine and Senior Associate Dean for Continuing Medical Education at Jefferson Medical College. He will also resume his previous role as the Ludwig Kind Professor and Director of the Division of General Internal Medicine at Jefferson Medical College and Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.*




## Callahan Appointed Vice Dean for Academic Affairs

Clara A. Callahan PD'82 has a new post as Vice Dean for Academic Affairs at Jefferson Medical College.

Dr. Callahan, a Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics, previously served as Senior Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Life and the Lillian H. Brent Dean for Students.



She has distinguished herself during the past 20 years at Jefferson, focusing on improving medical school and postgraduate training. She has also endeared herself to the medical students by taking a personal interest in their progress. The 1992 senior class presented a portrait of Dr. Callahan to the university.

Dr. Callahan completed the Culpepper Fellowship in Ambulatory Pediatrics at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and has been on the Jefferson faculty since 1982. She joined the dean's staff in 1987. 

## Weigel Will Be Vice Chair of Surgery and Director of the New Breast Center

Ronald J. Weigel MD, PhD has been recruited as Vice Chair of Surgery and Director of the newly established Breast Center at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.

Dr. Weigel, who previously served as Associate Professor of Surgery at the Stanford University School of Medicine, was also named the first Francis E. Rosato Professor of Surgical Oncology, and Chief of Surgical Oncology at Jefferson's Kimmel Cancer Center.

"Dr. Weigel will help develop a strategic plan for breast care at Jefferson, as well as enhancing the research and academic


programs in the Department of Surgery," said Donald Dafoe MD, the Samuel D. Gross Professor and Chair of the Department. "Having Dr. Weigel here will have a tremendous impact on Jefferson's continued ability to provide the best care and treatment for breast cancer and other breast diseases."

Dr. Weigel's research has focused on hormone responsive diseases. Nationally recognized for his expertise in thyroid and parathyroid surgery, Dr. Weigel's research efforts have made major advances in understanding how estrogen affects breast cancer growth. Dr. Weigel said his goal for the Breast Center is to have both clinical research and care programs located within one facility. As part of that goal, Dr. Weigel said he hopes to see additional radiation and medical oncologists recruited for the Breast Center. "We want to make it easier for patients to obtain the best care and treatment possible," Dr. Weigel said.

As a successful recipient of National Institutes of Health funding for the last 10 years, Dr. Weigel has conducted research utilizing breast cancer as a model for the study of hormone responsive tumors. The American College of Surgeons has recognized his outstanding contributions to surgical research by presenting Dr. Weigel with the George H. Clowes, Jr. Memorial Research Center Development Award for the past five years.



Dr. Weigel has served as a research fellow for the American Surgical Association and has been an Associate Editor of the *Journal of Surgical Research* and a member of the editorial board of the *Annals of Surgical Oncology*.

Dr. Weigel completed his surgical training at Duke University Medical Center and also completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Microbiology and Immunology at Duke. In 1986, Dr. Weigel received both a doctor of medicine degree and a doctor of philosophy degree in molecular biophysics and biochemistry from Yale University. He earned a bachelor of science degree and a master of science degree in chemical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. 

## Herbert Kean Endows Chair in Otolaryngology

Herbert Kean OTO'60, Clinical Professor of Otolaryngology, has made a commitment to Jefferson Medical College to establish an endowed chair in the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. The new chair, to be known as The Herbert Kean MD Chair in Otolaryngology, will support the activities of the chairman of the department.



*Dr. Kean and his wife, the Hon. Joyce Kean*

Recently retired, Dr. Kean's association with Jefferson is now in its fifth decade. After completing his postgraduate training in otolaryngology and plastic facial surgery at Jefferson, he returned to become a member of the faculty in 1969. He performed the first outpatient procedure at the

Jefferson Surgical Center in 1986, as well as the 50,000th outpatient procedure in 1998.

"This very generous gift is a demonstration of Herb's longstanding commitment to the continuing growth and vitality of the department," says William M. Keane MD, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. "As an outstanding clinician and educator he has touched the lives of hundreds of resident physicians. His endowing of a chair is a manifestation of his dedication to our department and guarantees that his legacy of superb patient care coupled with education and research will endure."

Dr. Kean hopes his contribution will set an example for others. "I had two purposes in making this gift, which is for the Department of Otolaryngology," he explains.

"First, it was a way for me to repay a debt to Jefferson for the training that led to success in my specialty. I was a resident at Jeff, and I got a wonderful education in my residency."

"My second goal in doing this was to make life easier for the chair of the department. The current chair is Bill Keane, of course. Bill is an excellent chair, probably the best in the country. I'm especially close to him because his goals for the future of the department are so similar to my own."

Expressing appreciation for this funding of a new professorship, Thomas J. Nasca '75, Dean of Jefferson Medical College, said, "The establishment of endowed chairs is essential to the future of JMC, and it is especially significant when a chair is funded by one of our faculty. In fact, this is one of the few chairs – perhaps even the first – to be funded by a JMC faculty member during his or her lifetime. Herb Kean's gift will strengthen our already outstanding department and chair." 🍷

## Jefferson Receives \$1.5 Million to Establish Scholarship

*Ruth N. Cooper appreciated the dedication of her physicians, Leonard S. Davitch '43, Honorary Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine, and David L. Paskin '64, Professor of Surgery, Senior Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education and Associate Dean for Affiliations. Ms. Cooper also appreciated the importance of the education that prepared physicians for their profession.*

*Now, Jefferson and its students are beneficiaries of her gratitude. Following her death in 2001, her estate provided \$1.5 million (with additional funds anticipated) to create the Ruth N. Cooper Scholarship Fund at Jefferson, and also bequeathed \$5,000 to the Department of Internal Medicine in honor of Dr. Davitch.*

*"Tuition fees cover only part of the actual costs of medical education, and our students and their families often have limited resources," said Susan Batchelor, University Director of Financial Aid. "Private scholarships established by friends such as Ms. Cooper are vital to our financial aid program, and enable new generations of students to benefit from the excellence of a Jefferson education. We are very grateful for her kind generosity."*

*Ms. Cooper, one of five children of the late Elsie and Maurice Cooper, is survived by her sisters, Sally Bleznak and Joan Sall, and her brother, Norton Cooper. The Ruth N. Cooper Scholarship is the second award at Jefferson that honors a member of the Cooper family. The Jerome J. Cooper Scholarship was established in memory of Ms. Cooper's other brother by their mother, Elsie, and Jerome Cooper's widow, Delphine Cooper Chomitz.*

*Scholarship donors derive satisfaction from honoring their loved ones while helping Jefferson to prepare future generations of physicians. To learn how you can create such a legacy, please call Fritz Ruccius or Lisa Watson Repko of Jefferson Trusts and Estates, toll free, at 1-877-JEFF GIFT (1-877-533-3443). You may also e-mail your questions to [jeff.trust@mail.tju.edu](mailto:jeff.trust@mail.tju.edu) or visit the Jefferson Trusts and Estates website at <http://jeffline.tju.edu/tjuweb/tju/jeffgiving/plangiv.htm>*

## Low Dose Chemotherapy Has Anti-angiogenic

*New studies in mice indicate low doses of chemotherapy drugs given more frequently than usual and in tinier doses may target the process by which a new blood supply is created feeding tumor growth, called angiogenesis.*

*Most cancer therapies are traditionally used in the highest possible doses, explains Adam Dicker MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology. But anti-angiogenesis drugs have caused people to rethink chemotherapy. Dr. Dicker and others have previously published research showing that using chemotherapy in lower than usual doses can have antiangiogenic effects in the laboratory.*

*In a recent study, Dr. Dicker, former graduate student Torian Williams, and their co-workers at Jefferson and GlaxoSmithKline in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, filled osmotic pumps the size of pencil erasers with low concentrations of paclitaxel (Taxol) and docetaxel (Taxotere). Such pumps allow drugs to diffuse continuously slowly. They*

## Zebrafish: A Potential Community Outreach Program

Steven Farber PhD, Assistant Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, and Director of the Kimmel Cancer Center Zebrafish Facility, is a young investigator who gives two reasons for his fascination with zebrafish.



A recent Pew Scholars Program recipient, Farber uses them in his innovative genetic research. So named because of their zebra-like stripes, these are tiny fish, growing to no longer than one and one-quarter inches. Research scientists like Farber think these animals are key to understanding and treating many diseases affecting humans because their genes are nearly identical to human genes. Abundant and accessible in the laboratory, they develop rapidly following birth, growing in less than a week from a single cell to a swimming larva with all organs complete.

However, the magic that makes the zebrafish unique for research purposes is that, during their first week of existence, their bodies are literally transparent, allowing scientists to view their bodily processes using modern microscope technology. More importantly for scientists, the zebrafish genome can be mutated readily. Dr. Farber explains that with much of the human genome sequenced now, zebrafish provide scientists with an excellent model to study the function of many human genes, and to apply this new information to human diseases.

### Effects

*placed the pumps in mice in which human choriocarcinoma – which is a very vascular tumor – had been implanted. The pumps slowly released low doses of the drugs. They found the tumors became smaller because the drugs inhibited the growth of endothelial cells, which are key to the development of new blood vessels.*

*When the scientists sectioned the tissue and looked at the blood vessels, they found fewer blood vessels in the tumors that were treated with drugs. They also saw no toxic effects in the animals. “These results become important,” Dr. Dicker says, “because eventually there will be oral versions of these drugs that are currently given intravenously. It suggests that chronic, low dose concentrations of drug for patients will be effective in treating cancer. Companies are planning to come out with oral versions.”*

*Dr. Dicker and his coworkers plan to expand the work to other cancerous tumors, including breast, prostate and brain tumors.*



*A group of students visits Dr. Farber’s lab at Jefferson from Imani Education Circle Charter School in the Germantown section of Philadelphia. At rear is postgraduate fellow Matthew Pearson PhD.*

Dr. Farber’s second reason to be excited about zebrafish is their value for instilling a love of science in young children because, as Dr. Farber knows well, kids love zebrafish. Currently, he arranges and conducts tours of the Jefferson facility for young children on a regular basis, letting them peer at the fish and their magic transparency through microscopes. His ultimate goal, however, is to be able to take the creatures to the children by touring schools in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware for the purpose of instilling in children a love for science, and hoping this exposure will lead to productive careers in science for some of these children.

As he points out, this initiative is a superb outreach opportunity for Jefferson. As with most similar initiatives, the immediate problem for Dr. Farber is to get the \$60,000 seed money needed to start the program. Both the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health have expressed interest in helping support this innovative curriculum once it begins and shows promise of becoming continually operative. The \$60,000 in seed money is needed to begin the effort, and will allow the hiring of a helper, the purchase of two microscopes for the children to use, and travel expenses for taking the zebrafish exhibit to the schools. Once the initiative is on firm footing, Dr. Farber will seek a more permanent source of funding from either the National Science Foundation or the National Institutes of Health.

This unique initiative to interest young children in science offers a great opportunity for one or a group of Jefferson alumni to contribute the seed money to start this project which promises great rewards for children. Dr. Farber can be reached at 215-503-2472, or Farber@lajc.tju.edu, or in care of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Jefferson Medical College. 🌐