

Chapter 1

JMC Mission and Background

Thomas Jefferson University is a network of institutions with a mission to:

- Educate professionals in a variety of disciplines who will form and lead the integrated healthcare delivery and research teams of tomorrow.
 - ✕ Discover new knowledge that will define the future of clinical care through investigation from the laboratory to the bedside, and into the community.
 - ✕ Set the standards for quality, compassionate and efficient patient care for our community and for the nation.

As we define the future of clinical care, we accomplish our mission in partnership with Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, our education and clinical care affiliate.

Jefferson's teaching mission centers on the education of outstanding individuals in the art and science of medicine. Through programs at the undergraduate, graduate and continuing medical education levels, Jefferson guides the development of medical knowledge, clinical and research skills, and professional values, attitudes and behaviors, which provide outstanding physicians for the United States and, indeed, the world.

Jefferson's clinical mission centers on the provision of sophisticated, innovative clinical services to the citizens of the tri-state area and beyond through partnership with Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals. Jefferson University Physicians, the clinical practice arm of Jefferson Medical College, provides superior clinical care, outstanding clinical education, conducts clinical research, and develops depth of clinical and translational research in designated areas of concentration.

Jefferson's research mission centers on a broad, investigator-initiated effort, but has areas of significant institutionally targeted concentration. Jefferson's research programs have depth and breath, are marked by excellence, and span the continuum from basic science department-based bench research through cutting edge translational research programs to office-based clinical trials. In all dimensions of our research programs, professional development of outstanding young scientists and clinician scientists will be nurtured.

Core Values of JMC

At Jefferson, we are committed to the highest principles of professionalism. We aspire to be a community that is not only academically and fiscally successful, but also a community of discovery, learning, caring, and sharing. The core values of professionalism guide our actions. At Jefferson:

- Our word is our bond (Integrity).
- We respect each other and all with whom we come into contact (Respect).

- We contribute to society's intellectual, cultural, spiritual well-being to the highest possible extent (Social Responsibility)
- We recognize that diversity and excellence go hand-in-hand, enhancing our education and patient care and welcome our ability to interact with other people (Diversity)
- We care about and attempt to ameliorate the suffering and pain of illness; we care about and attempt to ameliorate the trials and tribulations of the Jefferson community (Compassion).
- We are committed to excellence and the lifelong pursuit of new knowledge and personal and professional growth (Excellence).
- We aspire to do the right thing, for the right reason, even if it involves pain or sacrifice (Altruism).
- We are committed to each other and to those we serve. We work together to achieve our mission and goals (Collaboration).
- We are committed to the prudent use of the resources made available to us by the hard work of the faculty, the tuition of our learners, the support of the public, and the philanthropic giving that sustains us and helps us grow (Stewardship).

Commitment to Diversity and Gender Equity

Thomas Jefferson University is committed to maintaining a culture of understanding and respect among community members. This includes ongoing efforts to promote diversity and gender equity in the composition of the University's leadership, faculty, students and staff and educational efforts to enhance the understanding of gender and cultural influences in the health and healthcare of patients. Towards this end, Jefferson Medical College has established an **Office of Diversity and Minority Affairs** and supports a program for **Women in Medicine and Science**. The Office of Diversity and Minority Affairs is involved in the active recruitment of underrepresented minorities to the medical school in order to achieve its mission of establishing a multicultural presence at Jefferson while maintaining traditional standards of excellence in education, scholarship and patient care. More information about the Office of Diversity and Minority Affairs can be found at their Web site. The Women in Medicine and Science program is led by Jefferson faculty appointed as Women's Liaison Officers for the Association of American Medical Colleges. This program supports active mentoring and leadership development for women faculty and serves as a resource for the needs of women students, faculty and alumni. More information about the Women in Medicine and Science program can be found at their Web site.

History of JMC

Dr. George McClellan and his colleagues founded "the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia" in 1824 with the firm but then outrageous belief that medical students should participate, under proper supervision, in the diagnosis and care of patients. However scandalous and unorthodox his views must have been,

they proved so popular that it soon became necessary to move classes from Dr. McClellan's own office to the former Tivoli Theater at 518-20 Prune Street (now Locust Walk). On May 9, 1825, Dr. McClellan performed the first operation in the new infirmary and Jefferson was well on its way to becoming the largest private medical school in the country. After two years, this space proved insufficient and plans were made to build facilities at 10th and Sansom Streets. These were opened in August of 1828.

The name derived from the Jefferson College of Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, whose Board of Trustees met in special session in June, 1824, to formally act upon a letter requesting that a medical school be established under their aegis, but located in Philadelphia. The letter was signed by George McClellan, M.D., John Eberle, M.D., Joseph Klapp, M.D., and Jacob Green, A.M. Articles of union were signed and the first class was graduated from Jefferson Medical College on April 19, 1826. Since that time, the number of graduates totals more than 28,000, of whom more than 10,000 are living. A class has graduated every year since 1826 except 1944 when, due to wartime needs, two classes were graduated.

In 1838, the Pennsylvania Legislature granted an independent charter with full university rights and privileges to "the Jefferson Medical College." On July 1, 1969, Thomas Jefferson University was established. The College of Graduate Studies and the College of Health Professions were established as constituent bodies of Thomas Jefferson University.

Jefferson's early faculties and alumni were as well known for their contributions to medical science as are today's. Washington L. Attlee (Class of 1829) was a popular authority on abdominal surgery. James Marion Sims (Class of 1835) is known as the "Father" of modern gynecology. Silas Weir Mitchell (Class of 1850) and William W. Keen (Class of 1862) combined their interests to form the modern study of neurology. Jefferson graduates were instrumental in the founding of ten other medical schools in the United States. Carlos Finlay (Class of 1855) discovered the carrier of yellow fever. Samuel David Gross (Class of 1828) is recognized as the outstanding surgeon of the 19th century. He is immortalized in the famous portrait, "The Gross Clinic" painted by Thomas Eakins, who studied anatomy at Jefferson. The painting is a permanent exhibit in Jefferson Alumni Hall.

A new faculty was established in 1841 and contributed significantly to medical progress in the 19th century. One of these, Dr. Robley Dunglison, had been the personal physician to Thomas Jefferson and became known as the "Father" of American physiology.

Jonathan Letterman (Class of 1849), a Pennsylvanian, conceived of and implemented America's first effective ambulance corps system for the removal of wounded from the battlefield and their hospitalization during the Civil War. The Letterman System remained the basic concept in use in Vietnam. Major Letterman, U.S.A., is memorialized in the Letterman General Hospital in San Francisco, one of at least two dozen major hospitals named for Jefferson alumni.

Jonathan Messersmith Foltz (Class of 1830), also a Pennsylvanian, was not only the first White House physician, but also the first Surgeon General of the U. S. Navy.

J. Chalmers Da Costa (Class of 1885), editor of Gray's Anatomy and an English edition of Zuckerkandl's Operative surgery, and author of A Manual of Operative Surgery, was selected to attend to President Wilson at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919.

Chevalier Jackson (Class of 1886) improved the design of the bronchoscope and innovative bronchoscopic techniques, introducing the world to the new medical specialty of bronchoscopy. He occupied chairs in five Philadelphia medical schools simultaneously all of which had been created especially for him.

Jefferson's leadership was recognized in 1910 when Dr. Abraham Flexner published his influential report that stressed science as a proper base for medical education in the United States. Flexner wrote that "a good library, excellently administered, is to be found at Jefferson, at Buffalo, and at Galveston." Flexner cited these libraries as exceptions to the general picture at that time.

In 1953, John H. Gibbon, Jr. (Class of 1927) opened a new era in cardiac surgery when he corrected a defect in the interior of the heart using his heart-lung machine.

In all, 19 of the 42 US Presidents have been treated by Jefferson alumni or faculty before, during or after their terms of office. In 1870, the Jefferson Alumni Association was organized with Samuel D. Gross as its first president. The Alumni Association quickly demonstrated its loyalty by immediately responding to an appeal for a separate hospital building, which was opened in 1877. Although the College had always provided hospital facilities in the interests of its students and the public, this was Jefferson's first structure specifically for this purpose.

Organized research was initiated in 1941, in recognition of the importance of basic research to medical education. In the early 1960s, responding to the interest of the National Institutes of Health and the federal government in supporting medical research, the College constructed Jefferson Alumni Hall to accommodate expanding research programs.

Since 1982, when the University adopted a strategy of strengthening basic research, the number of faculty members actively engaged in research has tripled. The opening of the new Bluemle Life Sciences Building in 1991 allowed research activities to grow further, especially in the area of basic cancer research. Current research is focused on the broad areas of:

- Hematological, cardiovascular, and pulmonary diseases
- Neurosciences, neurological diseases, and rehabilitation medicine
- Skin, bone, and extracellular matrix biology
- Alcohol, liver diseases, and metabolism

- Cancer
- Immunology
- Genetics, developmental biology, and birth defects
- Medical education and health policy

Approximately 300 scientists, both basic and clinical, are involved in funded research. The discoverer of the hormone, which is the main regulator of the production of red blood cells, performed their research at the Medical College. One of the largest federal grants ever awarded for the study of skin disease is under the direction of a Jefferson faculty member, as is one of the largest grants ever provided by the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration, for the study of cellular injury caused by alcoholism. Another investigator has pioneered in the treatment of recurring melanoma and is currently involved in clinical trials on the prevention of recurrence of melanoma. Research at Jefferson has also led to a new early diagnosis of colon cancer. Other basic research has led to the discovery and characterization of the enzymes in the programmed cell death cascade. New oncogenes have been discovered here that may advance the diagnosis of lung and other cancers, and potentially the treatment of these cancers. Other faculty members have participated in studies on the genetic origin of osteoarthritis and on the efficiency of drugs on patients with Alzheimer's diseases.

Jefferson Medical College responsibilities recently extended to the oversight of Graduate Medical Education. The total number of alumni of the Graduate Medical Education Program amounts to more than 3,000.

Jefferson Medical College's primary purpose remains the education of students and residents. To do this well, it must depend upon the fruits of research and the effectiveness of patient care. Expansion and growth are the keys to the future of medicine.

Academic Calendar

The academic calendar for Jefferson Medical College is published annually and is included in the [College Catalog](#) and [Student Handbook](#).

Academic Protocol

The school colors for Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University are blue and black. Academic costume is required for Commencement for faculty participating in the academic procession.

In order for faculty members to have access to student records, they must fill out a form and review the record(s) in the University Office of the Registrar. Student notification regarding the [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act](#) is contained in the Student Handbook, available from the University Office of the Registrar.