

Summer 2026

the Bulletin

Sidney Kimmel Medical College
Thomas Jefferson University

REMEMBERING A RENAISSANCE MAN

GERALD MARKS, MD '49

Also In This Issue

A Conversation with Herbert Kean, MD, RES '60
Czarnecki Family Stethoscope Fund
Delaware's First Medical School

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Table of Contents

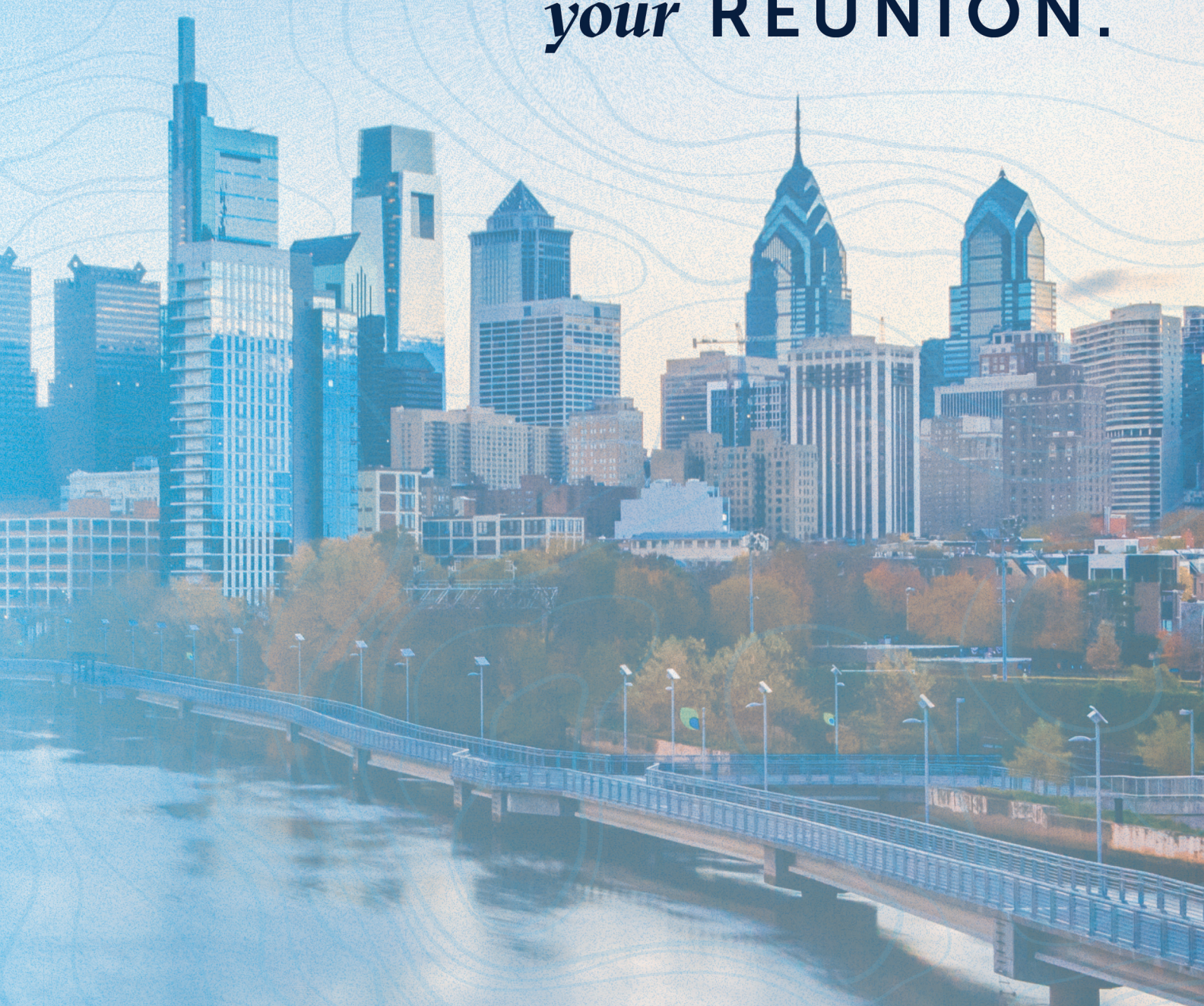
- 5 **Dean's Column**
- 6 **Time Machine**
- 8 **TJU News**
- 12 **Discovery**
Walter K. Kraft, MD
- 14 **Remembering a Renaissance Man**
Gerald "Jerry" Marks, MD '49
- 20 **A Conversation with a Jefferson Legend**
Herbert Kean, MD, RES '60
- 24 **2026 Scholarship Celebration Recap**
- 26 **Bridging Gaps – and Building Bridges**
Akshay S. Krishnan, Class of 2027
- 28 **Looking Out for the Next In Line**
Kathleen Shander Guarnieri, MD '84
- 30 **Welcome SKMC Class of 2030**
Czarnecki Stethoscope Fund
- 32 **Meet Our Alumni**
Rosy Thachil, MD '12, MBA
Thana N. Theofanis, MD '14, RES '21, FEL '21
- 34 **Class Ambassadors**
- 36 **A Message From the SKMC
Alumni Board President**
- 38 **Class Notes**
- 40 **Letters of Life, Loss, and Love**
Shanda McManus, MD '96
- 42 **In Memoriam**
- 46 **By the Numbers** 
Match Day 2026



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your REUNION.



SIDNEY KIMMEL MEDICAL COLLEGE

Alumni Weekend

OCTOBER 23-24, 2026

Attend.Jefferson.edu/AlumniWeekend2026

Dean's Column



Said A. Ibrahim, MD, MBA, MPH

Anthony F. and Gertrude M. DePalma Dean
Sidney Kimmel Medical College
President, Jefferson University Physicians

In 1824, a young Philadelphia surgeon named George McClellan, MD, did something that seems, in retrospect, both obvious and audacious: He decided to build a medical school in Philadelphia because there weren't enough doctors to serve the community.

The math was straightforward. By the 1820s, Philadelphia's population had doubled in two decades. The country was expanding faster than its institutions could follow. Existing medical colleges produced fine graduates, but not nearly enough of them.

McClellan saw the gap and, after a series of maneuvers that included a legendary midnight ride to Harrisburg to secure a charter — the kind of story that gets better with each retelling — he laid the foundation for Jefferson.

Two hundred years later, the arithmetic looks familiar.

By 2036, the United States could face a shortfall of up to 86,000 physicians, according to a 2024 projection from the Association of American Medical Colleges. Primary care and surgery are hit hardest, with potential gaps of 40,000 and 20,000 physicians, respectively.

These aren't abstract numbers. They represent the patient who waits six months for an appointment, the rural community without a surgeon within a reasonable drive, the emergency department perpetually overwhelmed.

Jefferson's response is not merely to acknowledge the problem, but to expand the capacity to solve it.

One effort is underway in Delaware, where Jefferson was recently selected to operate the state's first medical school, which will be funded largely by the federal government with additional meaningful opportunities for philanthropy (see pg. 8). We plan by fall 2028 to have at least 40 students enrolled and attending classes.


Another is taking shape in the Lehigh Valley, where, following the addition of Lehigh Valley Health Network into Jefferson Health, plans are moving forward for a four-year regional medical campus. We are going through the accreditation process now, with the goal to enroll 45 students beginning fall 2029. Those students will train across Jefferson's Lehigh Valley hospitals, learning medicine the way it is best learned: at the bedside.

These initiatives are about more than simply filling a workforce gap. They

are about building the next generation of physicians where they are needed most, training them in the communities they may ultimately serve, and extending the reach of academic medicine beyond traditional centers.

Alumni support will be crucial for these endeavors. Look for more information on our progress and how you can help in the pages of the Bulletin, through updates from the alumni office and your class ambassadors, and at upcoming alumni events, including Alumni Weekend on Oct. 23 and 24.

A story survives about McClellan's return ride from Harrisburg. His wagon became mired in the outskirts of Lancaster in the middle of the night. A farmer emerged from the darkness, took in the situation, and offered a hand. "Let us put our shoulders to the wheel," the farmer said, "and leave explanations until another time."

Much work lies ahead. But if we push the wheel together, we can accomplish anything. 

Time Machine



AMERICA AT 250

REVOLUTIONARY MEDICINE!



BY F. MICHAEL ANGELO

Robert M. Stein, MD '68, FACC, FAHA Archivist
Thomas Jefferson University

BLOODLETTING DEVICES

Fleams and thumb lancets were the primary instruments of the colonial physician. Belief in the four humors dates to ancient medicine when a concept similar to homeostasis was practiced. Draining blood from a patient was intended to balance the system. This was done by an incision or by applying leeches. Our collection holds a ceramic leech jar and a portable pewter leech carrier for house calls. George Washington was the most famous patient to possibly die from overenthusiastic doctors who drained up to five pints at his deathbed. Bleeding as a therapy continued into the 20th century.

DRUGS

This colonial expanding medicine chest from Boston contained a small armament of drugs. The most common were purgatives, emetics, opium, mercury, saltpetre, and cinchona bark (quinine). A brass mortar and pestle are a testament to the resourcefulness of early practitioners who compounded their own drugs. American physicians were more successful in applying vaccinations to their people than was the case in European nations. Benjamin Rush, MD, (a signer of the Declaration of Independence) ushered in an era of "heroic medicine" that encouraged enormous dosages of specific drugs to counteract diseases.

We have a hand-colored engraved print of a physician administering "A Gentle Emetic" to his trembling patient. Such prints caricaturing physicians were a common sales item in book stalls.

BOOKS


In the colonial era there were limited opportunities to spread medical knowledge. Medical journals only began around 1800 and there were only a few medical societies in cities where members could hear presentations and discuss cases. Books on medicine were valued for their instruction and could be loaned as a source of continuing medical education. The Siegman

As we mark the 250th anniversary of American independence, those of us who work in Philadelphia's archives find ourselves in conversation with the city's august past. At Jefferson, we are reminded that the story of our nation is also the story of its healing — of the hands, instruments, and ideas that shaped early medicine.

While our medical college was founded in 1824, there are numerous artifacts with 18th century provenance housed in the **Marion J. Siegman, PhD, FAPS, Archives**. These instruments of healing illuminate not only the practice of medicine in a nascent republic, but the people who built it.

Archives has thousands of titles dating from the 1460s through the 19th century. We also hold early student notebooks and theses that would also be retained by practitioners for reference.

SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS

This set of surgical knives and case were made in France, and, because of the limitations of the time, the most common surgeries would be only applied to the patient extremities and exposed tumors. In the age before anesthesia, surgeons knew that cutting into the human torso was inadvisable, except in desperate, rare cases. 



The State of Delaware and Thomas Jefferson University Partner to Establish State's First Medical School

The State of Delaware has selected Thomas Jefferson University's Sidney Kimmel Medical College to establish Delaware's first four-year medical school. Gov. Matt Meyer announced the partnership on June 2, marking a historic milestone — for Delaware, for the communities it will serve, and for Jefferson.

Delaware faces a persistent physician shortage, particularly in its rural counties — a gap with real consequences for patients and communities across the state. The new regional medical school campus will be designed to educate physicians in Delaware's communities, clinics and hospitals, and to build a sustainable physician pipeline for the long-term.

"Jefferson is committed to being part of the solution to Delaware's physician shortage. We are proud to help build a future where every Delawarean has access to the care they deserve. Jefferson is all in," said Joseph G. Cacchione, MD, CEO of Jefferson.

Led by SKMC, the campus will be developed in partnership with the

Delaware Medical School Consortium, a network of Delaware's leading academic institutions and health systems, including the University of Delaware, Delaware State University, Delaware Technical Community College, Wilmington University, Bayhealth, Beebe Healthcare, La Red Health Center, Nemours Children's Health, Trinity Health, the Wilmington VA Medical Center and Westside Family Healthcare.

By bringing together Delaware's leading academic institutions and health systems, we are building a model for medical education that is rooted in Delaware's communities and designed to keep talent in the State. Thomas Jefferson University is honored to lead this effort," said Susan C. Aldridge, PhD, president of Thomas Jefferson University.

This initiative is made possible through a multimillion-dollar federal investment from Delaware's Rural Health Transformation Program, administered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and builds on more than 50 years of Jefferson's engagement in Delaware through DIMER, the Medical Scholars Program, the Delaware Health

Sciences Alliance, and longstanding clinical partnerships across the state.

The Thomas Jefferson University Sidney Kimmel College Delaware Regional Campus will be based at the University of Delaware in Newark and expects to welcome its first class of 40 students in fall 2028. SKMC will move immediately to pursue formal accreditation through the Liaison Committee on Medical Education.

"Sidney Kimmel Medical College has trained generations of physicians for more than 200 years, more than any other medical college in the country. It is a privilege to bring our mission to Delaware's patients and communities," added Said Ibrahim, MD, the Anthony F. and Gertrude M. DePalma Dean of SKMC.

This expansion is one part of a broader vision for SKMC's growth, as it continues to advance plans for a regional medical school campus in the Lehigh Valley as well. Together, these expansions reflect the University's commitment to extending the reach of Jefferson's academic mission to communities in need.

SKMC Students Honored at Annual Mercy-Douglass Lectureship & McGruder-Knox Awards Ceremony



Sidney Kimmel Medical College is proud to celebrate second-year medical student Claude Regis and fourth-year medical student Maria Johnson, both publicly recognized at this year's Mercy-Douglass Lectureship & McGruder-Knox Awards Ceremony. The distinguished annual event, hosted by the Medical Society of Eastern Pennsylvania in partnership with the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center's Center to Eliminate Cancer Disparities at Jefferson, brings together physicians, students, and community leaders to honor excellence in medicine and advance a legacy of equity and inclusion in healthcare.

Claude Regis, MS2 | *McGruder-Knox Scholarship Recipient*

Claude Regis received the McGruder-Knox Scholarship in recognition of his outstanding academic performance and commitment to community service — achievements that, for Regis, are inseparable from one another. He is perhaps most proud of his role as president of Jefferson's chapter of Black Men in White Coats, an organization whose members come together to mentor aspiring physicians, build professional networks, and organize pipeline initiatives for young people from the inner city of Philadelphia. Through Black Men in White Coats and a complementary program called JeffJoints, Regis and his colleagues actively engage middle and high school students and local communities in conversations about healthcare access and health education

— creating space for young people to see themselves in the medical profession and understand what it takes to get there.

"These programs not only serve the community but also give medical students meaningful opportunities to lead and inspire the next generation," Regis shares. He hopes that more members of the Jefferson community will become aware of the meaningful outreach happening through both organizations, and consider getting involved.

It comes as no surprise that the Jefferson value that resonates most deeply with Regis is Put People First. Everything he does — from his leadership in student organizations to his advocacy work in Philadelphia communities — is grounded in mentorship, inclusion, and creating spaces where others feel seen and supported. His priority, in his own words, is "uplifting others and ensuring our institution reflects and serves the communities around us."

Maria Johnson, MS4 | *2026 President's Award Recipient*

Maria Johnson was honored with the 2026 President's Award for her exceptional leadership and sustained commitment to community engagement throughout her time at SKMC.

A student whose medical education has always extended well beyond the classroom, Johnson has devoted herself to making the path to medicine more navigable for those who come after her. Her greatest source of pride is her ongoing mentorship of premedical students in the Philadelphia area. "It is a long and complex process to get into medical school," she reflects, "and I enjoy being a resource for students — whether academically or personally." For Johnson, being that steady, knowledgeable presence for aspiring physicians is not just a volunteer activity; it is a vocation. She also hopes that more Jefferson students will explore opportunities for community engagement with organizations outside of the institution itself. She points to MANNA and the Medical Society of Eastern Pennsylvania as examples of local organizations where students can make a real impact, and she has lived that commitment firsthand through her volunteer work with JeffHOPE clinics, which provide care for Philadelphia's unhoused population.

Like Regis, the Jefferson value that comes most naturally to Johnson is Put People First. Across every extracurricular pursuit — mentorship, volunteering, advocacy — her driving motivation has been using the skills, knowledge, and wisdom she has gained to help those who need it most.

The Mercy-Douglass Lectureship & McGruder-Knox Awards Ceremony's featured lecture, focused on alopecia, was delivered by Susan C. Taylor, MD, Bennett Johnson Endowed Professor of Dermatology at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and current president of the American Academy of Dermatology (2025–2026). The founder of the Skin of Color Society and director of the Pre-Residency Fellowship in the Skin of Color Program, Taylor brought both clinical depth and a powerful commitment to health equity to her grandrounds-style presentation — making her a fitting headliner for an event defined by those same values.

The Mercy-Douglass Lectureship was founded by the late Edith Mitchell, MD, a pioneering oncologist and beloved SKMC faculty member who dedicated her career to diversity in medicine. Established as a partnership between the Medical Society of Eastern Pennsylvania and the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Jefferson, the series honors the legacy of Mercy-Douglass Hospital and its historic contributions to Black healthcare in Philadelphia. Mitchell's mission was twofold: to bring distinguished Black physicians to the podium for substantive, peer-level dialogue and to recognize the medical students who carry her values of academic excellence, leadership, and service into the future. In Claude Regis and Maria Johnson, that legacy is in excellent hands.



Department of Neurological Surgery Gets New Chair

Stavropoula I. Tjounmakaris, MD '03, RES '09, FEL '10, MBA, was appointed chair of the Department of Neurological Surgery at Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University in April.

Tjounmakaris, the first female dual-trained, accredited cerebrovascular and endovascular neurosurgeon in the United States, is a nationally and internationally recognized academic neurosurgeon, and physician leader. An educator whose career reflects a deep commitment to excellence in patient care, research, education, and institutional service, she is also widely respected for her exemplary leadership and service at the national level.

Tjounmakaris has held numerous prominent roles within organized neurosurgery, including chair of the Cerebrovascular Section of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons and the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and leadership positions on national guidelines committees, such as chair-elect for the Joint Guidelines Committee of the CNS and the AANS, as well as American Heart Association/American Stroke Association Guidelines Committee, service on Food and Drug Administration device-review panels, and editorial board appointments for leading scientific journals.

Her contributions to education and mentorship have been recognized with multiple institutional and national awards, including the Sidney Kimmel Medical College Early Career Alumni Achievement Award and numerous honors for excellence in teaching and faculty mentorship.

Tjounmakaris serves as a dual-appointed professor of neurological surgery and radiology and has played a central role in advancing Jefferson's neurosurgical mission through her leadership as vice chair of operations for the Vickie & Jack Farber Institute for Neuroscience, chair of the Sidney Kimmel Medical College Faculty

Affairs Committee, director of the cerebrovascular and endovascular neurosurgery fellowship programs, and vice chair of education and director of undergraduate medical education in neurosurgery.

A graduate of Sidney Kimmel Medical College, she followed her neurosurgical residency at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital with advanced fellowship training in cerebrovascular neurosurgery, neuroendovascular surgery, and neurocritical care.

Tjounmakaris also earned an Executive MBA from Villanova University, graduating with highest honors as class valedictorian and recipient of the Bartley Medallion for exceptional academic excellence.

An accomplished investigator and clinician, Tjounmakaris has authored more than 500 peer-reviewed publications, leads major national and international clinical trials, and is a recognized expert in acute ischemic stroke, cerebral aneurysms, arteriovenous malformations, and complex cerebrovascular disease. Her work has had a profound impact on the field and continues to shape clinical practice and innovation in neurosurgery.

Tjounmakaris assumes the role from Robert H. Rosenwasser, MD, MBA, whose leadership and contributions have established Jefferson's position at the global forefront of neuroscience and neurological surgery. He differentiated Jefferson's neurosurgical programs by establishing formal divisions and pioneering a disease-centric approach to patient care.

Under Tjounmakaris' leadership, the Department of Neurological Surgery will continue to build upon its outstanding legacy while expanding its impact in clinical care, research, education, and innovation.



Charles A. Pohl, MD '87, Leaves Behind a Legacy of Dedication, Excellence

In June, after more than three decades of extraor-

dinary service to Thomas Jefferson University, Charles A. Pohl, MD '87, retired from his roles as senior vice provost for student affairs, vice dean for student affairs and career counseling at SKMC, professor of pediatrics, and executive director of the Jefferson Japan Center.

Pohl has had a profound and enduring impact on Jefferson and its students. Upon joining the University in 1993, he dedicated his career to creating a student-centered approach to education that has influenced every corner of our community. His leadership across campus life, student wellness, mentoring, professionalism, belonging, and crisis management has shaped the Jefferson experience for thousands of learners.

Throughout his career, Pohl was a tireless advocate for compassionate humanistic medical education. His pioneering work in the Gold Humanism Honor Society, leadership roles within the Association of American Medical Colleges, and commitment to advancing the learning environment have earned him national recognition and the deep admiration of his colleagues and students.

He has also strengthened Jefferson's global presence through decades of partnership with institutions across Japan, most notably through his stewardship of the Jefferson Japan Center and collaborations with the Noguchi Medical Research Institute and the Japan Association for Development of Community Medicine.

Pohl's influence reached far beyond administrative leadership. He was a trusted mentor, a beloved educator, a prolific contributor to scholarly work, and a tireless architect of programs that continue to enrich medical education — from the development of learning societies and student wellness initiatives to innovative approaches that enrich physician training by weaving the arts into medical education.

"Dr. Pohl leaves behind a legacy of compassion, steadiness, and humanity — that legacy is woven into the very fabric of this institution," says Said Ibrahim, MD, the Anthony F. and Gertrude M. DePalma Dean of SKMC. "We are grateful to Dr. Pohl for a remarkable career dedicated to students, Jefferson, and the future of medical education."

Jefferson Spine Researcher Earns One of Science's Most Prestigious International Honors



Makarand V. Risbud, PhD, the James J. Maguire Jr. Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and director of orthopaedic research at Sidney Kimmel Medical College, has been selected as a recipient of the 2026 Humboldt Research Award — one of the most selective scientific honors in the world.

Bestowed by Germany's Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the award recognizes researchers whose fundamental discoveries have had significant impact on their field and beyond. Up to 100 recipients are chosen annually across all disciplines, and Humboldt awardees join an alumni network that includes over 60 Nobel laureates.

For Risbud, the recognition reflects more than two decades of work at Jefferson focused on understanding why spinal discs break down — and what might be done to stop it.

A Career Built on Spine Biology

Risbud's research centers on the molecular mechanisms that govern cell function in the harsh, low-oxygen environment of the intervertebral disc. His work has been instrumental in identifying the genetic and environmental factors that drive disc degeneration, and in exploring how correcting metabolic dysfunction and cellular aging can mitigate painful spine conditions that affect hundreds of millions of people worldwide.

A fellow of the Orthopaedic Research Society and the International



Weinberg ALS Center Celebrates 10th Anniversary Open House

Combined Orthopaedic Research Societies, he has authored over 180 publications and serves on the editorial boards of numerous scientific journals and advisory panels.

"The Humboldt Research Award is a testament to Professor Risbud's pioneering contributions to medicine," says Said Ibrahim, MD, the Anthony F. and Gertrude M. DePalma Dean of Sidney Kimmel Medical College. "This well-deserved recognition makes us all proud."

Alexander Vaccaro, MD, PhD, the Richard H. Rothman Professor and Chair of Orthopaedic Surgery at Sidney Kimmel Medical College and Rothman Orthopaedic Institute President, echoes that sentiment: "His work is fundamental to all areas of spine biology. The Humboldt Research Award is a fitting recognition of his influential research program and a longstanding, productive career."

A New Chapter in Germany

The award carries a prize of 80,000 euros and an invitation for Risbud to spend six to 12 months conducting research in Germany, based primarily at the Institute of Orthopaedic Research and Biomechanics at the University of Ulm. There, he will pursue a research project of his choosing while collaborating with scientists across Germany and the international Humboldt network.

"I am humbled to join this illustrious group of colleagues from around the globe," Risbud says. "I look forward to embarking on this new journey of discovery in Germany. Interacting with many brilliant minds will undoubtedly refine my thinking, experimental approaches, and catalyze creative new


ideas for solving complex problems in spine pathobiology."

As a lifelong member of the Humboldt community, Risbud will continue participating in international symposia and collaborative initiatives, building a lasting bridge between Jefferson's research enterprise and the global scientific community.

Weinberg ALS Center Celebrates 10th Anniversary Open House

The Jefferson Weinberg ALS Center at the Vickie & Jack Farber Institute for Neuroscience, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, held its annual open house on May 5.

The center integrates research with clinical care in a patient-centric program designed to expand effective ALS treatment options. Its offerings combine a multidisciplinary clinic, a clinical trial program with interventional and observational trials, and a research unit including five core and two affiliated laboratories.

The Weinberg Center's patients are integral to its ongoing research. "Our patients are our daily inspiration," says Piera Pasinelli, PhD, the Frances and Joseph Weinberg Professor of Neuroscience and founder and director of the Weinberg ALS Center. "They know that supporting and participating in research, even clinical trials, is not for themselves, but they want to help the patients of the future." 



From Bench to Bedside and into the Community

BY DEBORAH BALTHAZAR

Combining his deep expertise in clinical pharmacology with a vision for institutional growth, Walter K. Kraft, MD, serves as the interim director of the Sidney Kimmel Medical College Clinical and Translational Sciences Center. Since its establishment in October 2025 at the University, the CTSC has operated as a vital engine for progress, accelerating the movement of scientific discoveries from the laboratory bench into life-changing treatments and healthcare innovations.

As a professor in the Department of Pharmacology, Physiology, and Cancer Biology, Kraft brings decades of experience in translational research to this leadership position. We sat down with Kraft to discuss his research in neonatal care, the “magic” of clinical pharmacology, and his strategic vision for the future of the CTSC.

How would you describe your research to the person riding the elevator with you?

I work in the discipline of clinical pharmacology. This field focuses on investigating new drugs as they move from the lab into people, or the best ways to use existing medications. For example, we look to understand how drug doses vary among people, how drugs may interact with each other, or how to adjust doses for patients with kidney or liver disease.

What’s one question you’re exploring currently?

I have spent a lot of time looking at the best ways to treat infants who have had exposure to opioids before birth. This has involved examining the use of buprenorphine, a drug first developed to treat adults with opioid use disorder. We have looked at all parts of how this drug can be best used by clinicians in the newborn unit. For example, I recently worked with a trainee in our program who developed new and safer formulations of the drug. At the moment, I am on the steering committee of the HEAL Evaluation of Limited Pharmacotherapies for Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome – HELP for NOWS – National Institutes of Health consortium. We just reported in JAMA our practice-changing results on the best ways to give the drugs to reduce withdrawal symptoms. Our ongoing trial will identify the best drug to use.

Our goals are to reduce the withdrawal symptoms from opioids that occur once the umbilical cord is cut in a newborn. If

we can reduce the amount of medication needed to treat this condition, or prevent the need altogether, we can get babies home faster so they can do what newborns should be doing – bonding with mom at home and growing each day.

You serve as interim director of the SKMC Clinical and Translational Sciences Center. For those unfamiliar, what is the role of the center, and why is it important to researchers and patients?

The goal of the CTSC is to facilitate translational research across the Jefferson enterprise. What is translational research? It is making discoveries and moving them closer to the patient. There can often be points of friction in taking new knowledge and applying it to clinical care – bottlenecks from the bench to early studies in people, from early studies to larger clinical trials, or to implement the findings of research in clinical care. The CTSC will help facilitate these transitions and new discoveries. For example, we hope to build platforms that allow easier access to the large patient data in our system. This could allow bench researchers to identify exciting new drug targets, identify patterns that one can only see in large patient data, identify patients who could benefit from participating in the clinical trial, or implement new research findings in the community. Some of these pieces already exist at Jefferson. The CTSC is designed to coordinate these as Jefferson Health has grown in size, scope, and geographic distribution.

What are your early priorities or goals as interim director?

A short-term goal is to establish the infrastructure of the center, and an overarching goal is to think how we can best leverage the size and scope of Jefferson. We need to organize our data in a way that serves all our missions. Key organizational goals will be to establish support units or what are called “cores” upon which we can build. Some we are considering are in the areas of biostatistics and study design, informatics, community engagement, and training. We are reaching out to funded translational research centers at peer institutions to identify best practices and thinking about the ways in which philanthropic efforts can kick-start our efforts. At the same time, we are thinking about strategic planning for how the CTSC will look in the medium and long term.

When you imagine the center a few years from now, what does success look like?

A few years from now, success means the center has become the infrastructure that makes research easier and more impactful across Jefferson – more clinical trials, more competitive grants, more trainees developing as investigators, and more patients accessing promising treatments here, in the communities where they receive care. It means discoveries made in our labs are reaching the clinic faster, and that the science we produce is not only growing in volume but in quality and reach. If we build this well, I believe Jefferson will be positioned to earn a Clinical and Translational Science Award from the NIH – a recognition that would validate what we’ve built and bring the resources to take it even further.

How does your research uniquely position you for this role?

I’ve spent my career doing the work this center is designed to support – taking research from an initial idea all the way through to changing how medical care is delivered. That experience gives me an understanding of where researchers get stuck, what they need to succeed, and how the right infrastructure can remove those barriers rather than create new ones. Running a research compliance office since 2015 has deepened that understanding. It has taught me that the structures we build around research are not bureaucratic obstacles – they are the foundation of trust, with our patients, with our sponsors, and with society. I take that responsibility seriously. And maintaining my clinical practice in vascular medicine keeps me grounded in the work itself – connected to faculty across the institution and to the patient care mission that gives all of this its purpose. That combination of experience – as a researcher, an administrator, and a practicing clinician – is what I bring to this role.

Your passion for your research is palpable. What first sparked your interest in this work?

During my training, I was amazed at how a pill or infusion could make a sick person better. It seemed like sorcery to me, but I realized it was magic that could be understood. I wanted to take part in this process and to change the way medicine is practiced, if only in a small way. This is what led me to clinical pharmacology. In terms of neonatal opioid withdrawal, Jefferson has a long history of leadership in this

area. I became involved in 2004 with a group of clinicians here working to improve the care of the infants.

What is your best memory from conducting your research?

It had to be when the statistician provided me with the results of our phase 3 trial, demonstrating that buprenorphine was associated with shorter hospital stays compared to infants treated with the standard-of-care morphine. We had worked on this study for years – from the phase 1 studies, writing the grants, preparing clinical staff, enrolling patients, and collecting data. This was a double-blind design, so none of us on the research team knew how it would go. It was satisfying to see all this work and effort come to the finding we were hoping for, that we had identified a new, better way to treat infants with exposure to opioids before birth.

What’s a myth about your study subject?

Early on, there was a lot of judgment about pregnant women with opioid use disorder. In some locations, women were even charged with crimes. I found Jefferson understood that these women care about the well-being of their children and they are willing partners in our attempts to identify the best treatments.

Who’s a role model or someone who shaped your journey?

Scott Waldman, MD, PhD, chair of pharmacology, physiology and cancer biology, was program director when I was a fellow in clinical pharmacology here at Jefferson and has been a key mentor ever since. He has a first-rate scientific mind and has been extremely generous with his time as I developed my research program. He is a model in leadership and mentoring the next generation of scientists. For years, when I have not been quite sure what my next step should be, I relied on sage advice from Waldman. 🍷

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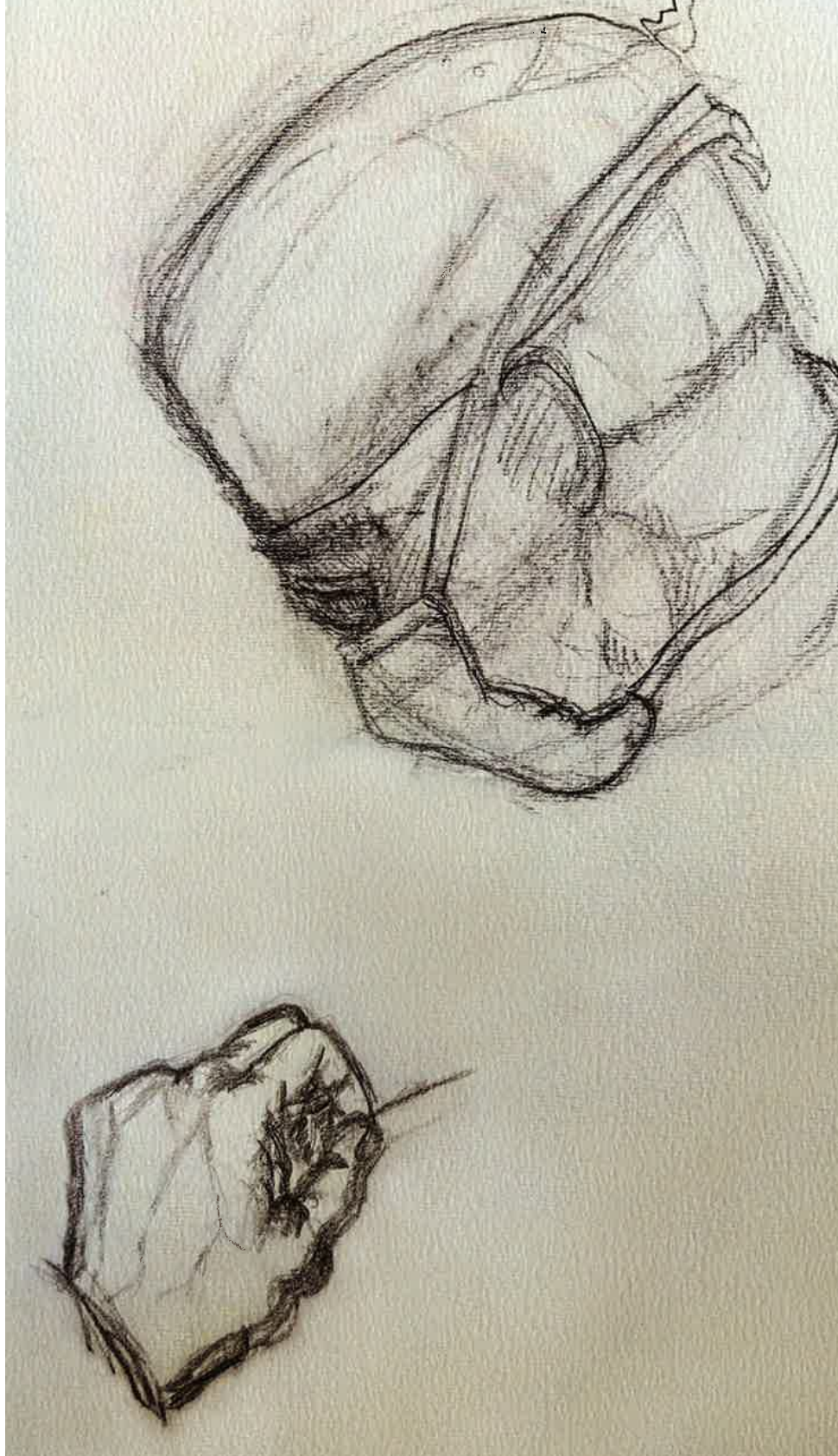
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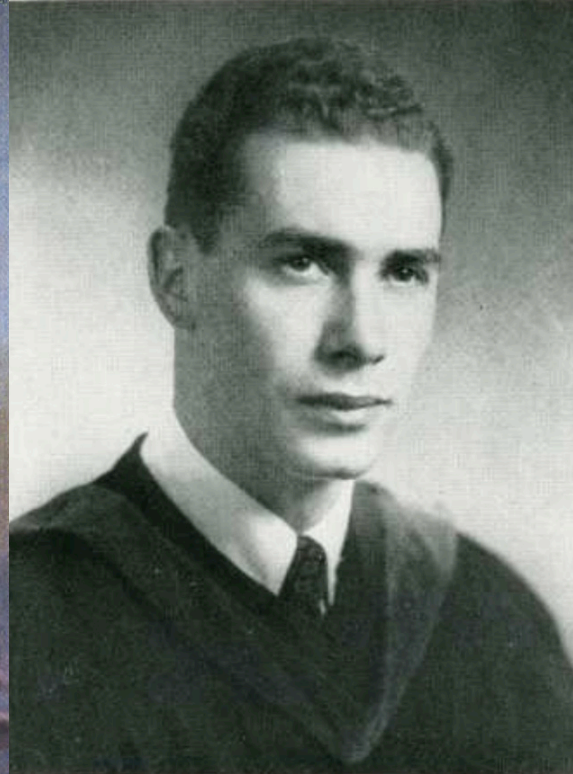
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To learn more, please contact Lisa Repko, Vice President, Thomas Jefferson University and Planned Giving, at lisa.repko@jefferson.edu or 215-955-1635.

REMEMBERING A RENAISSANCE MAN

BY MARK TURBIVILLE





From the operating theater to the watercolor canvas, Jerry Marks spent a century finding beauty and healing in the details.

In the halls of Jefferson there hangs a portrait of **Gerald “Jerry” Marks, MD ’49**, painted by the artist Dean Paules. Nearby hangs one of Marks’ own watercolors from a series titled “Changes Along the Way: A Surgeon’s International Journey.”

One depicts the surgeon as others saw him: distinguished, authoritative, a leader in his field. The other reflects how he may have seen himself: a traveler, an observer, a man attentive to light, to color, to possibility.

Between them lies not one extraordinary story but several — each complete, each remarkable, and each somehow woven together by the same animating spirit.

Marks, who often was at once the oldest and the youngest presence in the room, died this year at the age of 100.

He was a surgeon who transformed the treatment of rectal cancer and improved countless lives. He was a founding father of a society that would become the largest general surgery organization in the United States. He was an accomplished watercolorist who painted his way around the globe and, remarkably, produced some of his finest work after the age of 90. He was a veteran of two wars, a devoted husband for 63 years, a father, and, by every account, a man of irrepressible wit, elegance, and warmth.

To take full measure of the man, ponder a riddle. Is surgery a form of art or is art a kind of medicine?

Self-Portrait
Celebrating Life’s Good
Fortune, at ages 98, 99



Mother and Daughter at the Shore
No. 1, at age 93

BORN IN BROOKLYN in 1925 and raised in Philadelphia, Marks came of age in a world shaped first by the Depression and then by war. Even as a child, art stirred his imagination. After watching a family friend work as a commercial artist, a 5-year old Marks produced a graphite drawing of a little girl in a garden that was recognized in a citywide art show.

A self-described “independent cuss,” Marks began working at a young age to help support his family. Whether helping his grandfather at a hot dog stand or his uncle in a candy store, or working as a soda jerk, an ice cream truck driver, or as a busboy, he saved whatever he could toward college tuition.

He was 16 when Pearl Harbor changed everything.

Like many of his generation, Marks felt the pull of national service. After a semester at Villanova, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was accepted into the Navy’s V-12 program, an initiative created to accelerate the training of future physicians for military service. That path brought him to Jefferson, where he completed his medical degree in 1949 and was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha honor society.

Years later, Marks observed that had he been born a year earlier or a year later he might never have become a

physician at all. The war, with all its upheaval, had opened the door to a life in medicine.

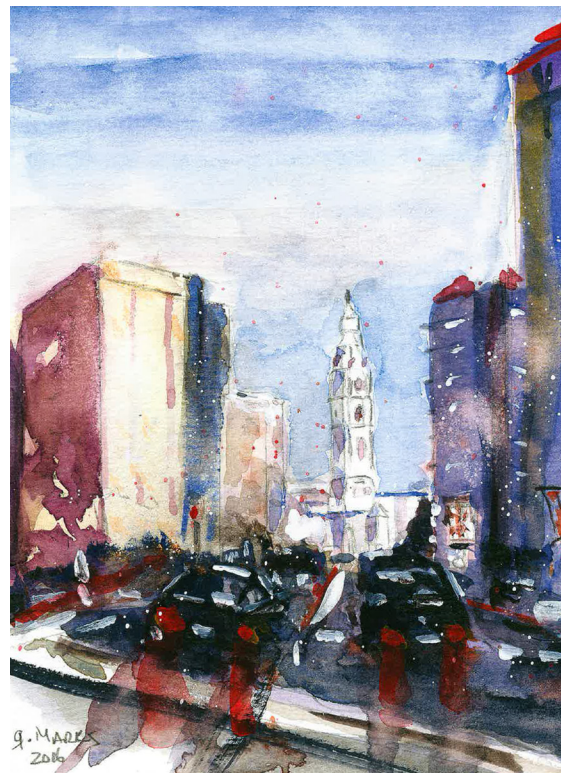
MARKS’ MEDICAL EDUCATION coincided with a remarkable period in the evolution of surgery.

He began a rotating internship and entered surgical residency at Jefferson under the formidable Thomas A. Shallow, MD 1911, the second Samuel D. Gross Professor of Surgery. Shallow’s influence on the young physician was profound.

Marks’ workload as a resident was enormous by modern standards. Surgical teams managed dozens of hospitalized patients at a time, making rounds multiple times each day.

It was during this period that he met Barbara Ann Hendershot, a Jefferson nursing alumna who worked in the operating room. She was the great-grandniece of J. Parsons Schaeffer, MD, PhD, a Jefferson professor and renowned anatomist whose “Morris’ Human Anatomy” served generations of physicians much as “Gray’s Anatomy” later would.

Marks described her as “stunning.” The couple married in 1950 and went on to raise three sons, Richard, Jim, and John. Richard and John would



Philadelphia City Hall Viewed from the
Benjamin Franklin Parkway, at age 91

earn their MDs at Jefferson as well, classes of 1988 and 1989, respectively.

Marks’ surgical training was interrupted by military service with the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. He served as a project engineer, conducting research on high-altitude physiology and pulmonary decompression that resulted in several scientific publications.

When he returned to Jefferson to complete his residency, the department was entering another historic chapter. John H. Gibbon Jr., MD ’27, who had succeeded Shallow as the third Gross Professor, performed the first successful open-heart surgery using the heart-lung machine in 1953.

Marks’ wife briefly scrubbed in on that landmark operation.

Following an American Cancer Society fellowship in proctologic surgery, Marks trained under William T. Lemmon, MD 1921, the inventor of continuous spinal anesthesia. Impressed by Marks work in pulmonology, Gibbon asked him to become Jefferson’s inaugural chair of anesthesia. It was “tough to say no to Dr. Gibbon,” Marks later recalled. But he did.

He wanted to become a colorectal surgeon.



San Francisco Chinatown No. 5, at age 98

“

MARKS' INNOVATIONS WERE BORN NOT FROM ABSTRACT INTELLECTUAL EXERCISE, BUT FROM EMPATHY FOR A HUMAN PROBLEM HE HAD WITNESSED FIRSTHAND.

IN THE MID-20TH century, the outlook for patients with rectal cancer was grim.

There were only 13 physicians in the United States who were double boarded in both general surgery and colorectal surgery. Surgical options were limited, and the standard operation for rectal cancer often required a permanent colostomy, leaving patients dependent on an external bag for the rest of their lives.

For many patients, the psychological burden of that prospect was overwhelming. Some delayed seeking treatment altogether.

Marks noticed this early in his career, and it troubled him deeply.

“The dominant issue for rectal cancer patients is psychological,” he later explained. “The fear of having a permanent colostomy.”

Some physicians might have accepted that reality as inevitable. Marks did not.

Instead, he began asking a different question: Was it possible to remove the cancer while preserving normal bodily function?

Driven by that challenge, Marks began developing surgical approaches designed to preserve the anal sphincter while still achieving effective cancer removal. In 1960 he introduced the combined abdominal trans-sacral resection of the rectum, known as the CATS procedure.

More than two decades later, in 1984, he advanced the concept further with another innovative operation: the transabdominal/transanal radical proctosigmoidectomy with coloanal anastomosis, known as TATA.

These procedures allowed many patients to avoid permanent colostomies while improving both survival and quality of life.

Marks' innovations were born not from abstract intellectual exercise, but

from empathy for a human problem he had witnessed firsthand.

He also championed the use of high-dose radiation therapy before surgery, an approach that many physicians at the time believed to be dangerous.

When Simon Kramer, MD, founding chair of Jefferson's Department of Radiation Oncology, arrived from London with the idea that high-dose radiation could halt rectal cancer's growth, Marks saw an opportunity. The two physicians worked closely together, studying outcomes and refining surgical techniques.

The results were, in Marks' understated phrasing, “striking.” Survival rates improved dramatically.

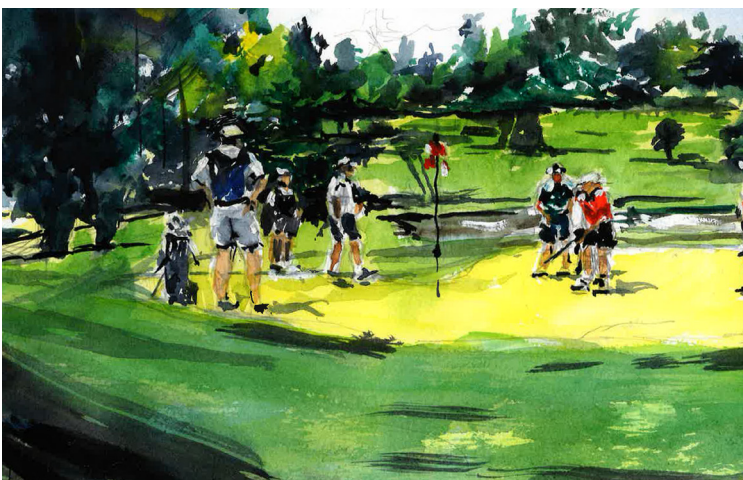
Today, multimodal treatment combining surgery, radiation, and careful staging is the standard of care for rectal cancer patients around the world.



| The Quiet Sailboats of Aruba at Dusk, at age 97



| Pranzo da Mantova, at age 94



| 8 on the 18th Green, at age 94

MARKS ALWAYS HAD an instinct for innovation.

In 1969, intrigued by a new instrument that allowed physicians to look directly inside the colon, he spent most of his personal savings to purchase one of the first flexible fiber-optic colonoscopes in the United States.

Where few surgeons recognized the potential of the technology, Marks immediately grasped it. For the first time, physicians could directly visualize the colon and remove polyps during the examination, opening new possibilities for early detection and prevention of colorectal cancer.

The instrument, Marks later said, “changed my life.”

Recognizing that this emerging technology required collaboration across specialties, Marks organized one of the first international colonoscopy symposia at Jefferson in 1974.

From that meeting grew the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons. He served as its first president.

Marks also helped establish the International Federation of Societies of Endoscopic Surgeons, extending his influence to a global community of more than 100,000 surgeons.

Time and again, he had a willingness not only to challenge established assumptions, but to build institutions that could carry new ideas forward.

EVEN AS HIS reputation grew internationally, Marks remained deeply committed to Jefferson.

Over the years he rose to the rank of full professor and worked with dean Joseph Gonnella, MD, to establish the Division of Colorectal Surgery. In 1984 he launched Jefferson’s colorectal surgery residency program and founded its Comprehensive Rectal Cancer Center, bringing together surgeons, radiation oncologists, pathologists, and researchers. In 1992, Jefferson established the Gerald J. Marks Professorship of Colorectal Surgery in his honor.

In 1998, he and his son John H. Marks, MD ’89 — himself a pioneering colorectal surgeon and expert in minimally invasive surgery — established Marks Colorectal Surgical Associates at Lankenau Hospital in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania. Together they led the Marks Colorectal Surgical Foundation, supporting research and education for decades. The elder Marks continued



HE SPENT A CENTURY PROVING THAT MEDICINE, AT ITS BEST, IS BOTH SCIENCE AND ART, AND THAT, IN STEADY HANDS LIKE HIS, THE TWO BECOME ONE.

performing colonoscopies until nearly the age of 90.

Marks remained closely connected to Jefferson throughout his life, donating generously, earning about every award the University bestows, and serving for many years as Class Ambassador for the medical school Class of 1949.

Even in his 90s, Marks remained engaged in evaluating patients, mentoring younger physicians, and offering counsel to colleagues. Charles J. Yeo, MD, the eighth Gross Professor and Chair of Surgery, called Marks a mentor and a friend. “He was dedicated to the surgical history of Jefferson,” Yeo said. “He often charmed us with his stories of Dr. Shallow.”

Some people never quite retire from the things they love.

MARKS WAS, in the deepest sense, always an artist.

His eye for color, light, gradation, and spatial relationship was not incidental to his surgical skill; it was inseparable from it. He possessed an unusual ability to discern subtle variations in tissue color and texture, clues that guided his dissections with a precision others struggled to match.

“When driving to work,” Marks once said, “most people see the road and the traffic. Me? I see the sun, the sky, and the ever-changing forms and contrasts of color and light.”

In his 50s, during a vacation in the Caribbean, he returned to watercolor painting after decades away, and he never stopped.

His international travels became the subject matter for his art: the canals of Venice, the beaches of Marco Island, the boulevards of Rome, and the waterways of a dozen other countries.

Beginning in 1999 he produced an annual calendar of his paintings as a fundraiser for the Marks Colorectal Surgical Foundation. He personally inscribed each copy, a cherished tradition that continued for almost 30 years. In his tenth decade of life, he produced more than 100 watercolors, publishing

them at age 99 in a book titled “Ageless Art: The Special Joy of Watercolor Painting After 90.”

In keeping with that same spirit, he co-founded with fellow Jefferson alumnus Geoffrey Dunn, MD ’79, the Surgeon Artists League, a society dedicated to fostering creative expression among surgeons and exploring the connections between art and surgical practice.

TO THE END, Marks remained physically active, playing tennis and golf into his 90s and even competing alongside his son Richard in national senior father-and-son tennis championships.

Yet what perhaps distinguished him most was the persistence of his curiosity.

Even as he approached 100, Marks remained engaged with the world around him, evaluating patients, supporting research, mentoring physicians, and painting luminous watercolors.

His true legacy, however, lies in the lives he changed.

“My dad loved the phrase, ‘shake the tree of tradition,’ and that’s what he did,” said his son John. “He truly did what others said was undoable, routinely saving people who were told they were inoperable.”

Marks’ surgical innovations allowed thousands of patients with rectal cancer to survive without sacrificing dignity or function. His leadership helped bring endoscopic technology into the mainstream of surgical practice. And the surgeons he trained carried forward the principles he embodied: curiosity, discipline, and devotion to patients.

Late in life, Marks once described his journey as having taken him “beyond the moon and back.”

He spent a century proving that medicine, at its best, is both science and art, and that, in steady hands like his, the two become one. 🍷



The Hunter at age 93

The Bulletin is grateful to John H. Marks, MD ’89, and James W. Fox IV, MD ’70, for providing feedback on drafts of this article.

For more information about Gerald Marks, we recommend reading the excellent historical vignette by Drs. Theresa P. Yeo, Scott W. Cowan, and Charles J. Yeo in *Surgical Endoscopy*: Yeo TP, Cowan SW, Yeo CJ, Gerald J. Marks, M.D., FACS, founder of the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES). *Surg Endosc.* 2018 Mar;32(3):1087-1090. doi: 10.1007/s00464-018-6061-z. Epub 2018 Jan 23. PMID: 29362909.

Art featured from “Ageless Art: The Special Joy of Watercolor Painting After 90”

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Herbert Kean, MD, RES '60 A Conversation with a Jefferson Legend

BY CINDY LEFLER

The name Herbert Kean is synonymous with greatness at Jefferson. What began as a residency in otolaryngology in 1957 grew into a distinguished tenure as a renowned clinician, surgeon, professor, faculty member, mentor, and generous benefactor.



Not only did he help to build the department and create its premier centers for head and neck surgery and plastic surgery, but he has continued to support the effort to keep Jefferson at the forefront of patient care, research, and physician education through philanthropy.

In 2001, he established the Herbert Kean, MD, Chair in Otolaryngology; in 2006, he created the Herbert Kean, MD, Otolaryngology Residency Education and Research Fund; and in 2008, he started the Herbert Kean, MD, Center for Facial Aesthetics. In 2021, Kean and his wife, The Hon. Joyce Kean, made a \$5 million gift to support the Department of Otolaryngology in Jefferson's Honickman Center.

Kean, now 94, recently sat down with David Cagnetti, MD, RES '07, the Herbert Kean MD Professor and Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at Thomas Jefferson University, to reminisce, talk shop, discuss philanthropy, and impart the wisdom he's garnered throughout his seven decades as a physician.

Cagnetti

There has been a big return on the investment in terms of the lives you've changed, the careers of the residents and fellows that have been inspired to go into facial and plastics, the programs that have been built here, and most importantly, the patients. And as my own children said after we recently had lunch with them, you're an absolute legend. We're here to talk about your legacy in the field, deep and long connections to the department, and what words of wisdom you can offer to those of us who are still learning, practicing, and teaching.

You started at Jefferson in otolaryngology as a resident in 1957, so you have been here for 68 of our 71 years. So, why don't you tell us about your early times here? What attracted you here for residency?

Kean

I was an intern at Hahnemann, and I got very sick with infectious mono. And while I was sick in the hospital – I was in the hospital for three weeks – a friend of mine came in who was a doctor, and he said: "Where are you going when you finish here?"

I said, "Well, I guess I'll go in the Navy." He said: "Did you ever consider nose and throat?" I said: "I know nothing about it. I missed that in my rotation of internship."

And then a second friend came and said: "I was reading the AMA Journal, and it said they have the biggest shortage of doctors in the ear, nose, and throat." I said: "Well, I'll put that in the back of mind."

And then someplace along the line, someone came along and said: "Well, what are you going to do when you finish? When you get out of the hospital? When you finish your internship?" Then the ear, nose, and throat man came again and I said to him: "Can you get me a residency?"

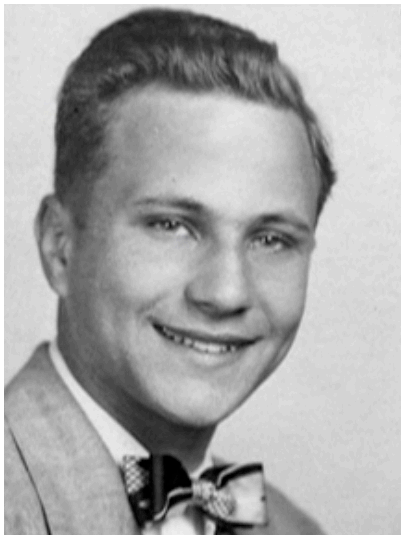
He picked up a phone and said: "I'm here with the doctor, Herbert Kean, who's looking for a residency. What should I tell him? Oh, you can start July first." I said: "I can't start July first, I need July to recuperate. I'll start August first." And that's how I got this most-coveted residency.

I walked in August first to meet my fellow residents. I looked around; it was an empty room. I was it.

I didn't know what I was doing. I was the worst resident. I was voted most



Kean and Cognetti



I looked around; it was an empty room. I was it ... it was like learning on the battlefield.



likely to fail. Well, as time went on, I started getting better. And in fact, I was ambidextrous. I could use either hand. I got so good that when the chairman was in the operating room and he would have to go into a small area and he couldn't get in because he was right-handed. And he would say, "Get Herbie." So that was my residency ... like learning on the battlefield. And I got pretty good at it.

Cognetti

Now, 70-something years later, some things haven't changed. It's still a very coveted spot to get a residency. Some things have changed. The process to get a residency position is a little different than a phone call. It's very competitive and we've grown tremendously. Instead of one or two residents, we have 25 residents per year. We have several clinical fellowships now – we've really expanded.

You clearly built an incredible legacy. Let's talk about how you embarked on your career with what you learned at Jefferson.

Kean

I finished my residency ... and was recruited by the people at Hahnemann a few blocks away to build their department of ear, nose, and throat.

In 1969, they asked me to come back to Jefferson for plastic surgery. Why did they want me for plastic surgery? I took the first rhinoplasty course that was offered. I went someplace; we had a two-week course. Then I took a course in soft tissue. So, after two weeks, I was ready to start a plastic surgery department at Jefferson.

Cognetti

It's amazing to hear the beginnings of it – to learn that you learned it in a two-week course, because as you know, that doesn't happen anymore. Because of your influence and generosity, we have one of the best facial plastics fellowships in the country. That fellowship is a year long now, not two weeks. You've had a tremendous impact not only on the program ... All of our residents who are going into facial plastic surgery is because of the inspiration that you set out years ago.

Kean

When Dale Lowry [Dale Lowry, MD, who became chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology in 1980] came in, I said, "Wow, Dale is a good person. We have these residents, we have to keep this program going." And you could tell by the quality of residents



“
I just started giving
[my money] away
and I enjoyed it.
”

who apply how your program is. We were starting to get good applicants.

Then Bill Keane [William M. Keane, MD, who joined Jefferson as chair of the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery in 1991] came along and I thought, “Oh my goodness. That’s competition. He’ll want to get rid of me. So, I had a talk with Bill, and he said, “You just keep doing what you’re doing ...” and so I stayed until I couldn’t stay anymore. I had a spinal cord injury, and I lost the feeling in the fingers, and I stopped practicing. But I was ready to stop. I think I was 69 or 70. And that’s when Bill came in and really took it to the next level. Bill Keane was really top-notch.

One day, Bill came over to me and said, “Herb, come, I want to show you something.” And he showed me the unfinished seventh floor ... there was nothing there. I said, “What are you going to do with this?” He says, “We’re going to make this into a plastic surgery center.” So, I said, “You know, I will help you with this.”

And we had two young kids, Krein and Heffelfinger [Howard Krein, MD ’00, RES ’02 and ’06, PhD ’00, director of the Herbert Kean Center for Facial Aesthetics, and Ryan Heffelfinger, MD ’00, RES ’05, director of the Division of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and Head & Neck Microvascular Surgery], so I gave them money to help with their salaries.

Cognetti

So, you mentioned that story of walking through the seventh floor. Give me some other reasons for your inspiration for generosity.

Keane

Well, I used to be a big contributor to any charity, and I just got in the habit of giving money.

I took one business course at Penn in the Wharton School when I was an undergraduate, and it was stocks and bonds. So, I learned how to handle money a little bit ... and had a big pool of money. So, I just started giving it away and I enjoyed it. It was my drug, my drug of choice.

Cognetti

Well, we greatly appreciate the generosity. And we greatly appreciate you. And I hope you appreciate the big return on investment in terms of the lives you’ve impacted in terms of the careers of the doctors, the program that’s built here, the fellows that have come through the fellowship, the residents that have been inspired to go into facial plastics, and quite frankly, most importantly, the patients that have been impacted by all of these people whose careers you have helped build.

It’s hard to imagine this department without you because you were with it from the beginning, through the thick and through the thin times as well.

Keane

I just felt obligated that we had the residents and we had to train them. We had to teach them. So, I just stayed. I just stayed with it. And it’s so gratifying to see what’s happened.

Cognetti

Do you have any final words of advice for the people who are entering our field now?

Keane

Well, my connection with Jefferson started before my residency when I was turned down as a student, but I stayed with it. I kept at it. I went to another school, and I did come back. I’d say just keep your nose straight, look ahead, put the blinders on. Don’t be distracted by what is not important. Go for it – and go with it. You don’t have to be the best, just be the best you can be. That’s what I did when I was voted “Most Likely to Fail.” I put the blinders on and did the best I could do.

Cognetti

If any of us could achieve what you did in your career and have the impact on this department the way that you have throughout your life, we would all feel very accomplished. I can’t thank you enough for being a friend, a philanthropist, a mentor, a role model, and an absolute pillar in our Jefferson community, our faculty, our residents, our fellows, everyone involved in the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery here at Jefferson. On behalf of them all, it’s been my privilege to have this conversation with you and to thank you and the Honorable Mrs. Kean for all that you’ve done for us throughout the years. 🍷

▶ Jefferson.edu/Bulletin

Check out the Bulletin online to watch the full interview.

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2026 scholarship CELEBRATION





Thomas Jefferson University leadership and students gathered March 24 to celebrate the profound impact of donor generosity. The event highlighted how philanthropic support continues to shape the academic journeys and future careers of the University's student body.



BRIDGING GAPS

AND BUILDING BRIDGES

Akshay S. Krishnan
Sidney Kimmel Medical College
Class of 2027

BY IRISA GOLD



From its founding, Jefferson's leaders have believed that students should have access to education, no matter their financial circumstances. The original charter stipulated that 10 students of "talents" but limited means should be admitted. Those were Jefferson's first scholarship recipients.

Today, more than two centuries since, scholarships continue to make the dream of a Jefferson education possible. They are also vital catalysts, transforming not only the lives of students throughout their educational journey, but also creating a profound, lifelong impact on their futures — and the futures of the patients, families, and communities they will serve. Just as importantly, they exemplify for these students the importance of giving back — and paying it forward.

For Akshay S. Krishnan, a member of the Sidney Kimmel Medical College Class of 2027 and recipient of the James D. and Mary Jo Danella Family Scholarship, his scholarship does not only provide him with the opportunity to continue his medical education. It is also allowing him to save for an additional degree.

"Receiving this scholarship has allowed me to start saving for a master's in public health, to deepen my understanding of complex public

health issues and how I can have an impact to help a larger group achieve better health outcomes," he says. "I hope to spearhead programs to expand access to care for those with limited access and to improve my community's overall health and well-being."

Upon completion of medical school, Krishnan plans to become an emergency medicine physician. "Often these patients are in the emergency room not because they want to be there, but because they have no other place to go for care," he shares. "These shortfalls can manifest in different ways, such as a patient unable to get regular screening for a disease, or to see a primary care doctor to manage a chronic health problem. With my MD and MPH I will not only be able to help the patient who is in front of me, but I will also have the tools to design programs to address barriers and help future patients more easily access care."

Krishnan is proud of his role as president of the SKMC Student Council,



From left, top row: Jonathan Lee, Grace Turchetta, Matthew Planchon, Jonathan Koa, and Akshay S. Krishnan. Bottom row: Patricia Henwood, MD, Stephen T. Smith, Joseph G. Cacchione, MD, James D. Danella, Mary Jo Danella, and Ryan Garemani.

With my MD and MPH I will not only be able to help the patient who is in front of me, but I will also have the tools to design programs to address barriers and help future patients more easily access care.

working to improve students' non-academic lives while fostering community among students and strengthening connections both within, and between, classes. "Having a strong community improves our medical education, because students do not view their classmates as competitors, but instead as colleagues who are learning together and working toward the common goal of becoming the best physicians possible," he says.

Digital tools that enable patients to better access their health information, manage their care, and contact health professionals are associated with better health outcomes. While in recent years the number of these resources available to patients has increased, their benefits have not been spread equally. Those with greater access to technology, higher socioeconomic status, and better digital literacy derive greater

benefits than those without. Krishnan is committed to bridging this "digital divide."

"To help all patients regardless of socioeconomic status get the same benefits from these digital health tools, I started a project called the Jefferson Digital Onboarding Taskforce with some of my fellow students and faculty members," he shares. "Targeting patients from underserved ZIP codes, this utilizes the time patients spend in the hospital to teach digital health skills for better health management both inside and outside the hospital."

He credits the mentoring he received from Wayne Bond Lau, MD '04, RES '07, professor and associate dean of student affairs, and David Nash, MD, MBA, the Dr. Raymond C. & Doris N. Grandon Professor of Health Policy, with shaping his approach to patient care and leadership. "Dr. Lau has taught me many important lessons about leadership and has always been there for me with the right advice at the right time," Krishnan says. "Dr. Nash has taught me the importance of passing down knowledge to the next generation of students. His passion for population health and mentorship is among the reasons I hope to get an MPH and stay in academic medicine."

Krishnan was inducted into both the Hobart Amory Hare Honor Society and the Gold Humanism Honor Society, which reinforces and supports the human connection in healthcare. "I want to ensure that the human side of medicine is at the forefront of my daily

interactions with patients by always seeing them as more than just their diagnosis," he says. "I do my best to learn about their life beyond their illness, including their goals, intentions, and other obligations."

He has already applied this philosophy in the clinical setting when working with an elderly patient during his internal medicine rotation, helping to create a care plan that took her priorities into account.

Receiving the Danella scholarship has inspired Krishnan to look beyond its incredible financial benefits to its powerful ramifications for his future. "Scholarships are vital because they allow students like me to step back from worrying only about financial concerns and think about the type of impact we want to have as physicians and how we will work to help our community," he says. "This support has also driven me to look beyond the next few years of my life and consider how I want my life as an attending to look, how I want to be part of academic medicine, get involved in community programs like JeffDOT, and work with students and residents to pass on my knowledge to the next generation of medical students.

"Because of the Danella family's generosity, I'll be able to walk into residency not just as a well-trained intern, but as someone ready to lead programs that expand access to care from day one." 🙌

LOOKING OUT FOR THE *NEXT* IN LINE

— BY IRISA GOLD

For alumna Kathleen Shander Guarnieri, MD '84, and her husband, David Guarnieri, MD, friendship as high school students at Scranton Preparatory School in northeastern Pennsylvania grew into the love of a lifetime during college at the University of Scranton.

"We were always good friends through high school and were in the same circle of friends all through college," says David.

"I used to buy his girlfriends their Christmas presents!" Kathleen laughs. "Our senior year is when we officially started to date."

Following college, medical school beckoned. Each followed a different path, yet each arrived at a similar destination, the field of anesthesiology.

Kathleen, a second-generation Jeffersonian, found inspiration close to home through her father, Ernest G.

Shander, MD '48. "My parents always encouraged me to do the best I could, and deep down, I knew that my mom and dad really wanted me to go to medical school," she shares. "My dad was also an anesthesiologist, and I knew he would be proud if I followed in his footsteps."

Her Jefferson experience still resonates to this day. "I had a blast," she says. "I really enjoyed medical school. The faculty were excellent, I made great friends, and got a wonderful education."

For David, who went to med school at Penn, an education was a perfect way to explore life outside of the small town where he grew up. "I wasn't sure what I wanted to do," he says. "I was just looking for something. There weren't many different 'outs' growing up in my small town, and getting an education was one of them."

Kathleen and David continued to date while studying at their separate medical schools in Philadelphia before getting engaged at Christmas in 1980 and married in October 1981. Their married life started on Jefferson's campus, living together at Barringer Hall.

Upon graduation, Kathleen completed her residency in anesthesiology at Temple University, followed by a pediatric fellowship in anesthesiology at St. Christopher's Hospital. She rejoined Jefferson in 1988 and worked there through 1994. "Everybody that was there was just so outstanding," she says. "It was a great educational environment."

David remained at Penn for two residencies, in internal medicine and anesthesiology. After working for a year at Lankenau Hospital, he, too, joined Jefferson as an anesthesiologist from 1991 to 1994. "We enjoyed teaching the



**Kathleen M. Shander
Guarnieri, M.D.**
B.S., University of Scranton

“ I would have never gotten where I am today if it hadn't been for the scholarships I received. ... I was able to get through because of the generosity of people who came before me.

residents at Jefferson,” he shares. “It was a lot of fun.”

The couple headed west in 1994 to explore new horizons and career opportunities in Arizona. They initially practiced general anesthesiology as part of Valley Anesthesia Consultants, a large group that covered multiple hospitals in the Phoenix metropolitan area, before each specialized further. “We both liked the science behind anesthesia and the patient care relationships that you have,” David says. “I gravitated to the higher-risk patients that you tend to see in cardiac care and Kathleen wanted to take care of children.”

“It was a fulfilling career,” Kathleen shares. “We’ve loved taking care of the patients and being part of our anesthesia group. For me, the best thing was the children I took care of and the staff that I worked with. They truly made my job worthwhile.”

The couple are grateful for their medical education and the world of opportunities available to them thanks to the scholarships and support they received as medical students. Inspired by their own experience, they are passionate about continuing the legacy of generosity begun by the benefactors that supported their career journeys. They view philanthropy as a way to pay it forward and ensure that future generations can, too, follow their dreams.

In 2009, David and Kathleen established the Kathleen S. and David M. Guarnieri Scholarship at Jefferson for the purpose of assisting medical students. This year, they established a generous bequest gift from their estate that will further maintain the scholarship upon their passing. A total of four educational institutions they hold dear, their high school, college, and respective medical schools, all benefit from their continued generosity.

“I would have never gotten where I am today if it hadn't been for the scholarships I received,” says David. “There were always named scholarships in my financial aid package. I was able to get

through because of the generosity of people who came before me, and that really was what allowed me to go to school.”

“We are very thankful for the great education that we have gotten all through our lives,” echoes Kathleen. “We would never, ever be able to be what we are today if it wasn't for that. We wanted to give that opportunity back to other students so that they can achieve their goals, even if they may not have the financial means to do so.”

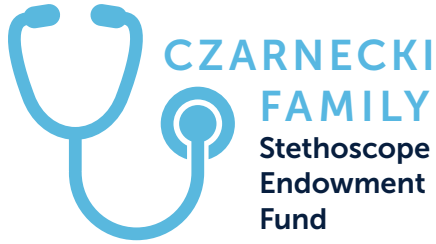
Kathleen and David have had the opportunity to hear from and meet some of the students who have benefited from their generosity and consider it one of the highlights of their scholarship journey. “It's been incredible,” shares Kathleen. “We love hearing from our students.”

Gretchen Fruehstorfer, a member of the SKMC Class of 2028 and one of the Guarnieri scholars, shared, “It means so much to me knowing that someone was kind enough to invest their hard-earned money into my medical education, making it possible for me to have the opportunity to pursue my dreams.”

Fellow Guarnieri scholar Shihua Chen, a member of the SKMC Class of 2027, said, “Receiving this scholarship reminds me that there are individuals who believe in the importance of supporting future physicians and who are invested in the education of the next generation of healthcare providers. That support motivates me to work even harder and to carry forward the same spirit of generosity in my own career.”

Now retired, David and Kathleen know that through their endowed scholarship, the lives they touch today have the potential to impact generations of medical students and the patients who will benefit from their research and care tomorrow. David sums up the couple's words to live by: “Every generation has to keep looking out for the next in line.”

Welcome Sidney Kimmel Medical College Class of 2030



Each summer, Sidney Kimmel Medical College welcomes its new class of medical students at the moving rite of passage, the White Coat Ceremony.

2026 will be no exception, when on July 31, surrounded by their family, friends, and fellow medical students, the SKMC Class of 2030 celebrates the official kickoff of their medical careers.

This year will be especially significant, as it will be marked not only by the students formally receiving and donning their white coats and reciting the Hippocratic Oath. For the first time, every student in the class will also receive their own personal stethoscope.

This historic donation was made possible by the generosity of Nancy Czarnecki, MD '65. The Czarnecki Family Stethoscope Endowment Fund ensures that all future incoming SKMC medical students will be able to take advantage of this exciting opportunity as they embark on their own healthcare journeys.

"I remember receiving my first stethoscope," she shares. "It represented my dream of becoming a doctor, and the earliest days of my lifelong commitment to building a brighter future for my patients. My husband and I wanted to give this gift in perpetuity to our future generations of healers."

Sadly, her husband, Joseph E. Czarnecki, DO, passed away on April 18. "He was a strong supporter of me and our loyalty to Jefferson and the Stethoscope Fund," she says.

This is not the first time that Czarnecki has made history at Jefferson. As a member of the Class of 1965, which celebrated its 60th anniversary last year, she was a part of this singular class' distinction as the first in Jefferson's history to include women. As one of an initial group of eight women, she was both the first woman

to matriculate to – and graduate from – the medical college.

Following medical school, she went right into family practice when she and her husband, who met while in college, opened a family practice in the Port Richmond area of Philadelphia that thrived for more than 20 years. After leaving private practice, she joined the insurance industry in the role of medical director.

Selected as the first woman president of the Alumni Association, Czarnecki also served on the Jefferson Board of Trustees as an alumni trustee. Since her fifth-year reunion, she has also served as reunion chair, recently collaborating on the creation of the Class of 1965 Scholarship Fund for deserving Jefferson medical students.

She never forgot the women who followed in her footsteps, launching two programs at Jefferson geared to female students to provide information about specific medical specialties and residency programs.

Czarnecki's Jefferson legacy spans three generations. Her son Joseph J. Czarnecki, MD '95, helped significantly in outlining the new fund. He became a captain in the Air Force before completing his orthopaedic residency and fellowship at Harvard, and practices in Woburn, Massachusetts. In addition, her son John Czarnecki interned in physical therapy at Jefferson and worked in the department for two years, and her grandson John Czarnecki attended the Penn State Jefferson Combined BS/MD program and is a member of the Sidney Kimmel Medical College Class of 2027.

Nancy was proud to be able to join her grandson John at his own White Coat Ceremony in 2024, and is looking forward to attending this year's White Coat ceremony to present the first stethoscopes to the new class of 2030. 🎓

//
**My husband and I
wanted to give this
gift in perpetuity to
our future generations
of healers.**



From left, Joe, John, and Nancy Czarnecki



From left, Joe, Nancy and Joseph Czarnecki



SHARE YOUR STORY

Achievements

Class Notes

'61 Robert B. Tesh, MD, has spent most of his career conducting clinical and field research on vector-borne and zoonotic viral diseases. He's worked as a professor of pathology and microbiology and immunology at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston for the past 22 years, and has also worked with NIH/NIAD, Yale University. Dr. Tesh officially retired four years ago and is now an adjunct professor.

'64 Robert McKim, MD, graduated in 1964 and entered a rotating internship at Emanuel Hospital in Portland, Oregon. During the internship he was drafted for military service for the Vietnam War. Dr. McKim entered family practice in 1967 and after 600+ hours of CME, became Family Practice Board Certified. There were no family practice residencies at that time. He has also held positions as army's medical examiner for the FAA, associate teaching professor in the Department of Family Practice at Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland, Oregon, and served on the board of trustees for the Oregon Academy of Family Practice and the Oregon Medical Association, and as an Oregon Delegate to the America Medical Association.

After over 2,300 deliveries, many tonsilectomies and orthopedic and tendon repairs, and 47 years, Dr. McKim retired in 2013. "Had a great career. Thanks, Jefferson," says McKim.

'67 Steven Fischer, MD, has retired after 45 years of practice as an ENT physician.

'68 Harold A. Yocum, MD, has been an



| Pictured right, Dean Winslow, MD '76, with Anthony Fauci, center

avid birdwatcher since his time as a boy scout during his teenage years; this year he went over 600. He also served as president of the Oklahoma City Audubon Society.

'73 Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, was inaugurated as the seventh president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore on Friday, Nov. 5, 2021.

Tomas Jose Silber, MD, has been honored by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) with the William O. Bartholome Award for Ethical Excellence, the Academy's highest honor in bioethics. Dr. Silber has dedicated more than 50 years of work to reflecting, writing, teaching, and devoting energy to the divulgation of the field of pediatric ethics.

He has been a consultant to the World Health Organization and the Pan-American Health Organization and has been awarded the Adele Hoffman Award by the Section on Adolescence of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Outstanding Achievement in Adolescent Medicine by the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine, the lifetime achievement award by the Cuban Ministry of Health, and the Children's National Mentorship Award. For several decades, Dr.

Silber was the director of the Adolescent Medicine Fellowship Program, the director of the Donald Delaney Eating Disorders Program, and director of the Ethics Program at Children's National in Washington, DC.

Dr. Silber is now professor emeritus at George Washington University, Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine. He serves on the executive committee of the Ethics Program and is the editor of *Pediatric Ethics*cope.

'76 Dean Winslow, MD, a professor of medicine at Stanford University and senior fellow by courtesy at the Center for International Security and Cooperation, is currently on leave from Stanford while serving as senior advisor to the CDC COVID-19 Testing and Diagnostics Working Group based in Washington, DC. He is also back on active duty orders with the California State Guard.

'78 Robert P. Boran, Jr., MD, has retired from active practice in orthopaedic surgery. He continues to serve on the board of directors of the Eastern Orthopaedic Association (EOA) and recently received the Outstanding Service award of the EOA.

Stephen I. Kramer, MD, recently retired after 38 years of clinical practice as professor emeritus of psychiatry and behavioral medicine at Wake Forest Baptist Health Sciences in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. During his tenure, he helped develop programs in forensic psychiatry and neuropsychiatry.

Dr. Kramer served the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc. for 25 years, and continues to work for the Joint Commission as field representative/physician surveyor and as a topic editor for *DynaMed*. Currently, he is serving his second term on the board of directors of the Winston-Salem Symphony, and grandparenting with his wife, Rochelle Prague Kramer, who also retired from the medical center as a reference librarian.

'80 Angela E. Lin, MD, is a medical geneticist at MGH who cares for patients with rare syndromes. She has a long-standing interest in art and the portrayal of people with physical differences. Dr. Lin fulfilled a dream as the senior editor of a special issue of the *American Journal of Medical Genetics* titled "Syndromes and Malformations in Art and Antiquity: New Perspectives on a Familiar Theme."

'85 Ruth E. Weisberger, MD, has been named governor of the Connecticut chapter of the American College of Physicians (ACP), the national organization of internists. The board of governors is an advisory board to the board of regents and implements national projects in addition to representing members at the national level.

'85 Suzanne Topalian, MD, has spent the past four decades contributing



Michael Savage, MD '80, FEL '86 (left) and David Fischman, MD, FACC, FACP, FEL '91 (right) were recently featured in an article published by *Public Health* as two of the Top 50 Influencers in Cardiology on Twitter. Follow them: @DocSavage13U and @dfischman_david



groundbreaking research and opening new avenues of scientific investigation in cancer immunology. Her contributions extend well beyond her lab at Johns Hopkins, establishing immunotherapy as a pillar of oncology around the world. Her research has resulted in the unprecedented development and regulatory approval of drugs for over a dozen different cancer-benefiting countless patients and their families.

Dr. Topalian's research focuses on manipulating immune checkpoints in cancer therapy. She led a team at the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center in a global effort that established immunotherapy as a viable method of cancer treatment alongside surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy.

'95 Miya Asato, MD, a pediatric neurologist, has been named vice president of training by the Kennedy Krieger Institute. She also directs the nationally recognized Maternal and Child Health Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Other Related Disabilities Program (LEND), which provides graduate-level, interdisciplinary training to clinicians with an interest in neurodevelopmental disabilities.

Dr. Asato joined the institute from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine's Department of Pediatrics, where she was a professor of both pediatrics and clinical and translational science at the school. She has served as the program director of Pitt's neurodevelopmental disabilities residency since 2007.



'06 Madhuri Dholakia, MD, published her debut novel, *The White Coat Diaries*, which highlights a young doctor's struggle to survive residency, love, and life. The book deals with themes of physician burnout, moral injury, high expectations placed on her from culture, and more. She has two more books planned in her deal with Penguin Random House/Berkley.

Accolades

Milestones

Events

Let the *Bulletin* community know what you've been up to by sharing your news in Class Notes!

Send us your news: editor@jefferson.edu

Meet Our Alumni

We recently caught up with two accomplished women who graduated in the 2010s and are already shaping the future of medicine. Their stories reflect the heart, purpose, and innovation of a new generation of Jefferson physicians making a meaningful impact in their fields and communities.



Rosy Thachil, MD '12, MBA

Director, Cardiac Intensive Care Unit, Division of Cardiology,
Elmhurst Hospital Center/NYC Health + Hospitals
Assistant Professor of Medicine (Cardiology),
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Where are you from originally?

I like to say I grew up everywhere – in India, the U.K., and various parts of the United States. That said, Philadelphia and New York City have become my anchor cities.

How did your Jefferson experience influence your practice of medicine today?

Medical school was an incredibly foundational time, with so many experiences that shaped who I am as a physician. Perhaps the one that stands out the most was a three-week cardiology rotation during my third year that ultimately changed the trajectory of my career. Cardiology hadn't been on my radar initially, but during that rotation I felt like I had found my tribe. I was drawn to how dynamic, data-rich, and multimodal the field was. The cardiologists who I worked with during this rotation didn't just teach me the medicine – they inspired me to pivot into the field and modeled impactful leadership.

Tell us about your work, which sits at the intersection of cardiology, health equity, and healthcare innovation.

When I reflect on my path, it has been deeply shaped by training and practicing in safety-net settings and caring for diverse, often underserved communities. Some of my earliest exposure to this came during off-site rotations at Jefferson, where I began to see how profoundly social context shapes health outcomes.

Cardiology, as a field, sits at a unique intersection – you are exposed to some of the most advanced, cutting-edge innovations in medicine, while at the same time confronting the very real and persistent gaps in access and

outcomes for cardiac patients. That duality has always stayed with me. It pushed me to think beyond individual patient encounters and toward the systems that determine who benefits from progress – and who does not.

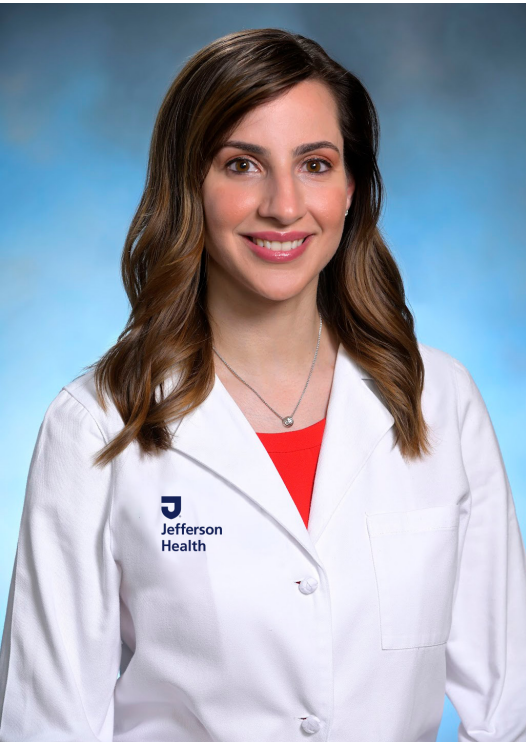
Health equity, to me, is about ensuring that the advances we work so hard to achieve actually reach the patients who need them most. And innovation – particularly in digital health and AI – hopefully now offers a powerful opportunity to reimagine how care is delivered, so that it is not only more advanced, but more accessible also.

You were recently named to Modern Healthcare's 40 Under 40 list. What does this recognition mean to you?

It's an incredible honor – and one that I view less as an endpoint and more as fuel for the work ahead. I'm just getting started! I've had many mentors, sponsors, and colleagues along the way who I'm grateful to. I've had the privilege of working in critical care cardiology – a fairly nascent specialty – and to help shape its future, while also serving as an ambassador for this community of physicians dedicated to caring for the most critically ill cardiac patients. I've also had the chance to help co-found a women's cardiovascular program and post-CICU transitions clinic in a public hospital setting.

What advice would you give to someone considering medical school?

Give yourself permission to grow and change – some of the best decisions come from discovering what truly resonates along the way. I came into Jefferson wanting to do pediatrics and came out wanting to do cardiology!



Thana N. Theofanis, MD '14, RES '21, FEL '21

Clinical Assistant Professor
Department of Neurosurgery
Main Line Health and Thomas Jefferson University Hospital

What steered you toward the complexities of the brain?

During my orientation week of medical school, I met Dr. Stavropoula Tjoumakaris (see pg.10), then a new neurosurgery attending — and Jefferson graduate! We immediately connected. She encouraged me to become involved in research within the neurosurgery department and more importantly fostered my early interest in the neurosciences and surgery. In many ways, her mentorship was pivotal in shaping my decision to pursue neurosurgery and ultimately guiding my subspecialty interest in cerebrovascular and endovascular neurosurgery.

What are you working on now?

In my current role, I practice primarily at Main Line Health, where I was given the unique opportunity to help build a neurointervention program at Paoli Hospital. Along with my partner, we are establishing the foundation for comprehensive stroke and vascular neurosurgical care in a strategic partnership with Jefferson Health.

This work has been especially meaningful because it addresses a critical need within the community. By providing timely access to acute neurovascular care locally, we have been able to reduce the need for patient transfers and minimize delays in treatment for time-sensitive conditions.

How do you mentally prepare for a surgery where the margins for error are measured in millimeters?

I feel fortunate to have trained in a high-volume, demanding residency program. I credit my time as a Jefferson neurosurgery resident with preparing me to independently manage complex neurosurgical cases as an attending physician.

I actively rehearse the operation in my mind, not just the ideal sequence, but potential variations. I think through where critical structures may be more or less challenging

than expected, and where I might need to adapt the plan intraoperatively. Contingency planning is an important part of how I stay grounded when margins of error are measured in millimeters.

At the same time, I don't lose sight of the responsibility that comes with these cases. The weight of it is always present, but I channel that into focus and discipline, to achieve the best possible clinical outcome for each patient.

What current advancement in neurosurgery excites you the most?

What excites me most about the next decade in neurosurgery is how rapidly cerebrovascular and aneurysm care is evolving to become more precise, accessible, and less invasive.

We are moving toward a model of care that brings advanced neurovascular treatment closer to patients, reducing the need for long-distance transfers and ensuring timely access to high-level interventions within community-based hospital systems.

At the same time, artificial intelligence is beginning to reshape aneurysm care — not only in detection, but also in risk stratification and procedural planning. This shift will increasingly support more individualized, data-driven decision-making.

What's something people would be surprised to learn about you outside of medicine?

Outside of medicine, I grew up studying classical ballet and have always been drawn to the performing arts and theater — the discipline, storytelling, and precision behind it still resonate with me.

Becoming a mother has been one of the most meaningful parts of my life. It has made me a more thoughtful and resilient neurosurgeon. At the center of it all, my family is my world, and everything I do is shaped by that sense of purpose and connection. 🍷



Theofanis with Stavropoula I. Tjoumakaris, MD '03, RES '09, FEL '10, MBA

Class Ambassadors



Tejal U. Naik, MD '16

Associate Medical Director,
Acute Medicine, at ChristianaCare Hospital – Newark Campus
Entrepreneur-in-Residence,
Jefferson College of Population Health
SKMC Alumni Board Member
Class Ambassador for 2016



Together, we can ensure that the Jefferson legacy of innovation and excellence continues to thrive for years to come.

MY JOURNEY AT SKMC began with a fascination for the intersection of medicine and system-level change. During my time as student council president, I learned that the best way to support our community was to move from being reactive to being proactive – a mindset that has defined my entire career. This passion for transformation led me to serve as the clinical lead and senior product manager for the Digital Innovation and Consumer Experience team at the University. Bridging the gap between clinical teams and digital technology allowed me to help design workflows and implement platforms like ADA Health, ensuring that innovation always serves the needs of both patients and providers.

I am now excited to bring this background in operational excellence to a new chapter as the associate medical director of ChristianaCare's hospitalist program. In this role, I am leading quality and operational improvement projects to enhance hospital efficiency and clinician well-being. Even as I take on this new leadership position, I remain deeply connected to Jefferson as the entrepreneur-in-residence for

the Jefferson College of Population Health. It is incredibly rewarding to continue fostering a culture of "intrapreneurship" through our Health Innovation Leadership Program, empowering the next generation of healthcare leaders to solve complex challenges with a design-thinking mindset.

As I reflect on my path from an SKMC student to a clinical leader, I am reminded that the strength of the University lies in its people. I currently serve as the student relations chair for the SKMC Alumni Board because I believe our collective experience is our greatest asset in mentoring current students. I encourage my fellow alumni to stay engaged, whether through mentorship, participating in alumni initiatives, sponsorship, or sharing your unique expertise. Together, we can ensure that the Jefferson legacy of innovation and excellence continues to thrive for years to come. 🍷



Represent Your Class. Shape Our Alumni Community.

**ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE CLASSES OF
1963, 2011, 2012, OR 2023?**

CONSIDER BECOMING A CLASS AMBASSADOR.

Get involved today!

If you're interested in representing your class, please contact Alec Bottari at alec.bottari@jefferson.edu or 445-304-4904.

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Max M. Koppel, MD '57
Stanton N. Smullens, MD '61
William V. Harrer, MD '62
William Freeman, MD '64
Richard P. Wenzel, MD '65, MSc
Michael P. Dolan, MD '66
Elliot J. Rayfield, MD '67
Harold A. Yocum, MD '68
M. Dean Kinsey, MD '69
Peter V. Scoles, MD '70
Edward B. Ruby, MD '71
Lawrence R. Schiller, MD '72
Lynne E. Porter, MD '73
Linda Sundt, MD '74
Michael LeWitt, MD '74
Lorraine King, MD, RES '75, FEL '77
Richard H. Bennett, MD '75
Robert L. Goldberg, MD '76
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A Message from the Alumni Board President



Irfan Galaria, MD '01, MBA

Goodbye But Not Farewell

SHAKESPEARE SAID IT BEST: “Parting is such sweet sorrow.”

This is my last column as president of the alumni board, as my tenure was up in June. When I look back over the past two years and all we have accomplished, I feel privileged to have been elected and to have been given the opportunity to serve in this role. Many changes have taken place during my term — changes that have advanced the mission of Sidney Kimmel Medical College.

Over the past two years, we introduced many new and innovative initiatives, including forming a committee to integrate class ambassadors and the alumni board; starting mentoring programs for students; and establishing two awards: the Postgraduate Alumni Award to recognize distinguished postgraduate alumni who completed their training at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and/or affiliate training programs, and the Time, Talent, and Treasure Award to honor an outstanding SKMC graduate who has contributed through a commitment to the mission of the University and to future generations of Jefferson students.

We also celebrated Jefferson’s bicentennial year with events and activities that honored our storied past and shined a spotlight on our place in

the history of medicine in the United States.

As Jefferson has grown, the alumni board has worked to ensure alumni representation at the leadership level. I’m pleased to share that the University Board has reserved a seat on its Academic Affairs Committee for the immediate past president of the SKMC Alumni Board, who will serve as a trustee.

I’m proud of all we have accomplished, and I know that momentum will continue under the leadership of the new president, John A. Kutz, MD '93, a former SKMC alumni board member who I know will bring fresh ideas and undertakings to support our students, faculty, staff, and fellow alums in their education and subsequent careers.

Today, the school needs its champions more than ever as we continue to grow and lead the way in medical education. This year, we had one of the largest classes ever — 286 students began their training as first-years. We continue to be one of the most sought-after institutions for future physicians. By providing mentorship and guidance, funding scholarships, and offering a helping hand in starting careers — and continuing them — our alumni can ensure that Jefferson continues to be synonymous with success.

Shakespeare finished the famous parting line from Romeo and Juliet with, “I shall say good night till it be tomorrow.” He left the future open and hopeful — and for me, it remains that way. For me, there will be many tomorrows. While my term as president has ended, my commitment to our alma mater has not. I appreciate the opportunity to give back to the school that has given me so much, and will continue to be engaged and active to ensure our alma mater remains at the forefront of medical education. I encourage my fellow alums to do the same; this is a great time to come aboard and help shape the future of our medical school. 🍷

SKMC Alumni Association Board Members

Effective July 1, 2026

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What if a chance encounter at commencement led to a cancer breakthrough?

In 2018, two Sidney Kimmel Medical College researchers, from seemingly disparate fields of study, met for the first time at Jefferson's graduation ceremony. By the time the last diploma was handed out, they had agreed to collaborate.

Today, Adam Snook, PhD, and Mŷ Mahoney, PhD, are developing DesmoCART — a potentially universal CAR-T therapy that could treat solid tumor cancers at a fraction of the current cost.

Their work is one of seven stories featuring Sidney Kimmel Medical College faculty and students in the latest issue of Thomas Jefferson University's Research Magazine.

Read them all at
[Jefferson.edu/Research](https://jefferson.edu/research)



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Class Notes

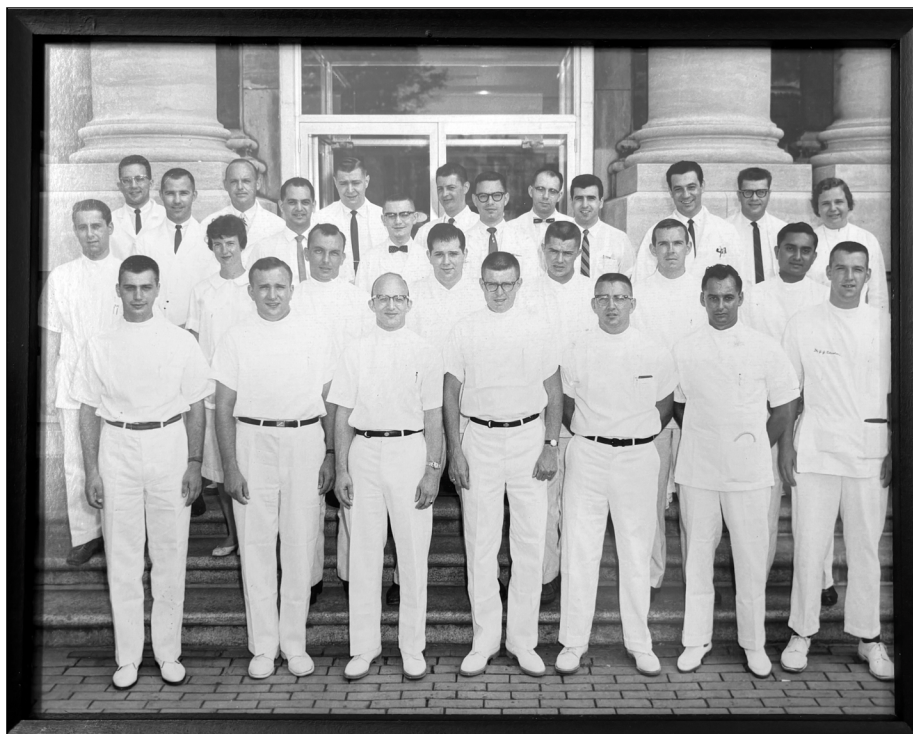
'61

William Antognoli '61 shared this photo from his medical internship at Misericordia Hospital, where he trained alongside several fellow medical college alumni. Antognoli is celebrating his 65th reunion this year!

Pictured (left to right):

Bottom row: **William Antognoli '61**, **John Lesniak '61**, **Arthur Meyers '61**, and **Bill Farrell '61**

Top row: **Charles Druffner '60** (far left) and **Frank Milani '59** (far right)



'63

Marvin Hyett, MD, is still working full time in gynecology: "I extend my thoughts to classmates and friends of Jefferson. My time is filled with work, sketching, and photography. And wonder, but dare not question, my good fortune."

'74

Dennis Michael Young, MD, retired from office-based psychiatry in 2017. He opened Mo'zArt Gallery and Studio in Historic New Castle, Delaware, where he regularly paints portraits and more in oil or pastels. The gallery was voted Best in Delaware in 2024. His work has garnered numerous awards, and his paintings hang in homes and offices locally and abroad. dennisyoungarts.com.

'75

Robert T. Sataloff, MD, recently conducted the 56th Anniversary Spring Concert of the Thomas Jefferson University Choir and Orchestra on April 2, 2026. Students, faculty, and alumni are invited to participate or view the upcoming 57th Anniversary Winter Concert on Dec. 11, 2026.

'76

Dean L. Winslow, MD, writes: "It was wonderful to see that Dr. Gonzalo Aponte, MD '52, was honored with Jefferson's 2025 Distinguished Alumni Award. He was one of our favorite professors in the 1970s. His lectures

were masterful, and the points he emphasized in his beautiful Puerto Rican accent made his teaching so memorable. Sadly, Dr. Aponte died at age 50 in 1979. After graduating from Jefferson in 1976, I trained in internal medicine and infectious diseases. However, back in the 1970s there were no pediatric infectious diseases fellowship training programs, so I practiced both adult and pediatric infectious diseases in Wilmington, Delaware, and later at our county hospital in San Jose, California. When I came to Stanford full time in 2013, I only saw adult patients for several years. In 2020, the chief of pediatric infectious diseases at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital said they really wanted me to come off the bench and attend in the peds infectious diseases clinic. I agreed immediately since I love children, and pediatricians are the nicest doctors!

"Last year in clinic I was seeing with the peds infectious diseases fellow a 4-month-old child referred by his primary pediatrician for concern that the child's anti-CMV IgG antibodies (of maternal origin) were contributing to the child's jaundice. The child had been seen by several 'real pediatricians' including hepatology. They attributed the child's jaundice (T. bili about 7 mg/dL) to residual 'shock liver' from neonatal sepsis. The baby was jaundiced but his growth and development were normal, and the baby was happy and well-appearing. I asked

the peds infectious diseases fellow what the indirect bilirubin was and he answered, '6.' I am very serious. Dr. Aponte appeared in the exam room as clear as when he was lecturing in the Solis Cohen Auditorium. He spoke clearly to me in his beautiful voice, 'Dean, this baby has Crigler-Najjar Syndrome.' This is a diagnosis I haven't thought of since 1973 when Aponte lectured about this in pathology. I immediately told the peds infectious diseases fellow my diagnosis, which he put in our consult note. The diagnosis was subsequently confirmed by genetic testing. My pediatric colleagues were very impressed that an internist made a diagnosis that had been missed by 'real pediatricians.' I have told everyone that I did not make the diagnosis. Dr. Aponte truly came back from the grave and made the diagnosis. I wanted to share this story with Jefferson alumni. Dr. Aponte, and so many of our wonderful Jefferson teachers, who have died, truly live on ..."

'81

David Seres, MD, recently retired from clinical practice at Columbia University Medical Center at the rank of professor of medicine after a wonderful and rewarding academic career in medical nutrition (nutrition support). Since his last update, he has received national awards for his role as an educator and in public policy. Last year, he was honored as a Distinguished Fellow of the American

Society for Nutrition (its highest lifetime achievement award) and is now serving on the board of directors of the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition. "I have achieved more than I could have possibly imagined because I was fortunate to have people who saw more in me than I did. But my greatest success has been my 45-year marriage to my best friend and greatest supporter."

Richard Spaide, MD, was the keynote speaker for the German Society of Ophthalmology in Berlin in September 2025 and the keynote speaker for the Japanese Retina and Vitreous Society in December 2025. Last year, along with his wife, Wai Chang Ho, PhD '83, JCLS, he went on bicycle trips in Thailand, Croatia, Tuscany, and Provence, climbing Mount Ventoux on a bicycle twice in one day.

'83

Samuel Markind, MD, saw his dream of being a published author become reality in late October 2025 with the release of his book "Music Between Your Ears," from Johns Hopkins University Press. The book focuses on the evolutionary value of music to the brain, describes foundational concepts of music neuroscience, and encourages the reader to engage actively with music. "Special thanks to Steven Herrine, MD (Class of 1990 and Vice Dean, Academic Affairs and Undergraduate Medical Education), who read and provided insightful feedback on part of an early draft of the manuscript." His family is growing, too! "Our older son got married this past Labor Day weekend – it was a marvelously joyous wedding – to a wonderful woman who writes about professional football! Our younger son married five years ago (also to a wonderful woman) and our granddaughter is now 3 years old. Meanwhile, our daughter continues to work in preschool education. Dina and I reached a landmark this year when we road tripped through Iowa, Oklahoma, and Alabama to complete our quest to visit all of the "Lower 48" states. We've already been to Alaska so we'll reach the 50-state milestone when we travel to Hawai'i (no definitive plans yet, but we'll get there)."

Leonard Zon, MD, an acclaimed hematologist and stem cell scientist and national leader in maternal and infant health research, was announced as the winner of the 2026 March of Dimes Richard B. Johnston, Jr., MD Prize for his work in developmental biology. Zon is director of the Stem Cell Research Program at Boston Children's Hospital and the Grousbeck Professor of Pediatric Medicine at Harvard Medical School and has pioneered the use of the zebrafish as a model to study human disease with a focus on blood diseases and cancers affecting newborns and children. His pioneering work has illuminated how blood develops in embryos, leading to a deeper understanding of rare blood diseases, including in pregnancy, and breakthrough treatments for genetic blood disorders affecting babies and children.

'99

Lawrence Ward, MD, was recently



appointed as chief medical officer for Holy Cross Medical Group. In his new role, Ward will serve as the clinical dyad partner to the president of Holy Cross Medical Group. Ward will work closely with division chiefs, clinical leaders, and the HCMG Senior Leadership Team to advance the organization's clinical vision, strengthen physician engagement, support strategic growth, and foster an environment centered on quality, safety, and exceptional patient experience. Ward will also establish his own internal medicine practice in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

'02

David P. Manion, MD, and **Daniel Shurman MD, RES '08**, have been recognized as Top Doctors by Castle Connolly. Co-founded by Daniel Shurman, Dermatology Partners, the Mid-Atlantic's premier privately owned and physician-led dermatology practice specializing in medical and surgical dermatology, is proud to announce that nine of its physicians have been named to the 2026 Castle Connolly Top Doctors® list, a designation recognizing the top 7% of board-certified physicians nationwide for clinical excellence and outstanding patient care.

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MEDICAL COLLEGE

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Contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@jefferson.edu or 215-955-7750.

*Shanda Monique McManus,
M.D.*
University of Pennsylvania, B.A.



LETTERS OF LIFE, LOSS, AND LOVE

BY IRISA GOLD

From as far back as she can remember, Shanda McManus, MD '96, had no doubt that she wanted to be a doctor.

"Growing up in North Philadelphia, no one in my family had even gone to college, and there were no doctors," she says. "I think the seed was planted because when I was 5 my mom was diagnosed with stage 4 ovarian cancer. She was only 24."

She accompanied her father and grandmother to visit her mother at the hospital regularly. After initially being given only two years to live, her mother survived, but when McManus was 10, the cancer returned. "Between the ages of 10 and 14, I was involved in a lot of her care," she shares. "I learned how to do the colostomy, the IV feedings, and pay bills at the electric company. All of that steered me into medicine."

Following her mother's passing, McManus earned the Mayor's Scholarship from the city of Philadelphia to attend the University of Pennsylvania, where she received a bachelor's in English literature.

Her childhood dream of being a doctor still squarely in her sights, she pursued medical school in her hometown at Jefferson. But no one could have predicted the triumph, tragedy, and twists and turns that awaited on her journey.

Her life was forever impacted following a tragic event that occurred on December 24, 1992, at the end of her first semester at Jefferson. Her beloved younger brother, Monir, was killed in a drive-by shooting at the age of 20 while standing on a street corner.

Needing to provide for his young son, Monir had joined the Army. Yet upon his return to Philadelphia, he struggled unsuccessfully to find work and turned to selling drugs. While on a waiting list for what could have been a life-changing veterans' program at the University of Pennsylvania, he was killed. It was only after his death that the family learned of his acceptance. His murder remains unsolved.

Devastated, McManus threw herself into her studies and her life at Jefferson. "Right after New Year's, I was back at school," McManus says. "I felt that I didn't have any space to grieve — as if I get off this train right now, I might never make it out."

She recalls that the support she received while at Jefferson was immeasurable. "You will find your people there — from the administration to the course directors to your classmates. You can find people who have a heart for other people at Jeff."

In addition, she credits the scholarships and financial aid she received

as critical to her ability to pursue her passion. Basketball legend Julius (Dr. J) Erving was one of her scholarship donors. "He was one of my childhood heroes," she says.

The most important relationship that McManus formed while at Jefferson was with the man who would become her husband, Stephen McManus, MD, a fellow member of the Class of 1996. The couple not only married, but also welcomed a daughter in their third year of medical school.

Her pregnancy was a difficult one, as she suffered from severe hyperemesis gravidarum, which led to numerous trips to the emergency room and many missed classes. Nonetheless, she believes that the support she received across the board from Jefferson allowed her to succeed. She says, "I think as an institution, Jefferson wanted me to finish and get through."

Following graduation, McManus took a year off and had another baby before completing a three-year residency in family medicine at ChristianaCare in Delaware. She waited five years after finishing her residency to begin her medical practice. "As a woman in medicine, often you have to pivot and carve out a space for yourself," she says. "I felt like I needed to be there more with



Julius Erving, a new member of Basketball's Hall of Fame and a former Jefferson Trustee, has responded to one of the University's greatest needs, more student aid. Mr. Erving's contribution to The Jefferson 2000 Fund campaign created the Julius Erving Stipend for minority students, based on need. Shown at a recent reception for Mr. Erving, left, and the five stipend recipients is Shanda Hall, seated, right, a first-year JMC student; also shown are: Tya-Mae Julien, middle row, left, a third-year JMC student and Lula Brown, a fourth-year student in the baccalaureate nursing program, CAHS. Standing are Oscar Leon, left, in his final year of a combined bachelor's/master's degree program in physical therapy, CGS, and Hao Hua, a first-year student in the diagnostic imaging program, CAHS. Addressing the students, Dr. J. said, "If you accomplish your dreams and keep an open heart and giving spirit, you'll make us proud." The Jefferson 2000 Fund's goal of \$200 million by the year 2000 will extend the University's excellence in patient care, education and research into the next century.



my children early on, and I slowly worked my way back into medicine.”

After practicing at a family medicine practice in Middletown, New Jersey, in 2024 McManus moved into the academic sector, joining Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine as assistant professor of family medicine. Currently, she teaches a human dimension course and is also responsible for the narrative medicine focus of the curriculum.

As McManus’ career — and life — unfolded, underneath it all her own story had yet to be fully told. She had never truly faced the trauma of Monir’s death.

“My brother and I were only 18 months apart, and we were very, very close,” McManus shares. “Yet underneath I had been dragging around unresolved grief that I was unable to truly process until more than three decades later.”

Joining a community writing class provided a creative outlet to process her pain and grief. She found herself always writing about her family, which culminated in a memoir about her childhood. “When I finished that manuscript, it brought up all these things,” she says. “I said, ‘who was the person that was with me through it all?’ It was Monir. I started writing him letter after

letter. Writing these letters gave me access. They gave me my brother back.”

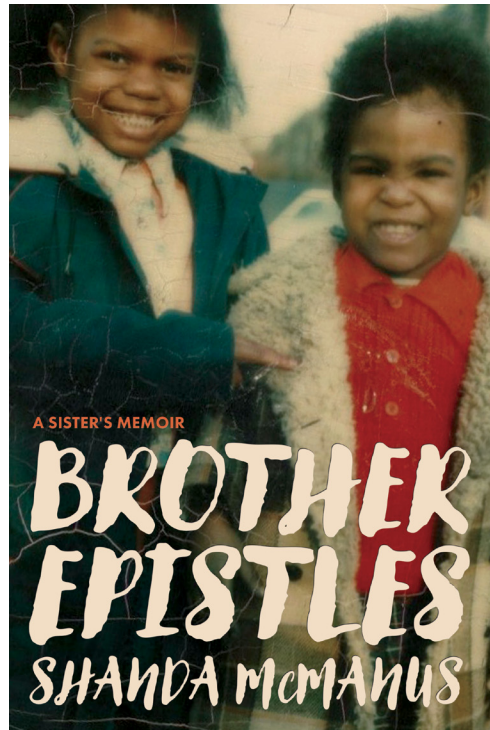
Soon, McManus can share the letters — and the memories of her brother — with the world. Published as a series of letters, her new book, “Brother Epistles,” will be released on June 23, 2026. “I have a wonderful, supportive husband, I have five children, and for the first time in my life, more than 30 years later, I felt safe to mourn,” she shares.

McManus hopes that by sharing her personal story, she can highlight that homicide among Black men is a public health crisis — and, by humanizing her brother, ensure he is seen as more than just a statistic.

“That’s why I wanted this book in the world, as a testimony — and a witness,” she says. “When someone hears about a murder on TV or hears the statistics, they can remember that this news story is really a human story.”

McManus and her husband are proud of where their marriage, family, and lifelong medical careers were born. “Jefferson is where we got our start,” she says. “If you dig up the yearbook there is a photo of me and my husband and our baby in Scott Plaza, and today, we’ve been married over 30 years!”

“ You can find people who have a heart for other people at Jeff. ”



In Memoriam

'55

Thomas Brevard Templeton, MD, passed away on Feb. 12, 2026, at age 97. He joins his beloved wife, Betty, with whom he shared a loving and memorable life, beginning with his first "crush" when he was 13 years old. Templeton was born on Aug. 20, 1928, to the late John Young Templeton Jr., MD, and Mary Williams Templeton in Mooresville, North Carolina. He served in the United States Navy, graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and earned his medical degree from Jefferson. On Aug. 3, 1952, he married Betty Mallard Templeton and was married for 57 years until her passing in 2010. Templeton was the former chief of staff at Iredell Memorial Hospital and later served on the hospital board of trustees. He practiced medicine in Iredell County for 33 years. He was a member of the American College of Cardiology and an adjunct professor at Bowman Gray School of Medicine. He loved to travel with Betty and his family. Another passion was fishing on "Super Suds" with Jim Rogers, Ed Bell, and a cast of others of all ages. Later in life, bird watching and feeding became a daily routine. He was a British car enthusiast and a member of the British Car Club. He was also a member of the Friday Confusion Club and spent many mornings with the McDonald's group in Statesville and Wrightsville Beach. He was kind and loving to his family and all who knew him.

'62



Stephen Gosin, MD, passed away on Feb. 5, 2026, at the age of 87. The loving son of Jack and Marcella Gosin, he was born in Philadelphia and graduated from Central High School. Gosin received his undergraduate education from the University of Pennsylvania and graduated with honors from Jefferson in 1962. After medical school, Steve remained at Jefferson for his residency in surgery, where he was named Intern of the Year and received the Alumni Award. After he completed his surgical training, Steve served his country as

an officer in the Public Health Service caring for wounded servicemen returning from combat from Vietnam. He was also deployed as ship's surgeon on a U.S. Coast Guard cutter at the height of the Vietnam War. Gosin had a successful and rewarding general and vascular surgery practice in the Atlantic County area and founded Jersey Shore Surgical Group. He was president of Shore Memorial Hospital's Medical Staff and chief of surgery. Subsequently, he received the Surgical Chairman's Award as a "role model to all healthcare professionals" during his four decades of service at Shore Memorial Hospital. For many years, he participated as an instructor in surgery at his alma mater. He was an avid boater and fisherman and enjoyed piloting his own airplane. Gosin was the beloved husband of Marjorie and devoted father to sons Jeffrey Gosin, MD '89, (Cheryl) and John B. Conner and daughters Debbie Warner (Cliff) and Nancy Mitnick (Scott). He was also affectionately known as Pop-Pop to Julia, Seth, and Cara Gosin, Matthew and Justin Warner, Michael and Ethan Mitnick, and Ty Anthony Conner.

'63



Robert Zavod, MD, passed away on Dec. 26, 2025, after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. A resident of

Haddam, Connecticut, and Naples, Florida, he was born on Dec. 15, 1937, in Westchester County, New York, and was the son of the late William A. Zavod, MD, and Lisa I. Zavod. After Jefferson he interned at Montefiore Hospital and Medical Center in the Bronx, New York. He served as a captain in the U.S. Army in Korea. Following his service, he spent a year as a medical resident at Montefiore before beginning his radiology residency, which was followed by a fellowship in angiography. In 1971, he joined Radiologic Associates of Middletown at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown, Connecticut, where he practiced radiology for almost 30 years. He was a corporator of Middlesex Health. A clinical professor of radiology at Yale University School of Medicine, he taught residents chest

radiology part-time for 17 years. In his spare time, he carved smoking pipes, painted, sang in a trio (The Par Three) with friends, traveled, played golf and tennis, and could fix anything that broke. An avid theater-and-concert-goer, he loved nothing more than an evening around the table with friends and family. In addition to his wife, among those who survive are his adoring family: his daughter, Abigail Zavod, MD, (Ed Newbert); his son, Matthew B. Zavod, MD '99, (Meghan B. Zavod, MD); five grandchildren, Zach, Gabe, Caleb, Sam, and Saskia; a large extended family (courtesy of his wife); and many friends near and far.

'64



Edwin Lee Downing, MD, age 88, passed peacefully from his earthly life, surrounded by his loving family, on Feb. 12, 2026. He was born in New

Concord, Ohio, to Herbert and Mildred Downing, missionaries with African Inland Mission who then remained in the U.S. for the duration of World War II. When Downing was 9 years old, his family returned to Kijabe, Kenya. Both of his parents worked extraordinarily hard to serve the educational and personal needs of their boarding school students: his father as principal, orchestra conductor, and facilities engineer, his mother as math teacher, French teacher, and head of hospitality. He arrived at Wheaton College with less than \$100 in his pocket, where he successfully completed his science degree in 1960, debt free and with an ROTC commission rank of second lieutenant. He was then admitted to and attended Jefferson, earning his MD in 1964. In spite of the rigors of medical school, he did allow himself the distraction of corresponding with and courting a cute brunette he knew from Wheaton, Lois Epp, whom he wed in 1963. They welcomed their daughter, Brenda, at their next stop on the island of Oahu, at Tripler Army Hospital, where Downing was completing his medical internship. While at Tripler, he earned the rank of captain, then advanced to battalion surgeon at Schofield Barracks in Oahu. In the beginning of 1966, he deployed for Cu

Chi, Vietnam, as medical company commander. While there, he served bravely and earned a Combat Medical Badge, a Bronze Star Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Valorous Unit Award, and National Defense Service Medal. Afterward, the family moved to Illinois so Downing could complete three years of specialty training and residency at Hines Loyola Veterans Affairs Medical Center of Ophthalmology in Chicago. After several long years of school, internships, training, and residencies, he began his own private practice in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, in 1971. He and his wife traveled multiple times to Kenya, Zaire, Romania, and China to not only perform surgeries but to teach local health professionals in those countries the techniques needed for treatment. When possible, they also provided the tools and equipment needed, almost completely at their own expense.

'65



Robert M. "Bob" Cohen, MD, an accomplished neurosurgeon and mainstay of the Philadelphia folk music scene, died on Feb. 2, 2026, at the age of 86. Born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, on Aug. 22, 1939, he grew up in Elkins Park, outside of Philadelphia. He was a talented musician, athlete, and student while growing up, despite a learning disability. After high school, he attended Penn State University, where he was one of the founders of the school's folk music society, starred in a production of the musical "Paint Your Wagon," and was a member of the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity. He attended Jefferson for medical school and residency, then served in the U.S. Navy, working at the Naval Hospital in Philadelphia. After Cohen's discharge from the Navy, he started a neurosurgical practice at Rancocas Valley Hospital, in Willingboro, New Jersey. He also lectured regularly at Jefferson. His main love outside of

work and family was folk music. "Dr. Bob" played guitar and banjo and sang with a distinctive, deep, booming voice. Through folk music, Cohen met the love of his life, Dianne Tankle, and they married in 1988. He subsequently served as a board member and then president of the Philadelphia Folksong Society and worked with Dianne to help found Folk Alliance International and the Northeast Regional Folk Alliance. He and Dianne also opened up their Center City Philadelphia home to host an annual Thanksgiving event that drew more than 400 people and put up scores of folk musicians visiting Philadelphia for concerts, including Pete and Toshi Seeger, Peggy Seeger, Ronnie Gilbert, Tom Paxton, Utah Phillips, Ani DiFranco, and many, many others. He loved telling stories and did it well, although he often embellished.

'66



wife of the late Jerry Jung and the daughter of the late James and Anna (Frederick) Warren. She was raised in Oreland, Pennsylvania. An only child, she was told by a guidance counselor she was "not college material." She went on to attend Chestnut Hill College. Prior to medical school, she worked as a lab technician at a local hospital and as a research assistant at Johnsville evaluating the effect of G-forces on hormones. She graduated from Jefferson in 1966, in the second class of graduating women. Warren completed her internship at Bryn Mawr Hospital and residency in psychiatry at Norristown State Hospital. She subspecialized in forensic, addiction, and geriatric psychiatry. She worked days at NSH in the forensic unit and nights at a methadone clinic, retiring in 2004. Warren was heavily involved in the Pennsylvania Doctors Alliance, eventually becoming its president. She was also involved in the Pennsylvania Association of Retired State Employees, an association responsible for negotiating benefits for pensioners.

Sara A. "Sally" Warren, MD, passed away April 18, 2026, surrounded by family at her residence in the Heritage at Green Hills. She was the

She and Jerry raised two daughters who followed her into medicine. Warren was known as a devoted animal lover, for her fondness of gardening, and for her particular love of shopping and high-quality fashion. She is survived by her daughters Jennifer W. Jung, MD '03, wife of Christopher E. Choi of Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, and Melissa W. Jung, MD '09, wife of David L. Broudy of Morgantown, West Virginia, and her four grandchildren, AJ, Eva, Jeri, and James.

'67



George B. Faries Jr., MD, passed away peacefully at Bethany Village in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, on Sept. 2, 2025, after a long

illness. He was born in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, the son of George Sr. (also a physician) and Alice. His early years were shaped by his father's time serving with the 29th Division during World War II. The family traveled first to Camp Shelby in Mississippi prior to his father's departure to the European Theater. Upon his father's return after the war, the family returned to Lewisburg where his father became a general practitioner serving the community with remarkable kindness and generosity. George Jr. was president of his senior class at Lewisburg High and a member of the football team. He received his undergraduate degree at Bucknell where he majored in English. He was a member of ROTC and then served in the Army after graduation. He completed post-baccalaureate courses at the University of Pennsylvania and then attended Jefferson. While in Philadelphia, he met Mary Linn Grossman, also a Bucknell English major, and the two were married in 1964. They moved to the Harrisburg area, where he completed training as a general surgeon and practiced in that community for the next five decades. Faries was the first physician to perform a colonoscopy in the Central Pennsylvania area and the first to perform ambulatory inguinal hernia repair. Two of his sons and one grandson followed his example and

became surgeons as well. He was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting and hiking. Several generations of beagles were his partners in many of those activities. He was a wonderful singer and performed in many oratorios with the Grantham Oratorio Society, and two of his sons joined him in those efforts as well. He was also fond of the water and spent many hours sailing and canoeing. He built a number of wooden boats as well with the help of his children and grandchildren.

'73

William Innes Forbes III, MD, passed away peacefully in Dresher, Pennsylvania, on April 10, 2026. A respected otolaryngologist and a passionate advocate for hospice care, Forbes was 83. Born on Dec. 2, 1942, Forbes attended Episcopal Academy in Lower Merion, Pennsylvania,

through the eighth grade before graduating from St. Mark's School in Southborough, Massachusetts, in 1960. He first turned his sights toward the skies, graduating from Princeton University in 1964 with a degree in aeronautical engineering. After four years of working with Boeing on its Vertol project, Forbes felt a different calling. He returned to academia at Jefferson, where he was one of the institution's first MD/PhD graduates in 1972. He chose to specialize as an otolaryngologist, beginning a medical career defined by community-first care. On June 20, 1970, he married his soulmate, anatomy professor Barbara Louise Frederick Forbes, MD. Their partnership was one of shared intellect and mutual devotion, lasting until she passed in July 2010. The Forbes family moved to Saranac Lake, New York, in 1977, where Bill invested in a solo ENT practice. His impact on the

Adirondack region, however, extended far beyond his office. He began running clinics in other towns within Upstate New York, served on the medical staff of the 1980 Winter Olympics, and, after recognizing a vital need for end-of-life dignity, was instrumental in founding the first hospice program in the Adirondack region, a legacy of compassionate care that continues today. In 1990, the family relocated to Evans Mills, New York. Forbes played an influential role in the medical community there as part of the Watertown Ear, Nose, and Throat practice, and even served as interim chief medical officer for Samaritan Medical Center. In addition, he played an instrumental role with another hospice organization he joined as one of the medical directors of Jefferson County Hospice. He remained a dedicated medical practitioner until his retirement in 2017.

In Memory of a Respected Professor and Mentor

Jerome George Buescher, PhD



Jerome "Jerry" George Buescher, PhD, was a devoted husband, beloved teacher, and loyal friend whose life was marked by faith, service, and intellectual curiosity. He is survived by his wife of nearly 20 years, Peggy (née Hemingway). A longtime resident of Philadelphia, Buescher was raised in Cincinnati. He was predeceased by his parents, George Edward Buescher and Mary Margaret (née Gibbons), and by his first wife, Georganne (née Kretschman). He is also survived by his siblings: Joan Strom; Thomas Buescher (Clara); Robert Buescher (Charlette); and Mary Ann Ashton (Peter). Jerry began his academic journey at Duns Scotus College, a Franciscan seminary in Southfield, Michigan, and later served briefly as a Franciscan friar. He went on to study microbiology and immunology, earning his PhD from Thomas Jefferson University, where he spent his career as a faculty member and assistant professor until his recent retirement. A man of deep faith,

he was an active and dedicated member of the Episcopal Church, serving in many roles including the vestry, and as secretary of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania. During his missionary work in Guatemala, he formed lasting friendships. Buescher was a longtime-Friend of Bill W. and, for 40 years, touched the lives of many through fellowship and shared purpose. Outside of his professional and spiritual life, he found joy in woodworking projects and experimenting with gourmet recipes. He also enjoyed his annual pilgrimage to Cape May, New Jersey, and his wife's excursions to the Victorian shops on Washington Square. 🇯



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Match Day Marks Defining Moment for Jefferson Medical Students

BY MIKE BEDERKA

Cheers erupted as members of the Sidney Kimmel Medical College Class of 2026 — surrounded by loved ones — tore open their envelopes to reveal where they would complete their residencies.

Years of late-night study sessions and intense hands-on clinical training led to this Match Day, an annual rite of passage for medical students across the country.

“Matching at Jefferson was my top choice,” beams Chioma Nwanonyiri, who will train in psychiatry. “I loved the mentors and attendings I worked with. It’s really meaningful to me.”

Pursuing internal medicine, classmate Jeffrey Zhou will also continue at Jefferson. “It means everything to match here,” he says. “This is where I wanted to be. I’m so excited to stay in Philly and stay at Jefferson.”

Of 279 SKMC students, 265 participated in the National Resident Matching Program. The remaining 14 students didn’t take part because of early matches in ophthalmology, urology, or the military or a residency deferment.

At the March 20 Match Day ceremony, the Class of 2026 toasted its accomplishments and heard from classmates and University leadership, including Said Ibrahim, MD, the Anthony F. and Gertrude M. DePalma Dean of SKMC.

“Today marks a new chapter for you in the journey of medicine,” he says. “Match Day symbolizes the culmination of years of hard work, dedicated study, and an unwavering commitment to the profession.”

SKMC Student Council co-presidents Sarah Rivas and Kameron Inguito congratulated their classmates on reaching this career milestone.

“As medical students, we learned that medicine isn’t just about knowledge. It’s about compassion, teamwork, and resilience,” says Inguito, who matched at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center for emergency medicine.

“Your class will be forever woven into the fabric of Sidney Kimmel Medical College,” says Charles Pohl, MD ’87, the University’s senior vice provost for student affairs and vice dean for student affairs and career counseling at SKMC. “We marvel at the impact you’ve had on our patients, our community, and all of us.”

Among them is Ariana Gannon, who enrolled at SKMC through the U.S. Air Force Health Professions Scholarship Program and matched in emergency medicine at Brooke Army Medical Center. “It’s an opportunity to meet patients with no diagnosis and help figure out what’s going on,” she says. Promoted to captain upon graduation, after residency she will serve four years of active duty in the Air Force.

Kevin Carolina decided he wanted to enter medicine at age 15 after reading that, in 2014, fewer Black men worked in the field than in 1978. He co-founded Jefferson’s chapter of Black Men in White Coats to increase representation in medicine.

Carolina matched at the University of Maryland Medical Center for internal medicine and plans to continue his community work during his residency. “So much of healthcare is what happens outside the hospital walls,” he says.

Couple Breanne McDermott and Daniel Cheston matched together in Philadelphia — McDermott at Jefferson for internal medicine and Cheston at Temple University Hospital. “We couldn’t be any more excited,” Cheston says. “This is an amazing day for us.”



As medical students, we learned that medicine isn’t just about knowledge. It’s about compassion, teamwork, and resilience.

MATCH DAY

2026

RESULTS

Top 4 Specialties

- 1. INTERNAL MEDICINE (52)
- 2. FAMILY MEDICINE (25)
- 3. ANESTHESIA (18)
- 4. PEDIATRICS (18)

38%

in fields that lead to a **primary care career**

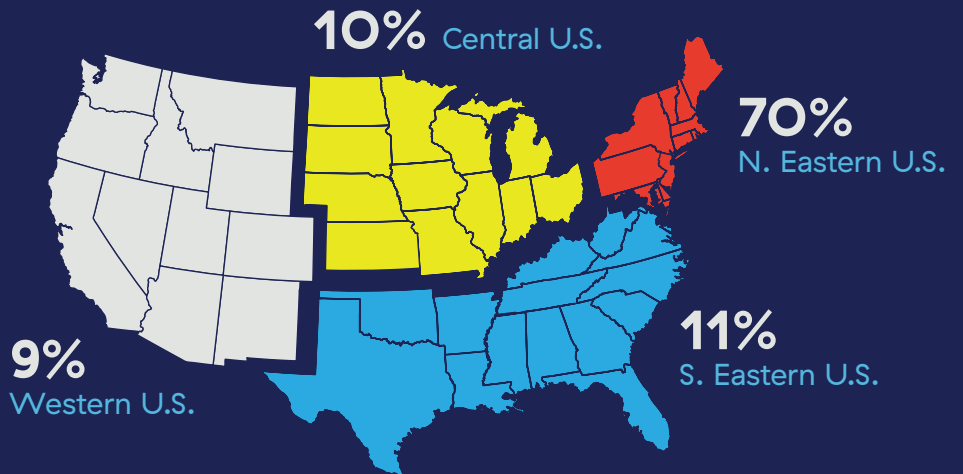
36%

remaining in the state of PA
14% in NY | 6% in CA | 5% in NJ

24%

matching at Jefferson
and affiliates

Where did they match?





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