

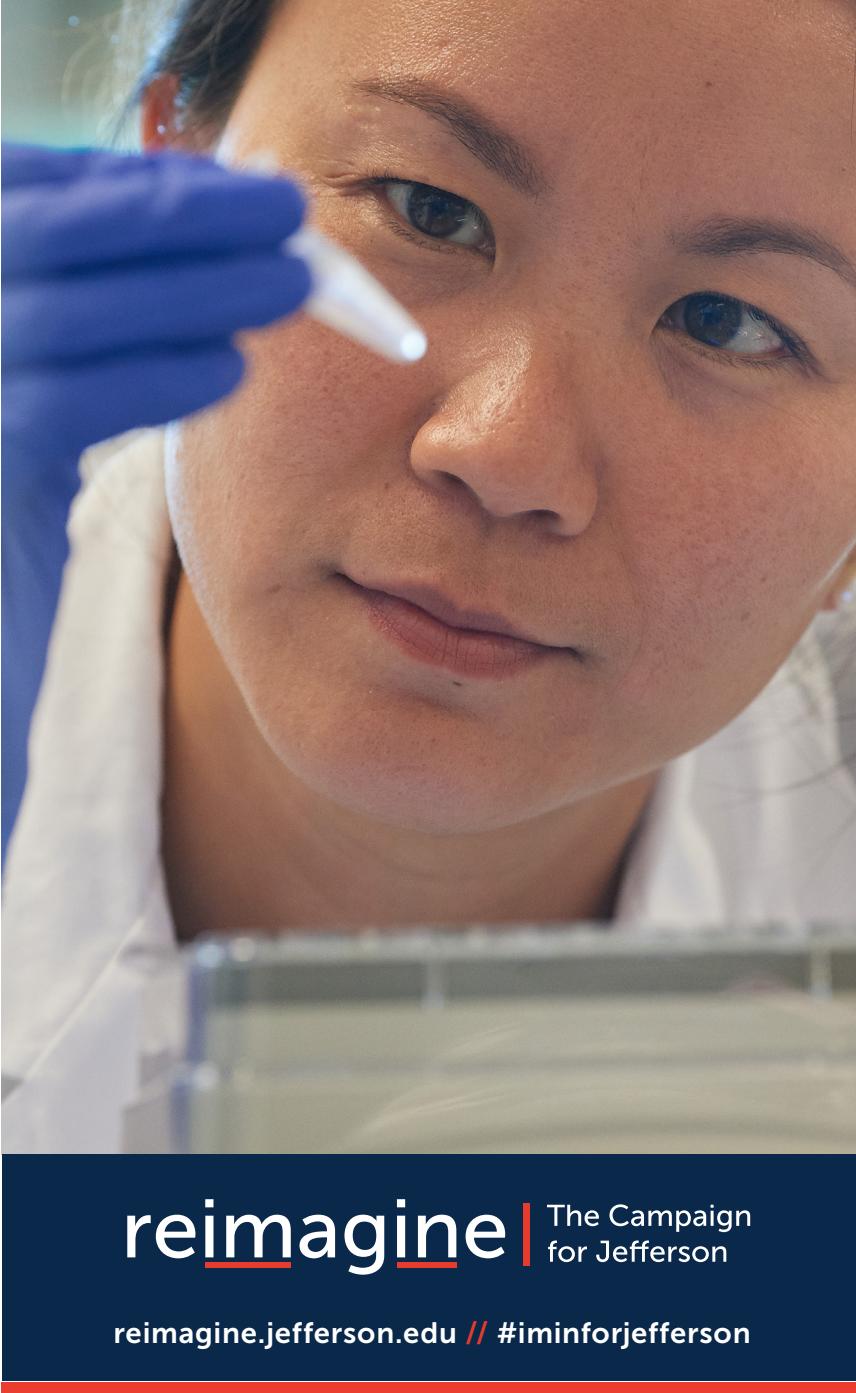
# the Bulletin

Winter 2022

**Sidney Kimmel Medical College**  
Thomas Jefferson University



**The Klasko Era**



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On the cover: An illustration of Stephen K. Klasko, MD, MBA,  
by Megan Plescha Davis

# the Bulletin

Winter 2022 | Volume 71, Number 1

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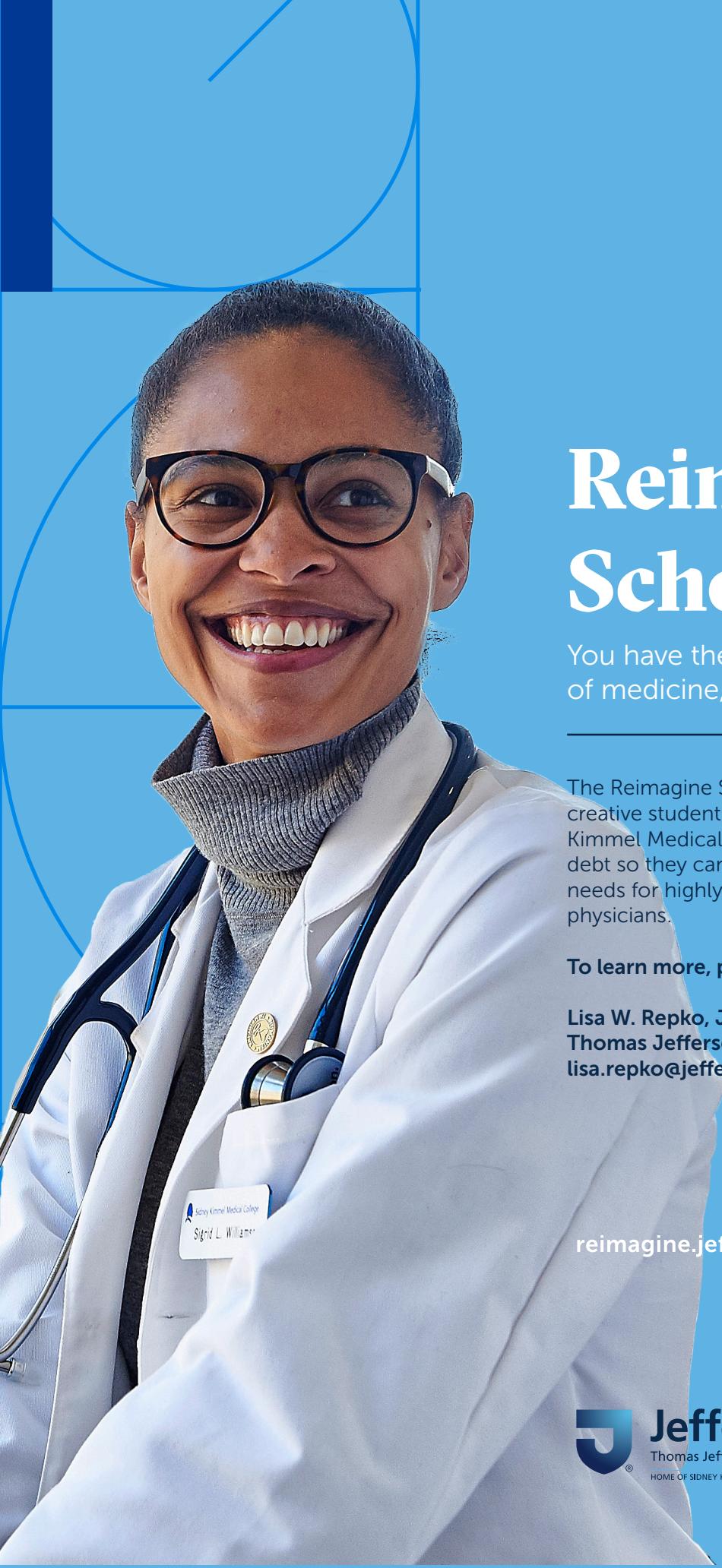


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# Reimagine Scholarships

You have the power to change the DNA of medicine, one student at a time.

The Reimagine Scholarship program allows talented and creative students from all backgrounds to attend Sidney Kimmel Medical College and start their careers with less debt so they can focus on meeting the nation's growing needs for highly skilled, compassionate, and empathetic physicians.

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**Jefferson**  
Thomas Jefferson University  
HOME OF SIDNEY KIMMEL MEDICAL COLLEGE

## Dean's Column



In the life of an organization, there are periods of convergence. A collection of very different individuals suddenly in one place, with a common calling—complementary know-hows, gestalts that mesh, aspirations in sync. Things crystallize. The institution leaps forward. And once the quantum step happens, you can't imagine it otherwise.

In a real sense, this has been the Jefferson I have witnessed over the past decade and a half. The dramatic scaling of the clinical enterprise, now with a health insurance arm. The university's out-of-the-box merger with another in the design professions space. The spurt of curricular and co-curricular innovation at the medical college, pioneering under a new banner. The campus-wide ferment of discovery, with a more than quadrupling of publication output and a tripling of extramural funding. At the helm, a collection of leaders, a mélange of mindsets and skillsets, but sharing a willingness to embrace change, even more, a compulsion to do so.

That this journey has all pressed forward with a pandemic as

backdrop these past two years speaks to yet another quality—resilience. At all levels of our organization. Walking into a classroom or lab, facing a patient of unknown virus status, standing guard at a building entrance—beyond heroism and mission-driven dedication, signs of inner strength, an ability to absorb and pivot. Remarkable people, fortuitously together, allowing an iconic institution to survive into a new century and continue to thrive in the face of radical challenge.

Each leader has added unique things to the Jefferson brew. Beyond bringing a flurry of new opportunities to the table, Steve Klasko's more profound contribution was instilling in the Jefferson enterprise a gestalt that invites bold steps, pivots, risk-taking. And yes, a bit of playfulness. The DJ playlists in his Friday missives to the Jefferson community sent a subliminal message that the out-of-the-box is permissible. For the medical college, this spirit instantiated in things big and small. Shredding a time-tested curriculum and inventing one from scratch, why not. Combining

medicine with design, that's cool. Sending biomedical experiments on space shuttle missions, seems like a fun thing to do. Creating a first international dual MD pathway for minting global physicians, worth the transnational leap.

A lot of things fell into place these past years. Right boards, right management teams, right philanthropists—all powered by right faculty and staff. Histories will reveal fortuitous complementarities. A mix of current leaders who have hands-on insight into the competitive Philadelphia healthcare marketplace. Academic drivers with unusual academic tastes—in science, in technology, in clinical priorities. And over time, a sequencing of leaders, each adding their unique piece. This includes my dean predecessors who assembled key building blocks that now power the medical college engine. As is common, much of such institutional evolution can be understood only in retrospect.

No doubt, many profound challenges remain before us. But we can allow ourselves a moment to step back and reflect and appreciate. We have done much to secure Jefferson's future. We are now on the national, and even international stage. All this, as we cherish legacy, relentlessly cleave to our roots—the collegiality, the humanity, the respect for place—and model our most recent motto: *Redefining Humanly Possible.* **J**

**MARK L. TYKOCINSKI, MD**  
Provost and EVP for Academic Affairs  
Thomas Jefferson University  
Anthony F. and Gertrude M. DePalma Dean  
Sidney Kimmel Medical College

## Time Capsule



### THE NO LIMITS KLASKO ERA

PRESIDENT AND CEO STEPHEN K. KLASKO ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

**W**hen Stephen K. Klasko, MD, MBA, joined Jefferson in 2013, like lightning in a bottle, he said, "The future is now." He promised that in five years, Jefferson would not look like it did then.

On the news of his retirement at the end of 2021, it's fair to say he delivered on that promise—and then some.

Dr. Klasko, an obstetrician and gynecologist by training, taught this nearly 200-year-old institution to think like a startup. He led a growth spurt that saw Jefferson's clinical reach increase from three hospitals to 18. Today, Jefferson Health is Philadelphia's largest health system with revenues that jumped from \$2 billion to nearly \$9 billion.

An advocate for more empathetic, creative, and emotionally intelligent physicians, Dr. Klasko said, "Doctors must be the humans in the room, regardless of where that room is located, or even if it's virtual." He believed that to truly change the DNA of healthcare, medical schools needed to change the way they select and train physicians.

In 2017, he united Jefferson, then a health sciences university, with Philadelphia University, which was known best for design, thereby creating a novel,

professions-focused university that's preparing students for jobs of tomorrow.

He helped secure the biggest and second-biggest gifts in Jefferson's history and launched the university and health system's first comprehensive campaign, Reimagine, which—thanks to over 66,000 alumni and benefactors—has raised \$924 million and counting.

Beyond doing big things, Dr. Klasko believed in doing the right things. In 2018, he established the Philadelphia Collaborative for Health Equity. "Like climate change, healthcare inequities represent a worldwide existential crisis," he said. "It will require all of us inside and outside health systems to actually work together."

"Dr. Klasko is a one-of-a-kind-leader for the ages," said Scott Becker, the founder of Becker's Healthcare. "He has done an incredible job leading Jefferson to a completely different level than when he started there."

Dr. Klasko will remain a special advisor to the Jefferson board of trustees for innovation and philanthropy through June 2022. Emeritus Trustee H. Richard Haverstick, Jr., will serve as interim president and CEO as the board embarks on a national search for Klasko's successor.

## Time Capsule



### 2013

Dr. Klasko named President of Thomas Jefferson University and CEO of Jefferson Health.

### 2015

Merger with Abington Health.

\$14 million gift from the Marcus Foundation creates the Marcus Institute for Integrative Health.

A seven-figure gift launches the Nicoletti Kidney Transplant Center.

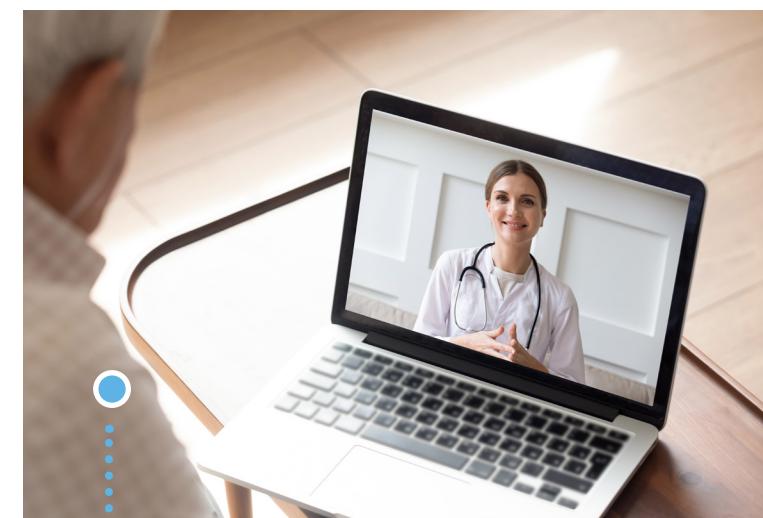
### 2014

Dissolution of Jefferson Health System, merger of Thomas Jefferson University and Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, joint venture for Delaware Valley-ACO established.

\$110 million gift from the Sidney Kimmel Foundation to name the Sidney Kimmel Medical College.

Jefferson invests in telehealth to create JeffConnect, which would become one of the largest specialty telehealth services in the nation.

\$7.5 million gift launches the 1889 Foundation-Jefferson Center for Population Health.



\$3 million gift from Australian philanthropists Joy and Barry Lambert launches the Lambert Center for Study of Medicinal Cannabis & Hemp.

Opening of the Dominic and Michele Frederico Building on the Center City Campus.

Dr. Klasko publishes *We Can Fix Healthcare*.

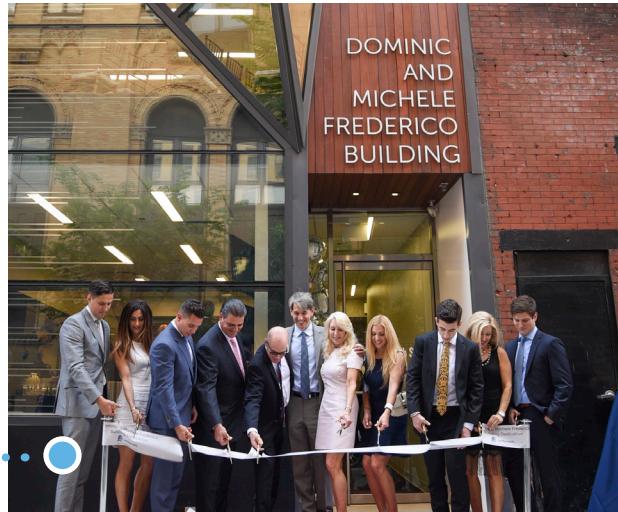
### 2017

Mergers with Philadelphia University and Kennedy Health.

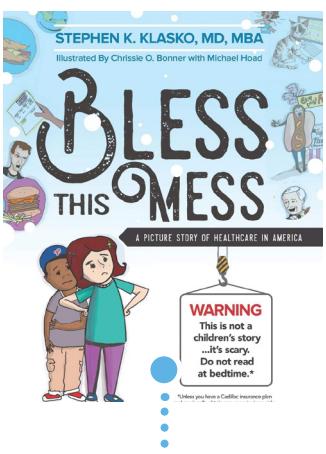
Leadership gift establishes the Jane and Leonard Korman Respiratory Institute, a collaboration between Jefferson Health and National Jewish Health.

\$3 million gift from grateful patients Esperanza and David Neu creates the Neu Center for Supportive Medicine and Cancer Survivorship.

Launch of JeffMD curriculum.



## Time Capsule



### 2018

Merger with Magee Rehabilitation.  
With \$52 million raised toward \$80 million total cost, the Asplundh Cancer Pavilion at Jefferson Abington Hospital opens.  
Launch of the Philadelphia Collaborative for Health Equity.

With a \$2.5 million gift from two alumnae, the Marie E. Pinizzotto, MD '88, MBA and Carol A. Ammon, BSN '17, MBA Alumni Center opens.

Modern Healthcare names Dr. Klasko #2 on 100 most influential people in healthcare list.

Fast Company names Dr. Klasko #21 on 100 most creative people in business list.

Named Philadelphia Entrepreneur of the Year by EY.

Dr. Klasko publishes *Bless This Mess: A Picture Story of Healthcare in America*.

### 2019

Public launch of the Reimagine Campaign.  
\$70 million gift from the Sidney Kimmel Foundation to build the Caroline Kimmel Biomedical Research Building.  
Kay and Harold Ronson Health and Applied Science Center opens on the East Falls Campus.

Anonymous benefactor creates the William H. Annesley, Jr., MD '48 EyeBrain Center.

\$5 million gift from Sharon and Syd Martin launches Philadelphia Prostate Cancer Biome Project.

Opening of the Jefferson Institute for Bioprocessing.

\$20 million gift from the Marcus Foundation establishes the first academic Department of Integrative Medicine and Nutritional Sciences in a medical school.

Dr. Klasko publishes an article on Jefferson's leadership in teaching hotspotting, "Equipping the Workforce for Complex Care: How Jefferson University Trains Medical Students in Hotspotting," in *New England Journal of Medicine Catalyst Innovations in Care Delivery*, December 2019, with Lauren Collins and Shoshana Sicks of Jefferson.

### 2020

\$7.6 million raised for the COVID-19 Better Together Fund.  
\$5 million gift from Andréa and Ken Frazier to launch the Frazier Family Coalition for Stroke Education and Prevention, a partnership between Jefferson Health and Temple Health.

Groundbreaking for the Specialty Care Pavilion.

Dr. Klasko and co-author Hemant Taneja publish *UnHealthcare: A Manifesto for Health Assurance*.

Launch of the Creativity Core Curriculum.

Dr. Klasko named Distinguished Fellow of World Economic Forum.

### 2021

Merger with Einstein Health Network; included 25% ownership of HPP.

Acquisition of Temple's 50% interest in HPP, resulting in 100% ownership of HPP.

With a lead gift of \$3.1 million from the Wyss Foundation, the Hansjörg Wyss Wellness Center opens in South Philadelphia.

Announced innovation partnership between Jefferson Health and General Catalyst, under which the health system will be able to tap into a set of tech companies to support digital transformation.



# The Klasko Era

2013



Annualized Revenue:  
**\$1.8 billion**



Hospitals: **3**



Employees: **14,000**



Students: **3,169**



Colleges and Schools: **6**

2021



Annualized Revenue:  
**\$9 billion**



Hospitals: **18**



Employees: **41,000**



Students: **8,200**



Colleges and Schools: **14**



**ATTENTION  
JEFFERSON ALUMNI!**

# **Vote!**

for U.S. News & World Report  
**"BEST HOSPITALS"**



U.S. News & World Report once again is surveying physicians across the country to determine the reputation scores in the U.S. News & World Report "Best Hospitals" rankings. If you are a board-certified physician working within one of the U.S. News & World Report 15 specialties, **vote for Jefferson Health—Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals as among our nation's Best Hospitals.**

Look for your U.S. News & World Report survey invitation on the **Doximity app** on your phone or **Doximity.com** in February/March. Doximity members can simply log on to their profile page, and click on the banner at the top that asks for nominations.

**Thank you!**

 **Jefferson Health.**

HOME OF SIDNEY KIMMEL MEDICAL COLLEGE



## Jefferson Initiative Seeks Answers to Deadly Disease

Philadelphia Prostate Cancer Biome Project Supports Researchers

In 2019, Jefferson's Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center (SKCC) established the Philadelphia Prostate Cancer Biome Project, a collaborative initiative to study the region's prostate cancer biome, the biological/sociological/psychological ecosystem where the disease flourishes.

The project began with three major goals: to create a pilot award program to provide financial support for researchers; to further develop the framework to collect biospecimens and clinical information; and to create programs to develop new cell and animal models for prostate cancer that can be used to test new therapies and drugs.

Researchers are partnering with cancer centers, hospitals, and universities throughout the Philadelphia region—and beyond—to collect and process the biospecimens and data that could provide valuable information in the search for a cure.

The project was the brainchild of Syd Martin, a longtime benefactor, who believed that funding cancer researchers who are early in their careers and employ outside-the-box thinking could yield great advances. He sought to support scientists whose revolutionary ideas might not be embraced by traditional government funding. Martin passed away in January 2021 but the work he began is still going strong.

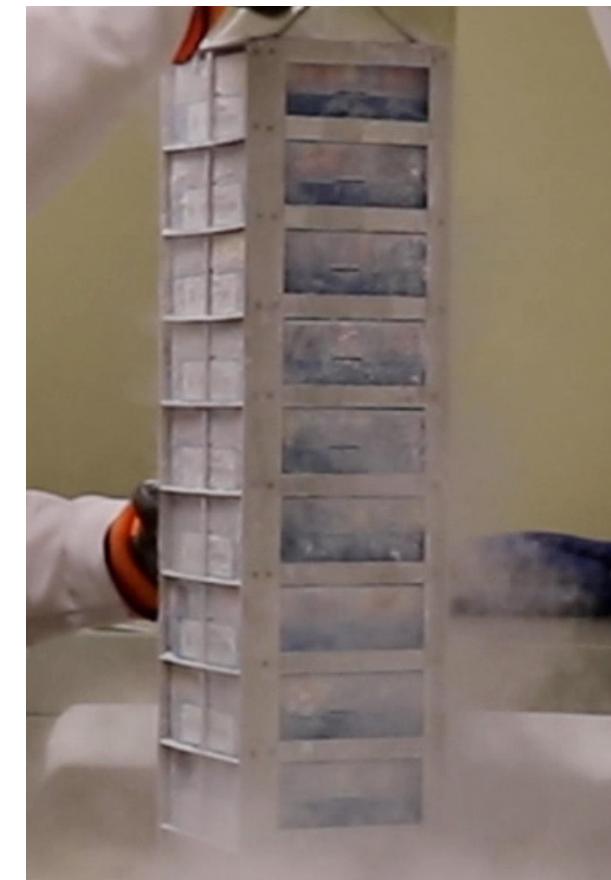
Under the leadership of W. Kevin Kelly, DO, associate director of clinical research at SKCC; Leonard Gomella, MD, the Bernard W. Godwin Professor of Prostate Cancer and chair of the Department of Urology, SKCC; and Adam Dicker, MD, PhD, chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology, the researchers have enrolled more than 300 patients in studies, collected or acquired hundreds of biospecimens, and moved their laboratory studies forward. Their research on many different aspects of the disease has shown great progress in unravelling the mysteries of prostate cancer.

The researchers have received \$1.4 million in pilot project funding, and \$4.5 million in outside grants—including four National Institute of Health grants. Jefferson's generous philanthropists, who share its vision of a world without prostate cancer, have also added to the research dollars. 

 For a video tour of the Biorepository Lab, visit [Jefferson.edu/Bulletin](http://Jefferson.edu/Bulletin)



Danielle Wentworth, MS, removes biospecimens from the negative 150 degree Celsius freezer.



Frozen biospecimens are used by Jefferson researchers, and those across the world, for cancer research.

### Prostate Whole Mount Project Aids Future Research

In 2020, backed by the Philadelphia Prostate Cancer Biome Project, the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center Biorepository acquired 2,009 whole mount prostate cases spanning from 1989 to 2009. A whole mount is a wax tissue block containing an entire prostate. This method preserves the entire specimen which is extremely valuable for future research efforts, including diagnostic testing and drug development.

Throughout 2021, the SKCC Translational Research Group and Biorepository has worked on organizing and annotating these valuable specimens. The team now estimates the full collection is up to 30,000 individual formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissue blocks.

The prostate whole mounts are labeled with 2D barcodes, stored in drawers, and entered into the SKCC Biorepository database for high-tech specimen tracking.



Danielle Wentworth, MS, Biobank Lab Manager at the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center Translational Research Group & Biorepository.

## BY THE NUMBERS

Over **\$1,400,000**  
Awarded to Pilot Projects

**7** Extramural Grants  
Awarded to PPCBP  
Researchers, Including  
**4** NIH R01 Grants

**13** Pilot  
Projects  
Funded

**1** CORE  
Program  
Funded

**4**  
Requests for  
Applications  
Released

**\$150,000**  
Awarded  
to CORE  
Programs

**\$4,500,000+**

Received from Extramural Funding

**16**  
Principal  
Investigators  
Engaged

**20,000+**  
Prostate Whole  
Mounts Acquired

**50+**  
Faculty, Staff, and  
Collaborators  
Participating

**300+**  
Patients Prospectively  
Enrolled in Studies



## Essays Offer a Snapshot During a Turbulent Time

Winners of the Drs. Theresa and Charles Yeo Writing Prize pen stories to share with future generations

Jefferson announced the winners of the inaugural Drs. Theresa and Charles Yeo Writing Prize. The contest invited all members of the Jefferson community to engage in the empowering act of writing. Organizers called for submissions of personal essays to the following prompt: Imagine that we're creating a time capsule to be laid in the foundation of one of our new Jefferson buildings. It will be opened 100 years from now, in 2121. Reflecting on the past year—which has presented us with a range of challenges, including a global pandemic and a national reckoning on racial equality—what story would you put into the time capsule for future generations?

Winners and honorable mentions had their entries featured in the fall 2021 issue of *Evanescence*, a literary journal published by the Jefferson Center for Injury Research and Prevention. Entries will be included in an actual time capsule to be placed in the foundation of the new Specialty Care Pavilion and the Scott Memorial Library archives.

"We're pleased to support this annual writing contest of the Eakins Writers' Workshop in celebration of the Jefferson community," said Drs. Theresa and Charles Yeo. "In the midst of an historic pandemic, through our care, we have experienced and witnessed so much. We are forever changed. These works memorialize these events with the sincere hope that through them we can find meaning and understanding from all that has happened." 



Visit [Jefferson.edu/Bulletin](#) to read the winning essays!

Cover image for the Fall 2021 issue of *Evanescence* provided by medical student Zoe Wong



**First Place:** "June" by Dr. David Peters, a resident in the family and community medicine department.



**Second Place:** "The Elevator Crisis" by Ellen Solomon, a Sidney Kimmel Medical College student.



**Third Place:** "Being a Black Nurse During Two Pandemics: A Test of Faith" by Chanel Hart, a nurse in the family and community medicine department, and member of the Jefferson Community and Family Medicine Social Justice Committee and Jefferson Enterprise Diversity and Inclusion Council.

## Dr. Robert Rosenwasser Receives Strittmatter Award

Robert H. Rosenwasser, MD, MBA, was awarded the prestigious Strittmatter Award by The Philadelphia County Medical Society on June 25, 2021. Since 1923, the Strittmatter Award, the Philadelphia County Medical Society's most prestigious scientific award, honors a physician who has demonstrated to the Society the most valuable contributions to the healing art, surgical or medical.

Dr. Rosenwasser is among the country's first dually trained cerebrovascular neurosurgeons. He is the Jewell L. Osterholm, MD Professor and Chair of the Department of Neurological Surgery and serves as president of the Vickie and Jack Farber Institute for Neuroscience, where he is responsible for strategic directions in neuroscience. Amongst his many accomplishments, he worked to establish the Jefferson Neuroscience Network (JNN)—a telemedicine system that enables Jefferson stroke physicians to remotely assess and make treatment recommendations for people with suspected stroke throughout the region.



To learn more about Dr. Rosenwasser, please visit [Jefferson.edu/Bulletin](#) to watch *The House of Rosenwasser* video.

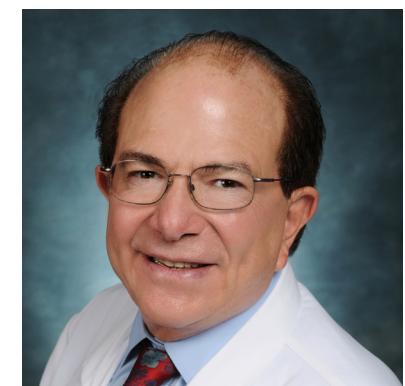
## Alumnus Named Chancellor of Center City Campus



Charles Pohl, MD '87, was named to the newly created role of chancellor of the Center City Campus of Thomas Jefferson University. Reporting to the provost, he will be responsible for developing and executing campus strategy and overseeing the breadth of campus life, with a particular focus on the student experience, community and external engagement, alumni relations, philanthropy, and legislative affairs. In addition, Dr. Pohl serves as vice provost for student affairs and vice dean for student affairs at Sidney Kimmel Medical College. He is currently chair for the Group of Student Affairs (GSA) for the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and chair of the AAMC GSA Medical Student Performance Evaluation Effective Practices Working Group.

## Dr. Stephen Silberstein Recognized as Headache Expert

Stephen D. Silberstein, MD, professor of neurology, was recognized as



an Expertscape World Expert in Headache during Pain Awareness Month in September 2021.

Expertscape's PubMed-based algorithms placed Dr. Silberstein in the top 0.1% of scholars writing about headache over the past 10 years.

## SKMC Dean Tykocinski Elected to AAMC Council of Deans

Mark L. Tykocinski, MD, the Anthony F. and Gertrude M. DePalma Dean, was voted in to a three-year term on the AAMC Council of Deans Administrative Board, starting November 2021 during the Annual AAMC Meeting. This is the first time Jefferson has been represented on this influential board for medical colleges nationwide, and is a great honor for Dr. Tykocinski and the medical college. 





# Jefferson Alumni Travel Program

## Explore, Learn and Experience the World with Jefferson Alumni!

As part of our commitment to lifelong learning, the Office of Alumni Relations offers opportunities for group travel for Jefferson, Textile, and Philadelphia University alumni, friends and families. Our varied itinerary of travel destinations combines educational forums, unique adventures, and excursions to places of historical and cultural interest, with opportunities to discover nature's majestic landscapes and incredible wildlife. These trips offer the highest-quality travel experience through our partnerships with experienced travel providers.

- ▶ **Southwest National Parks**  
May 11-19, 2022
- ▶ **Romance of the Douro River**  
May 20-31, 2022
- ▶ **Alsace, Fairytale France**  
June 12-20, 2022
- ▶ **Discover Southeast Alaska**  
July 29-August 5, 2022
- ▶ **Kenya Safari**  
August 5-15, 2022
- ▶ **Canadian Rockies by Rail**  
August 10-16, 2022
- ▶ **Greece—Athens and Kalamata**  
September 2-11, 2022
- ▶ **Flavors of Northern Italy**  
September 10-18, 2022
- ▶ **Wonders of Peru**  
October 6-17, 2022
- ▶ **Florence in the Serene Season**  
October 14-22, 2022
- ▶ **Galápagos Islands (Western)**  
October 25-November 1, 2022

For detailed trip information and to join our Travel Interest List, visit [Jefferson.edu/AlumniTravel](http://Jefferson.edu/AlumniTravel) or contact Alumni Relations at 215-955-7750 or [alumni@jefferson.edu](mailto:alumni@jefferson.edu).



## A Message from Elizabeth A. Dale



enthusiasm for whatever cause he espoused."

That picture is like a mirror of our relentlessly optimistic "Little Stevie K," as Dr. Klasko was known during his days as a DJ in Philadelphia.

When he arrived in 2013, Dr. Klasko urged our nearly 200-year-old institution to "act like a start-up." He could have easily advised us to "act like how we started."

McClellan had, in Dr. Wagner's words, "the outrageous temerity to found Jefferson Medical College." What McClellan accomplished was a feat of vision, creativity, and gumption. He overcame lawsuits, legislative machinations, and an in-town competitor angling to squash the upstart competitor. Legend has it there was even a Paul Revere-style midnight horse ride to the capital to save the school.

Dr. Klasko took a "no limits" approach to start optimistic revolutions in healthcare, education, and health equity. He established a Four Pillar model for a sustainable financial future, embracing philanthropy and innovation as vital streams of revenue and impact.

He greatly expanded the health system, from three to 18 hospitals, making Jefferson indispensable in the region, and was among the first to embrace telehealth, which would prove prescient during the pandemic. He added a top-10 design school to our medical powerhouse, creating a comprehensive university focused on the professions.

McClellan imagined a better, more human way to train doctors. So, he rewrote the book for healthcare education, bringing medical students to the bedside to learn while helping real people.

Dr. Klasko reimagined that book, calling for medical schools to train more creative, empathetic, and communicative physicians. During his tenure, SKMC launched the JeffMD

curriculum, replacing lecture-based courses with hands-on medicine combined with basic science, interactive seminars, scholarly inquiry, and communication training.

At its founding, McClellan and his colleagues enshrined financial aid into Jefferson's charter, writing that "ten indigent young men of talents... shall receive instructions and be entitled to its honors without any charge."

Dr. Klasko took up the same mantle when he launched the Reimagine Campaign, setting endowed scholarship—Reimagine Scholarship—at the heart of the effort. During his tenure, alumni and benefactors established 156 scholarships (including 80 for the medical college). The overall campaign has raised over \$924 million—and counting.

Almost 200 years ago, McClellan founded Jefferson on a platform of transformation. For the last eight years, Dr. Klasko carried on that tradition, and we're stronger for it.

But he's not gone just yet! Until June 30, 2022, Dr. Klasko will be assisting Jefferson with philanthropy and innovation initiatives. During that time, he'll be making stops across the country to visit alumni, as well as connecting via Zoom. Watch [Jefferson.edu/Alumni](http://Jefferson.edu/Alumni) and our alumni newsletter for upcoming events. ▶

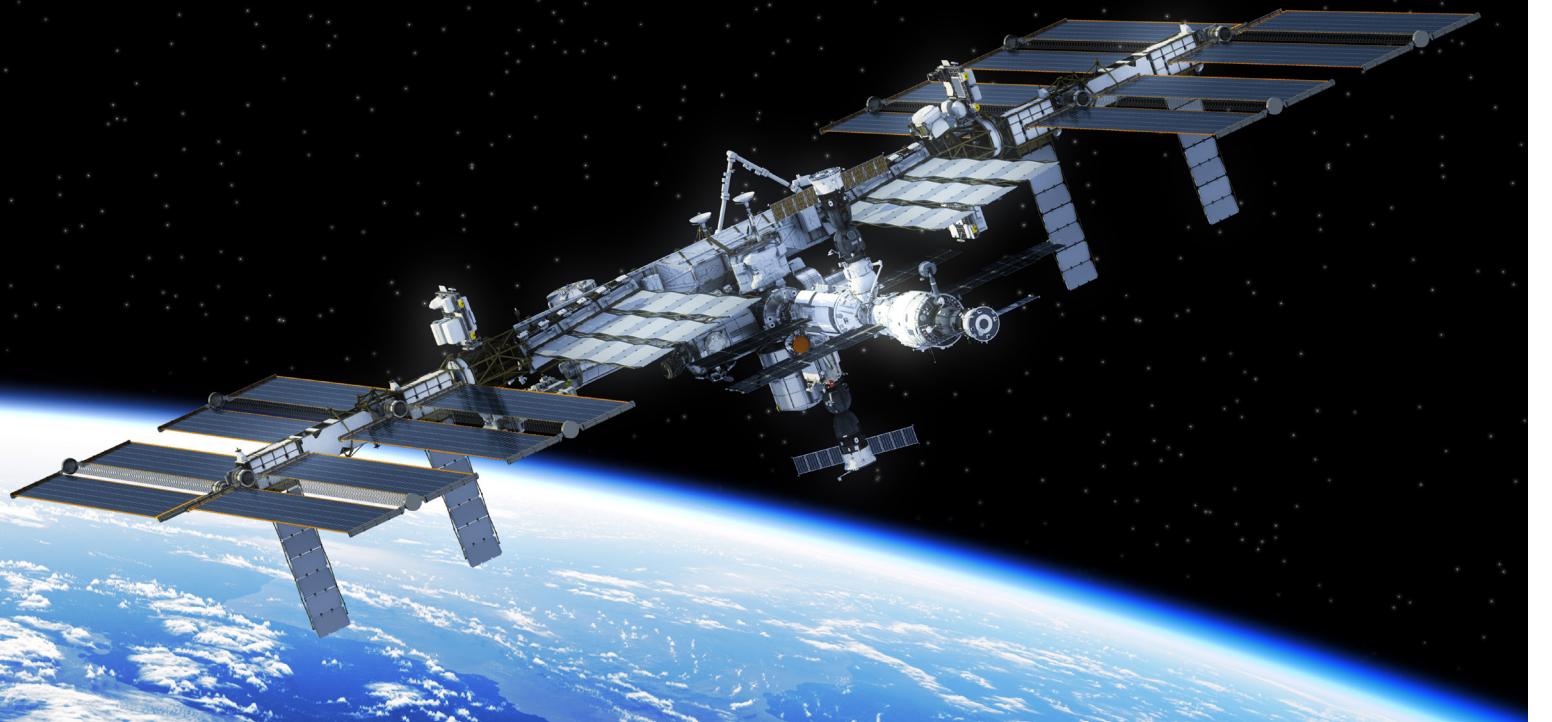
*Elizabeth A. Dale*

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Please contact me if you'd like to learn more about the doors you can open and lives you can change. I'd love to hear from you.

# Discovery



## University's Global Reach Will Soon Extend into Space

Thanks to the Jefferson Israel Center's innovative relationship with Sheba Medical Center, four scientific experiments were selected for a 2022 mission to the International Space Station.

BY BRIAN HICKEY



| Left to right: Drs. Mark Tykocinski, Zvi Grunwald, and Adam Dicker

**E**arly next year, Jefferson will see its global strategy take four giant leaps into outer space—and that's anything but hyperbole.

Thanks to relationships established during recent years and while expanding the footprint of Jefferson's Global Centers in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America, the University was well-positioned to get to work when an opportunity presented itself in Israel in recent months.

Specifically, the Rakia Mission—led by the Ramon Foundation and the Israel Ministry of Science and Technology—put out a call for multidisciplinary experiments expected "to lead to technological, scientific, and medical breakthroughs that will influence life on Earth and beyond."

In December 2020, that call for proposals went out to Israeli scientists, researchers and entrepreneurs to submit suggestions for experiments to be carried out by astronaut Eytan Stibbe at the International Space Station (ISS) in concert with NASA. The mission is scheduled for early 2022.

It wouldn't be long before the Jefferson Israel Center, which for years has built a close relationship with Sheba Medical Center, would launch a warp-speed, three-week cooperative effort which ended with a trio of proposed experiments for the Foundation's consideration.

In May 2021—after months of deliberations among a committee of "top-level figures from Israeli academia, industry and government"—the Foundation announced that all three submissions from Jefferson physician-scientists and collaborators were among the 44 experiments chosen for the private Axiom Space Ax-1 Mission.

This is a testament to an innovative, forward-thinking strategy that has seen Jefferson establish global centers in Israel, Africa, Ireland, India, Italy, Japan, and Latin America.

"We take pride in being a 200-year-old institution that thinks and acts like a start-up," said Mark Tykocinski, MD, the Anthony F. and Gertrude M. DePalma Dean. "In our relationships with Sheba Medical Center, we've been leveraging both Jefferson's clinical scale and discovery engine, which is now reflected in the groundbreaking research to be conducted on board the International Space Station. This space mission represents a major success for our Jefferson Israel Center, and more broadly, for our global center's concept."

Zvi Grunwald, MD, director of the Jefferson Israel Center, notes that this "groundbreaking collaborative research in space represents a defining moment for Jefferson and Sheba." He adds that it's an "unimaginable milestone" for two universities which share a common DNA and ecosystem.

"At the heart of Jefferson's global strategy are a handful of select countries in regions in which we've established formal global centers," Dr. Grunwald said. "The Jefferson Israel Center

is a showcase one, targeted by us because of Israel and Sheba Medical Center's exceptional—even astounding—innovation ecosystem which parallels that of Jefferson. Participating in the Rakia Space Project epitomizes this vision. How many universities in the world can say they'll have creative research for the future of medicine, the future of healthcare, and the future of health sciences being conducted in real time in space?"

Dr. Tykocinski added that the Jefferson Global Center strategy entailed focusing on a selected group of countries in which the university could "go deep and develop relationships with multiple institutions spanning different missions in education, research, and innovation." That strategy has blossomed since the formal 2018 launch of the Jefferson Israel Center.

"This is huge, and it's really cool to have experiments designed by Jefferson's collaborative team going onto the space station," he said. "We already had a toe in it with Jefferson helping develop lighting for the International Space Station, but now we have a foot in the door of space research. This time, we're moving upward with actual experiments."

It has an impact on Earth, as well. "Jefferson's visibility in Israel takes us to a whole other level. Historically countries like Israel were familiar with the Harvards, Stanfords, MITs, and Yales of the world," said Dr. Tykocinski. "It was either associations with those institutions or nothing else for them. Well, here's little old Jefferson with three experiments going up to the space station."

Few know the impact of this announcement better than Dr. Richard Derman, the university's first associate provost for global affairs, who is responsible for overall coordination of global activities that include collaborative research, educational exchanges and clinical initiation.

**How many universities in the world can say they'll have creative research for the future of medicine, the future of healthcare, and the future of health sciences being conducted in real time in space?**

—Dr. Zvi Grunwald



He says this announcement positions Jefferson exceptionally well on a global scale.

"This represents an opportunity to place Jefferson at the forefront for what is possible, and moves us into the upper echelon for innovation and creativity," Dr. Derman said.

"In order to triangulate all the work we're doing, we needed a major breakthrough. This is indeed a major breakthrough; one significant step forward with many more to come. We're not looking to recreate what others are doing. We are building on the unique strengths we have here at Jefferson."

"What this shows is that Jefferson's innovation, and the mission we've been working on diligently, has completely taken off," Dr. Tykocinski says. "It is a dramatic validation of our global strategy. We're on the radar in these countries. Jefferson has gone from global to space, and through global to space." ☀



## First Class of Med Students Completes JeffMD Curriculum

BY MIKE BEDERKA

The 2021 graduates of Sidney Kimmel Medical College belong to a special class. They are the first group to complete the innovative JeffMD Curriculum in its entirety.

Launched in 2017, JeffMD prepares future doctors to learn actively and think critically as they develop core professional competencies to make positive, impactful changes in healthcare.

At the Match Day ceremony in March 2021, Mark Tykocinski, MD, the Anthony F. and Gertrude M. DePalma Dean of Sidney Kimmel Medical College, praised the Class of 2021 for being “pioneers in a radically new curriculum.”

“This has been our pièce de résistance,” said Dr. Tykocinski. “Not only have you made it through the curriculum, but you really have shined and validated that curriculum. The success of this match provides the validation. You’re an exceptionally talented group. You’ve proven your mettle, and each and every one of you has a bright future.”

Steven Herrine, MD ’90, FEL ’95, vice dean for academic affairs and undergraduate medical education, served as one of JeffMD’s key architects, along with Peter Scoles, MD ’70, vice dean for academic

program development, and Deborah Ziring, MD, senior associate dean of undergraduate medical education and academic affairs.

To develop and implement the new curriculum, the team—with Dr. Tykocinski’s support—analyzed current best practices in adult learning and spoke with leaders at other medical schools nationwide.

“It was a big undertaking,” said Dr. Herrine, of revamping the curriculum for one of the largest medical schools in the country.

The leadership team focused on seven guiding principles:

- Patient-centered
- Early clinical exposure
- Integrated science, clinical knowledge and skill, and professional development
- Competency-based advancement
- Continuing component of scholarly inquiry on topics chosen by students with guidance from their mentors
- Learning optimized by a range of instructional formats
- Opportunity for early development of specialty interest

Dr. Herrine acknowledges they added some “quite ambitious” pieces to the curriculum, especially scholarly inquiry. This component

## Feature



You're an exceptionally talented group. You've proven your mettle, and each and every one of you has a bright future.

-Dr. Mark L. Tykocinski

intends to provide students with the skills and experience needed to become critical consumers and producers of medical knowledge. "It exceeded beyond our hopes," he said. "The students absolutely embraced the work and seriousness of its purpose."

As for some other favorite parts of JeffMD, Dr. Herrine points to case-based learning and the health system science thread, which zero in on socioecologic determinants of health and population and public health.

Students start their clinical experience in their first year, going into practices and screening patients for difficulties in obtaining care, transportation, and medication.

"We know lack of health equity affects outcomes," he said. "We've woven that into the curriculum. It's not an afterthought, not an addition. It's as important as anatomy, physiology, and biochemistry and learning the clinical disciplines. That's unique, and I think appropriate."

Dr. Herrine says another reason for JeffMD's success is the student liaison program. Here, every course, clerkship and thread has a student representative who frequently meets with administration and faculty to share input.

"We can pivot sharply if we need to, and tweak continuously," he said. "It can be anything from this particular presentation ran long to the issue of systemic racism not being discussed enough in our curriculum. Students don't need to go far to provide us with that feedback. We want it. We solicit it. We respond to it. We pride ourselves on being responsive to students' feedback. It's a serious partnership."

Alexandra Leto has helped run the student liaison program since 2018, serving as chair in her third and fourth year. Through this position, she built strong relationships with faculty members who became her



From the 2017 White Coat Ceremony, Shail Patel begins his Jefferson medical school journey. Four years later, he's heading to Nassau University Medical Center



Mercy Toma receives her white coat in 2017. Toma will continue her career at Nemours duPont Pediatrics at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital

mentors at Jefferson, she says.

"It's incredible to see how much work the faculty puts into creating a curriculum that the students can respond to and interact with in the best way possible," Leto said. In one example, they changed the order of case-based learning blocks based on student comments.

She began her residency at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania for internal medicine. Leto said the curriculum, in particular the research opportunities and small-group focus, played a big role in her success at Jefferson.

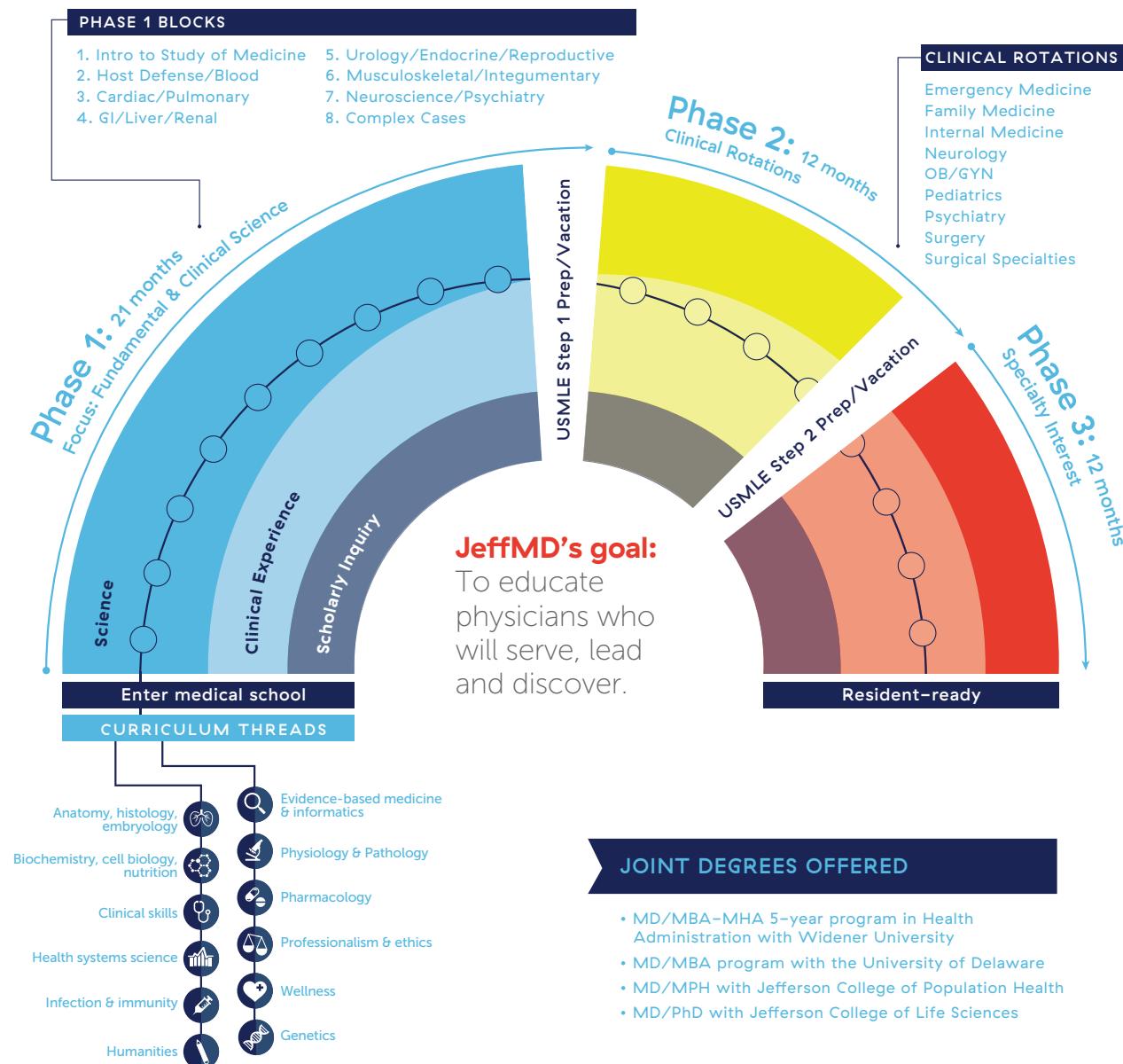
"It's an honor to be part of the first class of JeffMD," she said.

Dr. Herrine thanked all the new grads for their collegiality, understanding, and talents in working with him and his team in fine-tuning the curriculum over the past four years.

"We're focused on making sure the students can get the best of what we can possibly offer," he said. "To see something come off the paper and become palpable and successful gives you a sense of pride. They're going to go out there and do wonderful things." ☀

To see a video about JeffMD Curriculum, visit [Jefferson.edu/Bulletin](http://Jefferson.edu/Bulletin)

## JeffMD Curriculum Overview



## JeffMD: A Curriculum for Training 21<sup>ST</sup> Century Physicians

Launched in 2017, JeffMD replaced traditional lecture-based courses with a curriculum that integrates hands-on medicine and basic science with interactive case-based seminars, problem-based tutorials, scholarly inquiry, and communication training. It places future physicians into patient care settings almost immediately for early clinical exposure, optimizes learning through small groups and varied instructional formats, and encourages students to develop special interests through individual projects.

## Student Profile



### Movie Explores How Med Students' Passions Will Make Them Better, Healthier Physicians

BY MIKE BEDERKA

Ryan Emhoff always wanted to make a movie. Attending Thomas Jefferson University allowed him to do it.

As part of JeffMD's humanities scholarly inquiry track, the fourth-year Sidney Kimmel Medical College student spent a large chunk of his time developing *Medice, Cura Te Ipsum*, Latin for *Physician, Heal Thyself*.

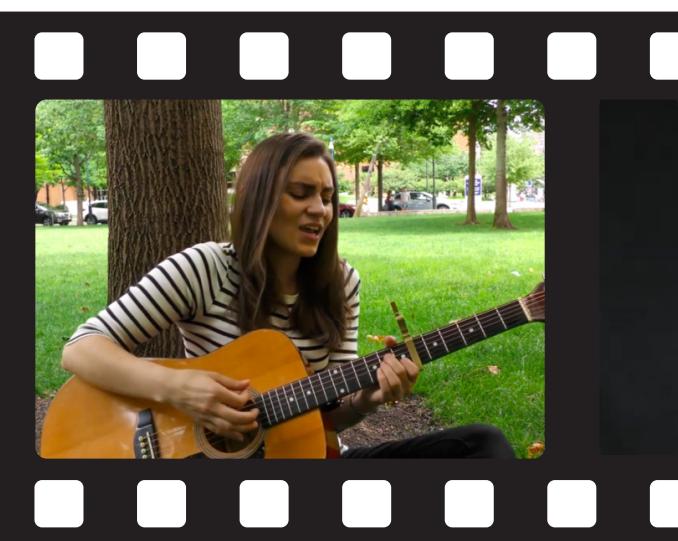
The documentary follows five medical students who have maintained a strong connection to their identities

outside of medicine (for example, music, dance, and swimming). Emhoff explores how making space for these pursuits will create happier physicians with deeper connections to their patients and broader perspectives.

"I'm constantly in awe and inspired by classmates with the talents that they bring to medical school," says Emhoff, who plans to pursue psychiatry. "I wanted to see how these activities shaped these individuals. How does it change their perspectives and help them cope with our environment?"



In the movie, Jefferson alumna Dr. Michelle Konkoly shares how being a competitive swimmer has translated to improved confidence and leadership as a physician.



Jefferson grad Dr. Jordyn Tumas explains how music gave her the ability to express to herself in *Medice, Cura Te Ipsum*, Latin for *Physician, Heal Thyself*.

Research shows roughly half of medical students experience burnout, and these feelings of exhaustion, cynicism, and perceived ineffectiveness resulting from long-term job stress often continue into their professional careers.

One recent report showed that 42 percent of physicians said they felt burned out last year. Thirty-seven percent of those surveyed said spending too many hours at work contributed to their burnout. The pandemic, of course, only has heightened the situation.

Alarmed by stats like these, Emhoff began developing

I hope that everyone would want to become an advocate for change.

- Ryan Emhoff

*Medice, Cura Te Ipsum* in early 2018. Since then, he has spent over 10 hours interviewing students and dozens more editing the footage. He even wrote a song for the movie.

Recent medical school grad Michelle Konkoly, MD '21, is one of the people Emhoff interviewed. The Paralympic gold medalist describes how being a competitive swimmer has translated to improved confidence and leadership as a physician.

"I feel like I'm very clearheaded under pressure and can definitely make decisions," she shares in the movie.

Emhoff has finished 12- and 40-minute cuts of the film, and to complete the story, he's making a feature-length version for submission to film festivals. He aims to screen the final piece at medical schools and hospitals as well.

For the public, Emhoff aspires to bring attention to the broader issue of mental health in physicians and medical students, he says. "I hope that everyone would want to become an advocate for change."

With the medical audience, he would love for the film to reignite dormant passions and allow healthcare providers "to think about those things they have left behind."

Jefferson's Megan Voeller says Emhoff's project captures why Sidney Kimmel Medical College established the humanities scholarly inquiry track to support students engaged in creative forms of research.

"In his film, you see medical students telling firsthand stories about how music, dance, athletics and writing are part of who they are and what keeps them well in a high-stress environment of professional training," says Voeller, co-director of the humanities scholarly inquiry track. "My own belief is that such students, who have worked so hard to hold on to their whole selves while on a very demanding career path, are particularly well-equipped to connect with patients as people." 

To watch a cut of the movie *Medice, Cura Te Ipsum*, visit [Jefferson.edu/Bulletin](http://Jefferson.edu/Bulletin)

# Faculty Profile



## The Spirit of Altruism

Marc Altshuler, MD '01—physician, professor, administrator, director, patient navigator, and healthcare hero—has spent the past two decades giving back to the community

BY JOSEPH McDougall

**"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."**

**YOU CAN FIND** Jefferson's version of Ellis Island in the BOK building, a former vocational school in South Philadelphia and current home to the Hansjörg Wyss Wellness Center.

"Healthcare is hard to navigate even when you do speak English," says Marc Altshuler, MD '01, professor and residency director of Family and Community Medicine and the clinical leader of the Wyss Center. "Immigrants

and refugees are facing unprecedented challenges today, and receiving healthcare shouldn't be another barrier to overcome."

For two decades, Dr. Altshuler has removed those barriers, building the region's largest medical clinic for refugees. In recognition of his efforts, Dr. Altshuler received the Faegre Drinker Healthcare Hero Award at the 2021 Jefferson Gala. We had a chance to sit down with him and talk about his career and time at Jefferson.

### What attracted you to Jefferson?

I went to University of Pennsylvania undergraduate and had spent some time here after college and really wanted to stay in Philadelphia. I knew that Jefferson had a commitment to really serving the community, which was an interest of mine. I wanted to be in a very large city where I could serve a diverse group of patients.

### What drew you to family medicine?

During my early years as a medical student at Jefferson, I got very involved in JeffHOPE, which is one of the largest student-run organizations at Jefferson where students are running different clinics at homeless shelters across the city. I spent as much free time during my four years as I could at different homeless shelters, working my way up to become one of the directors of JeffHOPE. I helped open a new site for women and children. And that women and children's shelter was the first time that I took care of a family unit, so to speak. And between that experience and my experiences working in the Department of Family Medicine as a medical student, I decided I wanted to switch from being a pediatrician to a family medicine physician.

### What's the best thing about family medicine?

You don't always need to take a family history, because hopefully the entire family can be yours. The connection that you can make to patients and the longevity of those relationships is unbelievable. Because as a family medicine doctor, you can take care of patients starting prenatally as their OB, take care of them as newborns, pediatrics, adults, and just being able to grow with my patients and watching them go through the different life cycles, including the ups and downs, I feel is a privilege. And I could not see myself doing anything else.

### What is the biggest challenge in your field?

For many of our patients there's a lack of resources in the community. A lot of our patients are struggling, and for many of them, it's very hard to see other doctors. Because they work, there's a time commitment, there's a cost. And they come to the primary care doctor to try to take care of everything. At the same time, there are a lot of different social determinants that impact a patient's health and, as a primary care doctor, you have a unique insight into that, which can make it very challenging, but also very rewarding at the same time.

### If you weren't a physician, what would you be?

I grew up going to summer camp and was a camp counselor. And my dream if I was not a doctor was to run a summer camp. Both of my kids go now and I

spend a few weeks with them as the camp doctor. I'm known as "Dr. Marc." Which is probably the next best thing because I get to go back and get that experience, which I loved growing up.

### When was the last time a patient really surprised you?

I really have valued the relationships that I've built with patients being there for them. And during the COVID pandemic, patients started reaching out to me to see how I was doing. They knew that as one of many frontline workers, we were out there trying to take care of very, very sick individuals. And it was just really gratifying to know that they cared as much for me as I did for them.

### What is the proudest moment in your career?

I would have to group my proudest moments into, I think, two different categories. As a program director, I have the privilege of knowing many of my residents as students, interviewing them, watching them spend three years with us growing as physicians, going through all the highs and lows of their training, and then graduating. The analogy I use is as a parent watching your kid grow up and graduate high school or graduate college and knowing that they're succeeding, it's the same feeling I have from my residents.

And I think from a clinical perspective, several years ago, we decided to embark on an ambitious plan to fundraise to build a health center that could really take care of the larger immigrant community, not just refugees. And through support of many of my colleagues and leadership across Jefferson and fundraising we were able to open the Wyss Wellness Center in South Philadelphia. I think that's probably my other proudest clinical movement is knowing that this dream of mine to open a health center actually happened.

### What advice would you give your 25-year-old self?

I think if I had to give advice to my 25-year-old self, as corny as this may sound, it would've been it's okay to follow your dreams and it's okay to be a little bit of a dreamer. I tend to be an optimist and be glass full and want to take care of everyone and serve the world. And it never hurts to ask for help, ask for support and just be patient. Because hopefully good things will happen in time. ↗

 To see a video honoring Dr. Marc Altshuler from the 19th Annual Jefferson Gala, visit [Jefferson.edu/Bulletin](http://Jefferson.edu/Bulletin)



## MILE OF SMILES

Walter Edmunds, DDS, Endows the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery / Sidney Kimmel Medical College Integrated Program

They say a smile is worth a thousand words, and for more than six decades Dr. Walter Edmunds has been helping Philadelphians find their smiles.

Graduating from the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine in 1960, Dr. Edmunds went on to enjoy a successful career as an oral and maxillofacial surgeon and has served as a champion for the next generation of oral surgeons. Dr. Edmunds was an integral member of the Jefferson oral and maxillofacial surgery faculty for many years and sat on the medical college admissions committee.

Outside of Jefferson, Dr. Edmunds held positions as an adjunct associate professor of pathology, clinical assistant professor of pathology, assistant attending oral surgeon, and associate of oral pathology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine. He is also a member of Sigma Pi Phi, Alpha Boulé—one of the most prestigious fraternal organizations in the country—is the past president of

**"Jefferson is profoundly grateful to Dr. Edmunds for endowing the program and for his leadership at Jefferson and in the dental and oral surgery community."**

**Robert J. Diecidue, MD, PhD, DMD, MBA, MSPH**  
D. Walter Cohen, DDS, and Claire H. Reichlin  
Professor of Dental Biosciences  
Chair, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

the New Era Dental Society, and is an affiliate of the National Dental Association.

In 1995, Dr. Edmunds, alongside the late Benjamin Bacharach, MD '56, established the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery / Jefferson Medical College Integrated Program, which has gone on to earn national acclaim. This six-year, intensive program has produced a new generation of industry leaders who have carried their Jefferson training and values throughout the country.

Now, Dr. Edmunds has made a gift to endow the program, ensuring it will last in perpetuity.

Dr. Edmunds's generous gift will support scholarships and research for OMFS residents and students from socioeconomically disadvantaged communities. With the rising cost of medical education and post-graduate training, money is often a significant barrier for potential students. Dr. Edmunds's support ensures that the best and brightest candidates will be able to attend Jefferson without the burden of tuition looming over them.

## DENTAL RECORDS

A Brief History of Dentistry at Thomas Jefferson University



The relationship of Sidney Kimmel Medical College to dentistry and oral and maxillofacial surgery goes back to the beginning of Jefferson, when dentistry was emerging as a profession.

Several early graduates practiced both medicine and dentistry before these separate disciplines got locked into separate academic specialties:

Dr. Samuel Fitch—a graduate of Jefferson's second class in 1827—practiced as a surgeon-dentist. He published a text titled *System of Dental Surgery* in 1829, 11 years before the first dental school was established in the United States.

Dr. Emile Gardette, Class of 1838, was trained in dentistry by his father—a dentist for 46 years—before he entered Jefferson. Dr. Gardette also practiced as a surgeon-dentist and wrote a book called *The Professional Education of Dentists*.

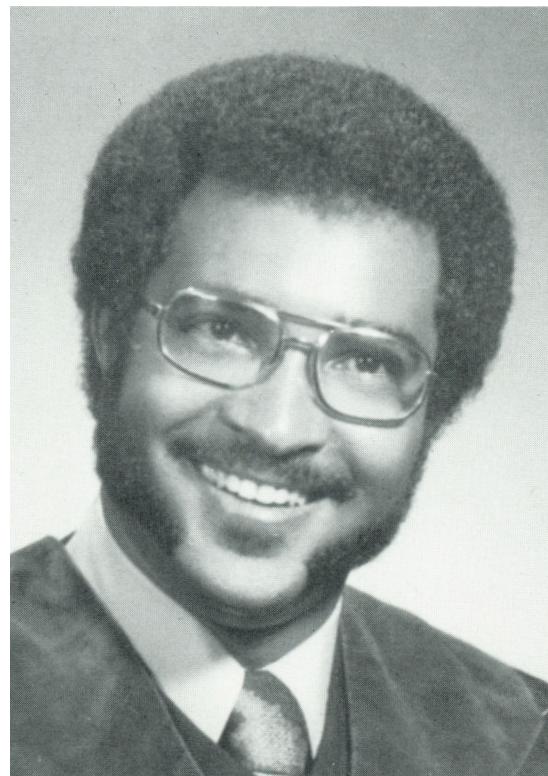
Dr. Samuel D. Gross was one of the finest surgeons of his day and a prodigious author of medical texts. His two-volume magnum opus, *System of Surgery*, a chapter titled Diseases and Injuries of the Jaws, Teeth and Gums.

Established in 1995, the newly renamed Walter R. Edmunds, DDS, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery / Sidney Kimmel Medical College Integrated Program supports scholarships and research for residents from socioeconomically disadvantaged communities.

**Editor's note:** As this issue was being finalized, Dr. Edmunds sadly passed away. Please visit [Jefferson.edu/Bulletin](http://Jefferson.edu/Bulletin) to watch a tribute video celebrating his gift and legacy.



| Judge A. Leon Higginbotham



| Roosevelt McCorvey, MD '73

## It Takes More Than a Vision

Alumnus Endows a Scholarship to Attract Black Students from the South

**NOT LONG AFTER** Roosevelt McCorvey, MD '73, came to Jefferson as a first-year student, Judge A. Leon Higginbotham, a Jefferson trustee, summoned him and several other African American medical students.

Judge Higginbotham, who often referred to himself as "a survivor of segregation," was a commanding presence, a large man who had risen from poverty to become a legal legend and counselor to presidents and prime ministers. He was an influential legal thinker who championed affirmative action and civil rights, and was one of the Black jurists President Lyndon B. Johnson had considered to integrate the Supreme Court before naming Thurgood Marshall the first Black justice in 1967.

Dr. McCorvey is a survivor too and had come a long way before arriving in the great jurist's presence. He'd grown up in the Deep South, where discrimination and segregation were a way of life. The oldest of eight children, he went to work at age 11 when his father died and continued working as an undergraduate studying biology at Tuskegee Institute. In fact, he worked three jobs: as a phlebotomist at John A. Andrew Memorial Hospital on Tuskegee's campus, as a research assistant for one of his professors, and as a barber on weekends in a local shop. He sent money home to his mother, used some of his earnings to pay living expenses, and set aside a little for medical school—all while taking classes and maintaining a respectable GPA.

"One of the most difficult things about medical school is the economics of it," Dr. McCorvey explains. "At that time, I was married with my first child. I had saved some money, but I didn't have enough to go past one year of schooling."

The judge told the students about funds that were available through affirmative action. "I didn't know the money was available," Dr. McCorvey says. "I think he wanted to make us aware there was financial help from the federal government and that we could apply for it." It wasn't a large sum, but for students like Dr. McCorvey who scrimped and saved every penny, a little financial assistance was a lot of help.

But "economics" wasn't the real point of Judge Higginbotham's summons, although it was an essential piece of a much bigger agenda. His life was a model for how one individual could make a successful career and make a difference. In his mind, the success of one served the good of all.

At the time Dr. McCorvey met with him, the judge was a Jefferson trustee and determined to do everything he could to inform, advise, and open doors for African American medical students. He was using his stature and



**He made time for us and made a point of helping us when we couldn't help ourselves. He understood that no one can do it alone.**

influence to build up Black participation—one student at a time—in the professions, especially in the legal and medical professions. To thrive, the Black community needed justice under the law and it needed health and wellbeing, but the professionals charged with bringing justice and health to all didn't always deliver for African Americans.

"Judge Higginbotham had a vision of increasing the number of Black medical students who would become successful physicians in the Black community," Dr. McCorvey says. "He made time for us and made a point of helping us when we couldn't help ourselves. He understood that no one can do it alone."

Even as a young man, Dr. McCorvey wanted to help his community. When he became a professional, he came to understand the strategic wisdom behind the judge's vision for mentoring the young as a way of lifting up the whole community.

"When I was applying to medical school," he says, "I was concerned about healthcare disparity—disparity in the treatment of Black Americans and disparity in the number of Black doctors there are to administer care to the Black community. That has always been the driving force for me. It still is. After I graduated from Jefferson, I had many opportunities, but I came back to the South to be involved in building an OB/GYN residency program at Meharry Medical College."

Dr. McCorvey returned to Montgomery, Alabama, and established his own OB/GYN practice. He also had an academic appointment as an associate clinical professor at Meharry, one of the nation's oldest and largest historically Black colleges and universities dedicated to educating physicians, dentists, researchers, and health policy experts. Students and residents came to his



| Henry McKee Minton, MD 1907



| Algernon Brashear Jackson, MD 1901

Montgomery practice where he trained and mentored them. And like Judge Higginbotham, he helped guide them on their way to success, reminding them to always keep in mind what the judge called "the voiceless and forgotten people."

"If you look at the African American community," Dr. McCorvey observes, "you realize that we have more hypertension that is killing Black folks. I would like for that to be alleviated. If you look at the African American community, you'll see that diabetes is hitting more of us than anybody else. I would hope that we could start to alleviate that. If you look at heart attacks, it's the same story. As a practitioner, I want everybody to be healthy. But I want Black Americans to stop dying so frequently from these problems. I think the way you do that is to have better access to care and more Black physicians."

When Dr. McCorvey says concern about health inequity still drives his actions, he's talking about the McCorvey-Higginbotham Scholarship he recently established at SKMC. The scholarship gives need-based financial aid to African American students who attended Tuskegee or another HBCU.

Since 2016, SKMC has offered a scholarship that benefits Black students: the Drs. Algernon Brashear Jackson and Henry McKee Minton Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship is named for two Jefferson alumni who were among the founders of Sigma Pi Phi, also known as the Boulé, the nation's oldest African American fraternity. The organization, which endowed the scholarship, is a fraternal union of high-achieving and influential Black professionals dedicated to supporting each other and the community, and to inspiring young people to succeed.

Drs. Jackson (1901) and Minton (1907) were also the founders of Mercy Hospital, Philadelphia's second Black hospital. "These gentlemen who started the Boulé were the same type of gentlemen who would start a hospital," observes Dr. McCorvey, who is a member of Sigma Pi Phi. "They worked in the hospital and wanted to be involved in the community in such a way that it is uplifted, which tells me they were concerned about what I'm concerned about: healthcare disparity."

The McCorvey-Higginbotham Scholarship is Dr. McCorvey's way of taking on racial injustice in healthcare while emulating and honoring the judge. It extends a hand to Black medical students who, like him, are driven to succeed and committed to using their professional skill and stature to help Black communities, ideally in the South.

Judge Higginbotham saw—and Dr. McCorvey sees—how legal and medical institutions have failed African Americans. They also understand the power of those institutions and the possibilities that open to those who become successful professionals in them, how they become empowered to work for equal justice under the law and equal health and wellbeing for all people.

**They worked in the hospital and wanted to be involved in the community in such a way that it is uplifted, which tells me they were concerned about what I'm concerned about: healthcare disparity.**

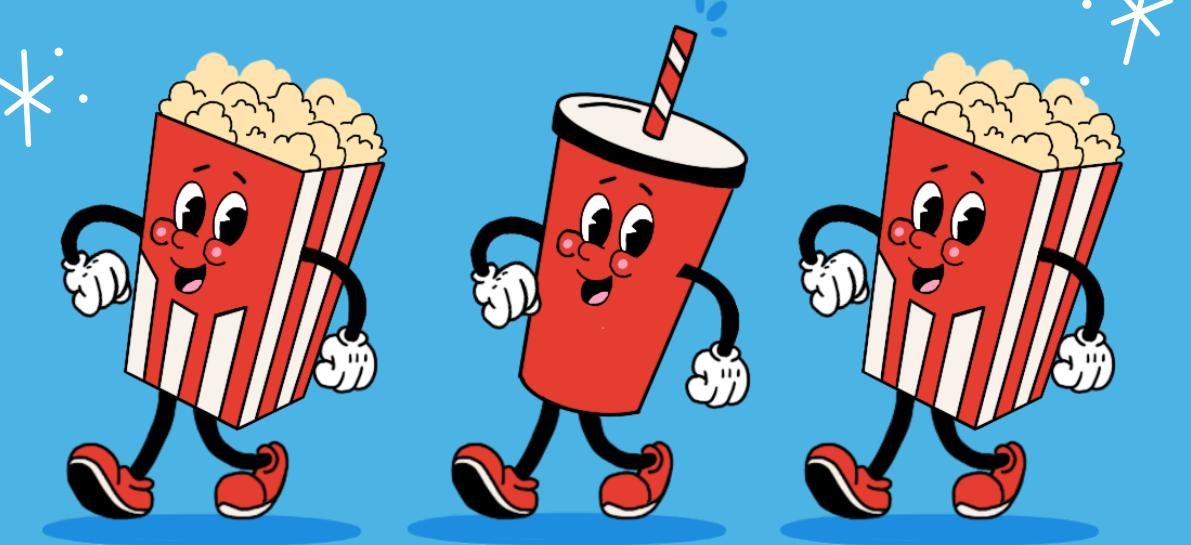


"My dad's success was fostered by someone who had the ability to help him from a higher level," notes Dr. McCorvey's daughter Barbara Michele McCorvey, MD, '97, FACP. "That's why we want to incorporate Judge Higginbotham's name into the scholarship: because he helped my dad when he was at a point where he couldn't help himself. My dad and others like him were just young people with a vision of entering the medical profession and helping others. But it takes more than a vision to become a doctor."

Dr. McCorvey calls the scholarship "a beacon of light" at Jefferson that's aimed at Tuskegee and other HBCUs. "It's just a little beacon," he says, "but I am challenging Jefferson to escalate the number of Black physicians they educate, because I think we can do better." ▶

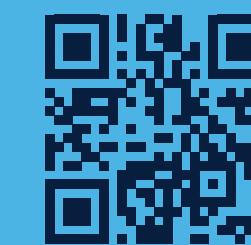
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to participate.

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# Class Notes



## Dear Fellow Jeffersonians,

I didn't realize how much I needed to be in front of everybody—face-to-face in the same room—until I was doing it at Alumni Weekend. After more than a year of meeting on screens, alumni were hungry for connection. It was great to feel the warmth and sheer joy of being together in person. All of us need the comfort of knowing we're not walking our journey alone—especially in the dark time of a pandemic.

Alumni spent the weekend catching up with old friends: sharing news about careers and pictures of children and grandchildren. And there were plenty of stories and a lot of laughter about Jefferson days. Beneath the chatter bubbling across the surface of the weekend, alumni shared very serious conversations about how they've managed through COVID: how their practices managed, how their hospitals managed, how their patients managed. A number of people lost family members. Everyone was grateful for the chance to be with other physicians and talk about what it's been like.

Connection is more important than ever. That's why the Alumni Association has been rethinking old ways of gathering and reimagining new, more inclusive ways of bringing alumni together—younger and older, medical college as well as resident and fellowship alumni, and graduates from diverse localities. We're building on our strong foundation of alumni passion and tradition to be even better.

We're revisiting programs that are annual favorites and brainstorming new programming to connect with more alumni, including a more robust Class Agent program. And we've redefined the Alumni Host Program, bringing it online and expanding it to third-year students so more alumni can help more students make better decisions about residencies and specialties.

This year, the Alumni Association launched the

Inclusion, Diversity & Equity Alliance (I.D.E.A.) Committee to help us partner with the university to explore how we can increase diversity and be more inclusive. The committee hosted several talks and alumni-student events that seemed particularly meaningful to students as well as alumni. There will be opportunities for interested alumni to be involved as more initiatives develop.

Because of COVID, we've been spending more time working with students, assuring them that alumni are by their side every step of the way.

Something new we've launched are MED Talks, our version of TED Talks. An alum talks about their career journey or medical specialty, and alumni then host breakout rooms where students can discuss what they've heard and ask questions. MED Talks are an online version of student-alumni dinners we used to host in Alumni Hall. Because they're virtual, alumni from across the country and around the world can attend.

I'd love to hear your thoughts about these activities and other ways alumni can stay connected to our alma mater and to each other. You can get in touch with me at [pcurtin@christianacare.org](mailto:pcurtin@christianacare.org) or [alumni@jefferson.edu](mailto:alumni@jefferson.edu).

During this time of COVID, I find myself listening to inspirational music often. Perhaps I'm looking for solace or for something that might give hope to patients and staff, family and friends, students and alumni.

At the White Coat Ceremony in July, I addressed the very talented Class of 2025 and shared a link to the song "You'll Never Walk Alone" from the musical "Carousel."

I promised them, "You'll never walk alone here at Jefferson, because we are with you."

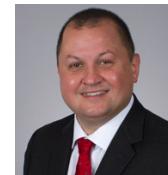
By "we," I meant the 11,700 SKMC alumni from 13 countries. I make that promise with confidence because, at Alumni Weekend, I saw how much it means to alumni that we are not alone. I saw how important it is to each of us that we are there for all the others.

"At the end of a storm, there's a golden sky and the sweet silver song of a lark."

Isn't that what healing is? Isn't that why we became Jefferson physicians? ☺

**Patricia Curtin White, MD '88, FEL '00, FACP, CMD,** is section chief of geriatric medicine, geriatric medicine education coordinator in the Department of Medicine residency program, and medical director of the Acute Care of the Elderly Units at Christiana Hospital and Wilmington Hospital of ChristianaCare. She is part of the team that opened the Swank Center for Memory Care and Geriatric Consultation at ChristianaCare, medical director of Stonegates Health Center, and clinical assistant professor of medicine at SKMC.

## SKMC Alumni Association Board Members



**Nikolai A. Bildzukewicz, MD '01**  
Chair, Student Relations Committee  
Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery  
Keck School of Medicine of USC



**Eddie Chang, MD '00**  
Chief, Neonatology  
Jefferson Abington Hospital



**Patricia Curtin White, MD '88, FEL '00**  
President, SKMC Alumni Association  
Section Chief, Geriatric Medicine  
Christiana Care Health System



**Irfan Galaria, MD '01, MBA**  
Chair, Inclusion, Diversity & Equity  
Alliance Subcommittee  
Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery



**David R. Haas, MD '86**  
Ophthalmology



**Galicano F. Inguito, Jr., MD '90**  
Secretary, SKMC Alumni Association  
Family Medicine



**M. Dean Kinsey, MD '69,  
RES '72, FEL '73**  
Gastroenterology (retired)



**John A. Kutz, MD '93, RES '98**  
Chair, Alumni Awards Committee  
Chair, Department of Surgery  
Regional Hospital of Scranton



**Erica Locke, MD '10**  
Emergency Medicine  
Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital



**Kelly Malloy, MD '02, RES '07, FACS**  
Clinical Associate Professor of Otolaryngology—  
Head and Neck Surgery  
University of Michigan Medical School



**Maria Poluch**  
Student Representative  
SKMC Alumni Association



**Crystal D. Reed, MD '89**  
Radiation Oncology  
OSF Healthcare



**Nicholas J. Ruggiero II, MD '01, RES '08**  
Immediate Past President  
Chair, Nominations Committee  
Professor of Cardiology  
Sidney Kimmel Medical College



**Danielle Tholey, MD '11, RES '14**  
Assistant Professor of Medicine  
Sidney Kimmel Medical College



**Kathryn P. Trayes, MD '06, RES '09**  
Associate Dean, Student Affairs and Career  
Counseling  
Sidney Kimmel Medical College



**Randolph W.Y. Wong, MD '88**  
Vice President, SKMC Alumni Association  
Chair, Strategic Initiatives Committee  
General and Thoracic Surgery



**Jon Woo, MD '95**  
Family Medicine / Sports Medicine

## Class Notes



Members of the Class of 1970 celebrate their induction into the 50-Year Society



LoSasso, MD '98, RES '02, and Director of Admissions Bonnie Emilius on today's medical school admissions process, and Jefferson Health's Chief Social Media Officer Austin Chiang, MD, MPH, FEL '18, presented a "Best of Grand Rounds" talk on social media and the role of the 21st century health professional.

The weekend's celebrations culminated at the Reunion Dinner where reunion class members gathered for their class photographs and enjoyed an evening of camaraderie and celebration.



The Class of 1971 commemorates its 50-year reunion



Left to right: John Kutz, MD '93, RES '98, FACS; Rachna Trivedi Shroff, MD '04; Sarah Sundborg Long, MD '70; Kenneth Remy, MD '04, MHSc, MSCI, FCCM; Patricia Curtin White, MD '88, FEL '00, FACP, CMD; Ronald Wapner, MD '72; M. Dean Kinsey, MD '69, RES '72, FEL '73

## Alumni Weekend 2021

More than 275 SKMC alumni and guests returned to Philadelphia on October 15 and 16 to celebrate milestone reunions for the 1s and 6s alongside the 0s and 5s, whose celebrations had been postponed from 2020. Attendees enjoyed a weekend full of opportunities to reunite, reconnect, and revisit through campus tours, special talks, and social gatherings.

The 2020 and 2021 recipients of the SKMC Alumni Association's Early Career and Alumni Achievement awards presented a series of mini lectures on Friday afternoon during which they shared stories and lessons from their careers and the ways Jefferson has influenced their successes. Their awards were presented the following afternoon at the Dean's Luncheon, where guests were treated to a State of the College address by Mark Tykocinski, MD, the Anthony F. and Gertrude M. DePalma Dean of Sidney Kimmel Medical College.

On Saturday, Dr. Tykocinski and Alumni Association President Patricia Curtin White, MD '88, FEL '00, presided over the induction of the Classes of 1970 and 1971 into the prestigious 50-Year Society in commemoration of their golden anniversary reunions. Alumni also enjoyed a talk by Senior Associate Dean of Admissions Alissa



Top photo: Members of Class of 1991 prove they are "friends forever."

Middle photo: Alumni relive their Jefferson days during campus tours led by current medical students.

Bottom photo: The Class of 2011 is all smiles for its reunion photo.



Alfred Heath, MD '57, RES '65 (front row, left) and his cousin Cora Christian, MD '71 (front row, second from left) make it a family affair as they celebrate their milestone reunions.

**Please note:** Proof of vaccination was required for attendees.



## The Doctor Is In

Jefferson Physician Hosts Weekly Radio Show on Health

### She's listening.

Marianne T. Ritchie, MD '80, listens to—and advises on—medical issues all the time. Usually, the gastroenterologist does it in her office at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. But once a week, she takes to the airwaves to inform and educate the people who tune in to her radio show on WPHT-1210 AM.

Using her best "radioside manner," Dr. Ritchie unravels complicated medical topics for her listening audience on "Your Radio Doctor" every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Each week, she interviews guests that include physicians, researchers, and other leaders in the medical community.

"Radio is a fantastic medium [to] influence people," Dr. Ritchie says. "The goal of the show is to explain medical conditions and diseases in clear language so the listening audience understands it better. If they have a better understanding, they're more likely to become engaged and more committed to taking care of themselves and making better decisions for themselves and their loved ones."

A native of Drexel Hill, Dr. Ritchie declares herself a "proud member of the Jefferson Medical College (now Sidney Kimmel Medical College) class of 1980!" She completed her residency at Lankenau Hospital, and a fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. She then came home to Philadelphia to practice at the Lankenau Hospital in Wynnewood and serve as a faculty member at Temple University Hospital.

After 14 years as an attending physician at Lankenau, she took a hiatus to care for her ill father and raise three children with husband and fellow alum Stuart Gordon, MD '81. When her father passed away, she went back to work on the faculty at Temple University Hospital. But in 2006, Anthony DiMarino, MD, the Dorrance H. Hamilton Professor of Medicine and chief of the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, reached out and invited her to come home to her alma mater.

Since that time, she has built up a practice—and a reputation. A leading advocate for preventive

**"The goal of the show is to explain medical conditions and diseases in clear language so the listening audience understands it better. If they have a better understanding, they're more likely to become engaged and more committed to taking care of themselves and making better decisions for themselves and their loved ones."**

healthcare, she developed two preventive-medicine programs: the Pink Plus triple cancer screening program for women, and the Blue Lights campaign for colon cancer awareness.

And, of course, there's the radio show, perhaps the most far-reaching attempt to inspire overall preventive care. While the program is aired locally on Sundays, it can be heard nationally and internationally on [odyssey.com](http://odyssey.com). In addition, all of her shows are posted on her website, [www.yourradiodoctor.net](http://www.yourradiodoctor.net), and segments also appear on YouTube.

Dr. Ritchie says she feels the radio show is the "culmination of all the chapters of my life," drawing from her college days as a DJ at St. Joseph's University, and her current roles as physician and teacher.

The on-air gig started 10 years ago when she returned to St. Joe's as a guest speaker. After hearing her talk about women's health and colon cancer screening, a member



of the audience offered to introduce her to a friend who hosted a local radio show.

She ended up as the medical editor of "Women to Watch Media," a program that airs on Sunday nights on talk station WPHT and highlights women leaders from around the world. Her segment consisted of two-minute pieces on medical issues, including discussing causes, risk factors, prevention, and treatment of conditions.

The segment became so popular that Dr. Ritchie was asked to create her own full-length program. Her first show on February 2, 2020, consisted of an interview with a few of her Jefferson colleagues.

When COVID started sweeping the nation, Dr. Ritchie shifted gears. While much of her subject matter turned to the pandemic, she soon realized that the fear and anxiety provoked by the crisis needed to be addressed. "It couldn't be all doom and gloom messaging," she says. "So I began ending each show with an uplifting story called 'Your Real Champion.'"

In the segment, she highlights healthcare heroes who are making a difference, such as a mother-daughter nurse team that volunteered to work the COVID floors of the hospital together. "These are beautiful stories, these are messages that need to be heard," she says.

And she is being heard—by thousands of listeners every week. Her growing audience motivates her to continue, even though each segment takes about 30 hours of preparation. It's a lot of work, but she says she has no intention of stopping because educating the public on health issues is of the utmost importance. "My personal goal is to make it to 100 years old, and as long as I have a voice and a half a brain cell left, I'm going to keep spreading the word." ☀

*Dr. Ritchie invites fellow SKMC alumni to contact her about topic ideas for her radio show. Reach her at [info@yourradiodoctor.net](mailto:info@yourradiodoctor.net).*

## 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/NIAID, 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 residences at that time. He has also held positions as airman'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 American Medical Association.

After over 2,300 deliveries, many tonsillectomies 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. Yocom, 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 G. 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 divulgence 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 Ethicscope*.

'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

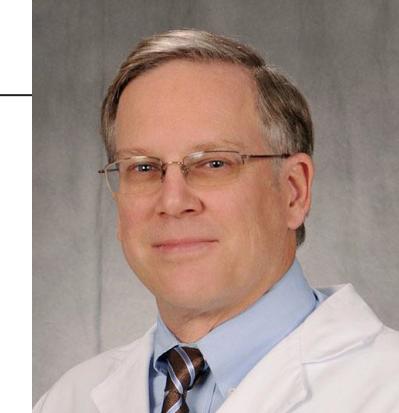
**Angela E. Lin, MD**, is a medical geneticist at MGH who cares for patients with rare syndromes. She has a long-standing interest in art and the portrayal of people with physical differences. Dr. Lin fulfilled a dream as the senior editor of a special issue of the *American Journal of Medical Genetics*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

'83

**Ruth E. Weissberger, 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: @DocSavageTJU and @fischman\_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 cancers—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

**Myia 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.



**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.

## Class Agent



### Nita Schwartz, MD | Class of 1991

I remember it all so clearly: sitting at Wendy's, eating a burger with my father at the tender age of 17, nervously awaiting what would become a defining moment in my life. Soon I would be interviewing at Jefferson in hopes of gaining admission into the joint Jefferson/Penn State Accelerated BS/MD Program. As I walked around the campus that day, I could see myself there. It just felt right. I wanted it so much!

Just last October, I attended my 30th (!) reunion during Alumni Weekend. It all came back the moment I set foot in Philadelphia. Such an incredibly vibrant city, filled with young professionals and prestigious undergraduate and graduate schools, served as the backdrop for my professional studies. Then, seeing my classmates. These people, many of whom I have not seen since graduation day when we scattered to begin our lives, are just as dynamic, accomplished, intelligent, and fun as I remember.

We shared so many memories of much hard work, late-night study sessions, and the wonder of becoming part of the hallowed halls of medicine. Along with those memories were recollections of many laughs, summers visiting the Jersey Shore, and explorations of world-class museums, nightlife, and restaurants.

We all felt well prepared for our residencies and lifelong careers in medicine. I stayed on at Jefferson and did my emergency medicine residency at Thomas

Jefferson University Hospital. Though I have moved away to the West Coast, Philadelphia and Jefferson have a special place in my heart. I am thankful for the education, friends, and experiences they brought my way.

Jefferson continues to evolve to make sure its graduates are among the best prepared in the nation. I am impressed with the improvements to medical education that have recently been installed to the first- and second-year curriculum. Students now learn in an integrated systems model with early clinical exposure. As a practicing physician, I have also been impressed with Jefferson's stance and positioning to stop scope creep from mid levels in medicine. Those of us in medicine struggle with this erosion of the incredible value of medical education as well as its effect on the quality of care patients receive.

Jeff has this way of drawing you in. You know you are part of something special. I recently became drawn back to Jefferson again when my daughter decided to enroll in the PSU/SKMC accelerated program. I accompanied her to the interview, marveled at the changes, and waxed nostalgic at all that is still so familiar. Bernie Lopez, MD '86, was kind enough to show me the latest remodel of the ED where I learned my craft. And just like me, my daughter could see herself there. It just felt right. ☺

# SHARE YOUR STORY



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](mailto:editor@jefferson.edu)

# In Memoriam



**Lionel Gold, DDS**, left, retired director of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, was recently honored at a symposium for his more than 20 years of dedication and service to the division. **Robert Decidue, MD, DMD, MBA**, chair of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Jefferson University Hospital

## **Lionel Gold, DDS Chair, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery 1980-1998**

**Lionel Gold, DDS**, of Voorhees, New Jersey, passed away on Dec. 21, 2021. Dr. Gold was a world-renowned authority on oral and maxillofacial surgery, and served as the President of American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. He was the chair of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Thomas Jefferson University from 1980–1998 and was serving as a professor at the time of his death. A graduate of New York University College Arts and Sciences, Dr. Gold received his DDS from New York University Dental School in 1948. He completed a basic studies program and a fellowship in oral pathology at the University of Pennsylvania, and a residency in oral and maxillofacial surgery at American Oncologic Hospital. Dr. Gold's tenure as chair was a time of growth in oral and maxillofacial surgery nationally and internationally, and was mirrored in the strides made by

the OMFS program at Jefferson. The training program was extended during this time from two to four years and the residency program expanded. Dr. Gold stressed surgical pathology as a primary foundation for oral and maxillofacial surgical practice, and basic science studies were incorporated as resident rotations increased and accreditation requirements of the ADA, AAOMS, and ABOMS became standard. In addition to authoring numerous publications, Dr. Gold was a past president of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and served on the board of the Educational Foundation of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. He was honored with the Presidential Achievement Award from the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Teacher of the Year Award from the Graduate School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Gold is survived by daughters Nancy Gold, Kathy Gold, and Patti Singer; brother Jonas Gold, and several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**Albert Gelb, MD**, 96, passed away on September 7, 2021.

**Robert Mark Vetto, MD, DSc,**



**FACS**, passed away January 8, 2021. Dr. Vetto earned his medical degree from Jefferson in 1949. After interning at

Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn, New York, he was called up as a Navy surgeon in the Korean War, where he served in Tokyo and Okinawa. Following the war, he completed his surgical residency at the University of Cincinnati and received a doctorate in surgical science. He then served as chief of surgery at the Portland VA Hospital for 25 years, with a joint professorial appointment in the Department of Surgery at Oregon Health and Science University. Dr. Vetto later served as director of Surgery at St. Vincent's Hospital in Portland, Oregon, where he continued to mentor future physicians until his retirement.

Dr. Vetto, a vascular surgeon, published a description of the first series of patients to be treated with the femorofemoral bypass. He also pioneered the first kidney transplants in Oregon and headed a research team at the VA Hospital, which developed the early forms of cancer immunotherapy.

He is survived by Marianne, his beloved wife of 69 years, his six children, and nine grandchildren.

**'53**

**Thurman Gillespy, Jr., MD**, 94, died quietly on March 29, 2020, at his home surrounded by his wife of 67 years, Elaine, and several of his children. After serving in World War II, Thurman enrolled at

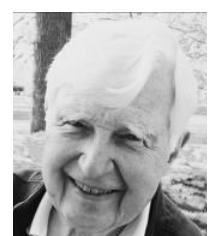
Jefferson, where he graduated in 1953. He interned at Huntington Hospital in West Virginia and had a general practice in Eaton, Indiana, for several years before returning to Philadelphia for his orthopedic residency. Upon completion of his residency at Philadelphia General Hospital, Thurman founded the Orthopedic Clinic of Daytona Beach, Florida, in 1961, where he practiced with multiple partners, including two sons, until he was 88 years old.

The Jefferson family legacy includes Thurman's father, Thurman, Sr. 1907, his brother William '58, three sons, Thurman III '80, Albert '82, Mark '86, daughter-in-law Marj '80, granddaughters Alexandra '18 and Lauren (PA) '21. Thurman generously contributed time and finances to teaching and supporting the orthopedic departments at Jefferson and University of Florida. Additionally, he supported the family practice residency at Halifax Medical Center in Daytona Beach along with many local charities and the arts.

Thurman is survived by his wife Elanie, six children, thirteen grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

**'54**

**G. Richard Dickersin, MD**, 93,



passed away peacefully Thursday, March 11, 2021. After high school, Dick served in the U.S. Coast Guard (1945–

46), graduated from Johns Hopkins University in 1950, and went on to receive an MA in teaching biology from the University of Chicago. In 1950, Dick married Barbara Bray, a primary school teacher until 1990. The couple moved to Philadelphia, where Dick attended medical school

at Jefferson and completed his internship at Pennsylvania Hospital. He did his residency in pathology at the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) in Boston.

Dick led Brockton Hospital's pathology department for 11 years. While there, Dick continued to teach pathology at Harvard Medical School and returned to teaching, practice, and research in the 1970s, first to Tufts University and soon after to MGH, where he spent the remainder of his career.

Dick is survived by his wife, Barbara; his children Kay (Robert Van Wesep), Gail, Leslie (Dan Sibley), Amy, and Ged (Ivana Kucan); 11 grandchildren and their spouses (a grandson predeceased him); and four great-grandchildren.

**'55**

**Cecil Gwinn Jenkins, MD** passed away on 19th January, 2022 in Canton, Mississippi.

**'56**

**Paul G. McDonough, MD**, 91,

of Augusta, Georgia, passed from this life to the next on May 8, 2021, at home in the presence of his family. Paul was born in Scranton,

Pennsylvania, and served in the US Air Force in France before returning to the United States and finally settling in Augusta, Georgia.

Dr. McDonough's distinguished medical career was the product of ability and an enormous capacity for work. He was world-renowned and board certified in reproductive endocrinology, genetics, and cytogenetics, and made significant contributions to the science and advancement of women's health.

Dr. McDonough's early academic

## In Memoriam



**Louis Dale Lowry, MD**  
**Chair, Otolaryngology**  
**1980–1991**

**Louis Dale Lowry, MD, 84**, of Richards and Moundville, Missouri, passed away Sunday, December 26, 2021. Born in Fort Scott, Kansas, and raised on a tenant farm in Vernon County, Missouri, he received his MD at the University of Missouri. After graduating from medical school, in 1962, Dr. Lowry served his country in the US Navy, achieving the rank of Lt. Commander and receiving the National Defense Service Medal. After the military, he completed his residency at the University of Chicago in surgery and otolaryngology. Dr. Lowry served the medical field at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and the University of Pennsylvania before joining the faculty at Thomas Jefferson University. In 1980 he was named chair of the Department of Otolaryngology, where he stayed until he retired. His major contribution to the field was the development of an artificial larynx by which speech is generated electronically within the oral cavity. In his later years, Dr. Lowry developed relationships with the local sawmills who supplied fine and exotic woods for himself and the other woodshop members at his retirement community. He made this wood into furniture, clocks of all sizes, and many smaller items. He was an active gardener who was generous with his fresh tomatoes. He particularly enjoyed his fishing trips to Alaska and other places with his son James and brother Don. He was active and lived in an apartment with Judy, his wife of 62 years, until just a few weeks before his death.

accomplishments included membership in Alpha Omega Alpha and president of Phi Beta Pi at Jefferson. Following his graduation, McDonough held a variety of clinical and academic positions on an international scale.

McDonough received many awards throughout his storied career, including the Billings Silver Medal from the American Medical Association for his work on gonadal dysgenesis, the NIH Fogarty Fellowship, an honorary Professorship in the Rene Descartes School of Medicine in Paris, France, and the President's Distinguished Scientist Award.

**James G. Zangrilli, Sr.,** passed away on October 30, 2021, surrounded by his beloved wife of 60 years, Lucretia, and his four children.

After graduating from Central Catholic High School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Lebanon Valley College, James followed his father Alfred (class of 1931) and brother Alfred (class of 1955) to Jefferson, all paving the way for James, Jr. (class of 1988), to be the 4th Zangrilli to graduate. After graduating from medical school, James served as a captain in the US Army during the Korean conflict. James completed his residency at Geisinger Medical Center in Erie, Pennsylvania, and St. Francis Hospital in Pittsburgh. He had a successful medical practice, founding the South Pittsburgh Urologic Practice. Additionally, James was the medical director of Central Medical Center Hospital in Pittsburgh. James was member of several medical associations.

When not working, and in retirement in Naples, Florida, James was an avid golfer, gin rummy player, and pianist. He loved good Italian food and wine, good music from jazz to opera, good literature, and a good joke. Always a gracious host, James taught everyone around him

how to be kind and generous, and how to enjoy life.

**'60**

**James A. Thomas, Jr., MD**, passed away on August 17, 2021. He was an orthopedic surgeon who practiced Orthopedics in Delaware County, Pennsylvania, for 32 years until his retirement in 1999.

**'61**

**Jerome Cohen, MD** recently passed away.

**'65**

**Joseph Y. Dwoskin, MD**

Dr. Dwoskin passed away Nov. 16, 2021. He was born in Chicago, IL, and grew up in Omaha, NE, and served in the US Air Force. He was a great soul and her loss will leave a tremendous void in all who knew her."

His interest in and dedication to healing led to a career in medicine. He received his BS in Pre-Medical Sciences at Springfield College and his MD from Thomas Jefferson University. Dr. Dwoskin was one of the first two full-time pediatric urologists in the United States. He practiced pediatric urology in Buffalo, NY, and Lubbock, TX. After retiring to Castle Rock, CO, with a second but equally strong interest in aviation, he became a pilot and took to the skies, flying his Cirrus SR22 around the country. All who knew Dr. Dwoskin would wish him a peaceful final flight.

**'66**

**Frances Pincus Freed, MD**

Dr. Freed passed away January 7, 2022. She was born in Philadelphia on June 13, 1940, to Herman and

Dorothy Pincus, and lived and worked in Los Angeles, CA. She is survived by her loving husband, Arnold Freed, her daughter, Rachael Baker, and her grand-daughters Hannah and Maya Baker. Dr. Freed graduated from Mount Holyoke College, then Thomas Jefferson University Medical School and practiced as a pathologist for over 40 years. Her husband writes, "I was lucky to be married to the most wonderful woman I could imagine. What I say is true and agreed to by all the people she touched. She was an amazingly caring person, who helped an enormously large number of people who loved her in return. She was a great soul and her loss will leave a tremendous void in all who knew her."

**'67**

**Martin Koutcher, MD**, passed on June 12, 2021. Dr. Koutcher is survived by his wife, Bernice (nee Chemey); children Melissa (Jeffrey) Herskowitz, Jonathan (Melissa) Koutcher, Nancy Koutcher (Abraham Ftaiha), and Kyle Kane; and grandchildren Alexa, Jake, and Justin Herskowitz; Billy, Carly, and Jack Koutcher; and Ezra and Daphne Ftaiha.

**'69**

**John W. Shigeoka, MD**, ("Shig" or "Shigs") passed away peacefully at his home on November 9, 2021, after a brief illness. His course as a scientist and public servant

was etched early on. He earned admission to the Jefferson Medical School at Penn State. This highly competitive academic program allowed select undergraduate students to begin their medical education during their junior year.

Here he met a fellow medical student, the love of his life, and future wife, Ann O'Neill. Dr. Shigeoka and Ann married on July 4, 1971. Shortly after, he was deployed to the Vietnam War as a medical Naval officer.

Caring for patients was Dr. Shigeoka's life work for over 50 years and continued until just weeks before his passing. He served the University of Utah and the VA with distinction. His many leadership positions at the VA included Chief of Pulmonary/Critical Care for over thirty plus years and interim Chief of Internal Medicine on several occasions.

Dr. Shigeoka had a natural charm and a wonderful wit. Whether practicing medicine, bird watching, or enjoying astronomy his intellectual curiosity was insatiable. He was a father, brother, grandfather, and a gentleman of the highest order. He will be dearly missed by his family, friends, colleagues, community, and the many people whose lives he touched.

**Paul M. Weinberg, MD**, 74, a

world-renowned pediatric cardiologist and cardiac morphologist, quietly and courageously battled both leukemia and lymphoma for many years and passed away on October 15, 2020. He received his pediatric and clinical cardiology training at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and a further fellowship in cardiac morphology and pathology at Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School. He served with distinction as a lieutenant commander in the US Naval Medical

## In Memoriam

Corps. He returned to Philadelphia in 1977 as attending physician at CHOP and professor at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine for 43 years.

Dr. Weinberg was the recipient of numerous prestigious awards: The Blockley Osler Teaching Award (1998), Jefferson Medical College Alumni Achievement Award Winner (2004), Robert Dunning Dripps Memorial award for excellence in graduate medical education (2009), University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine / Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Cardiac Center Lifetime Achievement Award (2011), and distinguished teacher award from the American College of Cardiology (2013).

He is missed greatly by his wife of 53 years and fellow alum, Linda '69, daughter and son-in-law Sarah and Ricky Gratz, and three young granddaughters Julia, Rena, and Eve. While his achievements are numerous, he will be remembered for his congeniality, optimism, knowledge, discernment, and wisdom.

**'71**  
**Joseph L. Seltzer, MD**, passed away on October 9, 2021. He served as the chair of Jefferson's Anesthesiology Department for many years.

**'80**  
**William Mclemore, MD**, of Springfield, Ohio, died June 20, 2020. Dr. Mclemore completed residency in diagnostic radiology with fellowship in interventional radiology at Ohio State University in 1985, then practiced with Mid-Ohio Radiology Group in Columbus, Ohio, from which he was retired. He spent summers in Charlevoix, Michigan, where he maintained a residence. He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Julia Mclemore. He

had remained friends over the years with classmates David Nagel, Daniel Fisher, and Richard Finegold, who will greatly miss him.

**'16**

**Stephen E. Codella, MD**, 31, of Cherry Hill, NJ, passed away peacefully in his home on Thursday, January 27th, 2022, surrounded in comfort by his family and dog.

Dr. Codella was a talented musician and caring physician. He attended Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University, earning his Doctorate of Medicine degree in 2016. He pursued a residency in Internal Medicine at Temple University Hospital where he went on to become an attending physician in the Department of Pulmonary Medicine before being accepted into Temple's Fellowship program in Pulmonary and Critical Care. The halls of Temple University Hospital will mourn the loss of a caring and dedicated physician whose intelligence, compassion, and smile helped innumerable patients, students, and colleagues.

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**erin.morton@jefferson.edu**  
**or (215) 955-9418**

Dr. Codella's witty humor, magnetic charm, and enviable charisma made him the center of attention, much to his own delight. He is best known as a talented musician – songwriter, lyricist, guitarist, bassist, pianist, drummer, saxophonist, singer – to name a few. He leaves us with a prolific catalog of original music and recordings for all to enjoy and remember him for years to come. In addition to his dear parents and sister, Dr. Codella leaves behind his faithful dog Archer, whom he loved more than words can express. To say he will be missed cannot begin to express the hole his loss leaves in the countless lives he has touched.



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## By the Numbers

### STUDENT FACT SHEET

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Class of 2025

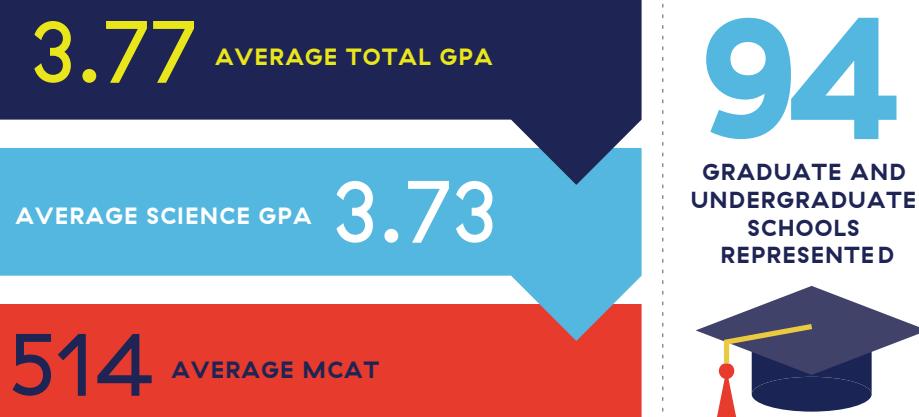
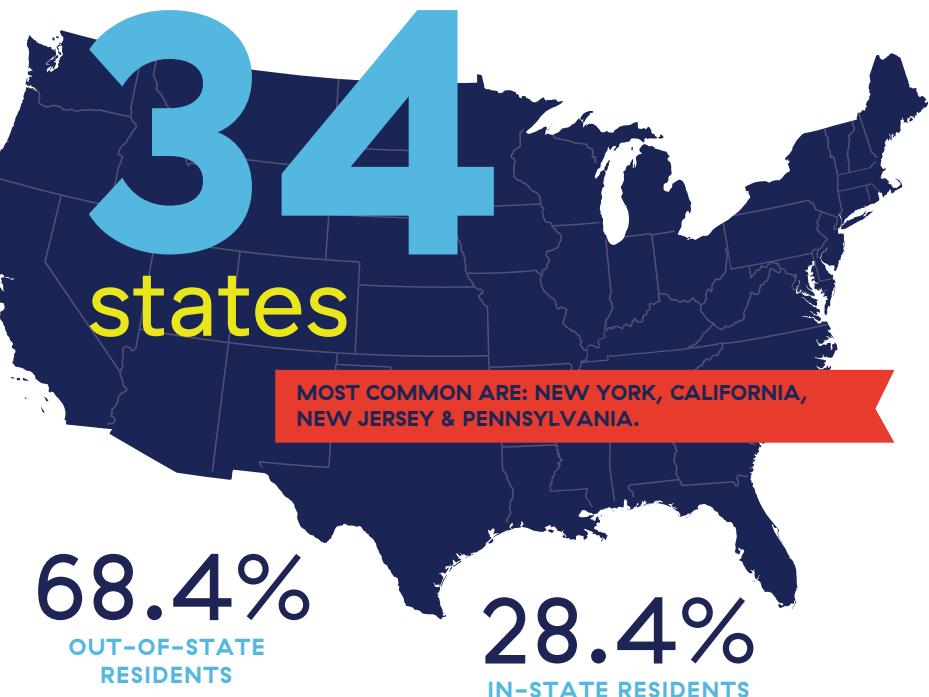
11,768  
AMCAS APPLICANTS

3.49%  
OF APPLICANTS  
OFFERED ACCEPTANCE

277  
STUDENTS ACCEPTED  
TO FIRST-YEAR CLASS

 50.9%  
FEMALE

 48.7%  
MALE



#### AGE RANGE OF SKMC STUDENTS

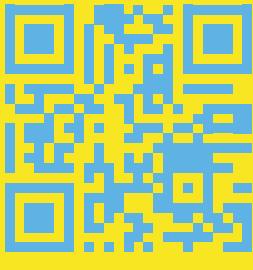
71.8%  
20-23

23.8%  
24-28

4.3%  
29-32

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