

Jeff News

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Jefferson Opens First-of-its-Kind Center for Medical Cannabis Education and Research

Pennsylvania's new legislation has made it possible for Jefferson to establish a program to educate healthcare professionals and patients about the medical use of marijuana and cannabinoid-focused therapies to treat serious medical conditions—such as cancer, Crohn's disease, Parkinson's disease, epilepsy and glaucoma, among others.

In May, Jefferson launched a revolutionary new hub for advancing patient care: the Jefferson Center for Medical Cannabis Education and Research (CMCER).

"Jefferson is a leader in innovation, and the creation of the CMCER signals our dedication to embrace the ever-evolving nature of health care," said Stephen K. Klasko, MD, MBA, President and CEO of Thomas Jefferson University and Jefferson Health. "Understanding and researching new cutting-edge methods for the treatment of disease is a fundamental goal, and Jefferson is proud to be among the first of its kind to offer resources and support for the revolutionary expansion for medical marijuana."

Housed within the Jefferson Institute of Emerging Health Professions, CMCER will serve as the nation's first academic and research resource for both healthcare professionals and the public on the subject of medical marijuana.

Learn how the the Center will train healthcare professionals and advance science at Jefferson.edu/CannabisResearch.

Aria and Jefferson, Now One



"Bringing Aria and Jefferson together is another significant step forward, as a progressive organization, to do things differently for the benefit of patients, medical professionals, employees, faculty and students in the regions that we all serve," said Dr. Klasko on July 6, as part of the announcement that Jefferson and Aria Health are now one. Pictured are Larry Merlis, EVP, Chief Operating Officer, Jefferson Health; Robert Truitt, Chair, Aria Board of Directors; Dr. Klasko, President and CEO, TJU and Jefferson Health; Kathleen Kinslow, CEO of Aria-Jefferson Health, and Executive Vice President and Chief Integration Officer for Jefferson Health; and Richard Hevner, Chair, Board of Thomas Jefferson University. Sandra Gomberg, MSN, RN, (not pictured), formerly Aria's Chief Operating Officer, has been named President of Aria-Jefferson Health. Photo: Robert Neroni

U.S. News & World Report: Thomas Jefferson University Hospital Among Top Hospitals in Pennsylvania



Jefferson Health continues its record of excellence in health care with recognition from *U.S. News & World Report's* annual listing of top hospitals and specialties.

In addition to ranking in the top 10 facilities in the Philadelphia metro area (2nd) and Pennsylvania (3rd), 11 **Thomas Jefferson University Hospital (TJUH)** specialty programs have been recognized. **Abington Hospital (Abington-Jefferson Health)** ranked 4th in the Philadelphia region and 7th in the state. And **Aria-Jefferson Health** is rated as a high performer in the treatment of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and congestive heart failure.

2016-17 TJUH Nationally Ranked Specialties

Cancer (Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson); **Cardiology & Heart Surgery**; **Diabetes and Endocrinology**; **Ear, Nose & Throat**; **Gastroenterology & GI Surgery**; **Geriatrics**; **Nephrology**; **Neurology & Neurosurgery** (Vickie and Jack Farber Institute at Thomas Jefferson University); **Ophthalmology** - Jefferson's Department of Ophthalmology (Wills Eye Hospital); **Orthopedics** (Rothman Institute at Jefferson and Philadelphia Hand Center at Jefferson); **Urology**

In addition, **Abington-Jefferson Health** is nationally ranked in **Ear, Nose & Throat**.

Learn more at health.usnews.com/best-hospitals.

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VP Biden and Jefferson Honored with Atlas Awards for Leadership in Fight Against Cancer



Dr. Karen Knudsen (left), Director of the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson, and Dr. Klasko (second from left) accepted the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia *Atlas Award* for Leadership in the Philadelphia Area, while the Vice President (second from right) was honored for his visionary leadership in the fight against cancer. Jefferson medical oncologist and researcher Edith Mitchell, MD, FACP, is part of a 28-member Blue Ribbon Panel appointed to inform the scientific direction and goals of the Vice President's National Cancer Moonshot Initiative. Photo: David Goldstein

Steven Korman Gives TJU \$2 Million to Fund New Center for Community Engagement Programs



The Steven H. Korman Center for Community Engagement, part of Jefferson's Institute of Emerging Health Professions, was announced in June, and will allow for the development of programs such as the Community Health Worker Certificate. "I am honored to partner with Jefferson on its mission to provide educational and career opportunities as well as improved access to care for our most vulnerable neighbors," said real estate developer Steven Korman (second from right). Mr. Korman has a longstanding and growing philanthropic partnership with Jefferson. Also pictured (left to right): Matthew Kamens, Senior Counsel, Cozen O'Connor; Elizabeth Dale, VP of Office of Institutional Advancement; and Lester Lipschutz of Cozen O'Connor. Learn more about Jefferson's Institute of Emerging Health Professions at Jefferson.edu. Photo: TJU Photo Services

The Connelly Foundation Donates \$600K to Launch New Nursing Communications Program

The Connelly Foundation has committed a \$600,000, two-year gift to transform nursing at Jefferson. The gift will support the launch of the Communication Catalyst Program, an innovative education and certification program that will provide professional development and training for Jefferson nurses in an effort to further improve nurse-patient communication. The Communication Catalyst Program will educate 300 Jefferson nurses in the Care Coordination and Transition Management (CCTM) Core Curriculum, an evidence-based, patient-centered program that will prepare our nurses to receive the CCTM certification.

Jefferson Expands Partnership with Rothman Institute and Orthopaedic Specialty Hospital

Jefferson has signed an agreement to become the majority owner of the Rothman Orthopaedic Specialty Hospital (ROSH) in Bensalem, Bucks County. ROSH joins Jefferson Health as our ninth hospital and the first providing specialty care. Our expanded partnership with the Rothman Institute marks another important milestone on our journey to reimagining health care and making our services even more accessible to patients throughout the region. ROSH is a state-of-the-art facility that has six operating rooms, 24 inpatient beds, a blood draw area and a full range of imaging capabilities. Learn more about ROSH at Jefferson.edu.

New Jefferson College of Nursing – Aria Campus in Trevese Slated to Open in January 2018

When plans are approved by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing, Jefferson will establish a BSN day-program at the Aria campus at the Neshaminy Interplex by 2018. Students who apply to the Jefferson College of Nursing will have the option of applying to attend the Aria, Abington-Dixon, or Center City location.

By providing the Jefferson College of Nursing's BSN program at three campuses, Jefferson will be able to accommodate a greater number of students looking to earn their BSNs, especially those students in the northern suburbs of Philadelphia. A BSN creates a variety of career paths for nurses – preparing them for jobs beyond the hospital walls, including careers in management, outpatient nursing, transitional care, community health, and clinical instruction.

Jefferson Staff... Know the Code

New Enterprise-Wide Code of Conduct & Ethical Behavior Now in Effect

We recently updated our Code of Conduct to affirm our enterprise-wide commitment to adhering to the principles of ethical behavior by which all of us at Jefferson must operate. See the complete Code now on the Jefferson HR website. Please also take a moment to re-familiarize yourself with our Social Media policy (policy 102.63).

Abington – Jefferson Health Breaks Ground on Asplundh Cancer Pavilion



A ceremonial groundbreaking event was held in May in Willow Grove for the Asplundh Cancer Pavilion, Abington – Jefferson Health's new cancer center set to open in early 2018. This state-of-the-art outpatient treatment facility will provide a full spectrum of cancer care and support for thousands of patients living in Montgomery, Bucks and Philadelphia counties.

A capital campaign to help support the cost to build, equip and staff the new center is underway. To learn more and to explore the Asplundh Cancer Pavilion, please visit Jefferson.edu/Abington.

Telehealth at Jefferson: Bringing Health Care to You, Right When You Need It

Updates about our services:

- Now seniors with cancer can consult with Jefferson specialists from the comfort of home. The Jefferson Senior Adult Oncology Center offers comprehensive cancer care with the help of Scheduled Online Visits via JeffConnect®. Learn more by calling 1-800-JEFF-NOW.
- Jefferson recently welcomed healthcare professionals from around the US for its first National Academic Telehealth Consortium. The two-day gathering included sessions that explored new opportunities to expand telehealth on a national level.
- Jefferson's Institute of Emerging Health Professions is offering the Telehealth Facilitator Certificate program – a five-week online course starting in September, developed by Emergency Medicine faculty and the National Academic Center for Telehealth. Program participants will be among the first to complete this training to facilitate clinical telehealth encounters, empowering them to improve patient healthcare access, efficiency, safety and outcomes. More info: 215-503-8797.

Awards & Accreditations

- Jefferson is a proud recipient of four grants from The Philadelphia Foundation, totalling nearly \$70K. Recipients include the Jefferson College of Nursing diploma program (from the Dorothea W. Walton Memorial Fund); the Children's Rehabilitation Hospital at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital (from the William McK. and James Baynard Memorial Fund); Thomas Jefferson University Hospital (from the Lillian Guthrie Fund); and the Department of Neurology (from the Mary Deas Sinkler Fund).
- Jefferson's Innovation Pillar inducted 29 new staff members into the Jefferson Chapter of the National Academy of Inventors® (NAI) this summer. More than 70 Jefferson Health colleagues across the enterprise are members.
- Jefferson Urgent Care has been named "Best of Philly" by *Philadelphia* magazine.
- Our level-one Trauma Program has been reaccredited for a full three years. The surveyors complimented the trauma team on its excellent work and outcomes
- CIO has named Jefferson a recipient of its *CIO 100 Award* for its use of dashboard and app technology to positively impact key metrics in the ED. Jefferson reduced ED patient wait times, decreased "left-without-being-seen rates," and enhanced patient satisfaction scores.
- Abington – Jefferson Health has been named a "Most Wired" hospital by *Hospitals and Health Networks Magazine* for the fifth year in a row.
- Jefferson Outpatient Imaging (JOI) won the 'Putting Patients First' grant from AHRA and Toshiba for a proposal to provide PET/CT patients with Chemo Cozy® fleece jackets. JOI has begun giving the specially designed port-friendly jackets to patients on its Mobile PET/CT trailer. The goal is to make a patients' scans and their time with JOI more comfortable.

Jefferson Health Soon to Serve More Patients in South Jersey

Kennedy Health, based in Camden and Gloucester counties, and Jefferson have entered into a Definitive Agreement that denotes the terms of how Kennedy will integrate with Jefferson Health, the combined clinical entity formed by the merger of Abington and Jefferson in May 2015, and further expanded with the addition of Aria Health in July 2016.

Discovery

- **Drs. Cao Huang and Bo Huang in Pathology, Anatomy and Cell Biology contributed research that played a key role in the discovery of a new gene** involved in cases of familial Parkinson's disease – as described in a recent publication in *Nature Genetics*.
- **Researchers at Abington – Jefferson Health have conducted a groundbreaking study** that suggests the most commonly used and effective class of medications for migraines is safe, despite black-box warning labels for certain patients.
- **Jefferson researchers have found that nearly half of heart bypass patients are skipping medications that keep blood flowing**, highlighting the importance of education to improve medication usage in this high-risk population.
- **Researchers at Jefferson have found that newborns are likely being over-treated for reflux disease** the majority of the time with methods that may have risks for the infant.
- **By restructuring recipient evaluation procedures, our Transplant Institute** has consolidated the Liver Transplant Program evaluation process and listing of candidates to one week.
- **A panel of microRNAs from blood samples may predict patients at high risk of developing a common liver cancer** from hepatitis B virus infection, Jefferson's Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center researchers found.
- **Based on his research, Michael Sperling, MD, Director of the Jefferson Comprehensive Epilepsy Center, found that patients who underwent surgical epilepsy treatment** are 66 percent less likely to die from all causes than those who continued to take medication and continued to experience seizures.
- **A team from Jefferson has found a new way to keep the heart pumping**, which could lead to new and potentially more effective drugs for heart disease.
- **Dr. Berghella and his team in Maternal-Fetal Medicine (Obstetrics and Gynecology) found that women who exercise during pregnancy** are more likely to deliver naturally than those who do not, and show no greater risk of preterm birth.
- **New Jefferson research shows that overeating reduces levels of a hormone** that signals the feeling of fullness in the brain, potentially promoting more eating.
- **The natural molecule, n-acetylcysteine (NAC), with strong antioxidant effects**, shows potential benefit as part of the management for patients with Parkinson's disease, according to a study published by Jefferson researchers.

For more news and research breakthroughs, please visit Jefferson.edu.

MATER Leads Charge Against Opioid-Dependency Epidemic Among Childbearing Women



Pictured are members of the Jefferson's Maternal Addiction Treatment, Education and Research [MATER] program staff: Director Diane J. Abatemarco, PhD, MSW (center), Dennis Hand, and Dottie Locketto. "MATER saved and restored my life," said Dottie, a former patient and now an employee of and champion for the program. Photo: TJU Photo Services

Abuse of opioids, such as heroin, morphine, and prescription pain relievers, is a growing epidemic in the US. It is especially serious among pregnant women and mothers of newborns, whose infants may be subjected to neonatal abstinence abuse (NAS), a drug withdrawal syndrome that can cause seizures, excessive irritability, poor feeding and other problems.

Jefferson's Maternal Addiction Treatment, Education and Research (MATER) program, located in Center City at The Family Center of Thomas Jefferson University, is a bastion of hope and help in the Delaware Valley—and its staff members are dedicated "healing"

warriors in the battle to fight against the opioid-abuse epidemic. One of the top three programs in the country for the treatment of opioid abuse, according to its director, Diane J. Abatemarco, PhD, MSW, MATER provides post-natal and pregnant opioid-addicted patients with up to five hours a week of individual and group counseling. Patients in need of more intensive inpatient treatment have access to My Sister's Place, Jefferson's residential substance abuse treatment center for women in southwest Philadelphia.

Dr. Abatemarco, who joined the MATER staff in 2015, brought with her a tool to make the program even more effective: mindfulness-based parenting. For nearly four years, she has been conducting US Department of Health and Human Services-funded research in mindfulness-based programs for women treated for opioid addiction, post-partum and with pregnant women at risk for preterm birth.

"Through the ongoing mindfulness study, the women here in our MATER program learn how to live in the present moment so that they can better focus on bonding with and being responsible for their children," said Dr. Abatemarco.

For more information about MATER, please call 215-955-1951.



Governor Tom Wolf (right, pictured with Dr. Klasko) visited our Center City campus on August 5 to announce that Jefferson is part of a new Centers of Excellence \$20 million state program that will coordinate treatment for people addicted to opioids. Since the early 70s, we have been providing opioid-dependent individuals with high-quality, confidential and compassionate care. Two treatment projects at Jefferson will split a \$500,000 grant: our Narcotic Addict Rehabilitation Program (NARP) that serves more than 400 people at three locations and the Maternal Addiction Treatment Education & Research (MATER) division that serves 230. To learn more about NARP, please call 215-735-5979. For more information about MATER, please call 215-955-1951. Photo: John Aquino

People

Andy Curran and **Alex Khariton, RRT, MBA**, are serving in new roles at the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson as part of the Center's plan for growth. Andy has been promoted to Vice President for Medical Oncology and Cancer Services and Alex has been promoted to Vice President for Radiation Oncology and Cancer Services.

Congratulations to **Paul J. DiMuzio, MD, FACS**, on his recent election to the prestigious American Surgical Association. Dr. DiMuzio is the *William M. Measey Professor of Surgery* at the Sidney Kimmel Medical College (SKMC) at Thomas Jefferson University (TJU) and Co-Director of the Jefferson Vascular Center.

Joannes B. Hoek, PhD, has accepted an invitation from the NIH to serve as a member of the Hepatobiliary Pathophysiology Study Section, Center for Scientific Review, through June 30, 2022. Dr. Hoek is Professor of Pathology, Anatomy and Cell Biology at TJU.

Orlando Kirton, MD, has been appointed Surgeon-in-Chief and Chair of the Department of Surgery at Abington – Jefferson Health. Dr. Kirton is a trauma surgeon with qualifications in surgical critical care.

Karen E. Knudsen, PhD, Director of the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson, has been elected to the Board of the Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI).

Jill Kyle, MBA, CFRE, has been appointed as Jefferson Health's new Senior Vice President for Regional Advancement.

The *Thomas J. Nasca, MD, Award for Distinguished Teaching and Dedication to Student Medical Education*, sponsored by the SKMC Dean's Office, was presented to **Nina Mingioni, MD, FACP**, Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine, SKMC at TJU.

Ann Phalen, PhD, NNP-BC, Assistant Professor/Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs, Jefferson College of Nursing, was selected to participate in the 2016 Cohort of Fellows for the AACN/Wharton Executive Leadership Program.

Congratulations to Our 2016 Jefferson Nursing Awards Winners

Anne Rogan Award

Jennifer Firlein, MSN, RN – ED-Methodist Hospital

Miss Janet Hindson Award

Gabrielle L. Mangan, MSN, RN – 3E/NE

2016 Jefferson's Nurse Excellence Awards

Transformational Leadership

Malgorzata (Margaret) Fabisiak, BSN, RN-C – B5-Methodist Hospital
Shelby L. Van de Zilver, MSN, RN – ED-Methodist Hospital
JoAnn Silcox, MSN, RN – 3C/3W

Structural Empowerment

Heana Yi, BSN, RN – ED-Methodist Hospital
Bonnie Robertson, MSN, RN, CRNP – 3E/NE
Darlene Rosendale, BSN, RN – SICU, ISICU

Exemplary Professional Practice

Tracy Dennis, BSN, RN-BC – 3E/NE
Diana Iacovo, BSN, RN, OCN – Outpatient Chemo Infusion Center
Marie Wilson, MSN, RN, CRNP, CCRN, CNRN – 9C

New Knowledge, Innovations, & Improvements

Lauren Tischler, BSN, RN – BMT
Diane LaBruno, MSN, RN, ACNS-BC – 13 Pavilion
Stephan McDonald, MSN, RN – ED