

Those Who Give

**The Nicoletti Family Professorship in Transplantation Surgery**

Robert and Beatrice Nicoletti and their family have generously established an endowed professorship in honor of Cataldo Doria, MD, PhD, FACS, Associate Professor of Surgery and Director of the Division of Transplantation Surgery.

“Dr. Doria literally saved my life,” says Robert Nicoletti. “And everyone at Jefferson was so caring, thoughtful and encouraging. I now have a new lease on life.”

For four years, Robert’s kidneys were progressively failing him – the result of hypertension, or high blood pressure. Robert initially concealed his worsening condition from his close knit family. In early 2006, however, the team at Jefferson determined that he needed a transplant and Robert told his family.

Seven members of the Nicoletti family immediately volunteered to donate a kidney. Ultimately, only one family member was deemed compatible: Robert’s daughter, Lori Peruto. She recalls, “When we learned of Dad’s condition, we knew what we had



**Cataldo Doria, MD, PhD, FACS with Robert and Beatrice Nicoletti, and their daughter Lori Peruto**

to do. There was no question, no hesitation.”

On June 6, 2006, Robert and Lori arrived at Jefferson for the life-changing procedure. Beatrice Nicoletti was truly impressed with her family’s experience at Jefferson. “When something like this happens, you’re scared,” she says, “but the staff at Jefferson kept us informed every step of the way. That helped ease our fears.” Robert and Lori quickly regained their strength and returned to their normal lifestyle in a few weeks. Both remain in good health, which they attribute to Dr. Doria and the multidisciplinary team at Jefferson. “We knew we were in good hands,” Beatrice says.

Endowed professorships such as this are a critical resource to recruit and retain a distinguished

faculty, and they provide distinct honor and recognition for the faculty members who hold them. “This provides a reliable source of funding as we seek to expand our growing transplant program here at Jefferson,” says Dr. Doria. “We are all extremely grateful to the Nicoletti family for their generous gift.”

Jefferson’s Eakins Legacy Fund will match this gift dollar-for-dollar. The Fund was created from the proceeds of the sale of Thomas Eakins’s The Gross Clinic to support the institution’s key initiatives.

For additional information on the Eakins Legacy Fund and ways to support the Department of Surgery, please contact Lara Allan Goldstein, Director of Development, at **215-955-8797**.

News in Brief



**Kristin Brill, MD**

**Kristin Brill, MD** has joined the Department of Surgery’s Division of General Surgery after seven years as a volunteer faculty member in private practice. She specializes in breast surgery.

**Michel Haddad, MD** has joined the Department of Surgery’s Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery. He specializes in ventricular assist devices, minimally invasive and minimal access cardiac surgery, and cardiac ICU care.

**Jay Jenoff, MD** and **Niels Martin, MD** have joined the Department of Surgery’s Division of Acute Care Surgery. Both surgeons recently completed a Fellowship in Traumatology & Surgical Critical Care at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Jenoff is a 2005 graduate of the Department’s residency program. Dr. Martin, a 2006 graduate of the residency program, has also been named the Associate Program Director.

**Harish Lavu, MD** has joined the Department of Surgery’s Division of General Surgery. He recently completed a Fellowship in Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgery at the Indiana School of Medicine in Indianapolis.

**John Pinckney Maxwell IV, MD** recently completed his Fellowship in Colon and Rectal Surgery at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and has joined the Department of Surgery’s Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery.

**Benny Weksler, MD, MBA**, has joined the Department of Surgery’s Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery. He recently completed a fellowship in minimally invasive surgery at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center after several years in private practice in Brazil. He specializes in thoracic surgical oncology.

**Gerald Isenberg, MD** was named the President of the Association of Program Directors for Colorectal Surgery.

**Save the Date:** November 1, 2008  
**Third Annual Pancreatic Cancer Patient Symposium**  
 Registration required. For more information, go to [www.jeffersonhospital.org/pancreas](http://www.jeffersonhospital.org/pancreas)



**Surgical Solutions**

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 620 Curtis Building  
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**Jefferson Surgical Solutions** is published by Thomas Jefferson University and Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.  
 Jennifer Brumbaugh, MA, Editor-in-Chief  
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 Robert Neroni, Photography  
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JG 09-0325

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