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Please Welcome-Dr. Joshua Curtin in the New Transplant Laboratory

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Please Welcome-Dr. Joshua Curtin in the New Transplant Laboratory

Joshua Curtin, PhD, is a research fellow in the lab of Cataldo Doria, MD, PhD, focusing on the regulation of tumor cell growth and division, primarily in the liver. He examines how molecular components of cellular signaling pathways function to regulate cell growth and cell death.

Dr. Curtin's doctoral research studied the actions of natural derivatives of Vitamin A known as tumor cell differentiators. Derivatives of Vitamin A are a class of compounds known as retinoids, which have been shown to prevent the unchecked division of cancer cells. "Although traditional chemotherapies kill both the mutated cancer cells and the healthy normal cells," Dr. Curtin explains, "this treatment stops only the cancer cells from dividing."

Dr. Curtin has coupled his expertise as a cancer biologist with his experience as a post-doctoral fellow in liver biology. "The ultimate goal," he explains, "is to translate discovery in the lab into improved clinical treatment for patients suffering from liver cancer."

To read more about this research, go to www.jeffersonhospital.org/transplant

This article is available in Jefferson Surgical Solutions: https://jdc.jefferson.edu/jss/vol4/iss1/5

Overview



Charles J. Yeo, MD

Samuel D. Gross Professor and
Chair, Department of Surgery

The Spring of 2009 represents an exciting time here in the Department of Surgery. Despite the turbulent economic times, our clinical footprint has grown nicely, averaging a 5 to 12% increase per year for the last three years. Newer programs such as our minimally invasive esophagectomy and pancreatectomy programs, our bariatric surgery program, our mechanical heart support program, and our thriving acute care surgery (and intensivist) program are examples of success stories.

We have received good news on the research front. Our residents and faculty just completed a very busy Fall and Winter, when well over a dozen presentations were made at national fora, such as the Southern Surgical, the 4th Academic Surgical Congress, the Southeastern Surgical, and the American Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association, amongst others. Additionally, we are delighted to have recently been notified of major grant awards to Drs. Lanza-Jacoby and Tulenko, representing NIH dollars into the Department. Our clinical research has grown nicely, and the addition of Sharon Molotsky, RN, BSN, CCRC as our Clinical Research Nurse Project Manager will do much to ensure the attention to detail needed for our clinical trials.

My thanks go out to all members of the Department for their enthusiasm, hard work, clinical expertise and academic performance over the last several years. It has been wonderful to see Jefferson's stature rise amongst other academic medical centers, as we have added faculty, increased our clinical volumes, added new clinical programs, and raised the research profile (both for our basic science researchers and for our clinicians).

Clinical Integration



Residency Program graduates, Drs. Jay Jenoff and Niels Martin, have returned to Jefferson as Assistant Professors in the Acute Care Surgery Division.

Acute Care Surgery Expands its Faculty, Facilities & Research

New faculty, upgrades to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), and multiple new trials and studies are just some of the changes underway in the Acute Care Surgery Division. The addition of Jay Jenoff, MD, and Niels Martin, MD, brings the Division team to seven faculty, strengthening its intensivist program, which makes an attending acute care surgeon available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Drs. Jenoff and Martin recently joined the Division after completing Fellowships in Traumatology and Surgical Critical Care at the Hospital of The University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Jenoff, Assistant Professor of Surgery and a 2005 graduate of the Jefferson Surgery residency program, is Board Certified in both surgery and critical care medicine. Dr. Martin, a 2006 graduate of Jefferson's residency program is also Board Certified in surgery and critical care medicine and has been named the Associate Program Director of Graduate Education.

As part of Jefferson's commitment to continually improving the care and experience of patients, the hospital is building a new, state-of-the-art ICU facility in the Gibbon Building on Jefferson's Center City campus. Construction is expected to be completed during this year and will add to the existing ICU. The new space will accommodate 34 beds, half of which will be dedicated to surgical patients.

"This fully functional ICU will have the most advanced technology, tools and instruments available," says Dr. Martin, "so that we can respond to a patient's needs, from pre- and post-operative care to bedside procedures, under ideal conditions with the optimal equipment."

"Like any professional team, each member plays an important role," says Dr. Jenoff, "and our two trauma nurse practitioners, Alannah Ryan, CRNP, and Catherine Gill-Preston, CRNP, are absolutely invaluable to the doctors and patients. Their case management skills, skill level, and compassion for patients are second-to-none."

In addition to clinical priorities, the Division is placing a renewed emphasis on research and has recently undertaken several clinical trials and studies. "A number of these new studies make Jefferson—and our Division in particular—an exciting place to be right now, a place to grow as a professional," says Dr. Martin. In trauma, for example, the group is looking at new methods of stabilization, prevention studies, and resuscitation. Faculty members are also studying abdominal wall outcomes and developing new protocols, while working with industry representatives on device implementation. Research projects include multidisciplinary collaborations with Jefferson colleagues in rehabilitation and orthopedics. Over the next 12–15 months Division faculty will present findings at multiple national academic meetings.

For more information about the Acute Care Surgery Division, visit their new website at **www.jefferson.edu/acutecare**

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