

2010

Jefferson Awards Gala Celebrates a Dedicated Faculty Member

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Jefferson Awards Gala Celebrates a Dedicated Faculty Member

On October 22, 2009, the Jefferson community celebrated the contributions of Herbert E. Cohn, MD, FACS, at the Seventh Annual Jefferson Awards Gala. Dr. Cohn, a Jefferson Medical College alumnus, distinguished member of the Department of Surgery faculty, teacher and administrative leader, received the Achievement Award in Medicine, recognizing his career in thoracic and endocrine surgery.

More than 500 guests attended the event which raised close to \$600,000 for Jefferson. Among the many alumni, faculty and friends who generously supported the Gala was Mrs. Irmine Pilmes, a longtime patient of Dr. Cohn's. Dr. Cohn cared for both she and her husband, Alexander Bondaretz, over many years and earned their deep appreciation. When Mrs. Pilmes learned of the Gala, she decided to make a significant contribution to Jefferson in Dr. Cohn's honor. For Mrs. Pilmes, the best vehicle for such a gift was through her estate. She worked with the Jefferson Foundation and her attorney to develop language in her will that would direct \$100,000 to the Department of Surgery in support of thoracic and endocrine surgery education and research.

The most common form of a planned gift is a simple bequest through a will. Bequests of cash, securities, real property or other assets to Jefferson entitle one's estate to a charitable deduction that can reduce or eliminate estate tax liability. Sadly, Mrs. Pilmes was unable to attend the Gala in the fall. She passed away during the summer, but was recognized at the event for her tremendous generosity as a Platinum Sponsor. Dr. Cohn, who is currently the Vice Chair of Quality, humbly recalls, "I have received many gifts from grateful patients over the years from bottles of scotch to bequests in their wills and I'm always taken aback – I'm just doing my job." At the same time, he is very appreciative. "It is fitting that Jefferson received this gift. This is where I trained and practiced my entire career. Mrs. Pilmes' generous gift will help ensure that Jefferson continues to produce top-notch surgeons and push our research forward."

For additional information about planned giving, or to make a contribution to the Department of Surgery, please contact Lara Goldstein in the Jefferson Foundation at 215-955-8797 or lara.goldstein@jefferson.edu.

Those Who Give

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Dr. Cohn (center) accepts the Academic Achievement Award from University President Robert Barchi, MD, PhD (left) and Tom Lewis, TJUH President and CEO. Three generations of Dr. Cohn's family attended the event last fall, including his wife Natalie (below.)

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News in Brief



Nathaniel R. Evans, MD

Nathaniel R. Evans, MD has joined the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery. Dr. Evans finished his cardiothoracic surgery training at the Massachusetts General Hospital in December 2009. His focus will be on thoracic surgery both at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and Methodist Hospital.

Sun Yong (Sunny) Lee, MD, FACS has joined the Division of General Surgery. In 2005, Dr. Lee completed a fellowship in breast surgery here at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. She is the Assistant Director of the new Jefferson Breast Care Center.

Kris R. Kaulback, MD, FACS has been appointed medical director of the trauma program at Paoli Hospital. Dr. Kaulback will also continue as the associate director of the Level I trauma unit at Jefferson.

Adam Berger, MD, FACS, recently received an Outstanding Performance Award for going above and beyond the scope of the normal duties of serving as a liaison between the Hospital's cancer program and the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer (CoC).

Nathan Richards, MD (PGY4) presented his work from Dr. Jonathan Brody's lab on HuR status and pancreatic cancer at the 130th Annual Meeting of the American Surgical Association in Chicago this April.

Melissa Lazar, MD (PGY4) has won a resident research award from the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract and will present at the May meeting on her work in Dr. Hwyda Arafat's lab on osteopontin and nicotine.

Steven McIlhenny, defended his PhD thesis in Jefferson's Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine Program. Under the mentorship of Dr. Paul J. DiMuzio, Dr. McIlhenny was previously awarded a prestigious American Heart Association Pre-doctoral Fellowship.

On Thursday, December 3, 2009, the portrait of Gerald J. Marks, MD, FACS, was presented to Thomas Jefferson University. A member of the Jefferson faculty for many years, Dr. Marks has led a distinguished surgical career and has made numerous contributions to the field of colorectal surgery.

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Surgical Solutions

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