Jefferson

Surgical Solutions

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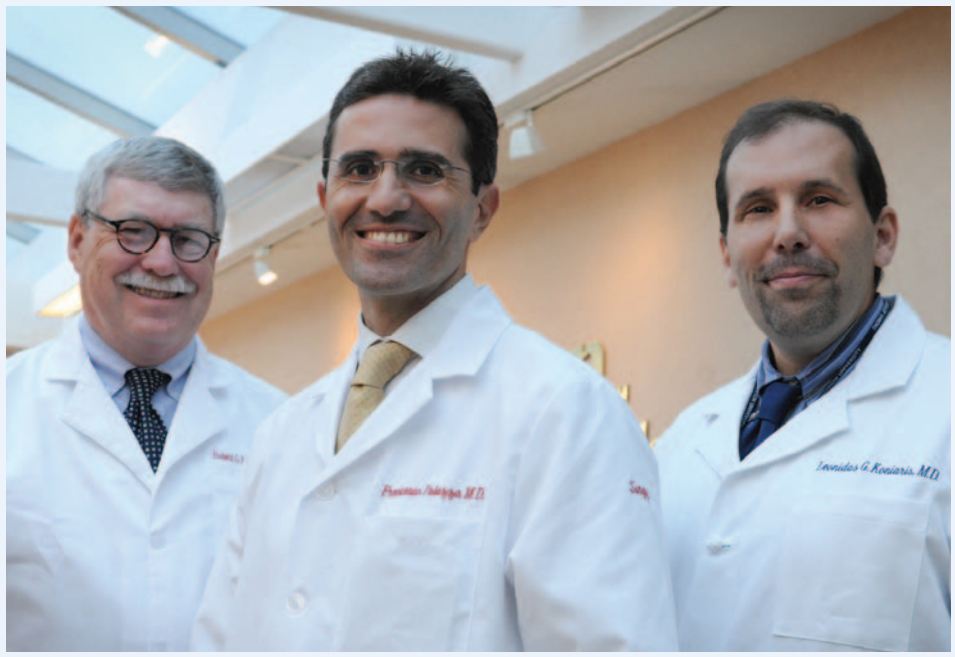
Koniaris Heads Expanding Multi-disciplinary Surgical Program at Methodist Hospital

Leonidas Koniaris, MD, FACS, is the newly appointed Chief of Surgery at Methodist Hospital in South Philadelphia, an affiliate of Jefferson that now has the strongest presence of full-time Jefferson faculty surgeons to date. One of the oldest hospitals in the Philadelphia region, Methodist has been treating patients continuously since 1892. Professor of Surgery and Vice Chair of the Department of Surgery at Jefferson Medical College, Dr. Koniaris is leading the effort to help what he describes as "an already great local hospital become an even more essential and integral part of this vibrant community." Dr. Koniaris replaces Melvin Moses, MD, FACS (see *Those Who Give*) who was Chief of Surgery for more than two decades.

Author of more than 140 scientific papers, Dr. Koniaris came to Jefferson following six years as an Associate Professor of Surgery at the University of Miami School of Medicine. He graduated from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, where he remained for surgical residency training and clinical and research fellowships. He is joined by two additional full-time Jefferson faculty members, both graduates of the Jefferson Surgical Residency Program: Robert McCairns, MD, FACS, and Francesco Palazzo, MD, FACS (see *News in Brief*.)

Dr. Koniaris' mission is to continue the ongoing improvements to the clinical and academic programs at Methodist. Thanks to the assistance of the hospital leadership at Methodist, a new outpatient office will open at 1300 Wolf Street this December, right on the hospital grounds. This office will replace the office in the St. Agnes facility and expedite physician and patient flow between our outpatient and inpatient areas.

"We will complement the work at the Kimmel Cancer Care Center and expand our capabilities by opening a multi-disciplinary breast cancer clinic this fall," says Dr. Koniaris. This clinic will provide patients access to all of Jefferson's services – surgery, medical oncology, radiation therapy, and patient advocates – in one convenient location. "The end result will be optimal personalized therapies for patients," says Koniaris.



Three Jefferson faculty members, Drs. McCairns, Palazzo, and Koniaris are now on staff full-time at Methodist Hospital in South Philadelphia. In December 2011, the surgeons will be seeing patients in the new patient office on the hospital grounds at 1300 Wolf Street.

"All the pieces are here for an integrated, multi-disciplinary surgical care program,"...."We are putting on the final touches and are excited about the improvements."

With a newly renovated endovascular suite, Methodist now has state-of-the-art capabilities to treat a variety of vascular disorders, including major aortic disease, renal stenosis (a narrowing of the blood supply to the kidneys), and advanced wound care with hyperbaric oxygen therapy treatment. Dr. Koniaris hopes to add colorectal and lung cancer capabilities in the spring of 2012.

"All the pieces are here for an integrated, multi-disciplinary surgical care program," he says. "We are putting on the final touches and are excited about the improvements. It's rewarding to provide this higher level of care to our patients in South Philadelphia."

Surgeon Speaks

Leonidas Koniaris, MD, FACS
Chief of Surgery, Methodist Hospital
Vice Chair of Surgery, Jefferson Medical College

The professionalism and work ethic of the Methodist hospital staff are second-to-none, and the dedication to superb patient care is a top priority. Over the next three to five years, our focus is to take this existing gem in the Jefferson brand and continue to develop it into a strong top-tier facility.

We have been fortunate to have the support of hospital leadership in meeting our goals and embracing change. Several initiatives – a new endovascular suite and multi-disciplinary breast care clinic, coupled with our first patient office on Wolf Street – will allow more timely attention to patients, better interactions between our specialists, and truly personalized care for patients.

Our goal is to build a truly integrated multi-disciplinary surgical care program that complements the existing capabilities of the Center City program. The South Philadelphia community is a special one, and we are diligently working to provide more and better resources for the people in this community, as well as for the primary care physicians who care for our patients.

Vascular surgeon, Dr. Joshua Eisenberg in the new endovascular suite at Methodist.

In this issue

Dr. Yeo's Overview
Page 2

Clinical Integration
Adult ECMO Program – Page 2

Changing Lives Through Research
National Transplantation Pregnancy Registry– Page 3

On the Job
Dr. Chojnacki – Page 3

Those Who Give
Dr. Melvin Moses – Page 4