



James Gilmartin of Hamburg, PA

## Nearly 25 Years After Beating Colon Cancer, Grateful Patient Establishes Endowment to Support Cancer Research

James Gilmartin can't believe he's still alive.

When he was diagnosed with colon cancer in May 1991, Gilmartin was certain that his bout with the disease would have an unfavorable end; so certain that he left his job of 30 years as a public school administrator and began preparing for the worse.

"I didn't know whether I'd be alive six months later, so I retired," Gilmartin recalled.

His primary physician at the time – who happened to be a Jefferson graduate – reviewed Gilmartin's test results and recommended Jefferson as the best place to receive cancer treatment.

Gilmartin was paired with former Chair of Surgery at Jefferson, Francis E. Rosato, MD. A renowned pioneer in cancer treatment and surgical techniques, Dr. Rosato was best known for having performed the region's first liver transplant in 1984.

Under Dr. Rosato's care, Gilmartin received a colonic resection and began 26 weeks of chemotherapy at Jefferson. Gilmartin says he felt compassion from everyone he encountered at Jefferson throughout the entire process of his treatment and recovery.

"During the recuperation period after my surgery, I was able to walk the halls of Jefferson and everybody treated me with the greatest deal of respect," Gilmartin said. "The facilities were great, the nursing staff was great. I was very fortunate because I had Dr. Rosato and he was well known, very well respected, and his bedside manner was great. There was just a feeling of contentment that I was in good hands."

It's been nearly 25 years since Gilmartin's initial diagnosis and the condition he once thought would end his life has not recurred.

Gilmartin's wife Pauline, however, passed away after a nine month bout with ovarian cancer in 2009.

To honor both his wife's fight and the lifesaving treatment he received at Jefferson, Gilmartin named Jefferson as a beneficiary in his will and established an endowed fund to support cancer research in Jefferson's Department of Surgery.

"When my wife passed away and I had to update my will, Jefferson was uppermost in my thoughts because they had saved my life," he said.

"My wife died of ovarian cancer, and I, of course am a colon cancer survivor, so I made a bequest to Jefferson for cancer research. It was an easy decision. I'm here today because of Jefferson. My gift is visible evidence of my respect for Jefferson."

To learn about the various ways to support the Department of Surgery, please visit [Jefferson.plannedgiving.org](http://Jefferson.plannedgiving.org) or contact Lara Goldstein, MBA, in the Office of Institutional Advancement at **215-955-8797** or [lara.goldstein@jefferson.edu](mailto:lara.goldstein@jefferson.edu).



# Surgical Solutions

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## News in Brief

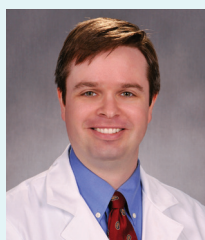


**Alliric I. Willis, MD**, has joined the Division of General Surgery. Dr. Willis completed his internship and then two years of surgical residency at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis (WUSTL), Barnes-Jewish Hospital. He then completed

a two-year research fellowship in the Department of Surgery at Yale University prior to completing his residency training at WUSTL. Dr. Willis then completed an additional two-year fellowship in Surgical Oncology at the Fox Chase Cancer Center. He is board certified and specializes in the areas of breast, melanoma and endocrine surgery.



Congratulations to **Hitoshi Hirose, MD, PhD, FACS**, on his promotion to Professor. Dr. Hirose works in the Surgical Cardiac Care Unit.



Congratulations to **Michael Kammerer, MD**, on his promotion to Assistant Professor. Dr. Kammerer is a member of the Division of Minimally Invasive, Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery.



Epic Champion Jo Starr, RN

### Epic@Jeff Update

The primary goal is to establish a unified, consistent and complete Jefferson chart for every patient. The system will be implemented in two phases: outpatient records on November 26, 2016, and inpatient records on April 1, 2017. Leading the effort are 34 super users in the Department of Surgery including Jo Starr, RN, the Department's Epic Champion, and seven faculty members: **Drs. Babak Abai, Scott Cowan, Michael Kammerer, Gary Lindenbaum, Joshua Marks, Michael Pucci, and Alliric Willis.**

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