The Spring of 2017 … Change and Hope

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There is excitement in the air at Jefferson this spring. We had a superb “Match” on March 17, and will be welcoming 6 to our family of general surgery residents come July. The Philadelphia Phillies just completed spring training well above .500, and there are high hopes for an improved year. In late April, the American Surgical Association – founded by our very own Dr. Samuel D. Gross (Chair of Surgery, 1856-1882) – hosted their 137th Annual Meeting here in Philadelphia. As part of the social program, attendees toured Rubert Plaza in the heart of our Center City campus, which includes the magnificent Samuel Gross Monument by Alexander Calder.

Jefferson Health continues to sustain momentum towards further expansion, with the planned addition of Kennedy Health in New Jersey and Philadelphia University to our Jefferson family soon. Some work is already underway with Philadelphia University (see the Enterprise Integration column), taking advantage of their expertise in creative design, innovation, and space planning. Add to this the work being done at our Center City, Abington and Aria campuses by our 7 surgical 2.0 Integration teams focusing on patient-centered, highest quality care... much is happening.

April 1 marked the launch of our Wave 2 EPIC implementation (inpatient EPIC) at our Jefferson Hospitals in Center City and on our Methodist campus. The power of this electronic health record (EHR) is quite amazing. Patients are being encouraged to sign up online for the “MyChart” patient portal, we are linked to other organizations via the Care Everywhere platform, and we now have one unified EHR for our outpatient and inpatient environments. As you might imagine, the surgical residents have embraced this new technology with great enthusiasm, while at least some of us (attending surgeons) are finding our work a bit harder to become facile. We look forward to further optimization of these systems, so that we can truly see the power of this far reaching, multi-layered EHR.

Please enjoy the various articles which compose this issue and keep up with our news on Facebook.com/JeffersonSurgery and Twitter@JEEFSurgery in between issues.