

Fast-Paced, Frontline Research



While the clinicians of Jefferson Health were on the front lines of the battle with COVID-19—treating nearly 16,000 COVID patients and testing 35,000+ people—just behind them were the basic science researchers working hard to understand the molecular and cellular mechanisms driving the disease and the clinician-scientists working to adapt existing therapeutics to the unique challenges created by SARS-CoV-2.

Since early 2020, Jefferson researchers published more than 260 research studies on the coronavirus's biology and on treatments

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for severe COVID-19. They have also initiated 21 clinical trials focusing on treatments for the disease's most significant effects.

Many of those clinical trials were undertaken with breathtaking speed. “Our clinical research teams worked incredibly hard to get these trials to patients in record time,” says **David Whellan, MD**, senior associate provost of clinical research and founder of the Jefferson Clinical Research Institute. “Typically, it takes up to 90 days to finalize regulatory and contracting requirements. But we were able to drive that time way down. For example, it took just two weeks to open our study of an intranasal spray with the potential to reduce inflammation in the part of the lungs responsible for air exchange.” ■