

FROM THE RESIDENCY PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Can an art masterpiece embody the spirit of a University?

This question was not considered at Jefferson before this year or until the University pursued the sale of Thomas Eakins' seminal work, *The Gross Clinic*.

The depiction of Dr. Samuel Gross, Professor of Surgery, at work in the surgical amphitheatre captured the emergence of American Medicine from the shadow of Europe and foreshadowed the American century which was yet to come.

Viewed in this light, the work is indeed an important part of the history of Jefferson, Philadelphia, the medical/scientific community, and the entire nation. Even more significant is the work in considering that Eakins himself studied anatomy at Jefferson. Upon learning of the sale many at Jefferson objected believing that the University was selling its very soul. But as the fate of *The Gross Clinic* hung in the balance, I came to realize that the soul of Jefferson is our students, residents, fellows, faculty, and alumni - and the good work they all do every day to prevent illness, seek new cures, report new discoveries, teach the next generation of physicians and researchers, heal the sick, and relieve suffering. The painting symbolizes this soul, but the soul rests in each of us.

The painting is now in a better place for the citizens of the city and the world to view its magnificence and ponder its impact. This too, is better for Jefferson. I predict that now that the sale is final and the work has moved across town to a more suitable permanent home (one that can better ensure its preservation), the painting will become an even more important symbol of our past and also our future.

A painting such as the *Gross Clinic* - the greatest work of 19th Century American art - must be in a renowned public museum where it can be seen by many more Americans who can appreciate this grand canvas and then come to know Jefferson's unique role in the emergence of American Medicine. We believe that through the public viewing of this portrait, Jefferson's ascendant role in American Medicine will be even more widely appreciated throughout the city, the region, and the world.

With this edition of *The Jefferson Forum*, it is clear to me that the soul of Thomas Jefferson University has never been stronger.

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FROM THE EDITORS

As we were completing the final touches on the 8th volume of *The Jefferson Medicine Forum*, the members of the editing staff could not help but note the vast variety of medicine we are privileged to witness daily. Textbook cases of malaria, herpes zoster ophthalmicus, and Lyme disease mixed among patients with migrating prostatic radiation seeds or reversible encephalopathy due to hypertension are the perfect example of the marvelous diversity of pathology to which we are exposed. Our residents have interests ranging from coronary heart disease to irritable bowel disease and research throughout the spectrum of internal medicine.

Residents are committed to helping those who are ill, to scholarly pursuits within medicine, but are also passionate about photography, art, and poetry.

Thank you to all of our colleagues who shared their experiences in this edition of *The Forum* and we hope that you enjoy!

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