

2015

News in Brief

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Tom and Felice Wiener of Wynnewood, PA, are supporting a Quality and Safety Fellowship following Tom's successful lobectomy in May 2014.

Healthy Lung, Generous Hearts: Tom and Felice Wiener

Last March, Tom Wiener's physicians noticed a small lump on the side of his neck. Tom dutifully followed through with a CT scan at his community hospital. While the scan confirmed that the lump in his neck was nothing to worry about, it also revealed something more suspicious in the upper part of his right lung. As Tom recalls, the physicians said it could be one of two things – a tumor or an infection. After two follow-up tests, Tom and his wife, Felice, received the frightening diagnosis: lung cancer.

Referred to Jefferson, Tom soon met Scott W. Cowan, MD, FACS, at Methodist Hospital. Dr. Cowan told him that many of his patients undergo operations on "incidental findings" like his. In early May, Dr. Cowan performed a minimally invasive lobectomy to remove the tumor from Tom's lung – and he made a full recovery without the need for radiation or chemotherapy.

"Fortunately, it turned out to have been a slow-growing adenocarcinoma. It was the size of a golf ball and totally self-contained," says Tom, who lives in Wynnewood and practices law in Bala Cynwyd, PA.

In reflecting on his experiences as a patient, Tom lauds Dr. Cowan both for his surgical prowess and his warm personality.

"Scott and the entire Jefferson team took great care of me," Tom says. "I'm very grateful; they did a wonderful job."

When presented with the opportunity to make a contribution to the Department of Surgery, Tom and Felice were happy to support Dr. Cowan's efforts as Jefferson's NSQIP (National Surgical Quality Improvement Program) Surgeon Champion. The Wieners' generous gift is helping to offset the cost of Dr. Adam Johnson's two-year Quality and Safety Fellowship – the first of its kind at Jefferson (see cover story). Both say they plan to continue contributing as long as they are able.

Felice is thankful to Dr. Cowan "because he did such a good job with my sweet husband" – and she says she already had good memories of Jefferson, having given birth to one of the couple's four children at Jefferson some 40 years ago. These days, the Wieners are enjoying good health and an extra special "gift" from their daughter: their third grandchild (and the first to live nearby).

For information about making a contribution to the Department of Surgery, please contact Lara Goldstein, MBA, in the Office of Institutional Advancement at **215-955-8797** or lara.goldstein@jefferson.edu.

Surgical Solutions

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Geoffrey Ouma, DO, has joined the Department of Medicine with a secondary appointment in the Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery. In 2012, Dr. Ouma completed a fellowship in vascular medicine at the Hospital of the University of

Pennsylvania. During his fellowship training he also earned a Masters in Science in Translational Research. Dr. Ouma is a member of the Jefferson Vascular Center team at our Center City and Methodist Hospital campuses.

Congratulations to the following faculty members on their recent promotion: Drs. **Steven Copit** (Professor), **Nathaniel Evans** (Associate Professor) and **Harrison Pitcher** (Associate Professor).

Jonathan Brody, PhD and **Jordan Winter, MD, FACS**, were awarded the 2015 Pancreatic Cancer Action Network - American Association for Cancer Research - Research Acceleration Network (RAN) Grant. The \$1 million grant provides funding and strategic project management support to a

research project with the potential to double the survival of pancreatic cancer by 2020. The project will be implemented by a multi-institutional team of researchers at the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Thomas Jefferson University, the Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, Mount Sinai Hospital, and George Mason University.

Congratulations to our chief residents who will be graduating on June 20, 2015. We wish them luck as they begin their respective fellowship programs: **Richard Burkhart, MD** (Surgical Oncology, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions), **Chris Kang, MD** (Surgical Critical Care, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center), **Kathleen Lamb, MD** (Vascular Surgery, University of Pennsylvania), **Jose Munoz, MD** (Plastic Surgery, Temple University Hospital), **Konrad Sarosiek, MD** (Plastic Surgery, Vanderbilt University Medical Center), **Renee Tholey, MD** (Advanced GI and Minimally Invasive Surgery, New York Presbyterian Hospital-Weill Cornell Medical Center).

Patient Feedback



I accompanied my mother, Angela Domino, to Methodist Hospital last Friday for a breast surgery performed by **Melissa Lazar, MD**. I just wanted you to know how wonderful our experience was, and I place much of that credit on your employees' personal efforts at keeping my mother calm, and supported.

At 84, my mom was apprehensive about trusting a new surgeon AND a new hospital. Dr. Lazar is a fantastic combination of intelligence; skill and a fast and strong ability to form a bond that made my mother give way her fears. Mom went from great apprehension to complete trust, and I am so grateful for this.

My experience at Methodist reminded me of my years in private practice, when I admitted patients to a suburban community hospital, where everyone knew and cared for each other. You have done a great job, and I thank you for running such a solid institution.

Frank J. Domino, MD

Professor

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