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2017

## Department of Surgery and Philadelphia University Lay Groundwork for Collaboration Prior to Merger

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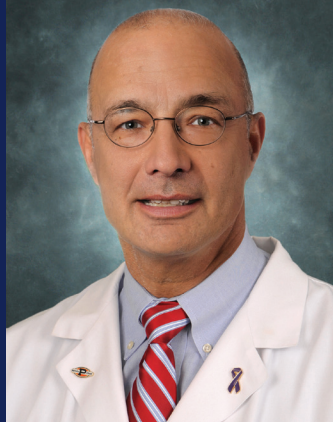
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Overview



**Charles J. Yeo, MD, FACS**  
Samuel D. Gross Professor and Chair  
Department of Surgery

## The Spring of 2017...Change and Hope

There is excitement in the air at Jefferson this spring. We had a superb “Match” on March 17, and will be welcoming 6 terrific categorical 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 – co-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 Lubert 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 we have to 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](https://www.facebook.com/JeffersonSurgery) and [Twitter@JEFFsurgery](https://twitter.com/JEFFsurgery) in between issues.

Enterprise Integration



A December meeting, led by Stephen Spinelli, Jr, PhD, President of Philadelphia University, and Charles J. Yeo, MD, Chair of Surgery at Jefferson (seated, 3rd and 4th from left), gave faculty and staff from both institutions an opportunity to brainstorm about future collaborations.

## Department of Surgery and Philadelphia University Lay Groundwork for Collaboration Prior to Merger

On the surface, the proposed merger of Thomas Jefferson University and Philadelphia University will create one comprehensive institution focused on professional education in health, science, architecture, design, fashion, business and engineering. In practice, it will integrate different models of thought and diverse approaches to studying and solving problems – enabling us to reimagine a new kind of education for the jobs of the future.

The Combination Agreement was signed by both institutions’ Boards of Trustees in September 2016. Although the merger isn’t expected to be completed until later this year, the Department of Surgery isn’t waiting to initiate collaborations with Philadelphia University. With Gerald Isenberg, MD, FACS, Professor and Director of the Surgical Undergraduate Education Program and Colorectal Residency Program, serving as the Department’s liaison, the team is already identifying innovative ways to blend resources and expertise.

Dr. Isenberg recalls the first “road trip” that department clinicians and researchers took last December to the Philadelphia University campus in the East Falls section of the city: “The facilities were amazing, and there was a palpable excitement as we toured the campus. Philadelphia University works with huge companies around the world. They have the ability to make virtually anything right there on the campus.”

He sees tremendous potential to apply those capabilities to further refine the field of surgery – from process workflows to physical instruments used to operate. In fact, one of the ideas under consideration is a one-year Fellowship in which a Department of Surgery resident would spend his or her research year studying surgical

process and design problems at Philadelphia University.

“This would be an opportunity to infuse fresh perspective to steps that we take for granted,” Dr. Isenberg explains. “We want to be challenged – to strip away ‘that’s how we’ve always done it’ thinking.”

Building on work already underway at Jefferson, Scott Cowan, MD, FACS, Associate Professor and Vice Chair for Quality, is working with Philadelphia University on rethinking patient rooms. The team is tapping into Philadelphia University’s expertise in architecture, design and building materials to analyze patient room design and workflow. Combined insights and recommendations could help on a number of fronts – from improving prevention of healthcare-acquired infections to reducing patient fall risk.

“We have an extraordinary opportunity to work together to improve the environment of care for our patients,” he says. “Philadelphia University’s expertise clearly complements what we’re doing here in the hospital in terms of achieving the highest quality of care.”

Dr. Isenberg notes that the merger will also benefit Philadelphia University students, with unprecedented access to the surgical world helping them learn how surgeons approach and solve problems.

“An integrated Philadelphia University and Thomas Jefferson University allows us to reimagine education in a way that launches students into the careers of their passion in a bigger, bolder way,” says Philadelphia University President Stephen Spinelli, Jr, PhD. “We will prepare students for careers of the 21st century, with an emphasis on scientific and applied research, design thinking and discovery.”

For more information, go to [wordpress.philau.edu/powerd](http://wordpress.philau.edu/powerd).

In the Spotlight



Advanced practice nurses Liezl DiDonato, Chuck Rowland, Sung Whang, Sophie Mintz, Lori Pelligrino, Dana Ovadia, Theresa Yeo, Ling Fan, Linda Martino, and Shawna Cannaday

In September, 10 advanced practice nurses from the Department of Surgery gathered for a lunchtime kick-off meeting to form a Nurse Practitioners (NPs) & Physician Assistants (PAs) Professionalism and Scholarship Working Group. This initiative is an important career development component and has been meeting on a monthly basis to discuss issues in clinical practice, explore potential clinical research projects, foster CV development, and address professional practice concerns. Thus far, two projects have been submitted for small grant consideration, several presentations have been developed and two members are collaborating on publishing an online continuing education module for NPs.

All Department of Surgery NPs and PAs are invited. Please contact: [theresa.yeo@jefferson.edu](mailto:theresa.yeo@jefferson.edu).