

2017

# Grateful Patient Recognizes Acute Care Surgery, Infectious Disease Teams for Life-saving Treatment

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Those Who Give



Robert Petcove credits his team of physicians, nurses and technicians at Jefferson with seeing him through a very unexpected life-threatening medical emergency last May. He and his wife, Jill, have since donated to Jefferson to show their gratitude.

## Grateful Patient Recognizes Acute Care Surgery, Infectious Disease Teams for Life-saving Treatment

Robert Petcove has spent nearly three decades helping hospitals and health systems provide benefits to their employees. Yet, until this year, impacted wisdom teeth had been the Cherry Hill, New Jersey, native's biggest health issue. That changed over Mother's Day weekend – when a couple of fluke accidents culminated in a life-threatening Strep A infection.

"On Mother's Day, I cut my right forearm as I was cleaning out an old aquarium," Petcove, 48, recalls. "It was a very small cut that barely bled, but since I'm familiar with fish tank diseases that can be transmitted to humans, I cleaned it carefully." Later that day, Petcove, who has three sons, was jumping on a trampoline with his kids. When he fell on to that same arm, he felt a twinge – "like a hairline fracture," he says.

By the next morning, his right arm was screaming in pain. Assuming an orthopedic issue, he sought help from that specialty. With no fracture found,

he received an injection to help with the pain and resumed normal activities. Within another day or so, the pain had returned and spread, and there was redness in his arm. He saw another orthopedic specialist, who also administered an injectable painkiller. But by Thursday morning, Petcove says he could barely get out of bed. When he finally made it to the bathroom, he noticed that his urine was the color of iced tea – which he recognized as a sign of kidney failure.

Within five hours of arriving at Jefferson's Emergency Department with his wife, Petcove was undergoing what would be the first of five surgeries over seven days. He says the process was akin to storm chasing. As parts of his body became red and irritated, surgeons had to operate to eradicate what they discovered was a Strep A infection.

After spending about 10 days in the Intensive Care Unit—and another 14 days on IV antibiotics –

Petcove was on his way to a full recovery. In fact, he's already resumed golf and tennis. Petcove credits his recovery to the collaboration between Jefferson's Acute Care Surgery and Infectious Disease teams: "In a different hospital, I may not be here today," he says. "Jefferson delivered world-class care by compassionate people who treated me like a true patient-customer – not just a body sleeping in a bed."

He and his wife, Jill, have expressed their gratitude with a gift honoring Drs. Anirudh Kohli, Matthew LaPorta, Joshua Marks, Michael Weinstein, and Zachary Callahan in the Department of Surgery, Dr. Katherine Belden in the Department of Medicine, and Critical Care Technician Jared Ruley.

To learn more about supporting critical care at Jefferson, please visit [giving.jefferson.edu](http://giving.jefferson.edu) or contact Kelly Austin in the Office of Institutional Advancement at **215-955-6383** or [Kelly.Austin@jefferson.edu](mailto:Kelly.Austin@jefferson.edu).

# Surgical Solutions

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## News in Brief

**Promotions and Advancement**

**Luis Eraso, MD**, (Division of Vascular Surgery), and **John Kairys, MD, FACS** (Division of General Surgery), have each been promoted to Associate Professor of Surgery.

**Orlando Kirton, MD, FACS**, has been named Vice Chair, Chief of Surgery at Abington Hospital.

**Jack Sariego, MD, FACS**, has been named Vice Chair, Chief of Surgery at Aria.

**Alliric Willis, MD, FACS**, has been named Vice Chair for Faculty Affairs & Faculty Development.

**Save the Date**

Please join us on Tuesday, November 28, 2017, at the 15th Annual Jefferson Gala. Chair of Surgery, Charles J. Yeo, MD, FACS, will receive the Achievement Award in Medicine. For information about sponsorship opportunities, tickets or other questions, please contact the Office of Protocol and Special Events at [events@jefferson.edu](mailto:events@jefferson.edu) or 215-955-9100. [Jefferson.edu/Gala](http://Jefferson.edu/Gala)



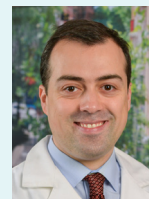
**New Faculty**

**Rajesh Aggarwal, MD, PhD, FACS**, has joined the Division of Minimally Invasive, Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery and sees patients at both Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and Methodist Hospital. Dr. Aggarwal is also Sr. Vice President of Strategic Business Development for the Innovation Pillar at Jefferson.

*The Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery recently welcomed the following new faculty members:*



**George M. Comas, MD, FACS**, completed a fellowship in Cardiothoracic Surgery at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and is dual certified in Surgery and Thoracic Surgery. He sees patients at Abington Hospital.



**Vakhtang Tchantchaleishvili, MD**,

recently completed an Advanced Fellowship in Mechanical Circulatory Support & Cardiac Transplantation at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. He sees patients at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.



**Serrie Lico, MD**, is dual certified in Surgery and Thoracic Surgery and specializes in minimally invasive cardiac surgery. He sees patients at affiliate sites including Aria and Einstein.

For more news about the Department follow us on social media. [JeffersonSurgery](https://www.facebook.com/JeffersonSurgery) [@JeffSurgery](https://twitter.com/@JeffSurgery)