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Surgical Solutions

Jefferson Health Offers Smallest-Incision Open-Heart Surgery



As the new Director of Robotic & Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery, Dr. T. Sloane Guy's top priority was forming a top notch Robotic Cardiac Surgery OR team of anesthesiologists, nurses, advanced practice providers, and perfusionists.

As Director of Robotic & Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery at Jefferson, T. Sloane Guy, MD, MBA, has a big passion for small incisions. Dr. Guy performs all aspects of adult cardiac surgery, with a focus on mitral valve disease and hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (that is, when part of the heart becomes thickened without an obvious cause). He is particularly well known for his experience in using robotic cardiac surgery to treat these and other conditions. One of the most innovative procedures is totally endoscopic robotic mitral repair. The procedure – the smallest-incision open-heart surgery performed in the world today – relies on a 12-millimeter working port and a percutaneous cannulation. In other words, a system of catheters is inserted through the skin via punctures rather than incisions to achieve a heart-lung bypass during the procedure.

"With endoscopic robotic mitral valve repair, we make five small incisions in the right armpit area: four that are 8 millimeters, or slightly larger than the diameter of a pencil, and one that is 12 millimeters, or about the width of an average pinkie finger," Dr. Guy explains. "This approach provides significant advantages versus traditional sternotomy, which requires the breastplate to be divided, and non-

robotic or robotic 'port access' approaches. With our approach, incisions are very small and there is no need for painful rib spreading. We essentially slip between the ribs, which is less painful."

"With endoscopic robotic mitral valve repair, we make five small incisions in the right armpit area: four that are 8 millimeters, or slightly larger than the diameter of a pencil, and one that is 12 millimeters, or about the width of an average pinkie finger..."

Dr. Guy further explains that the incisions are so small that the surgeon cannot perform any of the operation by looking directly through the ports. The entire operation is performed using the robotic system with help from the bedside surgical assistant.

"This is how I define 'totally endoscopic' robotic mitral valve surgery," he says, noting that most of these patients leave the hospital within

one to three days. In addition, most return to work much sooner than they would following traditional open-heart surgery, often as early as two weeks.

Before joining Jefferson in June, Dr. Guy served as Director of Cardiac Robotic Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine/New York-Presbyterian Hospital in New York. However, he has long had ties to Philadelphia, having completed his medical and MBA degrees and his general surgery residency, cardiothoracic surgery research and clinical fellowships at University of Pennsylvania. He also draws on the knowledge gleaned from a long and distinguished career in the U.S. Army – experiences that have shaped how he views teamwork.

"Robotic heart surgery requires teamwork, cooperation, collaboration, technical skills, and tremendous communication skills. Our dedicated team does every case together and follows strict protocols. Our team communicates and functions like other high-performance teams," Dr. Guy says. "In building this team at Jefferson, I have drawn not only from experiences with similar civilian programs but also from the time I spent building military trauma surgery teams in Iraq and Afghanistan. Many civilians mistakenly think military culture is all 'top down,' but it's actually far more collaborative than most civilian organizational cultures."

Jefferson's Minimally Invasive & Robotic Cardiac Surgery team also includes anesthesiologists Jordan E. Goldhammer, MD, and Linda M. Sundt, MD, as well as many nurses, advanced practice providers, and perfusionists.

"Because robotic heart surgery is more complex and demanding on the team than regular open-heart surgery, team performance is as important as surgeon performance. The era of the 'rock star surgeon' is over, and the era of the 'rock star team' is here," he says.

The Surgeon Speaks



"Robotic surgery is incredibly complex, but I work hard to make it clear and understandable to my patients and their families. I have found online channels, including Twitter and YouTube, to be excellent vehicles for patient education. I have even posted a video of a fully endoscopic mitral valve repair to help people gain a better understanding of how it works and what to expect."

"When a patient is preparing for heart surgery, there can be an overwhelming amount of information to process. I understand that people may not fully absorb all the details during an office visit. By providing additional resources in everyday language, I hope to provide the detailed information they need and want to know so they will feel better prepared and confident about a procedure and the recovery. I also give every patient my email address and cell phone number so that they can reach me if they have a question."

T. Sloane Guy, MD, MBA
 Director, Minimally Invasive &
 Robotic Cardiac Surgery
 Jefferson Health

For more information, please visit:
roboticheartsurgeon.com

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Overview



Charles J. Yeo, MD, FACS
 Samuel D. Gross Professor and Chairman
 Department of Surgery
 Senior Vice President and Chair, Enterprise Surgery
 Jefferson Health

The Academic Cycle

Another academic year commenced this summer. Another academic cycle. Jefferson and our Department remain vibrant, successful and agile. We welcomed six terrific interns in June, then added another intern (and three other residents) upon the closure of Hahnemann Hospital. This summer we added eight faculty members to our Department, several new advanced practice providers and many new staff members. Our administrative team has evolved – we have celebrated the promotion of Florence Williams to Department Administrator, and Andrea DelMastro to the position of Director of Clinical Operations.

Enterprise wide – per the Bob Dylan tune “The Times They Are A-Changin’” – this year we expect to welcome Einstein Healthcare Network and Fox Chase Cancer Center to Jefferson Health. Surgery is represented in five new service line initiatives – Cancer, General Surgery, Heart and Vascular, Respiratory, and Transplant – each with reporting roles to the Integrated Strategic and Financial Planning (ISFP) process.

Our Department faculty continues to shine – Dr. Ernest (Gary) Rosato is the new President of the prestigious Halsted Society. Dr. Gerald Isenberg has ascended to the Presidency of the TJUH Medical Staff. Dr. Benjamin Phillips is the President of the Pennsylvania Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons.

We are pleased to provide the exciting stories in this, our 15th year of Jefferson Surgical Solutions. The academic cycle continues...

Meet the Interns

The Department has welcomed an impressive group of categorical interns selected from over 1350 applicants to our program. These doctors, who matched with Jefferson, started on June 20, 2019. Please welcome (from left to right):

Lindsay Weil, MD
Rutgers - New Jersey Medical School

William Preston, MD*
Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine

Micaela Collins, MD, MPH
Sidney Kimmel Medical College

James Lee, MD, MS
Tufts University School of Medicine

Kirsten Lung, MD
CA Northstate University College of Medicine

Michael Goodman, MD
Stony Brook University School of Medicine

Sunjay Kumar, MD
Rutgers - Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

* Transferred from Hahnemann.
 See Please Welcome



New Faculty



Caitlyn M. Costanzo, MD, has joined the Division of Colorectal Surgery. Dr. Costanzo is a 2011 graduate of Sidney Kimmel Medical

College. She remained at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital where she completed the General Surgery Residency Program in 2018 and Colorectal Surgery Fellowship Program in 2019. She also completed a research fellowship program at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children in 2016. She sees patients at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and Jefferson Methodist Hospital.



Jaime M. Glorioso, MD, has joined the Division of Transplant Surgery. Dr. Glorioso completed the General Surgery Residency Program at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. During

residency she also completed a research fellowship in the Clinician-Investigator Research Program at the Mayo Clinic. She then completed a Fellowship in Abdominal Transplantation at Johns Hopkins Hospital. She sees patients at the Jefferson Transplant Institute in Center City.



Tyler R. Grenda, MD, has joined the Division of Thoracic Surgery. Dr. Grenda is a 2010 graduate of Sidney Kimmel Medical

College. He completed a research fellowship at the Center for Healthcare Outcomes and Policy and a master’s degree in Health and Healthcare Research at the University of Michigan. He then completed the General Surgery Residency Program and Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship Program at University of Michigan Hospitals.



Sagar S. Kadakia, MD, has joined the Division of Acute Care Surgery. Dr. Kadakia completed the General Surgery Residency Program at

Temple University Hospital. He then pursued a fellowship in cardiothoracic surgery at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center prior to completing a Surgical Critical Care Fellowship at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. He is board certified in Surgery and Surgical Critical Care. He sees patients at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and at our Jefferson trauma centers on the Main Line.



Geoffrey W. Krampitz, MD, PhD, has joined the Divisions of General Surgery and Surgical Research. Dr. Krampitz received a PhD in Stem

Cell and Regenerative Biology and his MD at Stanford University. He then completed the General Surgery Residency Program at Stanford University Hospital and then the Surgical Oncology Fellowship Program at University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Dr. Krampitz leads a research laboratory and sees patients at Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals. His practice and research focus is hepato-pancreato-biliary cancers.



Kathy L. Rumer, DO, FACOS, has joined the Division of Plastic Surgery. Dr. Rumer completed her medical training at Philadelphia

College of Osteopathic Medicine, including medical school, General Surgery residency and Plastic Surgery fellowship training. She specializes in gender reassignment and sees patients at her private practice in Ardmore, PA.



Talar Tatarian, MD, has joined the Divisions of General and Bariatric Surgery. Dr. Tatarian received her MD from George Washington

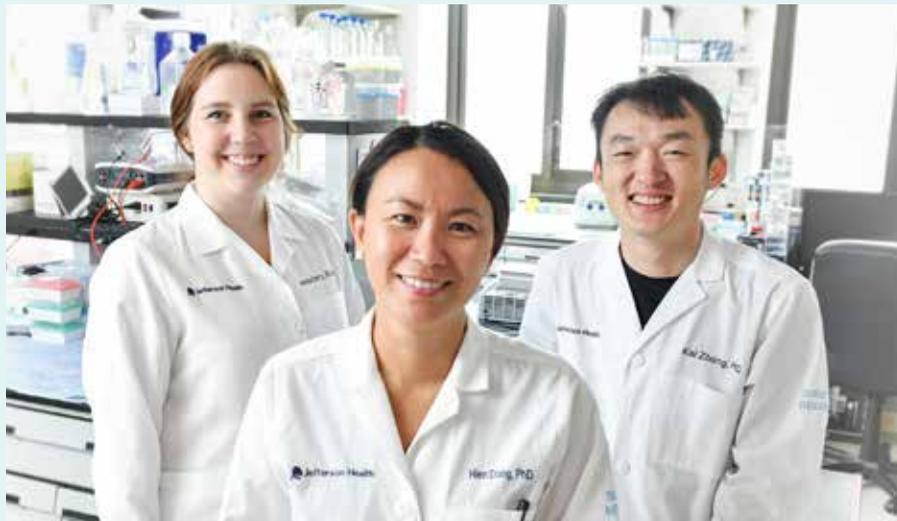
University School of Medicine, then completed the General Surgery Residency Program at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital followed by a Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship Program at University Hospital-SUNY at Stony Brook. She sees patients at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and Jefferson Methodist Hospital.



Jose A. Torres, MD, has joined the Division of Acute Surgery. Dr. Torres completed the Residency Program at SUNY-Health Science

Center at Brooklyn. He then completed a fellowship program in Surgical Critical Care at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. He sees patients at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and at our Jefferson trauma centers on the Main Line.

Dang Laboratory Explores Novel Approaches to Diagnosing, Treating Liver Cancer



The Dang Laboratory, located at 603 College Building, is dedicated to studying Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC). The laboratory team, led by Hien Dang, PhD (center), includes Anna Barry, MS, and Kai Zhang, PhD.

Since its launch on October 1, 2018, the Dang Laboratory has been dedicated to the study of novel approaches to diagnosing and treating hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), the most common type of liver cancer. The lab, which is part of the Division of Surgical Research, recently secured two grants and is led by Hien Dang, PhD, with support from Postdoctoral Fellow Kai Zhang, PhD, and Lab Technician Anna Barry, MS.

Before joining the faculty at Jefferson, Dr. Dang worked as a Postdoctoral Fellow supported by a Cancer Research Training Award (CRTA) at the National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. While there, she worked in the Laboratory of Human Carcinogenesis in the Center for Cancer Research. At Jefferson, she and her team collaborate with Jefferson surgeons Ashesh P. Shah, MD, Adam S. Bodzin, MD, and Warren Maley, MD, as well as James A. Posey, MD, of Medical Oncology. These collaborations are key to enabling the research, as well as applying the findings to clinical decision making.

"Most of the work we do has clinical implications," Dr. Dang says. "In other words, does it make sense to triage liver cancer patients into specific subtypes? Does it make sense to include biomarkers for picking out subtypes and unique subgroups? When a patient isn't eligible for a liver transplant, how can we best treat them?"

The Dang Laboratory's two most recent grants are from the American Liver Foundation and the American Cancer Society. The first is supporting work to identify specific lethal targets based on the biology of a patient's tumor.

"The grant covers development of a platform to use in the clinic to subtype the patient – that is, to take a piece of tissue and say, 'Here's the genomics. Based on that, the patient belongs to this subtype, and, therefore, this drug will work best,'" Dr. Dang says.

The second grant is enabling the lab to delve into something even more novel: proteins that form aggregates. Sometimes RNA-binding proteins come together to form aggregates rather than remaining independent and fulfilling their own function. Such protein aggregates play a key role in diseases, such as Parkinson's, and Dr. Dang and her team's hypothesis is that these aggregates could play a big part in fueling liver cancer.

"This study is a big deal – something no one else has tackled before," she notes.

In addition to the American Cancer Society-funded research, the lab has been studying another aspect of protein aggregates. Dr. Dang explains that the current paradigm is that micro-RNAs regulate RNAs and, therefore, micro-RNAs can be pivotal in targeting cancer cells. Her team has



Drs. William Preston, Madison Crutcher, Robert Kucejko, and Darshak Thosani

Jefferson Welcomes Four Surgery Residents from Hahnemann

When Hahnemann Hospital announced at the end of June that it was closing its doors, 571 residents and fellows were suddenly facing an uncertain future. By July 5, the Thomas Jefferson University Department of Surgery had conducted interviews with 18 soon-to-be-displaced residents and extended invitations to four: William Preston, MD (PGY1), Darshak Thosani, MD (PGY2), Madison Crutcher, MD (PGY3) and Robert Kucejko, MD (PGY4). All four accepted and are now active members of the Jefferson surgery program.

"We had been hearing rumors about Hahnemann for at least 15 years, so the closure wasn't a complete shock," explains Residency Program Coordinator Donna Guinto. "However, it is highly unusual for residents to

move to a new institution. The last time we hired a displaced resident was when St. Vincent's Hospital in New York City closed in 2010."

Guinto praises all four residents for making a smooth transition to Jefferson. She notes that the ability to stay in Philadelphia was very beneficial for all of them. That was especially true for Dr. Crutcher, whose significant other was also a Hahnemann resident (he found a new home at Cooper University in New Jersey).

"Everyone has been very nice and welcoming," says Dr. Crutcher. "Jefferson got us started as soon as possible so there has been no disruption in our training."

found evidence to the contrary – that micro-RNAs may not actually kill cancer cells. Preliminary findings suggest that RNA-binding proteins can independently regulate RNA transcription. In other words, at best

"Understanding the genomics, or biology, of a tumor is invaluable in helping determine the right course of treatment."

using micro-RNAs to treat cancer could be ineffective; at worst, it could be fueling cancer cells. For yet another project, they are exploring whether protein aggregates are found in actual patient tissues versus

cell models – and whether those aggregates can be used to predict therapy response and/or survival.

The continued work of the Dang Laboratory is helping to inform treatment for all liver cancer patients – whether treated with surgery, chemotherapy, radiation or some combination.

"Understanding the genomics, or biology, of a tumor is invaluable in helping determine the right course of treatment," she concludes.

For more information about the Dang Laboratory, please visit: Jefferson.edu/DangLab

Those Who Give



Chair of Enterprise Surgery, Charles J. Yeo, MD, and Kelly Austin, Assistant Vice President of Development, by the new donor wall installation at the Department of Surgery Administration and Education Offices at 620 Curtis Building

A Wall of Honor, Hope and Healing: Department of Surgery Recognizes Generous Benefactors

Stroll through the sixth-floor halls of Jefferson's Curtis and College buildings and you will see portraits of the legends who have made an indelible imprint on American medicine and surgery. These portraits include Thomas Mütter (the father of American Plastic Surgery), John Chalmers DaCosta (a master educator) and John H. Gibbon, Jr., inventor of the heart-lung machine.

Now the names of another group of legends adorns the walls: some of the most generous benefactors of the Department of Surgery. Installed in October, the donor wall pays tribute to those whose support has fueled the Department's compassionate clinical care, rigorous research and ongoing mission to educate new generations of surgeons.

"These generous supporters have played a vital role in driving high-quality care and groundbreaking innovations in diagnosis and treatment," says Charles J. Yeo, MD, the

Samuel D. Gross Professor and Enterprise Chair of Surgery at Jefferson Health. "It's an honor for us to deliver this enduring recognition of their contributions. We also hope it will inspire others to express gratitude for care they or their loved ones have received at Jefferson."

Thomas Jefferson University President and Jefferson Health CEO Stephen K. Klasko, MD, MBA, recently announced Reimagine: The Campaign for Jefferson, a plan to propel the university and health system forward. The vision focuses on making bold leaps in people, spaces, communities and discoveries, and support from grateful patients is a key to making it happen.

As Kelly Austin, Assistant Vice President of Development for Medicine/Surgery, explains, research by the National Institutes of Health has shown a relationship between giving and healing.

"Many patients and families are motivated to give based on experiences with clinicians who cared for them and a desire to support their research or educational priorities," she says. "The Reimagine campaign reinforces that giving should be transformational, not transactional. Patients who give often find that it is very rewarding, and that it provides meaning and closure following difficult circumstances."

With the new donor wall, the Department of Surgery is commemorating the growing list of donors—including many grateful patients – and hopes to encourage others to experience the healing power of philanthropy.

To learn more about how you can make an impact at Jefferson, contact Kelly Austin at **215-955-6383** or kelly.austin@jefferson.edu.



Surgical Solutions

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News in Brief



Effective July 1, **Gerald Isenberg, MD**, began a two-year term as President of the Medical Staff at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. Dr. Isenberg is Director of the Surgical Undergraduate Education and Program Director of the Colorectal Fellowship Program.



Benjamin Phillips, MD, was named President of the Pennsylvania Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons.



In May, **Charles J. Yeo, MD**, was awarded the 2019 Johns Hopkins School of Medicine Distinguished Alumnus Award in Baltimore. After receiving his medical degree in 1979, Dr. Yeo completed a general surgery residency at The Johns Hopkins Hospital.



Rajesh Aggarwal, MD, has been elected a Member of the Academy of Master Surgeon Educators™. The induction ceremony took place on Friday, October 4, 2019 in Chicago, at the American College of Surgeons.

Shackelford's Surgery of the Alimentary Tract, 8th edition, won first prize at the British Medical Association Awards, in the 'Surgical Specialties' category. Kudos to the many Jefferson faculty members who contributed to this 2-volume encyclopedic text book, and to the Editor-in Chief, Charles J. Yeo, MD.



Ernest (Gary) Rosato, MD, has begun his term as President of the Halsted Society. He will preside over the annual meeting in Memphis, TN, in September 2020.

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