Ernest L. “Gary” Rosato, Professor of Surgery and Division Director, General Surgery

Ernest L. “Gary” Rosato, MD, FACS, died March 17, 2021, at age 57 following a courageous battle with glioblastoma. Gary spent 34 years of his life as part of the Jefferson family—first as a student, then a resident and, for the last 24 years, as a faculty member.

He was born January 10, 1964, in Philadelphia to Gertrude and Francis E. Rosato, Sr., MD. He served as senior class president at Episcopal Academy and completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Pennsylvania in 1986. Gary went on to medical school at Jefferson Medical College (now Sidney Kimmel Medical College), graduating in 1990. After completing his general surgery residency at the Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in 1996, he joined the faculty as an instructor before advancing through the ranks to become a full professor in 2010.

For more than 50 years, the Rosato family has been linked to the Jefferson Department of Surgery at Jefferson. Gary’s father spent 22 years as Chair of the Department of Surgery and served as the sixth Samuel D. Gross Professor of Surgery. (For more about the Rosato family legacy, please see the Rosato family page.)

Research projects have continued through COVID-19, and are escalating further as we emerge from the pandemic! Two of our faculty were recently notified of awards supporting their research projects.

The International Society of Heart and Lung Transplantation awarded Vakh tang Tac nthaelishvili, MD, the ISHLT/O.H. Frazier Award in 2021 Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN) Career Development Award for the project entitled “Targeting Bcl1 in Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma.” The award comes with funds of $200,000 to support her research in pancreatic cancer for two years.

In addition to these awards, we are excited to welcome Sidney Kimmel Medical College and visiting students back to the laboratory setting. We also welcome new residents to the “research experience,” and we celebrate the residents who are completing their research time. On June 10, we hosted the annual Resident Research Day, with an exciting agenda: jdc.Jefferson.edu/Sundayday.

Peter Altschuler, MD - Primary Non-Function Following Liver Transplant: Optimizing Reinterventional Strategies through Recipient Characterization

Adrienne Christopher, MD - Determining the Effect of Mesh Width and Fixation Patterns on the Strength of Prophylactically Reinforced Laparotomy Incisions

Madison Crutzer, MD - GUCY2C as a Stem Cell Marker and Target in Gastrointestinal Malignancies

James Fraser, MD - Evaluating the Risk of Peri-Umbilical Hernia after Sutured or Sutureless Gastrochisis Closure

Andrew Hallett, MD - SARS-CoV-2 Messenger RNA Vaccine Antibody Response and Reactogenicity in Heart and Lung Transplant Recipients

Ryan Lamm, MD - Clinical Significance of a Negative Elongation Factor-E Single Nucleotide Polymorphism in Hepatocellular Carcinoma

Lindsay Lynch, MD - Above the Cuff: Vocalization for Ventilator-Dependent Patients with Tracheostomies

Keyur Patel, MD - Employing a CRISPR-CAS9 Screen to Identify Mechanisms of Resistance to Retin GPC3 CAR T Cell Therapy in HCC

Andrew Hallett, MD - SARS-CoV-2 Messenger RNA Vaccine Antibody Response and Reactogenicity in Heart and Lung Transplant Recipients

In Memoriam

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Gary helped train scores of surgical residents and medical students. He was recognized with the Jefferson Medical College Dean’s Citation for Advancement of Education in 2005 and 2010, the Jefferson Medical College Dean’s Citation for Faculty Mentoring in 2006 and the Thomas Jefferson University Outstanding Clinician Award in 2010.

Gary is survived by his wife Jeanette (née Kolmen), his son Francis Ernest, MD, his son Ernest Lancelot (Gary), Jr., and his daughter Madeline Claire. He is also survived by siblings Anne V. Rosato, MD, Gertrude M. Rosato, James Simpson, Frances E. Rosato, Jr., MD (Kimberly) and Aimée Ainslie (Jeffrey).

If you wish to make a donation in memory of Dr. Rosato, please call Kelly Austin at 215-955-6383.

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