



Charles J. Yeo, MD, FACS

Samuel D. Gross Professor and Chairman
Department of Surgery
Senior Vice President and Chair, Enterprise Surgery
Jefferson Health

Exciting News on the Research Front

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 **Vakhtang Tchanchaleishvili, MD**, the ISHLT/O.H. Frazier Award in Mechanical Circulatory Support (MCS) Translational Research for his proposal entitled "Impact of Continuous-Flow Mechanical Circulatory Support on Cerebrospinal Fluid Motility." The work will be done in collaboration with Amy Throckmorton, PhD, (on sabbatical from Drexel University) and supported by the \$65,000 award as of July 1, 2021.

Aditi Jain, PhD, was named a winner of a 2021 Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN) Career Development Award for the project entitled "Targeting BARD1 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/Surreyday

Peter Altshuler, MD - *Primary Non-Function Following Liver Transplant: Optimizing Retransplantation 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 Crutcher, 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 Gastroschisis 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 Carcinom*

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 Anti-GPC3 CAR T Cell Therapy In HCC*

In the Spotlight



Breast surgeon **Kristin L. Brill, MD**, has joined the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center – Jefferson Health (SKCC) as Enterprise Director of Breast Oncology.

Dr. Brill brings expertise in a comprehensive range of services for patients with malignant and benign disease, including breast-conserving surgery, nipple-sparing mastectomy, preventive mastectomy, reconstruction, accelerated partial breast radiation device placement, and clinical trials for breast cancer. Particular areas of focus include young women with breast cancer and those at high risk.

She is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and is routinely named a "Top Doc" by *Philadelphia* magazine and *New Jersey Monthly*. She is a member of the American Society of

Clinical Oncology, American Society of Breast Surgeons, Society of Surgical Oncology, and the Breastcancer.org advisory board.

After receiving her Bachelor's Degree from Gettysburg College in Gettysburg, Pa., she received her Medical Degree from Hahnemann University School of Medicine in Philadelphia. She completed her Surgical Residency at New York Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn and a Breast Surgical Oncology fellowship at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York.

Dr. Brill sees patients at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Center City, Abington – Jefferson Health, and Jefferson Health in New Jersey (Cherry Hill, Hammonton, and Sewell).

To schedule an appointment or refer a patient, please call **215-503-2346**. For more information about the Jefferson Breast Care Center, please visit: JeffersonHealth.org/Breast

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 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 "Those Who Give" on page 4.) During his own nearly quarter-century at Jefferson, Gary assumed multiple leadership roles, including Chief of the Division of General Surgery and Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs, as well as founder and first director of the Jefferson Gastroesophageal Center. He also held leadership positions in numerous professional societies, published more than 85 peer-reviewed publications and received grant funding for numerous clinical trials.

"Gary had an amazing ability to assess a situation whether it be in the operating room or in life, calculate the outcome, and bring an intense measure of positivity to the situation. This was true in the operating room. This was true in regards to patient care. This was true in regards to resident progression through the 5-7 year General Surgery residency. This was true on the softball field. This was true when dealing with difficult faculty or organizational matters. This was also true when I spoke to him just one day after his craniotomy, awaiting the diagnosis of his brain tumor."

— from the eulogy given by Charles J. Yeo, MD, at the memorial service on May 2, 2021

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 Jeannette (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**.

