

Four Faculty Members Receive Grants, Awards for Innovative Research

Congratulations to these Department of Surgery faculty for receiving significant grants to support innovative research projects.

Jain awarded 2021 PanCAN Career Development Award

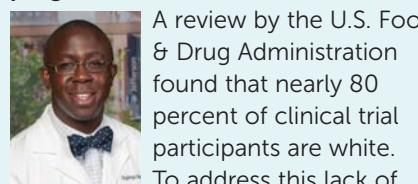


In July, the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network named Aditi Jain, PhD, one of seven recipients of its 2021 Career Development Award. The two-year, \$200,000 grant will help Dr. Jain advance her project, "Targeting BARD1 in Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma." In 2020, she was appointed as Research Instructor at the Jefferson Pancreas, Biliary and Related Cancer Center, and newly founded Pancreatic Cancer Research Institute (PCRI).

Dr. Jain's research involves understanding the role of BARD1 (BRCA1-Associated Ring Domain 1) in pancreatic cancer growth, progression, and therapy resistance. Her focus is targeting this protein and potentially uncovering novel therapeutic strategies.

To learn more about the Jain Laboratory, visit: Jefferson.edu/JainLab

Okusanya named an inaugural recipient in clinical trials diversity program



A review by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration found that nearly 80 percent of clinical trial participants are white. To address this lack of diversity, the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation, together with the National Medical Fellowships and the American Association for Cancer Research, launched the Diversity in Clinical Trials Career Development Program.

Thoracic surgeon Olugbenga T. Okusanya, MD, has been selected as a recipient and awarded a two-year grant of \$120,000 per year. He is one of 52 physicians from across the U.S. selected for the inaugural cohort of the five-year, \$100 million initiative.

Through the program, Dr. Okusanya will be trained with additional knowledge, skills and competencies in effective community outreach and engagement.

Tchantchaleishvili honored with translational research award



In July, the International Society of Heart and Lung Transplantation awarded Vakhtang Tchantchaleishvili, MD, the lauded ISHLT/O.H. Frazier Award in Mechanical Circulatory Support (MCS) Translational Research. The \$65,000 grant supports the project entitled "Impact of Continuous-Flow Mechanical Circulatory Support on Cerebrospinal Fluid Motility" that he designed in collaboration with Amy Throckmorton, PhD, (on sabbatical from Drexel University).

The team is investigating the impact of blood pumps on the brain and spinal fluid flow. With the funding, Dr. Tchantchaleishvili's team will build an accurate model of the cardiovascular system, brain, and spinal fluid flow to better understand conditions that arise while using a blood pump and devise new treatment solutions for patients with heart failure.

To learn more about the Tchantchaleishvili laboratory, visit: Jefferson.edu/VTLab

Miller recognized with provost award



Earlier this year, Thomas Jefferson University recognized Stanton B. Miller, MD, MPH, with a Provost Award. Dr. Miller serves as Executive Director of the Jefferson Center for Injury Research and Prevention (JCIRP). This award supports the Center's progress in the following major program areas: geriatric injuries, firearm violence, traffic injury, violence against the LGBTQ+ community, and suicide.

The award also enabled the conversion of the Center's physical space on the 7th floor of the Curtis Building into a modern state-of-the-art facility that will function as a Computer Science and Engineering Lab with the mission of scientific study and prevention of unintentional and intentional societal injuries.

To learn more about the Center, visit: Jefferson.edu/JCIRP



Wound Healing Centers Offer Specialized Expertise & Resources

The Wound Healing Centers of Jefferson Health provide a focal point for multidisciplinary evaluation and treatment of patients with non-healing wounds and those who have had or will have a bowel or bladder ostomy surgery.

According to Regional Director Lisa Hill, MSN, RN, CWOCN, the program traces its roots to 1999, when Abington Hospital created its first wound care center. Today the Centers offer easily accessible care at locations throughout the Delaware Valley.

Care is delivered by medical and nursing professionals specially trained in evaluating wounds and ostomies and recommending an individualized treatment plan for each patient. The team includes certified wound, ostomy and continence nurses, certified wound care nurses and physician specialists trained in hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

Jefferson's program has emerged as a leader not only in patient care but also in research related to wound care. Clinicians have conducted research and presented national data on the positive impacts of hyperbaric oxygen therapy on radiation tissue injury. Active studies are exploring treatment of diabetic foot wounds and interrelationships between stroke and hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

The Wound Healing Centers attracted national recognition for the treatment of a cardiac catheterization patient with a non-healing wound. As Hill explains, the patient had been seeing a primary care physician, who was unable to determine why the wound was not healing.

"Our team figured out it was actually a burn wound caused by radiofrequency

from her cardiac catheterization procedure," she recalls. "We were able to treat the wound because we understood the cause. For every patient we treat, we perform a thorough assessment to identify root causes and then establish the course of treatment that will best heal the wound."

The centers offer a full complement of outpatient services, including hyperbaric oxygen therapy to treat 13 conditions (diabetic foot wounds, radiation tissue injuries, osteomyelitis and osteoradionecrosis are the most common). Clinicians at the centers also support a smooth continuum of care for ostomy patients.

"When a patient is scheduled for a bowel or bladder diversion, our team marks the patient's abdomen for the location of the ostomy," Hill says. "Following surgery, we support post-operative healing starting in the hospital and continuing after the patient is discharged."

Most insurance plans cover care by the Wound Healing Centers of Jefferson Health. To schedule an appointment, call the most convenient location (see below).

Scheduling an Appointment

Center City and South Philadelphia – 215-955-7400
Lansdale and Warminster – 215-481-HEAL
Langhorne – 215-949-5030
North Philadelphia – 215-456-9604
Northeast Philadelphia – 267-587-9533
Plymouth Meeting – 484-622-7900
New Jersey: Cherry Hill & Washington Township – 866-KHS-HEAL